



Executive Board

Consejo Ejecutivo

EX

Conseil exécutif

Исполнительный совет

执行局

المجلس التنفيذي

172nd session / 172e session / 172ª reunión / 172-я сессия / الدورة الثانية السبعون بعد المائة / 第一七二届会议

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19-29 de septiembre de 2005

2005 年 9 月 19 日-29 日

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PARIS, 20 January 2006

Summary Records

Comptes rendus analytiques

Actas resumidas

Краткие отчеты

المحاضر المختصرة

简要记录

All the terms used in this collection of texts to designate the person discharging duties or functions are to be interpreted as implying that men and women are equally eligible to fill any post or seat associated with the discharge of these duties and functions.

**LIST OF MEMBERS
(REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES)**

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(The President of the General Conference sits ex officio in an advisory capacity on the Executive Board – Article V.A.1(a) of the Constitution.)

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Alternates Mr Ahmad Zahir FAQIRI
Mr Najmuddin MASSOUM

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Mauritius

Representative

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Representative

Mr Orhan GÜVENEN

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Ms Şule SOYSAL
Ms Esra CANKORUR
Mr Aydın Sefa AKAY
Mr Deniz Barkan UMRUK

Ukraine

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Mr Oleksandr MAZNYCHENKO
Ms Larysa MYRONENKO
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Mr Michel VAN DEN ABEELE
Mr Xavier TROUSSARD
Mr Frank HOFFMEISTER

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(Vice-Chairperson)**

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Mr Mohammed Shaaban SHEYA

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Mr John HOFF
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Mr Eddy José CÓRDOVA
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Mr Leonardo GRATTEROL
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Mr Abdulghani AL-HAJEBI
Ms Mona FARHAN
Ms Ibtissem ALOMEYSI

**REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

United Nations system

United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees (UNHCR)

Mr Mohamed BOUKRY
Ms Marie-Ange LESCURE
Ms Fadma MOUMTAZ

United Nations University (UNU)

Ms Caterina CASULLO

World Bank Group

Ms Claudia VON MONBART

Intergovernmental organizations

League of Arab States (LAS)

Mr Nassif HITTI
Mr Habib MOUELHI
Ms Rania BERRO
Ms Farah HACHED

European Commission

Mr Franco CONZATO
Ms Valérie PANIS
Ms Janis Rey LOZADA

Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific
Organization (ALECSO)

Ms Saïda CHARFEDDINE

Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)

M. Ali A. SALEHI

CONFESJES

Mr Youssef FALL

Latin Union

Mr Bernardino OSIO
Ms Lil DESPRADEL

SECRETARIAT

M. Koïchiro MATSUURA (directeur général), M. Márcio Nogueira BARBOSA (directeur général adjoint), Mme Françoise RIVIERE (sous-directrice générale, directrice du Cabinet), M. Peter SMITH (sous-directeur général pour l'éducation), M. Walter Rudolf ERDELEN (sous-directeur général pour les sciences exactes et naturelles), M. Patricio BERNAL (sous-directeur général, secrétaire exécutif de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale), M. Pierre SANÉ (sous-directeur général pour les sciences sociales et humaines), M. Mounir BOUCHENAKI (sous-directeur général pour la culture), M. Abdul Waheed KHAN (sous-directeur général pour la communication et l'information), M. Ahmed Saleh SAYYAD (sous-directeur général pour les relations extérieures et la coopération), M. Nouréini Rémi TIDJANI-SERPOS (sous-directeur général pour le Département Afrique), M. Abdulqawi Ahmed YUSUF (conseiller juridique), M. Armoogum PARSURAMEN (secrétaire du Conseil exécutif), autres membres du Secrétariat.

AGENDA

Agenda item

- 1 Agenda, timetable of work, report of the Bureau and election of the Chairperson of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations
- 2 Approval of the summary records of the 171st session

EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAMME

- 3 Report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference
- 4 Report by the Director-General on the follow-up of decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Education

- 5 Report by the Governing Board of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa on the Institute's activities for 2004-2005
- 6 Preliminary report on the desirability and scope of an international charter on traditional games and sports
- 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
- 8 Number not attributed*
- 9 United Nations Literacy Decade: Progress report 2004-2005
- 10 Report by the Director-General on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development: international implementation scheme and UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Decade
- 11 Establishment of the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy funded by the People's Republic of China

Natural sciences

- 12 Report by the Director-General on the development of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) and strategy of action proposed for 2006-2007
- 13 Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for the establishment of an international centre of excellence in Venezuela under the auspices of UNESCO

* Item 8 of the draft provisional agenda of 10 June (172 EX/1 Prov. Draft) has been postponed in view of the recently conducted evaluation of the relevance, results and management of IESALC. It is possible that the final outcome of this evaluation could lead to further amendments to the Statutes.

- 14 Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for the establishment of an IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee, Scotland, United Kingdom, under the auspices of UNESCO
- 15 Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for granting the status of a regional institute under the auspices of UNESCO to the Instituto de Matemática Pura e Aplicada (IMPA) in Brazil
- 16 Proposed establishment of the European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology in Łódź, Poland, under the auspices of UNESCO

Social and human sciences

- 17 Report by the Director-General on the advisability of elaborating an international declaration on science ethics to serve as a basis for an ethical code of conduct for scientists

Culture

- 18 Jerusalem and the implementation of 32 C/Resolution 39 and 171 EX/Decision 18
- 19 Report by the Director-General on the progress achieved during the third session of the intergovernmental meeting of experts on the preliminary draft convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions

Communication and information

- 20 Reports on the implementation of the Information for All Programme

DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2006-2007 (33 C/5)

- 21 Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5) and recommendations of the Executive Board

METHODS OF WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

- 22 Comments by the Director-General on the external evaluation reports submitted in the 2004-2005 biennium
- 23 Number not attributed*

MATTERS RELATING TO NORMS, STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

- 24 Examination of the communications transmitted to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations in pursuance of 104 EX/Decision 3.3, and report of the Committee thereon

* Item 23 of the provisional agenda of 18 July 2005 (172 EX/1 Prov.) was postponed to: (i) further study the comparative advantage of establishing a category 1 institute for higher education; (ii) review the scope of CEPES' mandate in relation to the highest priorities of UNESCO; (iii) draw upon the conclusions of the education institutes' evaluation; (iv) comply more fully with the guidelines for the category 1 institutes and centres as approved by the Executive Board at its 171st session; and (v) further examine the financial impact on the core budget within the context of the priorities set by the Executive Board.

- 25 Protocol instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be Responsible for seeking the Settlement of any Disputes which may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education: Nominations and report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon
- 26 Report on the Third Meeting of the Joint Expert Group UNESCO (CR)/ECOSOC (CESCR) on the Monitoring of the Right to Education (2005)

GENERAL CONFERENCE

- 27 Revised provisional agenda of the 33rd session of the General Conference
- 28 Addendum to the draft plan for the organization of the work of the 33rd session of the General Conference
- 29 Venue of the 34th session of the General Conference
- 30 Submission of nominations for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the 33rd session of the General Conference
- 31 Admission to the 33rd session of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations (other than those maintaining formal relations), foundations and similar institutions maintaining formal relations, and other international organizations
- 32 Report by the Executive Board on its own activities in 2004-2005, including its methods of work

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

- 33 Financial report and interim financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO as at 31 December 2004 for the financial period ending 31 December 2005
- 34 Special financial regulations submitted in accordance with Article 6.7 of UNESCO's Financial Regulations
- 35 Report by the Director-General on the status of contributions of Member States and of payment plans
- 36 Number not attributed*
- 37 Report by the Director-General on the geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat
- 38 Report by the Director-General on a global plan of action for the UNESCO Medical Benefits Fund together with a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor
- 39 Report by the Director-General on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor on audits already undertaken

* Item 36 of the draft provisional agenda of 10 June (172 EX/1 Prov. Draft) has been postponed as the United Nations paper will not be available in time for the report to the Board.

- 40 Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex
- 41 Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the Participation Programme and emergency assistance
- 42 Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board

RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 43 Relations with international non-governmental organizations, foundations and similar institutions
- 44 Appeals by Member States concerning their proposals for the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2006-2007
- 45 Report by the Director-General concerning the protection of the name and logo of UNESCO in the Member States
- 46 Relations with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and draft memorandum of understanding between UNESCO and that regional organization
- 47 Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO

GENERAL MATTERS

- 48 Nomination of a candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO
- 49 Proposal for the establishment of the International Issyk-Kul Centre of the Dialogue among Cultures under the auspices of UNESCO
- 50 Proposal for the establishment of the ARTEK International Youth and Children Centre under the auspices of UNESCO
- 51 Implementation of 32 C/Resolution 54 and 171 EX/Decision 53 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories
- 52 Report by the Director-General on the cultural and educational institutions in Iraq
- 53 Status report on UNESCO's contribution to international action against terrorism through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information
- 54 Report by the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) on the activities of the Institute

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- 55 Draft framework agreement concerning the Universal Forum of Cultures – 2007 in Monterrey, Mexico

- 56 Establishment of the UNESCO King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain
- 57 Proclamation of 2009 as international year of astronomy
- 58 Draft amendments to the General Rules governing the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education
- 59 Assessment of the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition and draft statutes of the International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route Project
- 60 Proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage (Cusco, Republic of Peru), under the auspices of UNESCO
- 61 Proposed establishment of the Regional Water Centre for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC) under the auspices of UNESCO, in La Serena, Chile
- 62 Project idea for the establishment of the UNESCO World Heritage Museum at the Venaria Reale in Turin, Italy
- 63 Proclamation of 2008 as a United Nations international year of Planet Earth
- 64 Recommendation for the granting of observer facilities to Singapore

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FIRST MEETING

Monday 19 September 2005 at 10.15 a.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1.1 The CHAIRMAN *in extenso*:

Director-General, President of the General Conference, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, Your Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, friends – welcome! It is a pleasure and a special honour to meet with you for our last session of the Executive Board in the 2004-2005 biennium. Let me extend a warm welcome to our new Board Members and express our gratitude and our best wishes to former colleagues.

1.2 This session, the 172nd, will conclude the work we have prepared for the Organization's new biennium. The Board has been entrusted with the constitutional task of recommending a candidate for President of the upcoming General Conference as well as nominating the Director-General, who will then be appointed by the General Conference. Ladies and gentlemen, all endings require us to contemplate what we have accomplished. This ending is even more timely as we are also currently celebrating UNESCO's 60th anniversary. The elements of its founding vision are still visible: already, for example, in 1968, UNESCO organized the first conference on what is now known as "sustainable development". Today, we embark on a new United Nations decade to promote it further. Fifteen years ago, in Jomtien, Thailand, the Organization initiated a global movement to provide basic education for all. Today, we are still striving to reach that goal. And, there are many other goals still to attain! As part of the United Nations' larger network, UNESCO is firmly focused on one essential truth: international cooperation accomplishes its objectives when, and only when, its activities directly benefit the people – our people.

1.3 Ladies and gentlemen, there is a worldwide proliferation of terrorism. People are suffering. The world's vulnerable need help to become self-sufficient. Millions cannot read or write. Confidence needs to be restored in political institutions, including in the United Nations system. We need here at UNESCO – and in the world at large – robust educational strategies. Progress must encompass both access and quality. We need the involvement of civil society, the private sector and other international organizations. And we need to be involved to a greater extent ourselves! It is my hope that this Executive Board will fulfil its manifold functions spelt out in the Constitution of UNESCO.

1.4 Ladies and gentlemen, during this biennium, great efforts have been made to frame several standard-setting instruments for submission to the General Conference at its 33rd session: the draft international convention against doping in sport, the draft declaration on universal norms on bioethics and the draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. Why is this normative role so important? Such instruments are to marry high ideals with the demands of the practical world. Conventions are a very important basis – if not the very basis – of reliable cooperation between States in all spheres of social, political and cultural life. However, this core activity of UNESCO as a standard-setter depends on the respect given to these texts. Only the follow-up and ratification process will eventually show the tangible impact, and usefulness, of UNESCO's work.

1.5 Distinguished colleagues, one of the Organization's main functions is to "give fresh impulse to popular education and to the spread of culture," to quote the Constitution of 1945. We all

agree on the need to reinforce programmes within the priority groups – Africa, the least developed countries (LDCs) and young people. The needs of girls and women, in particular, require special attention. Some promising steps have been taken: in the scope of the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012), the number of girls enrolled in functional literacy courses in Guinea-Bissau, for example, increased from 6,500 to 8,700. The Board will also examine a very promising project in this session: the establishment of an International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa situated in Burkina Faso; it is a centre designed to promote the educational needs of girls in 13 cooperating States.

1.6 Ladies and gentlemen, it takes the concerted efforts of the international community to improve the standard of living across the world. Besides the imminent need to achieve global standards of education, the respect of human rights must be guaranteed. All our programmes are in vain, if the people concerned do not have a secure social situation. Humanitarian tragedies in Sudan, for example, need our full support. All people who suffer from human rights violations rely on the global community's solidarity. Dear colleagues, in order to fine-tune our programmes, we should decide which activities truly further the Dakar and Millennium Development Goals in the area of education. The deadline of 2015 is near. Unfortunately, at this crucial juncture, 35 countries are still very behind in achieving the education for all (EFA) goals.

1.7 Ladies and gentlemen, at the most gracious invitation of the governments of Latvia, Poland, Austria, Cuba and India, I had the privilege and pleasure of visiting these countries. Each and every one of my missions was fascinating and informative; I am deeply grateful to all of my so very generous hosts. One brief encounter with a small boy in India stands out for me. I was walking very fast from one meeting to the next, in the street, when a small boy – no more than eight years old – approached me and asked, in good English: "Can I polish your shoes?" Unfortunately, I didn't have even a minute to spare, so I wanted at least to give him some coins. He protested at once and said: "No, thank you. I am a businessman!" What an example, I believe, of dignity and of the will to shape his life this remarkable boy displayed. Imagine if he, like the other children in the world, could receive the education he certainly deserves. We need to redouble our efforts to eradicate poverty through education in order to give the youth of this world a better life.

1.8 Reforms in education require leadership. UNESCO is the lead agency for the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) and the designated lead agency for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) as well. During this session, we shall assess the progress of the Literacy Decade. In this case, and in general, we must translate our work into concrete practice. Let us follow Mahatma Gandhi's advice: "An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching", as demonstrated by the child I met in India. We urgently need to better protect people's lives. Consequently, with UNESCO's contribution, a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System was established and has been operational since July 2005. Twenty-five national centres are now linked and provide the data needed to alert the region in case of a tsunami. In our last session, we decided to establish an International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management in Tsukuba, Japan. In addition, the International Basic Sciences Programme has been founded as a new flagship initiative for capacity-building in science for sustainable development. Thirty-nine priority projects have now been chosen and already implemented. However, several projects suffer from a lack of sound funding, demonstrating once more the need to focus our work on well-selected projects with a long-term view, instead of starting up too many on a short-term basis.

1.9 Ladies and gentlemen, the 2004 tsunami, the recent, most devastating Hurricane Katrina, numerous floods, typhoons, and fires, underscore a much greater problem than natural or man-made disasters – they accentuate poverty's grim reality. We grieve for the families and individuals struck by these tragedies. We would like to convey our condolences to the thousands of victims and their

families. Distinguished audience, we denounce vehemently the recent deplorable acts of terrorism in Iraq, in London, in Sharm el Sheikh and in many other places. Terrorists try to spread violence, hatred and fear around the world. We must fight terrorism and the causes of terrorism. We *must* convey a message of dialogue and peace through concrete actions. UNESCO, for its part, is engaged in substantial recovery efforts in a number of post-conflict areas. In Iraq, for example, some – albeit slow – improvement has taken place. Several projects there, initiated using extrabudgetary funds, for example, of \$24 million, such as that for the in-service training of secondary-school teachers of science, mathematics and English language, will assist in training 30,000 secondary-school teachers. I think that is a very positive sign.

1.10 Ladies and gentlemen, our foremost task, as a governing body of this Organization, is now to prepare for the next General Conference. The Programme and Budget will be the major topic of the 33rd session of the General Conference, together with the elections of the President of the 33rd session and of the Director-General. The Organization is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Our full engagement is required to transform UNESCO into an even more efficient, flexible and transparent organization. Within this Board session, we shall have to examine 64 items in just nine days – a challenging task.

1.11 Let me conclude. If we leap forward in time – say ten years from now – what will we see then? Will our words have matched our actions? Will we have achieved globally comprehensive education for all? Eradication of poverty and terrorism? Will there be peace? I fervently hope so. With Mahatma Gandhi – let me quote him once more – I believe: “In the midst of darkness light prevails”. Dear colleagues, I wish us all a cooperative and enjoyable session. Thank you for your attention. I now declare the 172nd session open.

**Item 1 AGENDA, TIMETABLE OF WORK, REPORT OF THE BUREAU
AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE
ON INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
(172 EX/1 Prov. Rev., 172 EX/INF.1 Prov. Rev., 172 EX/2, 172 EX/INF.8)**

2. The CHAIRMAN said that in accordance with Rule 5, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the provisional agenda (172 EX/1 Prov.) and the provisional timetable of work (172 EX/INF.1 Prov.) had been sent to the Members of the Board on 18 July 2005 together with the letter of convocation. In accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure, a revised provisional agenda (172 EX/1 Prov. Rev.) had been prepared to take into account the withdrawal of item **23** and the inclusion of six new items numbered **59** to **64**. The revised provisional agenda, the revised provisional timetable of work, the provisional agenda of the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission and the revised provisional agenda of the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission had been issued after the meetings of the Bureau on 13 September.

3. The revised provisional agenda contained in document 172 EX/1 Prov. Rev. was adopted.

Report by the Bureau on questions that do not appear to require debate (172 EX/2)

4. The CHAIRMAN said that in accordance with Rule 14, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau had determined that items **46**, **58** and **63** did not appear to require a debate. Consequently, if no Member requested a debate on those items by 1 p.m. on Wednesday 21 September, the proposals contained in those documents would be regarded as adopted.

5. It was so decided.

Adoption of the provisional agenda of the Programme and External Relations Commission
(172 EX/PX/1 Prov.)

6.1 The CHAIRMAN observed that the programme aspects of items **3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 39, 49, 50, 53, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61** and **62** would be examined by the Programme and External Relations Commission.

6.2 The CHAIRMAN took it that the Board wished to adopt the provisional agenda of the Programme and External Relations Commission, as amended.

6.3 It was so decided.

Adoption of the provisional agenda of the Finance and Administrative Commission
(172 EX/FA/1 Prov.)

7. The CHAIRMAN observed that the administrative and financial aspects of items **3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 39, 49, 50, 53, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61** and **62** would be examined by the Financial and Administrative Commission. He took it that the Board wished to approve the revised provisional agenda of the Finance and Administrative Commission.

8. It was so decided.

Statement by the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) in the Finance and Administrative Commission

9. The CHAIRMAN informed the Board that the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) had asked to take the floor during the debate on items **37** and **38**. In the past, the Executive Board had always authorized representatives of the staff associations to take the floor during debates by the Finance and Administrative Commission on items concerning the staff. Having examined their requests, the Bureau proposed that the Board authorize the representatives of that staff association to take the floor after the representatives of the Member States had spoken on the items concerned and before the decision or recommendation was adopted. Each statement would be limited to five minutes. If the other staff association, STU, requested similar authorization, he would grant it with the Board's agreement. He saw no objection.

Adoption of the revised provisional timetable of work (172 EX/INF.1 Prov. Rev.)

10. The revised provisional timetable of work was adopted.

11.1 The CHAIRMAN drew attention to Rule 16, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure concerning the replacement of the Chairman of a Commission or other subsidiary body unable to complete his or her term of office. At the 168th session of the Board, Mr Darko Štrajn (Slovenia) had been elected as Chairman of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations, but had recently been replaced as the representative of Slovenia by Mr Milan Orožen Adamič. Group II had proposed to nominate Mr Milan Orožen Adamič for election as Chairman. The Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations had recommended the representative of Hungary, Mr Andros Lakatos, as Temporary Chairman of that Committee. He asked whether any Members objected to the suspension of Rule 16, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure and the waiving of the requirement under Rule 67 for 24 hours' notice of the proposal for suspension.

11.2 Seeing no objection, he declared Mr Milan Orožen Adamič elected as Chairman of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations for the remainder of the term, and Mr Andros Lakatos (Hungary) elected as Temporary Chairman of the Committee.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the general debate on items 3, 4 and 21 would shortly be introduced by the Director-General. The total speaking time for each Member would be eight minutes. The Director-General would reply to the statements by the Members of the Board on the morning of Wednesday 21 September and would then respond to questions in the interests of a genuine interactive exchange.

Item 2 APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 171st SESSION (171 EX/SR.1-10)

13. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with Rule 23, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat had prepared provisional summary records of the 171st session, and had circulated them to Member States for corrections. The corrections had been incorporated, and the final version of the Summary Records had been sent to Member States on 28 July 2005.

14. The Summary Records of the 171st session were approved.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF EMINENT PERSONS DECEASED SINCE THE 171ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

15. The CHAIRMAN paid tribute to the memory of three former members of the Board, Mr Antoine Ndinga Oba, representative of the Congo on the Board from 2003 to 2005, Mr Hery-Zo Ralambomahay, representative of Madagascar on the Board from 1994 to 1995 and from 2002 to 2003, and Mr Andri Isaksson, representative of Iceland on the Board from 1983 to 1987.

16. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. In accordance with the recently established tradition, I would simply like to pay tribute to five important personalities who have passed away, and mention their names. My tribute will be distributed. His Majesty Fahd Ben Abdel Aziz, King of Saudi Arabia; General El Hadj Aboubacar Sangoulé Lamizana, former President of Burkina Faso; The Right Honourable David Russell Lange, former Prime Minister of New Zealand; Mr Ezer Weizman, former President of the State of Israel; and Sir Edward Heath, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

The Board observed one minute's silence in tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Point 3 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR L'ÉXECUTION DU PROGRAMME ADOPTÉ PAR LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE (172 EX/4 Parties I et Add., et II ; 172 EX/INF.5 ; 172 EX/INF.6 ; 172 EX/INF.9 ; 172 EX/INF.10)

Point 4 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LE SUIVI DES DÉCISIONS ET RÉOLUTIONS ADOPTÉES PAR LE CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF ET LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE À LEURS SESSIONS ANTÉRIEURES (172 EX/5 ; 172 EX/INF.5 ; 172 EX/INF.6 ; 172 EX/INF.7)

Point 21 EXAMEN DU PROJET DE PROGRAMME ET DE BUDGET POUR 2006-2007 (33 C/5) ET RECOMMANDATIONS DU CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF (33 C/5 Projet Rev. et Add. ; 172 EX/INF.5 ; 172 EX/INF.6)

17.1 Le DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, je sais que vous avez de très nombreux points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de cette première journée. C'est pourquoi je serai particulièrement bref, d'autant que j'ai distribué, en début de semaine dernière, une présentation écrite relativement détaillée. Je n'y reviendrai donc point et souhaiterais surtout vous donner les impressions, et les enseignements, que je tire de ce Sommet mondial qui s'est tenu du 14 au 16 septembre dernier à New York, à l'occasion du cinquième anniversaire de l'Assemblée du Millénaire et des soixante ans de l'ONU.

17.2 J'ai moi-même participé à cette réunion – la plus grande de tous les temps – qui a accueilli, durant trois jours, plus de 150 chefs d'État et de gouvernement du monde entier. L'ordre du jour de ce sommet était consacré à l'examen de la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration du Millénaire et du projet de réforme du système des Nations Unies. Le communiqué final du sommet vous est distribué à titre d'information.

17.3 Tout d'abord, il est clair que ce sommet, qui n'a pas obtenu le succès éclatant espéré, ne s'est pas pour autant soldé par l'échec que l'on avait craint un moment. Il s'est conclu sur une série de résultats, dont certains sont positifs, d'autres moins. Il a d'une part offert l'occasion, à mes yeux bienvenue, de réaffirmer plusieurs engagements, en particulier ceux qui sont contenus dans la Déclaration du Millénaire et dans les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, et même de renforcer ces engagements dans plusieurs domaines, notamment en matière de droits de l'homme, de construction de la paix, de démocratie et de « devoir de protéger ». Il a également abouti à une claire condamnation du terrorisme sous « toutes ses formes et dans toutes ses manifestations ».

17.4 En revanche, de nombreux participants ont exprimé leur déception à l'égard de certaines occasions manquées, notamment en ce qui concerne la réforme du système des Nations Unies. Le Secrétaire général, Kofi Annan, a quant à lui particulièrement regretté que l'on ne soit pas parvenu à un résultat en matière de non-prolifération et de désarmement. Tout en reconnaissant que le communiqué final ne contenait pas tout ce que l'on en espérait, il a fort justement insisté sur le fait qu'il pouvait servir de base solide et que le réel défi que chacun devait désormais relever était celui de la mise en œuvre effective de ces engagements.

17.5 Du point de vue de l'UNESCO, le document final revêt une signification toute particulière, du fait qu'il traite, de façon plus explicite et spécifique que jamais, de questions qui sont au cœur de nos compétences. En fait, ce document est plus favorable à l'UNESCO et à ses préoccupations principales que ne l'était la Déclaration du Millénaire de 2000. Il engage en effet les gouvernements sur des principes et des actions concrètes et durables dans des domaines comme l'éducation, la culture, le développement durable (y compris la gestion de l'eau), la réponse aux catastrophes naturelles, ou le dialogue entre les civilisations, pour ne citer que quelques exemples.

17.6 Ce résultat n'aurait pu être obtenu sans l'engagement, la compréhension et le soutien de nombreux amis de l'UNESCO, au premier rang desquels figurent le Président de la cinquante-neuvième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, M. Jean Ping du Gabon, et le Président de la soixantième session, M. Jean Eliasson, de la Suède. Je souhaite également remercier les nombreux États membres qui sont intervenus pour que l'on accorde à l'éducation sa juste place dans le cadre de la lutte en faveur du développement et contre la pauvreté.

17.7 C'est avec une grande satisfaction que j'ai pu constater que la nécessité de promouvoir l'éducation – à tous les niveaux et dans tous les domaines – traverse le document comme un fil rouge. L'éducation est ainsi reconnue comme un préalable pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Le document cite les deux Objectifs consacrés à l'éducation – l'éducation de base universelle et l'éducation des filles – et en accroît considérablement la portée, puisque trois paragraphes entiers sont consacrés au rôle de l'éducation dans le développement.

17.8 Pour la première fois, les dirigeants du monde se sont explicitement engagés en faveur du Cadre d'action de Dakar sur l'Éducation pour tous (EPT) adopté au Forum mondial sur l'éducation en 2000. C'est un fait sans précédent. La reconnaissance du rôle moteur de l'UNESCO pour placer l'EPT et les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement sur l'éducation de base universelle pour 2015 au cœur des efforts pour l'éradication de la pauvreté, et en particulier l'extrême pauvreté, est aussi une grande satisfaction. Le document final souligne l'importance d'une approche holistique de la qualité de l'éducation à tous les niveaux du système éducatif, une approche vitale pour l'éradication de la pauvreté et pour la réalisation des autres objectifs de développement.

(The Director-General continued in English)

17.9 Ladies and gentlemen, when participating in New York in an interactive round table discussion which was attended by a large number of Heads of State and was chaired by the President of Poland, I stressed that the attainment of the ambitious Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will require substantial funding from two main sources – first, from domestic sources, in particular national budgets, as has been the case in many Asian countries and more recently also in Senegal and Ghana, which have allocated more than 40% of their budgets to education – and, second, from external partner sources, drawing on the increases committed under the Monterrey Consensus and through other modalities, such as the EFA Fast Track Initiative (FTI). And it is gratifying to note that, through the outcome document, the assembled Heads of State and Government have given their commitment to support and fund FTI.

17.10 At the interactive round table, I also highlighted the fact that the world has already failed to achieve one of the MDGs, namely, MDG 3, which calls for equal access of boys and girls to primary and secondary education by 2005. According to data to be published in the next *EFA Global Monitoring Report*, the number of countries missing this target has increased from 71 to 94 out of 149 countries. Furthermore, projections show that 86 countries are at risk of not achieving the gender parity target for primary and secondary education even by 2015. This is a disturbing situation which requires urgent, sustained and targeted action, especially if the more ambitious goal of gender equality in all levels of education is also to be attained by 2015.

17.11 It is worth noting that specific attention was given to education for peace and human development. Education for peace is a key component of quality education which, among other things, requires new and relevant curricula and textbooks that contribute to promoting shared universal values and dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples. Today, the challenge of education for human development is closely linked to questions of sustainable development and therefore to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) (2005-

2014), which the summit resolved to promote. Expectations concerning DESD are particularly high, and UNESCO must do more to fulfil its international obligations in this matter.

17.12 There are also several references to agreements reached at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster. Clearly, our action taken through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Science Sector was right on target in that regard – as is also reflected, if I may add, in the revised proposal for document 33 C/5, especially as regards the call for voluntary funding to help build capacities in Member States to cope with disaster prevention and management.

17.13 These aspects were also emphasized by the ASEAN-United Nations summit, held on 13 September 2005 under the joint chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Malaysia and the United Nations Secretary-General. It is evident that UNESCO will also need to work with the ASEAN States more systematically in future in the area of education.

17.14 The outcome document includes a commitment to respect, preserve and maintain indigenous and local communities' knowledge, innovations and practices. It seems to me that that never before have these aspects been addressed in such clarity in a summit document. I hope we can build on this foundation and also move in future further towards a more explicit recognition of the cultural heritage in all its manifestations – tangible and intangible – not least as an area that holds potential for contributions to poverty reduction.

17.15 There is also an important reference to the culture of peace and the need to promote a dialogue among cultures and civilizations. The intense interest in this area was clearly evident. At the invitation of President Arroyo of the Philippines, I addressed an informal meeting of leaders on interfaith dialogue and cooperation for peace. The assembled leaders agreed on a Declaration in which they expressed their conviction that a culture of peace can be significantly enhanced by interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue and cooperation, and pledged their support to UNESCO's programmes and practical actions in this regard.

17.16 Such has been the positive spirit that inspired the initiative I launched in favour of safeguarding the natural and cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem. As I announced at the information meeting with Permanent Delegates on 9 September regarding UNESCO's action in the Middle East, the Director of the World Heritage Centre, Francesco Bandarin, undertook a mission to Jerusalem last week. He has not yet been able to make his report to me on the results of this mission and therefore I have to refrain from making any comments on this matter. When I have had the opportunity to become informed of the mission's outcomes and have given thought to the next steps to be taken, we will organize an information meeting with the Permanent Delegates.

17.17 Nevertheless, I am keenly aware of the concern regarding the proposed new Jewish settlement in the Muslim quarter; this concern was emphasized at the above-mentioned information meeting. With my approval, Mr Bandarin communicated this concern to the local authorities during his mission. The proposal, which has aroused a great deal of anxiety within the Palestinian population of Jerusalem, appears to be disturbing the delicate equilibrium of the urban fabric of the Old City as well as the close link between historic and religious buildings and the communities that live alongside them. For neither UNESCO nor the 1972 Convention is the heritage of a historic city confined to only stones; it also embraces the communities living in that city, in all their vibrant diversity. This is why I appeal to all the parties concerned to refrain from anything that may jeopardize the distinctive character of the Old City of Jerusalem, which is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

17.18 Ladies and gentlemen, coming back to the outcome document of the World Summit, it is worth noting that it invites all United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to continue to examine how we can improve the level and efficiency of our overall contributions, especially at the country level. As already announced, UNESCO is intensifying its contributions to Common Country Assessments (CCAs), United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and other country-level planning and programming documents. To this end, a training programme for field staff was launched in July. Please also note that I have distributed to you the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which sets out a concrete agenda for improved collaboration among all actors in the development process. UNESCO will contribute towards the implementation of this Declaration, which was also endorsed by the World Summit.

17.19 Mr Chairman, Members of the Executive Board, the week preceding the World Summit saw the publication of the report of the Paul Volcker Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC) on the Oil-for-Food Programme. I have carefully studied the criticisms of UNESCO contained in the report and I can assure you that we take these criticisms seriously, as well as the broader recommendations of the report, especially in regard to oversight, procurement and project management. In my written introduction, I drew particular attention to the Blue Note issued on 26 February 2000, for I am convinced that this marked a turning-point in UNESCO's handling of this complex business. I also highlighted the importance of my action in establishing the Internal Oversight Service (IOS), which has done so much to improve the control environment within the Organization.

17.20 While acknowledging this, the Volcker report cites one UNESCO project – the Sulaimaniya chalk factory project – as the basis to criticize UNESCO's overall performance with regard to the Oil-for-Food Programme. While there are indeed many lessons to be learned from that experience, it may be noted that the chalk factory – while clearly flawed in its original conception – represented 0.52% of the total \$119.9 million caseload of projects that UNESCO completed by the end of the Oil-for-Food Programme.

17.21 There were many positive results arising from UNESCO's work in Iraq. UNESCO built or rehabilitated more than 153 schools, 11 technical institutes and 3 universities in Northern Iraq; we supported the local manufacture of school furnishings, including 152,000 desks; we equipped 354 computer laboratories in secondary schools; and we launched a school bussing initiative which, from 2000 to 2003, allowed over 43,000 students living in remote areas to continue their education. It is important to bear in mind these positive results since the Volcker report, by its very nature, does not address them.

17.22 Let me also bring to your attention my decision – in coordination with all nine implementing agencies in the Oil-for-Food Programme – to return the unused portion of \$1.95 million in fees that the Organization received during the six-month wind-down phase of the Programme (May to November 2003). Upon showing, in coordination with the United Nations Comptroller, that \$1.2 million of the fees had been deployed for their intended purposes or had been channeled directly back into the implementation of approved reconstruction and development projects benefiting Iraq, UNESCO deposited the remaining unused portion of support cost fees totalling \$734,000 into the Iraq Escrow Account.

17.23 Finally in this regard, I would like to give strong emphasis to the fact that the Volcker report contains no imputation of any impropriety or dishonesty on UNESCO's part in relation to the Oil-for-Food Programme.

(Le Directeur général poursuit en français)

17.24 L'un des principaux enseignements qu'on peut tirer du Sommet de New York, tout comme de l'expérience du programme « Pétrole contre nourriture », c'est que les différentes composantes du système des Nations Unies – l'ONU, ses fonds et ses programmes, et les institutions spécialisées – ont destin lié. Elles vivront, ou disparaîtront, ensemble. De fait, les Nations Unies ne font qu'un, et toutes les tentatives, internes ou externes, d'opposer certains de ses éléments ou d'introduire une certaine compétition entre eux, sont au mieux vaines, au pire suicidaires. C'est d'ailleurs la conclusion qui sous-tend la brochure intitulée *Un système des Nations Unies unique* (One United Nations), publiée cette année par le Conseil des chefs de Secrétariat des organismes des Nations Unies pour la coordination, le fameux CCS. Cette brochure, à laquelle j'ai personnellement contribué, met en évidence plusieurs domaines d'action essentiels pour l'UNESCO, notamment l'EPT, l'initiative EDUSIDA (EDUCAIDS), ou le Programme mondial pour l'évaluation des ressources en eau.

17.25 Cela étant dit, il n'est pas inutile de développer une vision plus précise du rôle spécifique qui incombe aux institutions spécialisées dans l'architecture générale du système des Nations Unies. C'est ce à quoi nous nous employons, et j'ai déjà eu trois rencontres avec les chefs exécutifs d'autres agences spécialisées (l'OIT, la FAO, l'OMS et l'ONUDI) à Genève en avril 2005, à Paris en juillet, puis à New York en septembre, pour identifier les moyens de renforcer notre coopération, tant dans la formulation des politiques, au niveau mondial, que dans l'action opérationnelle, au niveau des pays. Ces réunions nous ont permis de progresser vers une vision partagée de notre avantage comparatif et de notre complémentarité.

17.26 Mais, je le répète, les Nations Unies ne font qu'un, et c'est à ce titre qu'elles sont, encore aujourd'hui, considérées comme un rouage essentiel de l'édifice qui assure la paix et la sécurité internationales. Elles incarnent le multilatéralisme, une valeur qui, en dépit de tous les obstacles, reste une valeur partagée. C'est là, au lendemain d'un Sommet qui portait tant d'espoirs, mais aussi tant de craintes, un constat réconfortant.

17.27 Mais c'est là aussi, dans l'intensité des espoirs et l'étendue des attentes, que réside le problème : les mêmes États attendent du système des Nations Unies des solutions à des problèmes qu'ils ne peuvent résoudre seuls, sans pour autant vouloir lui donner les moyens – politiques, humains et financiers – qui seraient nécessaires pour mettre en place ces solutions. Kofi Annan le dit très bien à la fin de son programme de réformes *Dans une liberté plus grande* : « Ceux qui ont le pouvoir de décision [...] doivent prendre soin, lorsqu'ils confient des tâches au Secrétariat, de le doter des ressources nécessaires ».

17.28 Ce qui est vrai de l'ONU l'est aussi de l'UNESCO : au fur et à mesure que les thèmes dont elle traite, et les objectifs qu'elle poursuit, acquièrent plus d'actualité et de pertinence, l'UNESCO voit ses possibilités d'action de plus en plus réduites. Les ressources financières diminuent de biennium en biennium, alors que les requêtes se font plus pressantes, et que les défis nouveaux s'ajoutent aux problèmes anciens. Et si tout le monde appelle de ses vœux la concentration, personne n'accepte de renoncer à ses propres intérêts ou à ses priorités particulières. C'est dans ce contexte que je présente mes propositions révisées pour le 33 C/5, qui ont été bâties sur la base des débats du Conseil à sa dernière session, et qui ne pouvaient pas être, de ce fait, radicalement différentes de celles qui figuraient déjà dans le cadre de la base de référence de 610 millions de dollars. Le travail de rationalisation, pour ne pas dire de dégraissage, avait déjà été fait et, à quelques ajustements près, il m'aurait semblé déraisonnable de vouloir – dans les circonstances actuelles, je dis bien dans les circonstances actuelles – aller plus loin. C'est pourquoi j'en appelle à tous les États pour qu'ils accueillent positivement les propositions additionnelles que je leur soumetts, à financer par des contributions volontaires extrabudgétaires, à hauteur de 25 millions de dollars. J'ai donné, à titre indicatif, une idée de ce que représenterait la part de chacun à l'aune du barème des contributions obligatoires. Cela n'est qu'une indication : mais cela fixe aussi, à mon

sens, « un plancher de référence » qui permet de tester le soutien politique réel que chaque État membre accorde à cette Organisation.

17.29 Car il va de soi – et j'en suis plus convaincu que jamais au retour de ce Sommet mondial – qu'une UNESCO plus forte est partie intégrante d'un système des Nations Unies renforcé. Au moment même où nous célébrons le soixantième anniversaire des Nations Unies, de l'UNESCO et de nombreuses autres composantes du système, essayons simplement d'imaginer à quoi auraient ressemblé les soixante dernières années si ce système n'avait pas existé ! La force du message initial est intacte. Je souhaiterais qu'à l'occasion de cet anniversaire, nous la retrouvions, tous ensemble.

Item 30 SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE 33rd SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
(172 EX/INF.3)

18.1 The CHAIRMAN said that pursuant to Rule 26 of its Rules of Procedure, the General Conference would elect a President and not more than 36 Vice-Presidents. Under Rule 35 of those Rules of Procedure, the Executive Board would submit to the General Conference the list of nominations for the posts of President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference.

18.2 Only one candidature for the post of President of the 33rd session of the General Conference had been received, that of Mr Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan (Oman). Voting was usually by secret ballot in accordance with Rule 55 of the Board's Rules of Procedure, which he read out. However, as there was only one candidature, he took it that, in the absence of a request for a vote, the Board agreed to recommend the nomination of Mr Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan for the office of President of the 33rd session of the General Conference.

19. Mr Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan was nominated for the post of President of the 33rd session of the General Conference by acclamation.

٢٠,١ السيد موسى حسن (المندوب الدائم لعمان لدى اليونسكو) النص الكامل:

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم. سيدي الرئيس، سعادة رئيس المؤتمر العام، معالي المدير العام، الزملاء الكرام أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، سيداتي، سادتي، إن كلمتي هذا الصباح هي للتعبير عن بالغ التقدير والشكر إلى رئيس المجلس التنفيذي وكافة أعضائه على هذه الثقة الغالية في تكليفكم لي بمهمة جليلة لخدمة الدول الأعضاء لمنظمتنا اليونسكو.

٢٠,٢ إنني أشعر بالفخر والاعتزاز بأن ترشيحي لرئاسة الدورة الثالثة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام جاء من حكومة بلدي عمان وأيدته المجموعة العربية التي أتشرف بالانتماء إليها. وتوالى بكل تقدير دعم المجموعات الجغرافية في اليونسكو، جميعها وبدون استثناء، لمرشح عمان والمجموعة العربية. واليوم وبموقفكم الجماعي التضامني الرائع يكتمل هذا الالتفاف حول المرشح العماني المتمثل في شخصي وذلك بانتظار ثقة المؤتمر العام. ويأتي تضامنكم الصادق هذا ليعبر بحق عن احترامكم للتناوب الذي ارتضيناه عن قناعة لإعطاء الفرصة وبانتظام لكافة المجموعات لأخذ دورها في رئاسة هيئات اليونسكو الثلاث. إنها مسؤولية كبيرة تأتي لتأكيد إحساسنا بضرورة اتباع ممارسات تمثل التفاهم الحقيقي فيما بين الثقافات المختلفة باعتباره من الأهداف التي نسعى إلى تحقيقها في اليونسكو.

٢٠,٣ لا أود أن أطيل عليكم وأنتم تنتظرون جدول أعمال حافلا بالمواضيع الهامة، ولكن أرجو أن تسمحوا لي أن أعبّر لكم، سيدي الرئيس، سعادة السفير هانس - هاينرخ وريدي، عن الامتنان والتقدير لحسن إدارتكم لأعمال المجلس التنفيذي وموقفكم النبيل تجاه ترشيح بلدي. وأوجه إلى رئيس المؤتمر العام، سعادة السفير مايكل أوموليوا، الشكر الوافر على تعاونه الصادق معي منذ الإعلان عن ترشيحي راجيا أن أستفيد من إدارته الحكيمة لأعمال المؤتمر العام. وإلى معالي المدير العام كويشيرو ماتسورا أقول إنني أحمل له الرغبة والانفتاح والتعاون مع الأمانة فيما ينبغي الاضطلاع به من عمل مشترك وملمس لخدمة الدول الأعضاء ودعم كافة المبادرات لتعزيز التضامن بين كافة الثقافات والحضارات والاهتمام بالتعليم ليصل إلى الجميع.

٢٠,٤ ختاماً، يقول أحد الحكماء: "المعرفة محتاجة إلى التجارب، والقرابة محتاجة إلى المودة، والشكر محتاج إلى القبول". فأرجو أن تتقبلوا شكري ومودتي. والسلام عليكم.

(20.1) Mr Musa HASSAN (Permanent Delegate of Oman to UNESCO) *in extenso* (translation from the Arabic):

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Director-General, Members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, I take the floor this morning to express my great appreciation and thanks to the Chairman of the Executive Board and all the Board Members for the invaluable confidence they have shown in entrusting me with this noble task in the service of the Member States of UNESCO.

(20.2) It is for me an honour and a source of pride that the government of my country, Oman, with support from the Arab States group, to which I have the honour of belonging, have nominated me for the office of President of the 33rd session of the General Conference. This nomination put forward by Oman and the Arab States has received, for which I am grateful, the support of all the geographical groups in UNESCO, without exception. And now today, thanks to your tremendous collective solidarity, the rallying round the Omani candidate, in the form of my own person, is complete, pending the General Conference's vote of confidence. Your sincere solidarity rightly reflects your respect for the principle of rotation which we have adopted with conviction in order to give all the electoral groups a regular opportunity to preside over the three organs of UNESCO. This is a great responsibility which underscores the need to follow practices which represent true understanding among the various cultures, given that this is one of the objectives that we strive to achieve in UNESCO.

(20.3) I do not wish to be too lengthy, as you have ahead of you an agenda full of important matters. Nevertheless, allow me to express to you, Mr Chairman, Ambassador Hans-Heinrich Wrede, gratitude and esteem for your excellent stewardship of the work of the Executive Board, and your magnanimous position regarding the nomination by my country. I should like to express to the President of the General Conference, Ambassador Michael Omolewa, my profuse thanks for his sincere cooperation with me since the announcement of my nomination, in the hope that I may benefit from his sagacious direction of the proceedings of the General Conference. And allow me to convey to His Excellency the Director-General, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, my desire for a spirit of openness and cooperation with the Secretariat in our concrete joint work in the service of the Member States and in support of all initiatives aimed at strengthening solidarity between all cultures and civilizations, and the pursuance of education for all.

(20.4) Finally, as a wise man said: “Knowledge needs experience, kinship needs affection, and gratitude needs acceptance.” I hope, then, that you will accept my gratitude and affection. Peace be upon you.

21.1 Mr OMOLEWA (President of the General Conference) *in extenso*:

Director-General, Chairman of the Executive Board, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to commend you on the swiftness and the promptness of your decision this morning in selecting as the next President of the General Conference a distinguished ambassador. Ambassador Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan is not only an “old hand” in this house: he has been a very active member, serving both the Executive Board and the General Conference in a variety of capacities. As you know, he was once Chairperson of the Nominations Committee of the General Conference. He has served as the Chairperson of the NGO Committee of the Executive Board; he has served as the President of the Headquarters Committee for a long period of time, and he is also the Secretary of the Delegates’ Circle. So, in every area of activity – whether social, diplomatic or economic – he has been very active.

21.2 I would like to make my own intervention very brief, because I am delighted that I will be working with someone in whom I have complete confidence, and whose experience and dedication I appreciate. He is to me just like Ambassador Ahmad Jalali, the clairvoyant, philosopher, poet, dancer, intellectual and academic that I appreciated working with. It is my joy to assure Ambassador Musa Hassan that he will have in me a ready ally and friend. I am hoping, during the 33rd session of the General Conference, to ask the General Conference to make him an outstanding example of world heritage, because he has spent almost a quarter of a century in this Organization. It is my hope that you will support me in making this request, which I hope the Director-General will endorse, because it is our tradition to inscribe outstanding natural and cultural heritage on the World Heritage List. I would like to add Mr Musa Hassan to the List. Thank you and God bless you.

٢٢ وجه السيد رفعت (مصر) (نائب الرئيس عن مجموعة الدول العربية)، باسم المجموعة العربية ومصر، إلى السيد السفير موسى بن جعفر بن حسن، ممثل عمان، أخلص التهاني بمناسبة ترشيحه رئيساً جديداً للمؤتمر العام، معرباً عن ثقة جميع الدول العربية والدول الأعضاء في المنظمة بشخصه الكريم، وبقدراته الكبيرة التي تعززت بفضل الخبرة الواسعة التي اكتسبها من مشاركاته في أعمال المنظمة خلال السنوات الماضية. وتمنى له التوفيق والسداد في تحمل المسؤولية الكبيرة الملقاة على عاتقه.

(22) Mr RIFAAT (Egypt) (Vice-Chairman for the Arab States group) addressed, on behalf of the Arab States group and Egypt, his congratulations to Ambassador Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan, the Permanent Delegate of Oman, on the occasion of his nomination as President of the forthcoming session of the General Conference, expressing the confidence of all the Arab States and other Member States of the Organization in his eminent person and his great capacities, which had been strengthened by his extensive experience acquired from his involvement in the Organization’s action in recent years. He wished him good luck and every success in the assumption of the great responsibility placed upon his shoulders.

23. The DIRECTOR-GENERAL *in extenso*:

Thank you Mr Chairman. I would like to join the other speakers in congratulating Ambassador Musa Hassan on his unanimous nomination. The post of President of the General Conference is a very important one, particularly since, as Ambassador Musa Hassan himself has stressed, the forthcoming General Conference is of major importance. My colleagues in the

Secretariat and I will be very happy to work with the new President, in order to make the General Conference a great success. I would like to offer my congratulations once again.

24. The CHAIRMAN joined his congratulations to those of other speakers and said that he would forward the nomination to the General Conference Nominations Committee. He informed the Board that the list of candidatures for the posts of Vice-Presidents as recommended by the Bureau in consultation with the electoral groups was the following: Group I: Austria, Canada, France, Netherlands, Spain and United States of America; Group II: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland and Romania; Group III: Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Lucia; Group IV: Australia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Republic of Korea; Group V (a): Comoros, Gabon, Ghana, Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa; Group V (b): Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

25. Those recommendations were adopted.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

SECOND MEETING

Monday 19 September 2005 at 5.40 p.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede
later: Ms Inayatullah
later: Mr Wrede

ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE PRIVATE MEETINGS HELD
ON MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2005

1. At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, the SECRETARY read out the following announcement:

“At the private meetings held Monday, 19 September, the Executive Board considered items **42** and **48** of its agenda.

Item **42** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE APPLICATION OF
RULE 59 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
(172 EX/PRIV.1)

In accordance with Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Director-General informed the Board of the decisions taken since the 171st session regarding the appointments and extensions of contract of staff members at grade D-1 and above, whose posts come under the regular programme of the Organization.

Item **48** NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO (172 EX/PRIV.2; 172 EX/PRIV/INF.1;
172 EX/PRIV/NOM/1)

1. The Board received only one candidate who made a presentation and answered questions posed to him by the six regional groups and other Members of the Board.

2. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and of the Rules of Procedure, the Board decided, by secret ballot, to nominate to the General Conference at its 33rd session Mr Koïchiro Matsuura (Japan), Director-General of UNESCO for a second term of office of four years. Out of 58 Board Members voting, 56 cast valid votes, 55 in favour, one against.

3. The Executive Board also decided to create a working group among its Members to consider the draft contract between the Director-General and the Organization and report to it at another private meeting of the 172nd session. Thank you, Mr Chairman.”

Item **48** NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF UNESCO (172 EX/PRIV.2; 172 EX/PRIV/INF.1; 172 EX/PRIV/NOM/1)

2. Mr WREDE (Chairman of the Executive Board) *in extenso*:

Thank you indeed, Mr Secretary, for this announcement. I would like to take once more the opportunity in this public meeting to congratulate on behalf of all of us the Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, for this resounding vote of confidence, for the result of our vote today, and I would like to invite him once more if he so wishes to address this Board. You have the floor, Sir.

3. The DIRECTOR-GENERAL *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for this extremely happy news for me and also for the Secretariat. I would like to thank you first, Mr Chairman, for giving me this good news, and also for having given me support and cooperation in the last two years as the Chairman of the Board. I appreciate that enormously. I would like to also thank the President of the General Conference, Ambassador Omolewa, with whom I have collaborated very, very closely in the last two years. Also I would like to thank all of you with whom I have worked very closely in the last two years, and in fact in the last six years, since my arrival. I appreciate your strong support. If the General Conference endorses this nomination, if the General Conference appoints me officially, I will do my best to serve the Organization in line with my vision, and also with the replies I have just given during the interview, in order to make our Organization more efficient and more effective; in other words, I will continue to strengthen the reform process. I would like also to mention, as I said in the private session, that I am very, very grateful to all members of the Secretariat, in particular Mr Márcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General, Ms Françoise Rivière, Assistant Director-General in charge of the Cabinet, all the Cabinet staff, and also all the ADGs and Directors and all the staff of the Secretariat, who have helped me a great deal in the last six years. In fact, without their cooperation and their support, I could not have done what I have done. Therefore I owe them a great deal, and I would like to ask them to continue to work with me in the next four years for our shared purpose. Once again thank you very much for your strong support. Thank you very much indeed.

4. Mr WREDE (Chairman of the Executive Board) *in extenso*:

Thank you Director-General. I have now the great privilege and pleasure to give the floor to the President of the General Conference. Before so doing, I would like to say with special pleasure that the country he represents, Nigeria, has also fully endorsed, and even nominated, the Director-General for the post of Director-General. Mr President, you have the floor.

5.1 Mr OMOLEWA (President of the General Conference) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, eminent Members of the Executive Board, I would like to make this very brief statement following my observation of the conduct of the nomination of the Director-General of UNESCO at the private session earlier today. I would like to observe that this nomination was conducted with only one candidate, as against the 11 candidates six years ago. But in spite of the fact that there was only one candidate, you fielded questions from all the electoral groups to this one candidate, and allowed him five minutes for each statement. Furthermore, unlike in the question-and-answer session six years ago, the Asia and the Pacific group did not ask a question, and that for me is a further confirmation of the confidence that they have in the candidate from that group. In 1999, Ms Inayatullah, the representative of Pakistan, asked the first question, and asked the candidate: "How do you see UNESCO's mission to face the new challenges of the third millennium?" But this time, the fact that there was no such question is a definite confirmation that there is a focus, there is an orientation, and there is a determination by the Director-General to put UNESCO on the map in the world community.

5.2 I would like just to draw your attention to five of the issues that I have noticed, apart from this observation about the conduct of the nomination and the efforts of the Director-General to respond to each of your questions. The first is this: I have noticed that there was general agreement that the Director-General has given increased visibility to UNESCO during the six years, and that his reform process has been applauded. We believe that that was what also encouraged some of the countries that were outside UNESCO to come back to this Organization during the six years of his term. I also have noticed that in your questions, you did not just go in one direction; you allowed some other thoughts. One of the speakers was eager to ensure that people also brought the discussion to another level, another plane of consciousness, and I am happy that you also

accommodated that. Mr Matsuura, as you know, with whom I have worked for this past two years as President of the General Conference, has ensured that both the Executive Board and the General Conference worked intimately with the Secretariat. I would like to thank him in particular for the support that he gave, especially to the working group on relations between the three organs of UNESCO. I would like to thank him for his cooperation at every level whenever I needed his personal intervention. A quiet, gentle diplomat, effective, transparent, always eager to sell the ideas and vision of UNESCO, I think Mr Matsuura has proved that after six years you may continue to trust him with a new term.

5.3 I would like to conclude by drawing your attention in particular to the type of support that the Director-General has given in attracting additional funding from his country for programmes and activities which the ordinary budget of UNESCO would not ordinarily have accommodated. I would like to appeal to as many Members as possible please to begin to think of the possibility of bringing additional sources of funding in order to meet the important challenges of this Organization. I believe that all of us working together, with Mr Matsuura as head of the Secretariat of UNESCO, now have an opportunity perhaps to begin to redefine our priorities, as already outlined in some of your questions, that you are now already saying “yes, we have gone that far, but we have not gone far enough” and I am delighted in particular by those that are talking about indigenous people, the intangible cultural heritage, those for whom UNESCO, I believe, was established 60 years ago to assist all of us to move in this new direction. So, I would like to congratulate you in particular as Members of the Executive Board for taking this very, very important decision today which we all respect, and for standing by the letters that you had already sent earlier on. I would like to congratulate Mr Matsuura for being able to win the confidence of everyone so as to have this important second term. I want to assure him that those of us who will be leaving our various positions, will continue to be behind the scene, praying for him and encouraging him, joining people like Ms Moserová to be able to give this type of informal support anytime it is needed. Once more, congratulations Mr Matsuura, and I congratulate all of you Members of the Board. God bless your work. Amen.

6. Mr WREDE (Chairman of the Executive Board) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, indeed, Mr President of the General Conference. Allow me to thank you once more for the continuous and extremely substantive contribution you are making to the work here in our Board. This concludes, I believe, on a happy tone, the part we address this afternoon: the nomination of a candidate for Director-General. I believe the experience this afternoon, a genuinely democratic and inclusive, open way of proceeding, a transparent way which I believe could serve possibly as an excellent example to be followed in nominations conducted elsewhere, in other United Nations organizations. Thank you again. We shall now turn to the general debate on items **3**, **4** and **21**, following the presentation the Director-General made this morning. May I remind you that the intervention of each Member State will be eight minutes, and I would like to inform you once more that you have in front of you the list of speakers for this afternoon. This afternoon we still have 12 speakers on the list, so I am afraid that your evening obligations will start a little later, and I shall now with pleasure give the floor to the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He even gets 13 minutes of speaking time because some other Member States have given some of their minutes to them. You have the floor, Sir.

- Item 3** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAMME ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (172 EX/4 Parts I and Add and II; 172 EX/INF.5; 172 EX/INF.6; 172 EX/INF.9; 172 EX/INF.10) (*continued*)
- Item 4** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS (172 EX/5; 172 EX/INF.5; 172 EX/INF.6; 172 EX/INF.7 Rev. (English only)) (*continued*)
- Item 21** CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2006-2007 (33 C/5) AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (33 C/5 Draft Rev. and Add.; 172 EX/INF.5; 172 EX/INF.6) (*continued*)

7.1 Mr CRADDOCK (United Kingdom) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 25 Member States of the European Union, and I am very grateful to the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and Slovakia for donating some minutes of their speaking time to our Presidency for this statement. The accession countries of Bulgaria and Romania, and the candidate countries of Croatia and Turkey also join us in this intervention.

7.2 European Union Member States make significant contributions across the full range of UNESCO activities, and we take a close interest in the welfare of the Organization. As we approach the end of one Director-General's term, and the beginning of a new term later this year, we see a need for renewed impetus, and for the Director-General to chart the future course of UNESCO. We would welcome a strategy based on evaluation, analysis of the condition of the different sectors of UNESCO, and on the Director-General's short- and long-term objectives for the Organization. It is for us, the Member States, to endorse a strategy which strengthens UNESCO's role in the international system, a system with effective multilateral coordination, greater synergy, and reduction of overlap. Once we have agreed a vision for UNESCO's global and in-country objectives, we shall have a duty to support the Director-General in delivering it, including through regular assessment of the Organization's performance. To this end we would favour the introduction of an annual checklist of performance targets for the Director-General's new mandate, which would chart progress systematically. We would also urge the Director-General to increase UNESCO's visibility through a more systematic and proactive relationship with the media.

7.3 It is important to acknowledge how far UNESCO has come in the last six years in terms of fostering international cooperation, capacity-building, and normative action. We would single out for praise UNESCO's work on cultural heritage, on the World Water Assessment Programme, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's response to the Indian Ocean tsunami. We also note that the Organization has begun to modernize its management systems, and we strongly encourage the Director-General to continue this and complete the work.

7.4 We believe that UNESCO is now ready for the next stage of modernization. It needs to choose its priorities, concentrate on those areas of work where it can achieve tangible results, and put aside those activities it does not have the human or financial resources to tackle successfully. The European Union recalls in this context the decision of the Executive Board at its 171st session, requiring the Director-General to submit a modified budget proposal. Thorough prioritization and the drive for more efficiency are indispensable in the light of our limited financial resources. Many other United Nations organizations are now looking into their programmes and working methods, and we would like UNESCO to lead the field, not follow it. The European Union believes that UNESCO should look carefully at relations between the three organs of UNESCO, at their working

methods in Paris and in the field, and at relations with UNESCO's institutes, centres of excellence and National Commissions. In his report to the Millennium Review Summit, the Secretary-General of the United Nations recognized the need for longer-term more radical reform of United Nations operational activities. The Summit Outcome document, agreed by all our governments in New York last week, invites the Secretary-General to pursue this: the European Union hopes that new work on reform will begin as soon as possible. It will be essential for UNESCO to fully engage in and support this process.

7.5 I now turn to one of UNESCO's greatest challenges: education. We see education as fundamental to peace-building, democracy, tolerance and respect among cultures. Good quality education provides a foundation for genuine dialogue among peoples, thereby contributing to the fight against terrorism. The follow-up to the Declaration of Amsterdam on the Right to and the Rights in Education should be given high consideration, especially as the importance of UNESCO's work in this field is recognized in the Declaration. And we must, as we have been saying for the last several Executive Boards, galvanize our efforts to achieve the Dakar EFA goals. But in the multilateral system we cannot afford to have competition and rivalry between different institutions. Nor can we afford to have bodies which seriously underperform. The European Union has committed itself to an additional annual €20 billion of aid by 2010, with at least 50% of that going to Africa. With the commitments of the G8 summit this year, the increase in aid will be an extra \$50 billion a year. Strong international institutions are needed to back up this huge increase in aid. Organizations such as UNESCO have a crucial role in ensuring that governments have good policies in place, so that this extra money will produce real results.

7.6 This year attention has been drawn to the resource and human development needs of the poor countries, notably by the G8 summit and the Commission for Africa. They emphasized that donors and multilaterals need to keep supporting a country-driven approach. But also that the international system as a whole needs to be made more effective, so that the efforts of individual countries receive maximum support. Some of the challenges these countries face, particularly in education and science, are within UNESCO's remit. The European Union is firmly supporting the efforts of the new ADG for Education to refocus and restructure the Education Sector. Chief among his objectives should be improved coordination of international efforts, particularly on education for all, and better understanding among the different players in the international system of their respective roles and responsibilities. There needs to be better mapping of needs, better division of tasks and more accountability for results – in short a more proactive approach by UNESCO to helping us meet the Dakar goals. As outlined in the European Union's Millennium Development Goal policies, adopted this year, the European Union believes that we must have a strong international system to reduce inequalities and disparities between rich and poor countries and to make the world more prosperous, secure and stable. We shall set out our views on education for sustainable development at a later stage in this Board session.

7.7 Finally, on education, on the subject of human resources, we see UNESCO as essentially a policy organization, not an aid disbursement organization. It needs high-calibre staff with practical experience who are capable of implementing programmes and advising on policy. We support efforts to integrate better the work of the Secretariat, the institutes and other subsidiary bodies, and we are pleased at the moves under way to increase attention on those countries in greatest need. We look forward to an education strategy in which all efforts are focused on achieving key objectives; a strategy in which staff understand their role, within one UNESCO framework supporting country efforts, and where input and achievement can be measured. I should emphasize that these remarks might equally apply well to all sectors in UNESCO.

7.8 Finally, I would just touch on the normative work of the Organization: we consider it important for UNESCO to produce quality instruments which make a difference to the world, which

are practicable and which reflect credit on UNESCO. We welcome the Director-General's new commitment to implementation of these instruments. And given our commitment to implementation, we strongly believe that proposals for any future normative work should not proceed without the broad support of, and due reflection by, Member States. This autumn, the European Union in UNESCO will be working for the successful completion of normative instruments on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, anti-doping in sport, universal norms in bioethics, and on quality provision in cross-border higher education. I would like to close this statement with a word on the first of these. The European Union, its Member States, candidate countries and accession countries reaffirm their support for the draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions as elaborated by the intergovernmental meeting of experts in June. The defence and promotion of cultural diversity are among the fundamental principles and objectives of the European Union. We hereby reaffirm our attachment to those principles, and our determination to see this draft convention adopted at the General Conference in October. Thank you.

7.9 In the remainder of this statement I will speak briefly from the United Kingdom point of view, and touch on three areas: this year's development agenda and UNESCO's place in it; some further remarks on education; and some comments on the methods of work of the Executive Board itself.

7.10 This year has been the most important year for international development policy, with last week's Millennium Review Summit, a G8 summit in July focused on development and other processes such as the Commission for Africa. Despite negative media coverage, real progress is being made, not only in reaffirming the country-based approach to development, but also in raising huge amounts of extra resources for developing countries. UNESCO has contributed to some of the thinking behind these processes. For example the Commission for Africa's conclusions on culture and development owe much to UNESCO's input. There is also a role for UNESCO in follow-up, particularly in education and science. But this must be in response to an African-led process, and it is a role only for an organization whose policy advice is respected and which is clear about what role it has globally, and in-country. The United Kingdom very much supports the Director-General's remarks on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness on the new approach to development, and urges that he uses the next four years to put this into effect in UNESCO, particularly so that UNESCO supports the efforts in the poorest countries in a more effective and coordinated fashion.

7.11 That is why the process under way in the Education Sector is so important. That process should result in a UNESCO which asserts its global leadership role, a UNESCO in which all its constituent parts – the institutes, the centres, the field offices, etc. – work as one UNESCO, and which also works as one with the rest of the international system, and it should result in a UNESCO which has a much clearer strategy for engagement in-country. Exactly what sort of advice UNESCO is offering in-country should become much clearer. One example of this process – and it could be better – is if UNESCO were to become a much more visible leader at the High-Level Group meeting this year in Beijing. That meeting needs a much clearer and shorter communiqué which acts as an action plan for education efforts worldwide in the coming year. Such a communiqué needs implementation, follow-up, and progress on it to be reported to the next High-Level Group in a year's time.

7.12 Finally, Mr Chairman, just a brief section on our working methods, on which, it seems to us, we are still making little progress as a Board and imposing bureaucratic governance patterns on the Organization which sometimes divert the Organization from real priorities. As far as the Board is concerned, our attention seems often to be preoccupied with relatively routine matters. And we sometimes seem to miss the bigger picture. Little can be done under the present rules about the

proliferation of papers which come before us. But delegating discussion on this problem to working groups or the Special Committee seems to solve little. If we do not do well in finding some solutions in the next few weeks, including at the General Conference, I would propose we devote more time to a discussion of the simplification of the working methods of the Board at the spring Board meeting. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

8.1 Mr GÜVENEN (Turkey) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin my remarks by thanking the Director-General for his explanatory and comprehensive report. I also would like to state that Turkey associates itself with the intervention made by the distinguished Permanent Delegate of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union.

8.2 Mr Chairman, 2005 marks an important year for UNESCO. Firstly, the election for the post of Director-General will take place during the 33rd session of the General Conference. Moreover, it is the 60th anniversary of the Organization. We, therefore, believe that the time is ripe for taking stock and planning the way ahead for UNESCO's work, to which, as a Member State, we attach great importance. In addition, the 172nd session of the Executive Board coincides with the Millennium Review Summit, organized on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York where the Millennium Development Goals were reassessed. We have been informed that the Director-General participated in this Summit, and I thank him for sharing his observations with us.

8.3 Mr Chairman, non-conventional and asymmetric threats, such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime, and all forms of extremism pose a serious threat to democratic societies and human life across the world. Among these threats, especially terrorism, which is a crime against humanity, needs to be addressed at the national, regional and international levels. Having said this, and being actively involved in the discussions on this topic, we welcome the status report on UNESCO's contribution to international action against terrorism through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.

8.4 Problems stemming from conflicts, poverty, illiteracy, infectious diseases, environmental degradation and natural calamities afflicting different nations or regions can cause ripples across the globe. Indeed, our world has become more of a global village, and thus, globalization and interdependence are the key words describing the new international complex interactions. Globalization is observed predominantly in the financial markets and real economy. Through its indirect impacts it is strongly influential at the level of social, cultural structures of societies at the global level. The international community, therefore, is bound to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century in a unified manner. In this effort, the need for robust international organizations and institutions is greater than ever before.

8.5 In this framework, we believe it is imperative that UNESCO does its own share by reforming itself, in accordance with the wider United Nations reform under way and by focusing on its priorities. Among these, education is certainly the *primus inter pares*: education based on a vision of the world, on culture, and on reformed social science methodology, I repeat, on reformed social science methodology. The linkage between education and sustainable development was sealed with the launch of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) on 1 March 2005 in New York. As a country with a high percentage of young people, we attach importance to the achievement of the goals of education for all (EFA) set forth in Dakar, and are pleased to note that an EFA Joint Action Plan is currently in preparation.

8.6 We also support the work of UNESCO in the field of science. As a concrete step, we have submitted Camili as the first Biosphere Reserve in Turkey for inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which the Bureau of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme at its meeting in June this year decided favourably.

8.7 In the cultural field, Turkey has proposed the inclusion of the eminent philosopher and mystical poet Maulānā Jalāl ud-Dīn Rūmī (Turkish spelling: Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi) to the list of the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2006-2007. This list is expected to be adopted by the General Conference at its 33rd session. Rūmī, who was born in Balkh, Afghanistan, and who lies in his eternal resting place in Konya, Turkey, advocated in his lifetime tolerance, reason and access to knowledge through love. His work and thought became of universal relevance, well beyond the borders of Turkey and Afghanistan. The 800th anniversary of the birth of Rūmī will be commemorated through celebrations in Konya as well as in his city of birth, Balkh.

8.8 Mr Chairman, as a major promoter of reconciliation and cooperation in its region and beyond, Turkey attaches importance to UNESCO's efforts on reconstruction and rebuilding national capacities in post-conflict zones. We, therefore, support the Organization's activities in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East, and recently in Sudan. In this framework, we welcome the first Israeli-Palestinian National Commissions Dialogue Encounter which took place at the UNESCO Headquarters on 8 September 2005 enabling a direct dialogue between the National Commissions of the two sides.

8.9 Given our historical and cultural ties with the region, we also closely follow the work for the protection and rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of South-East Europe in general and Kosovo in particular. To this end, we pledged \$2.3 million for the restoration of the cultural monuments in Kosovo at the international donors' meeting convened by UNESCO in May 2005.

8.10 In our interdependent world, dialogue among cultures and civilizations has acquired more importance than ever. Turkey, which has initiated the EU-OIC Joint Forum, and recently became a co-sponsor of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, initially proposed by the Prime Minister of Spain and formally launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in July 2005, plays an active role in this field. We believe that UNESCO can be the leading international forum in fostering understanding and tolerance between cultures through dialogue, thus contributing to the overall aim of international peace and stability.

8.11 Mr Chairman, Turkey's membership of the Executive Board comes to an end with the 33rd session of the General Conference. I have appreciated deeply our deliberations in the four years that I have attended the Board Meetings as the representative of Turkey to the Executive Board. I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound esteem to the President of the General Conference, President of the Executive Board, Vice-Presidents and members of the Secretariat. My thanks go to His Excellency the Ambassador of Turkey and members of our delegation as well for their very valuable contribution.

8.12 Finally, Mr Chairman, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of UNESCO, I am confident that the Organization in the coming years will successfully meet the challenges that lie ahead and serve as an effective multilateral body in the areas of education, culture, science and information-communication which form the four pillars of UNESCO. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

٩.١ السيد سلامة (مصر) النص الكامل:

السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدات والسادة أعضاء المجلس، اسمحوا لي في البداية أن أتوجه بالتهنئة للسيد كوتشيرو ماتسورا بمناسبة الإجماع على إعادة ترشيحه لفترة ولاية ثانية، كما يسعدني أن أنقل لسيادته خالص تحيات حكومة بلادي، وتقديرها لجهوده الدؤوبة في عملية الإصلاح المالي والإداري وتطوير أساليب عمل المنظمة، متمنيا لسيادته ولمساعديه وأعضاء الأمانة مزيدا من التوفيق في أعمالهم. ولا يفوتني في هذا المقام أن أتقدم لسعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي وزملائي أعضاء المجلس، بخالص تحياتي مع أطيب تمنياتي لهم جميعا بالتوفيق في أعمالهم ومناقشاتهم خلال هذه الدورة.

٩.٢ السيد رئيس المجلس، السيدات والسادة أعضاء المجلس، لقد كانت اليونسكو دائما منارة للعالم، بقيمتها الثقافية ومكانتها الحضارية، وما زالت تمثل أهم حصون البشرية وأقدرها على صون السلم والأمن، وترسيخ مبادئ الحرية والديمقراطية من خلال التربية والثقافة والعلوم، وتوثيق التعاون بين الأمم في مجالات الإصلاح الاجتماعي والثقافي في إطار من العدالة واحترام القانون وحقوق الإنسان.

٩.٣ من هذا المنطلق بدأت مسيرتنا الذاتية نحو الإصلاح السياسي والاجتماعي في مصر منذ سنوات عديدة. وقد أولينا اهتماما خاصا للبناء الديمقراطي للدولة، مع حرصنا على تفعيل المواطنة وتكافؤ الفرص وحرية التعبير عن الرأي، كحقوق أساسية تعزز المشاركة الشعبية، وتكفل المساواة بين أبناء الوطن، في إطار من الحرية والشرعية واحترام القانون. وفيما يتعلق بالبعد الثقافي، فقد اتفقنا في الدورة الحادية والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو على السعي إلى التوصل إلى اتفاقية للتنوع الثقافي تعد بمثابة أداة تشريعية للدفاع عن هذا التنوع وتعزيزه. ونأمل أن يتم الاتفاق بشأن هذه الاتفاقية في أقرب فرصة. أما فيما يتعلق بقضايا التعليم، فقد اتخذت مصر قرارا استراتيجيا بالمضي قدما في تطوير نظام التعليم بجميع مراحلها، على النحو الذي يمكننا من اللحاق بركب الثورة المعرفية، ويعزز فرص مجتمعاتنا في أن تكون طرفا فاعلا في المنافسة العالمية.

٩.٤ ونحن نرى أن عبئا كبيرا في هذا الصدد يقع على عاتق اليونسكو التي يجب أن تكثف جهودها من أجل تطوير التعليم على امتداد مراحلها وتباين مجالاته. وأود أن أعبر في هذه المناسبة عن اعتزاز الحكومة المصرية باستضافة اللقاء السادس الذي سوف تنظمه اليونسكو في شهر تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠٠٦ حول مبادرة التعليم للجميع (EFA)، وذلك تقديرا من مصر لإسهامات اليونسكو في هذا المجال. كما أؤكد من جديد على تأييد حكومة بلادي لما ورد في إعلان القاهرة الصادر عن الاجتماع الوزاري الخامس للبلدان النامية التسعة ذات الأعداد الضخمة من السكان (E-9) الذي استضافته القاهرة في كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٣، وعلى التزامها بإطار عمل داكار لعام ٢٠٠٠ من أجل تلبية احتياجات التعليم الأساسية لشعبنا.

٩.٥ وفي إطار الجهود السابقة، انطلقت مبادرة بلادي لتطوير وإصلاح التعليم في مصر معتمدة على استراتيجية محددة في هذا المجال تقوم على محورين رئيسيين: أولهما: الدفع بجهود التحديث والتطوير القائمة على الرؤى الذاتية لمجتمعنا وشعبنا، بما يأخذ في الحسبان تنوع الخصائص الثقافية والدينية والتركيبة السكانية للمجتمع المصري. وثانيهما: الدفع نحو التوصل إلى السلام العادل والشامل في منطقة الشرق الأوسط، وتوفير المناخ السياسي المناسب لنشر أجواء الأمن والاستقرار، والحد من موجات العنف

ونزعات التطرف، تعزيزاً لجهودنا في مجال التطوير والتحديث، وترسيخاً لتوجهنا نحو مزيد من التعاون الإقليمي والدولي الفعال في إطار مبادئ التسامح والتعايش السلمي بين بني البشر.

٩,٦ السيد رئيس المجلس، السيدات والسادة أعضاء المجلس، تعد دورتنا الحالية فرصة مثالية للتداول فيما تم بشأن القرارات التي تبناها المؤتمر العام في دورته الثانية والثلاثين، ولمتابعة ما حققته الأمانة في هذا الخصوص. وأود أن أعرب عن ارتياحنا للنهج الذي اتبعه المدير العام وأعضاء الأمانة لوضع هذه القرارات موضع التنفيذ. وبالنظر إلى عدم إمكانية تناول كل ما تحتويه الوثائق المعروضة علينا في الوقت الراهن، مرجئين ذلك إلى حين مناقشة بنود جدول الأعمال أمام اللجان المعنية، وكذا إلى وقت انعقاد المؤتمر العام، فإننا سنقتصر الآن على إبداء بعض الملاحظات العامة والأفكار التي نرى اتصالها بدور المنظمة في المرحلة القادمة.

٩,٧ وفيما يتعلق بعملية الإصلاح الإداري التي يتبناها المدير العام، والقائمة على عدد من المحاور، منها سياسة الموظفين، فإننا ندعم ما تم التوصل إليه في هذا الخصوص، ونأمل أن تؤدي هذه السياسات إلى تحقيق الشفافية والتوازن الجغرافي في الدرجات الوظيفية.

٩,٨ وإذا ما انتقلنا إلى مجال التربية، فإننا نناشد اليونسكو الاستمرار في دعم برامج إصلاح وتطوير التعليم، مع الاهتمام بذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة في إطار برنامج التعليم للجميع، وتعليم المرأة باعتبارها تمثل نصف المجتمع. ونود في هذا الخصوص أن نؤكد على ضرورة استمرار اليونسكو في مساعيها لدعم المؤسسات التعليمية في الأراضي العربية الفلسطينية المحتلة والجولان لضمان أدائها لدورها في ظل الأوضاع المتردية التي تشهدها هذه الأراضي في المرحلة الراهنة.

٩,٩ وفيما يتعلق بمجال الثقافة، فقد بادرت حكومة بلادي إلى التصديق على الاتفاقية الدولية لحماية التراث الثقافي غير المادي، كما صادقت على البروتوكول الثاني الملحق باتفاقية لاهاي لعام ١٩٥٤ بشأن حماية الممتلكات الثقافية في حالة قيام نزاع مسلح، المبرم في لاهاي عام ١٩٩٩. ومن هذا المنطلق فإننا نناشد اليونسكو اتخاذ الإجراءات الكفيلة بتفعيل أحكام الحماية الواردة في اتفاقية لاهاي لعام ١٩٥٤، إنقاذاً للتراث الحضاري والثقافي في العراق والأراضي العربية الفلسطينية ولا سيما مدينة القدس، مع تأكيدنا على ضرورة تنفيذ قرارات المجلس التنفيذي والمؤتمر العام السابقة في هذا الشأن. كما لا يفوتني كذلك أن أتقدم بالشكر والتقدير لمنظمة اليونسكو على اختيارها مدينة أسوان كمدينة للفن الشعبي ضمن شبكة المدن المبدعة في العالم هذا العام.

٩,١٠ وفيما يتعلق بمجال العلوم الطبيعية، فلقد كانت اليونسكو سباقة إلى بناء القدرات اللازمة في مجال المحيطات والمناطق البحرية الساحلية، وخاصة في أعقاب كارثة التسونامي التي أصابت منطقة المحيط الهندي. ولقد أثبت ذلك مدى قدرة اليونسكو على استشراق المستقبل. فالحد من خطر الكوارث يعتبر قضية هامة في سياق التنمية المستدامة وهو ما يتطلب منا جميعاً تكثيف الجهود الدولية لنشر ثقافة الاستعداد لمواجهةها. وبهذه المناسبة فإننا نود أن نعبر عن تعاطف حكومة وشعب مصر مع الضحايا الذين أضيروا من جراء إعصار (كاترينا) المدمر.

٩,١١ وفي مجال العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية، فإننا نؤيد ما جاء في تقرير المدير العام عن تقييم أنشطة اللجنة العالمية لأخلاقيات المعارف العلمية والتكنولوجية (COMEST)، كما نشيد بالاهتمام البالغ الذي توليه أمانة المنظمة لهذه اللجنة. ونرجو أن تتمكن اليونسكو من تبني الإعلان الذي يضم المعايير العالمية لأخلاقيات البيولوجيا حتى يمكن الاستهداء بها في الممارسات العملية.

٩,١٢ وأخيرا فإننا نؤكد دعمنا لبرامج اليونسكو في مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال، ونرحب بالنتائج التي توصلت إليها الاجتماعات التمهيدية للإعداد لمؤتمر القمة العالمي لمجتمع المعلومات الذي انعقد في جنيف في الفترة من ١٠ إلى ١٢ كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٣، ونأمل في تنفيذ خطة العمل التي انتهت إليها هذه الاجتماعات والرامية إلى بناء مجتمع معلوماتي عالمي، وذلك خلال مؤتمر القمة العالمي لمجتمع المعلومات المنتظر انعقاده في تونس في أواخر عام ٢٠٠٥. وأختتم مداخلتني بالتأكيد مجددا على دعم حكومة بلادي الكامل لمنظمة اليونسكو، واستعدادها للتعاون معها في كافة المجالات بما يحقق خير ورفاهية البشرية. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(9.1) M. SALAMA (Égypte) *in extenso* (traduit de l'arabe) :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Mesdames, Messieurs les membres du Conseil, permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter Monsieur Koïchiro Matsuura pour l'appui unanime dont fait l'objet sa candidature pour un second mandat. C'est avec un plaisir égal que je lui transmets l'expression de toute la considération du Gouvernement égyptien pour les efforts qu'il déploie sans relâche en faveur de la réforme financière et administrative, et de la modernisation des méthodes de travail de l'UNESCO, et lui souhaite, ainsi qu'à ses proches collaborateurs et autres membres du Secrétariat toujours plus de succès dans leurs travaux. Je salue également le Président et mes collègues membres du Conseil exécutif et leur souhaite plein succès dans leurs travaux et délibérations.

(9.2) Monsieur le Président du Conseil, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, l'UNESCO est depuis sa création un modèle pour le monde, de par son rayonnement et les valeurs culturelles dont elle est porteuse. Elle demeure l'un des principaux bastions de l'humanisme et la mieux à même de préserver la paix et la sécurité, d'ancrer les principes de liberté et de démocratie par l'éducation, la culture et les sciences et de renforcer les liens de coopération entre les nations en vue d'une réforme sociale et culturelle s'inscrivant dans un cadre de justice, de primauté du droit et de respect des droits de l'homme.

(9.3) S'inspirant de cette approche, l'Égypte a entrepris, depuis plusieurs années, sa propre marche vers la réforme politique et sociale et, à cette fin, veille particulièrement à l'édification démocratique de l'État et à l'instauration de la citoyenneté, de l'égalité des chances et de la liberté d'opinion et d'expression en tant que droits fondamentaux qui renforcent la participation populaire et l'égalité de tous les citoyens dans un contexte de liberté et de primauté du droit. Dans le domaine de la culture, l'Égypte a accueilli favorablement, lors de la 31^e session de la Conférence générale de l'Organisation, le projet de convention relative à la diversité culturelle qui constituera un outil normatif de défense et de renforcement de cette diversité, et elle espère que cet instrument sera adopté très prochainement. En matière d'éducation, l'Égypte a pris la décision stratégique d'œuvrer résolument à la modernisation de l'enseignement à tous ses niveaux, de manière à ce qu'il soit en phase avec la révolution du savoir et confère à nos sociétés encore plus de possibilités de devenir un acteur dynamique dans un monde concurrentiel.

(9.4) L'UNESCO est en première ligne à cet égard et doit donc redoubler d'efforts en faveur d'une modernisation de l'enseignement, à tous ses niveaux et sous tous ses aspects. Conscient des contributions de l'Organisation dans ce domaine, le Gouvernement égyptien est heureux d'accueillir la sixième réunion sur l'Éducation pour tous (EPT) que l'UNESCO doit organiser en novembre 2006. Je réaffirme à ce propos que mon pays approuve la teneur de la Déclaration du Caire publiée à l'issue de la cinquième réunion ministérielle des neuf pays en développement à forte population (E-9), tenue au Caire en décembre 2003, et qu'il reste attaché au Cadre d'action de Dakar de 2000, dont l'objectif est de répondre aux besoins fondamentaux des peuples en matière d'éducation.

(9.5) C'est dans ce contexte qu'a été lancée en Égypte une initiative de modernisation et de réforme de l'enseignement qui repose sur une stratégie précise comportant deux volets principaux : promouvoir les efforts de renouveau et de modernisation qui s'articulent autour des perspectives propres à la nation et à son peuple, telle la diversité des spécificités culturelles, religieuses et démographiques de la société égyptienne, d'une part et, d'autre part, instaurer une paix juste et globale dans la région du Moyen-Orient afin de créer un climat politique propice à la sécurité et à la stabilité, de mettre fin aux vagues de violence et d'extrémisme, d'appuyer les efforts de modernisation et de renouveau et de renforcer de manière concrète la coopération régionale et internationale sur la base des principes de tolérance et de coexistence pacifique entre tous les êtres humains.

(9.6) Monsieur le Président du Conseil, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, cette séance est une excellente occasion de passer en revue les résolutions adoptées par la Conférence générale à sa 32^e session, et d'examiner l'action menée par le Secrétariat à cet égard. Mon pays approuve les mesures prises par le Directeur général et les membres du Secrétariat en vue de leur mise en œuvre. Faute de temps, l'examen détaillé de l'ensemble des documents dont nous sommes saisis n'interviendra que dans le cadre des commissions compétentes et à la Conférence générale. Aussi me contenterai-je de formuler quelques remarques et réflexions générales relatives au rôle qui incombe désormais à l'Organisation.

(9.7) Concernant la réforme administrative entreprise par le Directeur général, qui comporte plusieurs axes, dont celui de la politique du personnel, j'approuve ce qui a été accompli jusqu'à présent et espère que ces politiques se traduiront à tous les échelons par une véritable transparence et une répartition géographique équilibrée.

(9.8) Dans le domaine de l'éducation, l'UNESCO doit continuer de soutenir le programme de réforme et de modernisation de l'éducation, et accorder une grande importance aux personnes ayant des besoins particuliers dans le cadre du programme de l'EPT ainsi qu'aux femmes, qui représentent la moitié de la société. L'Organisation doit par ailleurs absolument maintenir son appui aux institutions éducatives dans les territoires arabes occupés de Palestine et dans le Golan afin de leur permettre d'accomplir leur mission dans le contexte difficile que connaît la région à l'heure actuelle.

(9.9) En ce qui concerne la culture, l'Égypte a ratifié sans tarder la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel, et elle a également ratifié le Deuxième Protocole relatif à la Convention de La Haye de 1954 pour la protection des biens culturels en cas de conflit armé, signé à La Haye en 1999. À cet égard, l'UNESCO doit prendre les mesures voulues afin que les principes de protection inscrits dans la Convention de La Haye de 1954 soient appliqués pour la sauvegarde des patrimoines culturels de l'Iraq et des territoires arabes occupés, de Jérusalem notamment, en réaffirmant la nécessité de mettre en œuvre les résolutions précédentes du Conseil exécutif et de la Conférence

générale relatives à cette question. Je voudrais à cet égard exprimer mes remerciements et ma reconnaissance à l'Organisation pour avoir désigné cette année Assouan ville des arts populaires dans le cadre du Réseau des villes créatives du monde.

(9.10) En ce qui concerne le Secteur des sciences naturelles, l'UNESCO est une organisation pionnière dans la mise en place des capacités nécessaires dans le domaine de l'océanographie et des régions côtières, comme on a pu le constater en particulier après le tsunami qui a ravagé les côtes de l'océan Indien. Les capacités en matière d'alerte rapide dont l'Organisation a fait montre à cette occasion en sont la preuve. Atténuer les effets des catastrophes naturelles est un aspect important du développement durable et requiert un effort international accru auquel nous devons tous participer afin de favoriser la diffusion d'une culture de la prévention. Je souhaiterais à cette occasion exprimer la sympathie du Gouvernement et du peuple égyptiens aux victimes des ravages provoqués par le cyclone Katrina.

(9.11) Dans le Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines, mon pays approuve la teneur du rapport du Directeur général sur l'évaluation des activités de la Commission mondiale d'éthique des connaissances scientifiques et des technologies (COMEST), se félicite de l'extrême attention que le Secrétariat de l'Organisation accorde à cet organe et espère que l'UNESCO adoptera la Déclaration relative à des normes universelles en matière de bioéthique afin que celle-ci serve d'instrument normatif pour la pratique professionnelle dans ce domaine.

(9.12) Enfin, l'Égypte réaffirme son soutien au programme de l'UNESCO relatif aux technologies de l'information et de la communication (TIC). Elle se félicite des résultats des réunions préparatoires du Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information (SMSI) qui s'est tenu à Genève du 10 au 12 décembre 2003 et espère que le plan d'action issu de ce processus et visant à construire une société mondiale de l'information sera mis en œuvre au cours de la deuxième phase du SMSI qui se tiendra à Tunis à la fin de l'année 2005. Je conclurai en réaffirmant que l'Égypte accorde son total soutien à l'UNESCO et est pleinement disposée à coopérer dans tous les domaines pour œuvrer au bonheur et à la prospérité de l'humanité.

10.1 Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia) *in extenso*:

Thank you Mr Chairman. Now UNESCO is having its 60th birthday, and the context of this birthday includes turbulence in the world: the United Nations system under the spotlight, an atmosphere of reform in the United Nations system, the appointment of a Director-General and our next C/4 and C/5 documents. For a person, a 60th birthday is a time for reflection on their values, goals, priorities and the effectiveness of their life. And it is no different for organizations. My two tests for an organization are: if it were abolished, would anybody notice? And if it were privatized, would anybody buy shares in it? In the case of UNESCO the answer to the first question is "yes", and to the second the answer is "no". Our programme glass is half-full and our management glass is half-empty. So we have a challenge before us. Australia will respond to that challenge. Australia is leaving the Executive Board at this session. You are going to miss us. So we would like to give you a farewell gift as we go, and our gift is our concept of the ideal UNESCO of the future. In the United Nations system, UNESCO's role would be clarified, its comparative advantage would be made plain and would have a higher profile. It would address crises which are natural and human-made faster and in a more preventative way. It would take up major United Nations initiatives in a positive way such as decades. And the decade should be a journey, it should have results, it should have a lasting impact and for everyone it should be a learning experience.

10.2 For the programme: in an ideal UNESCO, the programme would be reshaped. The Medium-Term Strategy would be turned on its head, addressing a few key global themes to be addressed by a few focused intersectoral programmes. The sectoral silos must be pulled down. The vast majority of UNESCO's programmes need to be intersectoral. The great challenges in this world cannot be packaged into sectoral programme boxes. We need no more talkfests: any of the great summits or symposiums should lead to capacity-building, which should become UNESCO's main modality.

10.3 In the area of international instruments, in a ideal UNESCO it is time to pause and reflect on their recent proliferation. We must not weaken the currency of international instruments, they should be seen not as regulations, but as standard-setting instruments of empowerment. The strongest case must exist before you begin to design them, and that design must involve comprehensive consultation with experts and with governance.

10.4 I turn now to the vital area of governance because good governance is of fundamental importance to UNESCO. Both the relationship between its three organs and the proper functioning of each of them are crucial to the achievement of good governance. In this area, in an ideal UNESCO the General Conference would be restored to a true parliament: it would be the policy-making and priority-determining body for our Organization. The General Conference would be user-friendly, especially to small Member States like our 14 Pacific Member States, which have no Permanent Delegations in Paris, and which constitute the largest cluster, at the furthest distance from Paris. The Executive Board would become more executive and more like a board, in an ideal pattern of governance.

10.5 In the area of management, like all modern organizations there are essential features necessary for UNESCO's sustainability. We need strong visionary leadership from the Director-General and from the senior management of the ADGs. We need a true college of ADGs, not a *collage* of ADGs. The high morale for the staff of UNESCO has to come through a recruitment process which is transparent, fair and definitely based on merit. Placing square pegs in square holes, no generic or content-free people placed in specialist positions. There should be professional staff development programmes relevant to the needs and programmes of the Secretariat; we need true career planning, especially for Young Professionals, recognizing and enhancing the skills of the staff, and placing them in positions suited to their talent and to their expertise. In policy-making, all staff must feel free to give frank and fearless advice to the leaders of the Organization. We need a performance management system which is effective and fair and rewards excellence. This means a results-based management approach based on sound performance indicators which engender a culture of evaluation where evaluation is not seen as a threat, but as an essential and an effective management tool. We have made a start, but even Mr Matsuura has admitted that we have a long way to go. UNESCO needs a decentralization programme which offers incentive and reward for good performance in the field, in the fewer field offices, but ones which are fully comprehensive. So, Mr Chairman, the motivation of UNESCO staff should be based on two important values: good old-fashioned values of public service, public interest and making a lasting contribution in the spirit of a truly international civil service, but this combined with modern approaches to management, recognition of performance, counselling and discipline for non-performance, celebrating staff achievements, teamwork, motivation and organizational learning and development, and having a shared vision.

10.6 Partnerships offer an important challenge. It has become clear that UNESCO cannot accomplish its mandate alone. Apart from the United Nations system, partnerships with the private sector and non-profit sectors offer considerable promise. The L'Oréal and Microsoft experiences show what can be achieved in the public-private partnerships for the common good of humankind. UNESCO needs to initiate more of these, but the partnership process is too complex – it needs to be

made more streamlined and more user-friendly. But of course the greatest partnership is within the UNESCO family itself, especially the institutes, which need an arms-length relationship to impel them while they pursue UNESCO's ideals. But the UNESCO of the future must give more encouragement to the family member with the greatest potential, and that is National Commissions. They are the great comparative advantage of UNESCO: they are unique grassroots mobilizers of UNESCO's mandate and ideals. They are capacity-builders. But to achieve these goals for the UNESCO family, they need greater recognition of their constitutional status, more training and more knowledge, greater inclusion in the Organization's programming. Since the Participation Programme is the lifeblood of National Commissions, it must be raised, it must be made larger and stronger than at present and more inclusive. A dynamic National Commission with a strong Participation Programme is a devastating contribution to the mission of UNESCO to raise its visibility and to spread its mandate.

10.7 Mr Chairman, in 11 days' time, young people from more than 100 countries will come to the UNESCO Youth Forum to give us inspiration and hope, as they discuss the dialogue among civilizations. Australia is proud to have initiated the UNESCO Youth Forum, which will provide leadership throughout the world and a gene pool for future National Commission members, NGO leaders and ambassadors. We are handing our young people a turbulent world, with many challenges. Their lives will not be easy, but they can be rewarding if we keep our youth programme strong and engage young people as equal partners, seeing them not as part of the problem, but as part of the solution. For in the hearts and minds of every young person is a desire to make a difference, to contribute to a vision. And we must provide that vision. Since peace begins in the minds of youth, it is in the minds of youth that the foundations of peace must be constructed. Thank you.

Ms Inayatullah took the Chair.

11.1 Mr SATO (Japan) *in extenso*:

Madam Chair, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would first of all like to express my sincere condolences for those who suffered the great losses inflicted by Hurricane Katrina. My thoughts also go to the people who have succumbed to acts of terrorism, which continue to plague the world. UNESCO has a very major role to play in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of areas afflicted by conflict and by natural disasters. We commend the work it has carried out in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Kosovo, and the countries in Africa as well as in the Indian Ocean region struck by the tsunami. At the same time as these post-conflict and post-disaster activities, UNESCO can also have a big impact in the longer run through preventive activities, building on its comparative advantages. My government places great importance on this area, having announced an initiative for cooperation in disaster prevention, contributing to the United Nations World Conference of Disaster Reduction, and the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System. We would look to UNESCO to place more emphasis on education, and research, for the purpose of preventing HIV/AIDS, terrorism as well as tsunamis and other calamities.

11.2 Madam Chair, our major task at this session of the Board is to finalize document 33 C/5. I would like to commend the Secretariat for its efforts in presenting to us the revised C/5 document, which follows the decision of the last Executive Board. I welcome the further improvement that has been achieved in the concentration of activities. The supplementary budget of up to \$25 million covers areas of priority concern to us, including education for all (EFA), the tsunami early warning system, as well as the tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Because a huge amount of statutory and other costs have been absorbed by the \$610 million baseline, there is a concern that the real level of UNESCO activities will decline. It falls to Member States to make an extra effort to support

the supplementary budget. Japan is looking into making a contribution, especially in the area of disaster prevention and mitigation.

11.3 Madam Chair, the Millennium Review Summit of the General Assembly in New York, which met last week, reconfirmed the world's determination to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Five years after Dakar and with the deadline for achieving gender equality in primary and secondary education having arrived, we at UNESCO also stand at a crucial crossroads. These EFA goals are indeed part and parcel of the MDGs. I hope that with Mr Peter Smith as ADG for Education on board, UNESCO will be able to consolidate its leadership within the family of the United Nations and other organizations so that the goals may be achieved by 2015. Japan, on its part, has been providing assistance for education in Africa and other regions through bilateral and multilateral channels. On the multilateral front, the right balance and allocation of tasks must be achieved between UNESCO and the other partners. We would also look to seeing a functional balance struck among activities at the global, regional and the country levels within UNESCO. I would also underline the importance of education for sustainable development (ESD), which is integral to a country's sustainable development, and is inextricably linked to the EFA goal of improving the quality of education. A cross-sectoral effort will be required to carry forward the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

11.4 Turning now to issues relating to the future of the Organization, I would first of all like to welcome the news that Singapore is asking to become an Observer at UNESCO with a view to returning to the Organization in the near future. This will indeed be a very positive development for UNESCO, which will then achieve true universality. I join my Asia and the Pacific group colleagues in expressing our full support to Singapore's initiative.

11.5 The relations between the three organs will be discussed at the General Conference. With regard to the recommendations of the ad hoc working group on relations between the three organs of UNESCO concerning the Executive Board, our present session will be the last opportunity to witness and examine their merits on the spot. The reduction of the size of the Executive Board may be too political a subject to be dealt with successfully. We should rather devote our time more productively to reviewing the structure and functions of the sub-organs of the Board.

11.6 Madam Chair, 60 years after its inception, we must examine the big question "What UNESCO for the future?"; how it should be reshaped and reorganized so that it could have a real impact within the international system. We must reread the UNESCO Constitution in the light of present day developments. I very much welcome the activities, which are already under way in celebration of the 60th anniversary, reviewing UNESCO's past and contemplating its future. We should also commence our discussion of the next Medium-Term Strategy, document 34 C/4. This Board and the General Conference will be the opportunity that we must seize to construct the framework and the principles to guide these processes.

11.7 Lastly, I would like to convey our congratulations to Ambassador Musa Hassan of Oman and to Mr Matsuura on their nominations. I thank you, Madam Chair.

12.1 Mr OGRYZKO (Ukraine) *in extenso*:

Madam Chairperson, Mr Director-General, colleagues, concerning the items under discussion, first of all, I would like to thank the Director-General for his very comprehensive intervention describing the current activities of UNESCO, and for his excellent report that has reflected in its form and content the information on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference. As for now, I would like to make several remarks, which appear to me to be quite pertinent to our debate.

12.2 We are very pleased that different sectors are taking steps to ensure the continuity of the main results achieved during the next biennium. Ukraine has always considered education as a key factor of sustainable development in creating a knowledge society. One of the important aspects of this problem, challenging UNESCO's capacity to react promptly and adequately, is to ensure the continuity and the quality of education for children in the territories affected by natural disasters. We express our sympathy and deep solidarity to our colleagues from the United States, and wish this country every success in reintegrating in the education process the children of New Orleans and neighbouring areas.

12.3 In the field of social and human sciences, Ukraine welcomes the progress achieved for a better understanding of international migration and the position of migrants in society.

12.4 Our country is very satisfied with the work of the 23rd Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), which has launched the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, and we support the creation of such systems for other oceans. Ukraine, at the regional level, contributes actively to the functioning of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

12.5 In the area of culture, we welcome the strengthening of the contribution of cultural heritage in all its forms, to cultural diversity, social cohesion and economic development that in turn may promote cultural heritage itself. In this context, we would like to commend the considerable work done by the World Heritage Centre in promoting the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

12.6 We are aware of the strong links between biological diversity and cultural diversity as guarantors of sustainable development. That is why Ukraine is pleased that the Culture Sector has paid special attention to the role of culture in national policies as a whole by assisting countries in revising their national cultural policies on the basis of the "Diversity-Dialogue-Development" paradigm, notably in multi-ethnic societies.

12.7 Regarding communication and information, our delegation welcomes UNESCO's actions aimed at poverty reduction. The real challenge for UNESCO is to take greater account of the human dimension of the information and communication technologies (ICTs), in other words, to promote international efforts to create and apply the highly economic ICTs to education, science and culture, in order to overcome the inequalities of development and the digital divide.

12.8 Dear colleagues, at this stage Ukraine is ready to provide its general support to the revised UNESCO programme for 2006-2007, and has no objections regarding its submission to the forthcoming General Conference. We also support the presented budget proposals with a supplementary programme package calling for \$25 million in voluntary extrabudgetary resources.

12.9 Next April, we will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, the worst man-made disaster in human history. We should not allow it to turn into a "forgotten catastrophe" of the past. Over time, its consequences are not becoming easier; their nature is merely changing. We hope that the international community will actively participate in the scientific conference to be organized next spring in Kiev in order to analyse the effectiveness of measures taken during the period after Chernobyl, to review the work accomplished, and to outline an action plan for the future.

12.10 Finally, I would like to note that recent sessions of the Executive Board discussed many proposals on the establishment of different centres under the auspices of UNESCO in all areas of activity of this Organization. We welcome this tendency and regard it as an "added value" to the decentralization process. We have moved in the same direction and have proposed to establish the

Artek International Youth Centre as the first centre under the auspices of UNESCO in Central and Eastern Europe especially devoted to youth. Ukraine counts on your support for this proposal.

12.11 Dear colleagues, completing Ukraine's term on the Executive Board of UNESCO, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all Members of the Board for the spirit of cooperation and understanding we have enjoyed throughout these years. We would like to salute all our colleagues, from the Board and from the Secretariat, for their genuine devotion and attachment to the noble goals of our Organization, especially on its 60th anniversary. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Wrede resumed the Chair.

13.1 Mr SAMARAWEERA (Sri Lanka) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished Board Members, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may I commence my statement today, Mr Chairman, by thanking you for your address this morning, in which you once again captured the essence of our shared sentiments and commitments with a clear sense of purpose, as well as the sense of humour, which have indeed been the hallmarks of your chairmanship.

13.2 While congratulating Mr Matsuura on being nominated overwhelmingly for a second term as Director-General, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank him for his comprehensive report this morning. Mr Chairman, we the members of this august body, set yet another mammoth task for the Director-General in adjusting the budget to a ceiling of \$610 million representing zero nominal growth, while maintaining the near totality of the programmes, which define our existence and give hope to our future generations. The Director-General, Mr Chairman, has risen to our challenge and presented us with a comprehensive set of proposals, which include specific themes for the \$25 million in voluntary extrabudgetary resources.

13.3 Sri Lanka is indeed pleased to see that there has been heightened focus on the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, which appear to be devastating all corners of the globe, causing needless havoc to human lives and property. Sri Lanka expresses its solidarity with the victims of Hurricane Katrina; we recognize only too well the wrath of nature and its overwhelming power. However it is during dark times such as these that we also see the most generous and compassionate nature of the human heart, which brings us together to work towards common goals. Sri Lanka commends UNESCO's increased involvement through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and also the global tsunami warning system. Mr Chairman, the world's progress in the field of science should mean that today in the twenty-first century, it is imperative that we are adequately equipped in the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters.

13.4 Mr Chairman, we are most encouraged to see that at least \$15 million of the \$25 million in extrabudgetary resources are to be allocated to strengthening the education for all (EFA) programme. This body gave a clear message at its last session with regard to the management of the EFA programme and the direction in which it wished UNESCO to move in implementing it, in order to maximize benefits, especially with regard to the roles and strategy of international EFA stakeholders. We look forward to further discussing the EFA Joint Action Plan during the forthcoming General Conference, and also at the EFA High-Level Group Meeting in Beijing later this year.

13.5 Despite considerable hardships, the Government of Sri Lanka continues to spend 10% of its budget on education and 6% of its budget on health. The Government of Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunge has recognized the importance of these two sectors in influencing the overall improvement of our human development index by doubling the budgetary

allocations in the last decade. With an impressive human development index of 0.751, Sri Lanka ranks 93rd among 177 countries and the first among the countries in our region. The pace of progress towards achieving education for all and the Millennium Development Goals has also been significant during the past ten years. Adult literacy has increased from 90.1% in 1994 to 92.5% in 2004, with a parallel improvement in gender parity in literacy from 0.950% in 1994 to 0.969% in 2004. The net enrolment ratio in primary and secondary education has also improved in the last 10 years.

13.6 Sri Lanka is now engaged in introducing comprehensive reforms to education. The new education reform introduced in 1998 has brought about a unique departure from the traditional education policy and practice. A major shift has been made from the culture of rote learning and teaching of rudimentary knowledge and skills to an approach of acquiring appropriate knowledge, competencies and values to empower the future generations so as to cope with the complex nature of the challenges in the rapidly changing global environment.

13.7 We are also pleased that Sri Lanka has been selected as the venue for the World Press Freedom Day celebrations in 2006. UNESCO has a unique role in promoting media freedom globally, especially at a time when freedom of expression is under threat not only from dictatorial regimes but also from certain sections of the media itself who tend to ignore the high standard of ethics and the need to maintain the level of impartiality expected of a truly free and responsible media culture. UNESCO can help member countries to formulate standard-setting guidelines and codes of conduct for the media.

13.8 Mr Chairman, the preliminary draft convention on the protection of diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions, or the convention on cultural diversity, as it is referred to, is indeed a monumental achievement of this Organization. The third intergovernmental meeting of experts has now emerged with a document which has been successful in encapsulating the main elements that can be regarded as being acceptable to a large number of countries, if not a complete consensus.

13.9 Sri Lanka also would like to express its solidarity with the global fight against terrorism. My country has had to grapple with this global menace for over two decades. The date of 12 September marked the one-month commemoration of my dear friend and a distinguished colleague, the Honourable Lakshman Kadirgamar, Minister for Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka for 10 years, who fell victim to a ruthless terrorist bullet. This Organization is, I believe, today well placed, through its unique mandate, to address this issue and encourage those, especially youth, to renounce violence and utilize the process of democracy available to them.

13.10 Mr Chairman, Sri Lanka would again like to congratulate His Excellency Mr Matsuura on his nomination for a second term as Director-General, and Sri Lanka stands firmly committed to working together with all Member States to further the noble ideals of UNESCO. Thank you.

14.1 Г-н КАЛАМАНОВ (Российская Федерация), *полный текст*:

Уважаемый г-н Председатель, уважаемые члены Исполнительного совета, примечательность и особая значимость нынешней сессии Исполнительного совета ЮНЕСКО состоит, прежде всего, в том, что она проходит в преддверии очередной сессии высшего форума нашей Организации – 33-й сессии Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО. Конструктивность и плодотворность наших дискуссий должны позволить окончательно определить ее повестку дня, задать тон и направленность предстоящей в октябре сессии, на которую соберутся делегации почти 200 государств – членов ЮНЕСКО. Это возлагает на нас повышенную ответственность, и я призываю коллег к мобилизации всех усилий для достижения предельной результативности в нашей работе.

14.2 Приближаются выборы Генерального директора ЮНЕСКО на новый четырехлетний срок. Российская Федерация, как и многие другие страны, поддерживает кандидатуру г-на Коитиро Мацууры, нынешнего главы Организации, и выступает за продолжение выполнения им почетных и одновременно многотрудных обязанностей Генерального директора.

14.3 В этом году будет отмечаться знаменательная в жизнедеятельности ЮНЕСКО дата – 60-летний юбилей. Празднование годовщины – отличный повод для того, чтобы проанализировать пройденный путь и наметить приоритетные ориентиры. Россия активно и заинтересованно подключилась к инициированному Генеральным директором проекту «История ЮНЕСКО» и надеется внести свой посильный вклад.

14.4 Хотелось бы отдельно отметить проводимую Специальной рабочей группой по отношениям между тремя органами ЮНЕСКО своевременную работу. Несмотря на немалые трудности, можно смело утверждать об определенном прогрессе, прежде всего в осмыслении того, какими путями должна реформироваться Организация для повышения эффективности и конкурентоспособности своей работы, для занятия подобающего ей места в семье Объединенных Наций.

14.5 Мы согласны с тем, что сегодня необходим свежий взгляд на роль национальных комиссий, оптимизации их потенциалов. Новые вызовы действительно диктуют необходимость обеспечения качественного и эффективного реформирования их работы и тесной координации с деятельностью кластерных бюро.

14.6 Пользуясь случаем, не могу не упомянуть и о другой важнейшей дате, выпавшей на текущий год – 60-летию Великой победы и окончания Второй мировой войны. Убедительным свидетельством живости и остроты исторической памяти, присущей и самой ЮНЕСКО, стала поездка в Москву на юбилейные торжества Генерального директора, где он вместе с другими виднейшими политическими деятелями отдал дань уважения павшим и призвал народы мира к тому, чтобы эта ужасная трагедия никогда более не повторилась.

14.7 Можно с удовлетворением констатировать, что весьма содержательно складывается сотрудничество между государствами-членами на таком актуальном направлении, как развитие диалога между цивилизациями. Распространение Организацией идей этого диалога в противовес экстремизму и терроризму выводит просветительскую роль ЮНЕСКО на качественно иной уровень и нуждается в нашей дальнейшей самой действенной поддержке. В этой связи мы приветствуем доклад об участии ЮНЕСКО в международной деятельности по борьбе с терроризмом с помощью образования, науки, культуры, коммуникации и информации и положения предлагаемого проекта решения Исполнительного совета.

14.8 Канун Генеральной конференции – это без преувеличения кульминационный момент продолжительных и нелегких коллективных усилий в рамках нормотворческой деятельности ЮНЕСКО. В этой связи рассчитываем на то, что работа над проектами обеих находящихся в наших досье конвенций – о борьбе с допингом в спорте и об охране разнообразия культурного содержания и форм художественного самовыражения – увенчается успехом уже в самом скором будущем. Россия также активно участвует в программах ЮНЕСКО по сохранению нематериального культурного наследия.

14.9 Что же касается проекта Декларации о биоэтике, выскажу пожелание, чтобы с ее принятием активность ЮНЕСКО на данном направлении не ослабевала и продолжилась по пути разработки обязывающего и в то же время отвечающего интересам всех государств-членов документа.

14.10 На нынешней сессии Исполнительного совета будет рассматриваться важный вопрос – вклад ЮНЕСКО в проведение Десятилетия образования в интересах устойчивого развития. Десятилетие совпадает с проведением ряда других международных инициатив, поэтому на Организации лежит ответственная миссия – увязать усилия, которые предпринимаются мировым сообществом по достижению целей Образования для всех и Десятилетия грамотности, с новыми задачами, выходящими за рамки образования и затрагивающими все аспекты жизни общества. При этом важно определить общие ориентиры, учесть интересы всех государств-членов.

14.11 Пользуясь случаем, хотели бы призвать коллег по Исполнительному совету донести до Генеральной конференции мысль о насущной потребности уделить самое серьезное внимание практическому становлению Программы по фундаментальным наукам, обладающей, на наш взгляд, всем необходимым потенциалом, чтобы в перспективе стать настоящим «брендом» или, если хотите, «визитной карточкой» для всей Организации.

14.12 Выражаем искреннюю признательность Секретариату ЮНЕСКО за поддержку идеи создания Международного центра по устойчивому развитию горных территорий в г. Владикавказ, основными направлениями деятельности которого станут научно-технические, социально-экономические и экологические аспекты развития горных территорий.

14.13 Важнейшим достижением Организации в деле формирования информационного общества считаем ее вклад в подготовку Тунисского саммита. В этом плане важным событием по праву можно назвать проведение санкт-петербургского форума «ЮНЕСКО между двумя этапами Всемирного саммита по информационному обществу», материалы которого дают богатейшую пищу для анализа и размышлений. Его качественное проведение российской стороной стало возможным во многом благодаря активному организационному и интеллектуальному содействию со стороны руководства и экспертов ЮНЕСКО.

14.14 Наша страна постоянно подчеркивает приоритетность именно программной составляющей Организации, так как это и является сутью и главной задачей ЮНЕСКО.

14.15 В заключение хотел бы сказать, что мы высоко ценим последовательный курс Организации на укрепление отношений с Россией в целом, на поддержку многих наших проектов. В качестве совсем недавнего примера можно назвать Дни Республики Саха-Якутия в Штаб-квартире ЮНЕСКО, ставшие, по всеобщему признанию, демонстрацией широкого воплощения в жизнь программных установок ЮНЕСКО не только с нашей страной, но и с российскими регионами.

(14.1) M. KALAMANOV (Fédération de Russie) *in extenso* (traduit du russe) :

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif. Le caractère remarquable et l'importance particulière de la présente session du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO résident avant tout en ce que celle-ci précède la prochaine réunion de l'assemblée suprême de notre Organisation - la 33^e session de la Conférence générale. Nos débats doivent être constructifs et fructueux pour permettre d'arrêter l'ordre du jour de la Conférence et donner le ton et l'orientation de cette session d'octobre qui réunira les délégations de quelque 200 États membres de l'UNESCO. Cela nous confère une responsabilité particulière et j'invite mes collègues à mobiliser tous leurs efforts pour que nos travaux se déroulent de la façon la plus efficace.

(14.2) L'élection du Directeur général de l'UNESCO pour un nouveau mandat de quatre ans approche. La Fédération de Russie, comme beaucoup d'autres pays, appuie la

candidature de M. Koïchiro Matsuura, actuel dirigeant de l'Organisation, souhaitant qu'il continue d'exercer les fonctions, à la fois prestigieuses et ardues, de directeur général.

(14.3) Cette année marquera une date importante dans l'existence de l'UNESCO puisqu'il s'agit du 60^e anniversaire de l'Organisation. La commémoration de cet anniversaire est une excellente occasion d'évaluer le chemin parcouru et de définir des priorités pour l'avenir. La Russie s'est attelée activement et avec intérêt au projet « Histoire de l'UNESCO » lancé par le Directeur général et elle espère y contribuer dans toute la mesure de ses moyens.

(14.4) Nous voudrions relever tout spécialement le travail opportun réalisé par le Groupe de travail ad hoc sur les relations entre les trois organes de l'UNESCO. Malgré bien des difficultés, on peut affirmer sans hésiter que des progrès certains ont été accomplis, surtout dans la réflexion concernant les moyens de réformer l'Organisation en vue d'accroître son efficacité et l'utilité de ses travaux pour qu'elle occupe la place qui lui revient dans la famille des Nations Unies.

(14.5) Nous convenons qu'il est aujourd'hui nécessaire de porter un regard neuf sur le rôle des commissions nationales et d'optimiser leur potentiel. Les nouveaux défis qui se posent rendent en effet indispensables une réforme qualitative effective de leurs travaux et une coordination étroite de leur activité avec elle des bureaux multipays.

(14.6) Je ne peux pas ne pas mentionner, à l'occasion de cette intervention, un autre anniversaire extrêmement important qui tombe cette année : je veux parler des 60 ans de la Victoire et de la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. La mémoire de ces événements demeure présente et vivace à l'UNESCO également, comme le montre clairement le fait que le Directeur général s'est rendu à Moscou à l'occasion des fêtes de la commémoration et a, avec d'autres personnalités politiques de premier plan, rendu hommage aux victimes de cette guerre et appelé les peuples du monde à faire en sorte qu'une tragédie aussi terrible ne se reproduise plus jamais.

(14.7) On peut constater avec satisfaction que la coopération entre les États membres se développe de façon tout à fait constructive dans un domaine aussi actuel que la promotion du dialogue entre les civilisations. La diffusion par l'Organisation de l'idée d'un tel dialogue pour faire échec à l'extrémisme et au terrorisme confère au rôle civilisateur de l'UNESCO une dimension qualitativement différente et exige de notre part l'appui le plus actif. Nous nous félicitons à cet égard du rapport sur la contribution de l'UNESCO à l'action internationale contre le terrorisme grâce à l'éducation, aux sciences, à la culture et à la communication et l'information, ainsi que des dispositions du projet de décision du Conseil exécutif à ce sujet.

(14.8) La veille d'une conférence générale marque, sans exagération, le point culminant de l'effort collectif, long et difficile, fourni dans le cadre de l'activité normative de l'UNESCO. Nous pensons à cet égard que le travail accompli sur les deux projets de convention figurant dans nos dossiers - le projet de convention contre le dopage dans le sport et le projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles - trouvera très prochainement son aboutissement. La Russie participe d'autre part activement aux programmes de l'UNESCO en faveur de la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel.

(14.9) En ce qui concerne le projet de déclaration sur la bioéthique, je souhaiterais qu'après l'adoption d'une telle déclaration, l'activité de l'UNESCO dans ce domaine ne

faiblisse pas mais se poursuive en vue de l'élaboration d'un document qui à la fois soit contraignant et réponde aux intérêts de tous les États membres.

(14.10) Le Conseil exécutif examinera à sa présente session une question importante : la contribution de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation en vue du développement durable. Cette Décennie coïncidant avec la mise en œuvre d'une série d'autres initiatives internationales, il appartient à l'Organisation de coordonner les efforts déployés par la communauté internationale pour réaliser les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous et de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation, qui impliquent de nouvelles tâches sortant du cadre de l'éducation et touchant à tous les aspects de la vie de la société. Il importe à cet égard de définir de grandes orientations et de tenir compte des intérêts de tous les États membres.

(14.11) Nous voudrions saisir cette occasion pour inviter nos collègues du Conseil exécutif à signifier à la Conférence générale qu'il est urgent d'accorder la plus sérieuse attention à la mise en place concrète du Programme de sciences fondamentales, lequel possède, selon nous, tous les atouts pour devenir la véritable « marque » ou, si vous voulez, la « carte de visite » de l'ensemble de l'Organisation.

(14.12) Nous exprimons notre sincère gratitude au Secrétariat de l'UNESCO pour son appui à l'idée d'établir, à Vladikavkaz, un centre pour le développement durable des régions montagneuses dont l'activité portera principalement sur les aspects scientifiques et techniques, socioéconomiques et écologiques du développement des régions montagneuses.

(14.13) La contribution de l'UNESCO à la préparation du Sommet de Tunis constitue selon nous une grande avancée vers la mise en place d'une société de l'information. Un événement important dans ce domaine a certainement été la tenue, à Saint-Petersbourg, du Forum intitulé « L'UNESCO entre les deux phases du Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information », dont les travaux apportent une matière extrêmement riche à l'analyse et à la réflexion. Le bon déroulement de ce Forum est dû pour beaucoup à l'active coopération, aux plans logistique et intellectuel, de l'administration et des experts de l'UNESCO.

(14.14) Notre pays ne cesse de souligner le caractère prioritaire de la composante précisément programmatique de l'Organisation, dans la mesure où c'est là l'essence et la tâche principale de l'UNESCO.

(14.15) Je voudrais dire pour conclure que nous apprécions hautement la voie assidûment suivie par l'Organisation vers un renforcement des relations avec la Russie dans son ensemble, ainsi que l'appui qu'elle apporte à nombre de nos projets. On peut citer à titre d'exemple les Journées de la République de Sakha-Yakoutie qui ont eu lieu récemment au Siège de l'UNESCO et qui, de l'avis de tous, ont témoigné d'une vaste concrétisation des orientations programmatiques de l'UNESCO à l'égard, non seulement de notre pays, mais aussi des régions russes.

15.1 M. NGUIE (Congo) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, distingués représentants des États membres, au moment où je prends la parole au nom de la République du Congo, en lieu et place de mon compatriote, l'Ambassadeur, délégué permanent Antoine Ndinga Oba, qui nous a quittés au mois de mai de cette année, permettez-moi d'avoir une pensée profonde pour lui. Je voudrais à cet égard exprimer toute ma gratitude au Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, au Groupe africain, au G7 et à toutes les délégations permanentes qui nous ont soutenus pendant cette dure épreuve.

15.2 Monsieur le Président, ma délégation a apprécié l'excellente qualité des rapports, ainsi que la pertinence des projets de décision soumis à notre examen. J'adresse pour cela à vous-même, à M. le Directeur général et à tout le Secrétariat mes plus vives félicitations.

15.3 Nous voudrions formuler quelques observations sur un certain nombre de points. En ce qui concerne tout d'abord l'éducation, nous constatons que les nobles objectifs de l'EPT ne seront probablement pas atteints à l'horizon 2015, comme l'a souligné récemment le rapport intitulé « Éducation pour tous : le monde est-il sur la bonne voie ? ». Ce constat est d'autant plus inquiétant que la plupart des 28 pays qui regroupent 25 % de la population mondiale, se trouvent en Afrique. C'est pourquoi, à la veille de la 33^e session de la Conférence générale, nous réitérons les recommandations faites par le Conseil exécutif à sa 171^e session, qui tendaient à la préparation d'un plan d'action précis et plus réaliste autorisant à espérer que les objectifs de l'EPT seront atteints d'ici à 2015. Nous adhérons également à l'idée de considérer comme priorité principale du grand programme I au cours du prochain exercice biennal la mise en œuvre de l'Éducation pour tous selon les objectifs de Dakar, en tenant compte des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, un accent particulier étant toutefois mis sur la formation des formateurs, l'amélioration de la qualité de l'éducation de base et l'éducation préventive contre le VIH/sida, comme l'a souhaité à juste raison la consultation de la région Afrique tenue à Maputo en mai 2004. Toujours dans le domaine de l'éducation, mais s'agissant cette fois de l'éducation physique, ma délégation apprécie hautement les efforts déployés en matière normative, dans le cadre de l'élaboration de l'avant-projet de convention internationale contre le dopage dans le sport.

15.4 S'agissant des sciences, le Congo se félicite du maintien au rang de priorité principale du programme relatif à l'eau douce et aux écosystèmes associés. Le Congo attend également du Programme hydrologique international (PHI) le renforcement des capacités nationales et régionales, en vue de la mise en place de systèmes de gestion de l'information scientifique plus performants. Nous nous félicitons par ailleurs de l'appui apporté par l'UNESCO à l'École régionale d'aménagement intégré des forêts tropicales (ERAIFT) et nous recommandons que l'appui à ce projet phare se renouvelle, afin que celui-ci continue à se développer avec pour même objectif de contribuer à une gestion maîtrisée des forêts d'Afrique tropicale. En ce qui concerne le programme « Mieux comprendre la terre solide et améliorer la prévention des catastrophes naturelles », dont l'actualité en cette année 2005 a révélé la pertinence, nous demandons au Conseil exécutif de renforcer la contribution de l'UNESCO au partenariat mondial pour l'observation de la terre et l'amélioration de la prévention des catastrophes naturelles, en tenant compte bien évidemment de sa spécificité. S'agissant des politiques scientifiques et technologiques en faveur du développement durable, ma délégation considère que cette phase qui nous a été bénéfique doit être suivie d'une phase plus pratique d'appui à la création scientifique au sein de l'université ou des centres de recherche nationaux. Nous nous félicitons également du lancement de l'Année internationale de la physique, à laquelle notre université nationale, l'Université Marien Ngouabi, a prévu de donner un large écho en cette rentrée d'octobre 2005.

15.5 Pour ce qui est des sciences sociales et humaines, nous notons avec satisfaction que le projet de déclaration universelle sur la bioéthique et les droits de l'homme est plus proche des recommandations formulées par la consultation de la région Afrique. Il avait été en effet suggéré de dépasser la simple éthique des sciences pour prendre en compte les besoins urgents de l'Afrique comme la promotion des droits humains fondamentaux. Tout le monde est conscient aujourd'hui de ce que le degré atteint par le développement des connaissances scientifiques appelle une prise de conscience universelle sur les dangers d'une utilisation irraisonnée de ces connaissances.

15.6 S'agissant de la culture, nous avons apprécié l'effort global entrepris en vue de cerner les différentes composantes du patrimoine culturel et de les faire contribuer à la reconstruction de la cohésion sociale dans les pays sortant d'un conflit, comme c'est le cas en République du Congo.

Nous appuyons la mise en œuvre de l'avant-projet de convention sur la protection de la diversité des contenus culturels et des expressions artistiques. Le Congo, qui a organisé avec le concours de l'UNESCO un séminaire international sur la traite négrière félicite le groupe d'évaluateurs qui a travaillé sur le projet « La route de l'esclave » pour les résultats de ses travaux et demande la prise en compte par le Secrétariat des recommandations formulées et la revalorisation des sites qui permettront le développement du tourisme de mémoire en Afrique.

15.7 Enfin, dans le Secteur de la communication, il convient d'apprécier l'effort intellectuel engagé par l'Organisation en vue de concrétiser le concept de « société du savoir ». Cependant, il demeure encore la problématique de l'accès équitable à l'information et au savoir - la question de la fracture numérique, sur laquelle devra à notre avis se pencher le prochain Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information. Peut-être conviendra-t-il, après la phase de Tunis, d'aller vers un répertoire de mesures ou programmes applicables dans les pays en retard en cette matière, de façon à contribuer véritablement à la résorption de la fracture numérique. Tel est, résumé, l'essentiel de notre modeste contribution. Je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

16.1 M. ROS (Cambodge) *in extenso* :

Nous sommes tous conscients de l'importance de notre présente session et des points inscrits à son ordre du jour et nous savons tous combien nos délibérations et nos décisions seront décisives, tant pour le proche avenir, c'est-à-dire la tenue de la 33^e session de la Conférence générale que pour le devenir de notre Organisation, au-delà même de l'exercice biennal 2006-2007. Je voudrais, sans tarder, exprimer le vœu fervent que les travaux de notre Conseil se déroulent, comme par le passé, dans la concertation la plus large pour veiller, en particulier, à aplanir de possibles divergences et aboutir, autant que possible, au consensus sur les questions fondamentales.

16.2 Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi, tout d'abord, de vous faire part des salutations chaleureuses de Sa Majesté le Roi Norodom Sihamoni, dont vous savez qu'il a représenté le Royaume du Cambodge auprès de l'UNESCO pendant une décennie, et qui reste attentif aux activités de l'Organisation, au développement de ses programmes dans tous les domaines et à sa contribution irremplaçable à la sauvegarde de la paix dans le monde. Tout autant que Sa Majesté, le Chef du Gouvernement royal, Son Excellence le Premier Ministre, Samdech Hun Sen, accorde un intérêt constant aux délibérations du Conseil exécutif et aux actions menées par le Secrétariat, sous la sage direction du Directeur général, M. Koïchiro Matsuura. Ils ont été heureux et profondément satisfaits d'accueillir Son Excellence lors de sa visite officielle à Phnom Penh, en juillet dernier. Cette visite a, plus particulièrement, permis aux ministères, aux organismes publics et aux organisations non gouvernementales concernés de confirmer leur soutien et leur engagement en faveur des grands principes et des options essentielles de l'UNESCO, ainsi que des programmes qu'elle met en œuvre dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la science et de la technologie, de la culture, des sciences sociales et humaines et de la communication.

16.3 Veuillez me permettre, également, une remarque. Avec Sa Majesté le Roi et le Gouvernement royal, l'ensemble des responsables cambodgiens se réjouissent de la perspective que laisse prévoir l'examen du point 48 inscrit à l'ordre du jour de notre présente session. Comme vous tous, nous en espérons la continuité dans la conduite des affaires de l'UNESCO, ainsi que la poursuite harmonieuse et active du processus de réforme, sur la voie des grands progrès enregistrés et mis en exergue par tous. De la sorte, le 60^e anniversaire de l'Organisation, que nous allons tous célébrer dans chaque État membre, marquera, au-delà du bilan, un nouvel élan vers le succès et la prospérité.

16.4 Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, il m'est agréable d'exprimer, maintenant, la position de mon pays sur les principaux points inscrits au débat général du Conseil. Sur le plan général, nous sommes pleinement satisfaits des analyses faites par M. le Directeur général dans son

introduction écrite au débat général du Conseil sur les points 3, 4 et 21 de l'ordre du jour. Et nous soutenons pleinement les propositions qu'il présente.

16.5 Dans le domaine de l'éducation, deux actions nous concernent particulièrement : tout d'abord la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable (2005-2014). Nous souhaitons, à ce propos, l'approbation, d'une part, du projet de plan international de mise en œuvre de la Décennie et, d'autre part, du Projet de contribution de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable. Ensuite, nous nous félicitons de voir l'UNESCO renforcer son rôle dans l'Initiative mondiale sur le VIH/sida et l'éducation, et je tiens à signaler à cet égard que les premières activités ont été lancées au Cambodge, au cours du printemps dernier.

16.6 Dans le domaine des sciences naturelles, notre pays est vivement intéressé par deux programmes : il s'agit, en priorité, du Programme mondial pour l'évaluation des ressources en eau (WWAP). Plus que les désastres causés, parfois, par des inondations, c'est la sécheresse qui frappe le Cambodge. Aussi tenons-nous à être orientés pour une bonne gestion des risques liés à l'eau et à profiter des expériences que vont mener les différents centres spécialisés en la matière, dont la création est envisagée ou qu'il est proposé de placer sous l'égide de l'UNESCO. L'autre programme qui nous intéresse est celui qui est relatif au Système d'alerte aux tsunamis et d'atténuation de leurs effets dans l'océan Indien. Certes, la façade maritime cambodgienne sur cet océan a été, par bonheur, préservée. Mais, le principe de précaution nous incite à ne rien laisser au hasard.

16.7 J'en viens au domaine si important de la culture. Le Royaume du Cambodge est le pays d'Angkor, site du patrimoine mondial. Je tiens, à cet égard, à exprimer notre vive gratitude au Secrétariat de l'UNESCO. Nous avons le privilège d'avoir, depuis une décennie, une action internationale de sauvegarde et de mise en valeur placée sous la coprésidence de la France et du Japon, que nous ne remercierons jamais assez, et à laquelle contribuent activement les équipes françaises et japonaises, des missions envoyées par l'Allemagne, l'Australie, la Chine, les États-Unis d'Amérique, l'Inde, l'Italie, la Suisse, ainsi que de nombreuses ONG, notamment le World Monuments Fund. Tous ont droit à notre gratitude. Mais rien n'aurait aussi bien abouti sans la sollicitude de M. le Directeur général et l'appui sans relâche du Secteur de la culture et du Bureau de l'UNESCO de Phnom Penh qui coopèrent presque au quotidien avec l'Autorité nationale APSARA. Mais, il n'y a pas qu'Angkor. D'autres sites, au premier rang desquels figure Preah Vihear, sont en voie d'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. De même, il n'y a pas que le patrimoine physique. Nous sommes fermement attachés à la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel. Mais, surtout, nous apportons notre soutien, plein et entier, au texte de l'avant-projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles. Le Royaume du Cambodge, à cet égard, souhaite vivement que, dans la sérénité, l'on parvienne à une adoption par consensus de cette convention, si importante pour l'établissement d'un dialogue équitable, suivi d'un partenariat enrichissant, entre les cultures dans le monde.

16.8 Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, mes chers collègues, permettez-moi, avant de conclure et de souhaiter un heureux aboutissement à nos travaux, de m'acquitter de deux devoirs. Tout d'abord, je voudrais assurer M. le Président du Conseil exécutif de notre totale coopération et de notre volonté de faire en sorte que la 172^e session se déroule sous les meilleurs auspices et dans les meilleures conditions.

16.9 Je tiens, également, au nom des autorités cambodgiennes, à mettre en exergue le remarquable déroulement de la mission, à Phnom Penh, de M. Étienne Clément. Après de longues et fructueuses années en qualité de représentant de l'UNESCO au Cambodge, il vient de rejoindre le Siège de l'Organisation. Il a mené une action soutenue, active et efficace, à la grande satisfaction de

tous ses partenaires cambodgiens. Il a droit à notre reconnaissance et à un témoignage public, dans cette enceinte si attentive au travail des membres du Secrétariat. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

17.1 Sr. CHADERTON MATOS (Venezuela) *in extenso* :

Nuestras primeras palabras son para expresar a la delegación de los Estados Unidos y al pueblo que representa nuestra voluntad de solidaridad activa ante el sufrimiento inmenso causado por el desborde de la naturaleza en Alabama, Mississippi y Louisiana.

17.2 Señor Director General, felicitaciones por su reelección como candidato para esta segunda oportunidad de servicio.

17.3 La educación, la ciencia, la cultura deben ser instrumentos de la comunidad internacional para alcanzar la justicia social, garantizar la paz y consolidar la libertad; pero seríamos ingenuos si ignoráramos que pueden ser instrumentos de opresión. La ciencia que pretende sustituir a Dios y a la naturaleza, así como la educación, la cultura y la comunicación que buscan controlar la mente humana, muestran la amenaza de una dictadura global, que necesita imponernos un nuevo Dios, el dios del mercado, un dios neoliberal.

17.4 Se habla de hacer más democrático y moderno al sistema de las Naciones Unidas, pero se bloquean los esfuerzos por una participación responsable y extensa. Se ejerce la ley de la fuerza, se impone la guerra a la carta y los más fuertes se hacen inmunes e impunes, mientras se divide el mundo entre héroes y villanos según las alianzas, intereses o adhesiones que produzcan las necesidades de dominio.

17.5 El comercio internacional, con sus restricciones calculadas y las exigencias asfixiantes del sistema financiero internacional, se complementan con la injusta distribución de la riqueza y la negación de los derechos básicos de la persona humana para generar dos males intimidantes, la Guerra y el Terrorismo.

17.6 El sistema de las Naciones Unidas es vetusto. Se recurre a declaraciones heroicas y compromisos teóricos que, al no cumplirse, serán vetustos a su vez. El viejo orden internacional responde a la situación mundial derivada del mundo posterior a la barbarie nazi de hace 60 años. Nuevas formas de violencia surgidas a partir del fenómeno atómico marcan el desarrollo de la humanidad presente. Las desproporciones se han ensanchado, se desarrollan el fanatismo religioso y los dogmas económicos y sufrimos la presencia neototalitaria de un gigantesco aparato de propaganda que procura, por la violencia intangible, controlar el cerebro humano por un pensamiento único, bajo la vigilancia de un hermano mayor que George Orwell podría haber juntado a su denuncia antiestalinista.

17.7 Esta UNESCO, centro de debates prioritarios, como la Diversidad Cultural y el Diálogo entre Civilizaciones, luce a veces tibia, tímida y aburrida. A veces lúgubre como sus corredores de Miollis ocupados por hileras de sarcófagos archivadores de madera contrachapada curiosamente imitando la formica.

17.8 En esta Organización, el uso de las lenguas oficiales parece responder a los criterios del poder global. En nombre de mi Gobierno expreso nuestra irritación creciente por la subestimación progresiva y extendida del español en los foros, debates y negociaciones con miras a la imposición de la lengua del poder militar, económico y mediático. Y esto ocurre en el IV Centenario de “Don Quijote de la Mancha”, obra de la cual hemos repartido gratuitamente, en Venezuela, un millón de ejemplares.

17.9 Los países del mundo en desarrollo no podemos quedarnos de brazos cruzados a la espera de las recurrentes reacciones condescendientes del mundo desarrollado. Mientras nos levantamos por la justicia social internacional, debemos procurar nuestras propias respuestas dentro del marco de la Cooperación Sur-Sur. Por ejemplo, hoy, ante la crisis energética, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela responde con iniciativas concretas, como programas de asociación y suministro petrolero sin intermediarios. Trabajamos en nuestro continente americano en diversos proyectos como PETROCARIBE y los programas con América Central. También expresamos nuestra disposición a ofrecer combustible para electricidad y calefacción, en condiciones favorables, a las comunidades más pobres de los Estados Unidos.

17.10 En el marco de nuestra política africana, reiteramos nuestro compromiso en la lucha contra los efectos de la desertización en África y apoyamos con proyectos propios a las Naciones Unidas y a otros esfuerzos internacionales para atender la crisis alimentaria que sufren algunas poblaciones africanas.

17.11 A los monopolios mediáticos difusores de propaganda directa o subliminal, como CNN y Fox Murdoch News, manipuladores de la información y de la opinión, les respondemos con un proyecto con Argentina, Cuba y Uruguay que ya está en marcha y crecerá con el tiempo, TELESUR, para asegurar la libertad de prensa internacional, para que la comunicación sea libre y para contrabalancear a la dictadura mediática que divide al mundo entre villanos y superhéroes.

17.12 El poder mediático también presenta imágenes benévolas de unos países y malévolas de otros, con una visión fundamentalista que presta mayor consideración a unas víctimas de la violencia, la guerra y el terrorismo que a otras.

17.13 En diciembre de 2003, en un acto público en Miami, un golpista venezolano invitó al asesinato del Presidente Hugo Chávez. Este año, en una televisora de Miami, la presentadora estadounidense María Elvira Salazar, sin previa consulta a nuestros buenos amigos del Gobierno de Israel, propuso la utilización de comandos israelíes para deshacerse del Presidente Chávez. Hace unas tres semanas, el predicador y ex aspirante a la presidencia de los Estados Unidos por el Partido Republicano, Pat Robertson, propuso por televisión, ante una masa de fundamentalistas cristianos, el asesinato del Presidente Chávez. Ninguno de estos personajes que incitaron al terrorismo han sido llevados a la justicia por sus delitos.

17.14 En Venezuela hemos asumido un compromiso democrático por la inclusión y la justicia social. Un sistema de distribución equitativa del ingreso ha permitido aumentar los recursos destinados a la educación y a la salud, en favor de los excluidos de antes. Estamos pagando la deuda histórica social poniendo en práctica un conjunto de políticas de alfabetización, reinserción escolar y atención médica como prioridades de la gestión pública. Hemos alfabetizado 1.406.000 personas en año y medio, reincorporado 700.000 estudiantes que habían abandonado sus estudios por carencia de recursos y, con el apoyo de miles de médicos cubanos, la salud ha llegado a las zonas populares. Estos avances han sido reconocidos por el PNUD.

17.15 Agradecemos el interés de la UNESCO por la creación en Venezuela del centro de excelencia internacional dedicado a la biología, la biología molecular y la ecología tropical. Otros centros del mundo en desarrollo como el de Matemáticas en Brasil y el de Biotecnología en la India conforman acciones para favorecer el desarrollo de las ciencias.

17.16 En Venezuela, por cierto, estamos cumpliendo con los objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio y emprendiendo con gran firmeza y decisión la construcción de una sociedad de incluidos, basada sobre los principios de solidaridad y justicia social. Se trata de incluir a los excluidos sin excluir a los incluidos. Sólo exigimos respeto y comprensión en esta hermosa tarea de colocar a la persona humana como prioridad de nuestro accionar gubernamental, en paz y en democracia.

(17.1) M. CHARDERTON MATOS (Venezuela) *in extenso* (traduit de l'espagnol) :

Nos premiers mots s'adressent à la délégation des États-Unis et au peuple qu'elle représente afin d'exprimer notre volonté de solidarité active face aux souffrances immenses provoquées par les débordements de la nature en Alabama, au Mississippi et en Louisiane.

(17.2) Monsieur le Directeur général, nous vous félicitons d'avoir recueilli les suffrages du Conseil en vue de votre réélection pour un second mandat.

(17.3) L'éducation, la science et la culture doivent être des instruments de la communauté internationale pour parvenir à la justice sociale, garantir la paix et consolider la liberté ; mais nous serions naïfs si nous ignorions qu'elles peuvent aussi être des instruments d'oppression. La science qui prétend remplacer Dieu et la nature, de même que l'éducation, la culture et la communication qui cherchent à contrôler l'esprit humain, représentent une menace de dictature globale, cherchant à nous imposer un nouveau Dieu, le dieu du marché, un dieu néolibéral.

(17.4) On parle de rendre plus démocratique et plus moderne le système des Nations Unies, mais on bloque les efforts en vue d'une participation responsable et élargie. C'est la loi du plus fort qui prévaut, c'est la guerre à la carte, et les plus forts obtiennent immunité et impunité, tandis que le monde se divise entre les bons et les méchants selon les alliances, les intérêts ou les adhésions qui résultent des besoins de domination.

(17.5) Le commerce international, avec ses restrictions calculées et les exigences asphyxiantes du système financier international, se conjugue avec la répartition injuste des richesses et la négation des droits fondamentaux de la personne humaine pour engendrer deux maux redoutables, la guerre et le terrorisme.

(17.6) Le système des Nations Unies est vétuste. On se lance dans des déclarations héroïques et des engagements théoriques qui, n'étant pas suivis d'effets, seront à leur tour dépassés. L'ancien ordre international correspond à la situation mondiale issue de la barbarie nazie il y a 60 ans. De nouvelles formes de violence qui ont surgi à partir du phénomène atomique marquent le développement de l'humanité actuelle. Les inégalités se sont aggravées, on assiste au développement du fanatisme religieux et des dogmes économiques et nous souffrons de la présence néototalitaire d'un gigantesque appareil de propagande qui essaie, par la violence immatérielle, de contrôler le cerveau humain par une pensée unique, sous la surveillance d'un grand frère que George Orwell aurait pu ajouter à sa dénonciation antistalinienne.

(17.7) Cette UNESCO, centre de débats prioritaires comme la diversité culturelle et le dialogue entre les civilisations, semble parfois tiède, timide et ennuyeuse. Elle est parfois lugubre, comme les couloirs du bâtiment Miollis encombrés de rangées de sarcophage d'archives en contreplaqué qui imite bizarrement le formica.

(17.8) Dans cette Organisation, l'utilisation des langues officielles semble répondre aux critères du pouvoir global. Au nom de mon gouvernement, j'exprime notre irritation

croissante face à la sous-estimation progressive et étendue de l'espagnol dans les instances, débats et négociations qui vise à imposer la langue du pouvoir militaire, économique et médiatique. Et cela se produit à l'occasion du quadricentenaire de « Don Quichotte », œuvre dont nous avons distribué gratuitement, au Venezuela, un million d'exemplaires.

(17.9) En tant que pays du monde en développement, nous ne pouvons rester les bras croisés à attendre les réactions condescendantes récurrentes du monde développé. Nous nous mobilisons en faveur de la justice sociale internationale, mais nous devons essayer de trouver nos réponses propres dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud. Par exemple, aujourd'hui, face à la crise énergétique, la République Bolivarienne du Venezuela répond par des initiatives concrètes, par exemple de programmes d'association et de livraison de pétrole sans intermédiaires. Nous travaillons sur notre continent américain à divers projets comme PETROCARIBE et des programmes avec l'Amérique centrale. Nous faisons également savoir que nous sommes prêts à offrir du combustible pour l'électricité et le chauffage, à des conditions favorables, aux communautés les plus pauvres des États-Unis.

(17.10) Dans le cadre de notre politique africaine, nous réitérons notre engagement en faveur de la lutte contre les effets de la désertification en Afrique et nous appuyons, avec nos propres projets, les actions de l'ONU et d'autres initiatives internationales visant à résoudre la crise alimentaire dont souffrent certaines populations africaines.

(17.11) Nous répondons aux monopoles médiatiques diffuseurs de propagande directe ou subliminale, comme CNN et Fox Murdoch News, manipulateurs de l'information et de l'opinion, par un projet mené avec l'Argentine, Cuba et l'Uruguay qui est déjà lancé et qui grandira avec le temps, TELESUR, pour assurer la liberté de la presse internationale, pour que la communication soit libre et pour faire contrepoids à la dictature médiatique qui divise le monde entre les bons et les méchants.

(17.12) Le pouvoir médiatique présente également des images bienveillantes pour certains pays et malveillantes pour d'autres, avec une vision fondamentaliste qui accorde davantage de considération à certaines victimes de la violence, de la guerre et du terrorisme qu'à d'autres.

(17.13) En décembre 2003, lors d'une réunion publique à Miami, un putschiste vénézuélien a préconisé le meurtre du Président Hugo Chávez. Cette même année, sur une chaîne de télévision de Miami, la présentatrice américaine María Elvira Salazar, sans avoir consulté au préalable nos bons amis du Gouvernement israélien, a proposé l'utilisation de commandos israéliens pour se débarrasser du Président Chávez. Il y a trois semaines, le prédicateur et ex-aspirant à la présidence des États-Unis pour le Parti républicain, Pat Robertson, a proposé, à la télévision, devant une foule de fondamentalistes chrétiens, l'assassinat du Président Chávez. Aucun de ces personnages qui ont incité au terrorisme n'a été traduit en justice pour ce délit.

(17.14) Au Venezuela, nous avons pris un engagement démocratique d'intégration et de justice sociale. Un système de répartition équitable du revenu a permis d'augmenter les ressources destinées à l'éducation et à la santé, en faveur des exclus des années précédentes. Nous payons la dette historique sociale en mettant en pratique un ensemble de politiques d'alphabétisation, de réinsertion scolaire et d'assistance médicale en tant que priorités de l'administration publique. Nous avons alphabétisé 1.406.000 personnes en un an et demi, en rescolarisant 700.000 élèves qui avaient abandonné leurs études faute de ressources et, avec l'appui de milliers de médecins cubains, la santé est désormais dispensée jusque dans les zones populaires. Ces progrès ont été reconnus par le PNUD.

(17.15) Nous remercions l'UNESCO de l'intérêt qu'elle a porté à la création au Venezuela du Centre international d'excellence en biologie, biologie moléculaire et écologie tropicale. D'autres centres du monde en développement comme celui pour les mathématiques au Brésil et les biotechnologies en Inde constituent des actions destinées à favoriser le développement des sciences.

(17.16) Au Venezuela, bien sûr, nous poursuivons les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et nous entreprenons avec beaucoup de fermeté et de détermination la construction d'une société intégratrice, basée sur les principes de solidarité et de justice sociale. Il s'agit d'intégrer les exclus sans exclure les personnes déjà intégrées. Nous exigeons seulement le respect et la compréhension pour cette noble tâche qui consiste à placer la personne humaine au centre de notre action gouvernementale, dans la paix et la démocratie.

18. Mr WREDE (Chairman of the Executive Board) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Sir, for your statement. I now have the pleasure to announce to you that we are about to conclude this meeting. I would like to thank you once more for your contributions. I believe that it has been a good day for UNESCO today. Before closing the meeting, I have the pleasure to announce that we will start our proceedings not as early as I wanted, because you had such a long day today. We will start tomorrow morning at 9.30, and then we will start the afternoon session as today, you are used to it, at 2.30 in the afternoon. But before letting you go and have a nice evening, I now have the pleasure to announce to you that the Director-General is inviting you to the opening of the exhibition "Together with Migrants". This exhibition has been organized by the UNESCO Beijing Office and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences with the support of the Chinese National Commission. They are presenting to you in this exhibition the main outputs of the cross-cutting theme project on urban poverty reduction among young and female migrants in China. Our distinguished colleague, the Chinese Vice-Minister of Education, and also the ADG, Mr Pierre Sané, will take the floor, and I have to admit I have also been asked to take the floor. But I promise I will be extremely brief myself. So, once more, let me invite you, on behalf of the host, to this exhibition, which is right in front of the doors of the Board, so you cannot fail to be there in a few minutes' time. Thanks again, and see you tomorrow morning; the meeting is closed.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

THIRD MEETING

Tuesday 20 September 2005 at 9.35 a.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede
later: Mr Salama
later: Mr Sheya
later: Mr Wrede
later: Mr Dayrell de Lima
later: Mr Wrede

- Item 3 REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAMME ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (172 EX/4 Parts I and Add. and II; 172 EX/INF.5; 172 EX/INF.6; 172 EX/INF.9; 172 EX/INF.10) (*continued*)
- Item 4 REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS (172 EX/5; 172 EX/INF.5; 172 EX/INF.6; 172 EX/INF.7 Rev. (English only)) (*continued*)
- Item 21 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2006-2007 (33 C/5) AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (33 C/5 Draft Rev. and Add.; 172 EX/INF.5; 172 EX/INF.6) (*continued*)

1. The CHAIRMAN *in extenso*:

I shall now announce to you that we have about 26 speakers on our list this morning. That is why we are starting so early, and we aim, however – with the help of the interpreters, to whom I am very grateful for their dedication and persistence in trying to understand what we want to say – to conclude by 1 p.m. We have 26 or 27 speakers on our list. We have one especially important speaker who could not make it last night, and I have the particular pleasure and privilege to give the floor now to the Vice-Chairman for the Africa group, our distinguished colleague and friend from the United Republic of Tanzania. He has 12 minutes because he is speaking on behalf of the Africa group and some other countries from that group have given him minutes. I apologize to our colleague from Jordan who expected to speak first, but he can reconsider what he wants to say. So I give the floor to the distinguished colleague from the United Republic of Tanzania. You have the floor, Sir.

2.1 Mr SHEYA (United Republic of Tanzania) (Vice-Chairman for the Africa group) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished colleagues, the Africa group welcomes the nomination of the Director-General for a second four-year term of office, and hopes to cooperate with him and give him all the support he deserves. The group also welcomes the report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference, on the follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions, and on the Draft Programme and Budget for the coming biennium. The Africa group notes the revised programme and budget as presented in document 33 C/5 Rev. and document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. The group supports the rationalization of the \$610 million regular budget, and also supports the Director-General's proposal regarding the utilization of an additional \$25 million for the reinforcement of actions under the principal priorities of the Major Programmes, and the means of financing that additional

\$25 million. The Africa group further supports the Director-General's proposal to recruit staff to strengthen the delivery of education for all (EFA) in Africa.

2.2 Mr Chairman, thanks to its mandate, UNESCO has a critical role to play in Member States in addressing global challenges within its fields of competence. These challenges include meeting the Dakar goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the case of Africa, it is feared that some African countries may fail to meet the Dakar goals and MDGs by 2015. As a matter of priority, Africa must train at least 4 million additional teachers in order to address the above challenges. In this regard, the Africa group continues to support the Director-General for a pan-African initiative on teacher training in sub-Saharan Africa. The Africa group is also supportive of the other two initiatives aimed at accelerating the implementation of EFA, i.e. the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) and the Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Education. It is worth noting that Africa is highly disadvantaged, having a large number of illiterate people and people living with HIV/AIDS. Such challenges need to be addressed in a strategic and rational manner through policy intervention, planning and concrete action.

2.3 Mr Chairman, allow me now to turn to other equally important questions. The Africa group recognizes the challenges facing the International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA). These challenges include a lack of resources for project implementation at the regional level, and operational problems such as inadequate office space, lack of facilities, etc. Further, the Director of the Institute has yet to be recruited, thus hindering effective and focused planning. In this connection, the group appeals to the Director-General to increase resources to IICBA in order to build and strengthen its capacity to deliver the goods.

2.4 Further, the Africa group takes note of the progress made so far towards the implementation of the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012), an area that requires resource mobilization, focused planning, improved data collection, positive action, and monitoring and evaluation. The Africa group is aware of the existing disparities in data collection and compilation by national statistics offices. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics should enhance its cooperation and coordination with Member States for reliable data collection and updating to be carried out on a regular basis. Further, in order to accelerate progress in literacy, concerted efforts should be made to link literacy initiatives with EFA and to encourage the use of local languages.

2.5 Mr Chairman, the Africa group supports UNESCO's activities in support of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), and normative actions leading to standard-setting instruments. In this regard, the Africa group supports the text endorsed by the third intergovernmental meeting of experts on the preliminary draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.

2.6 With respect to the report by the Director-General on the advisability of elaborating an international declaration on science ethics to serve as a basis for an ethical code of conduct for scientists, UNESCO should spare no effort to sensitize Member States at policy and decision-making levels, and the general public, on the issues involved. Further, enough time should be allocated for consultation at national, regional and international levels. There is also a need to empower scientists and experts from developing countries to participate equitably at meetings through UNESCO support.

2.7 With respect to heritage, Africa has the highest number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage in Danger List, which accounts for 43% of its properties on the UNESCO World Heritage List. At the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban (South Africa) from 10 to 17 July 2005, an African position paper was presented to the Committee proposing the

establishment of an African Heritage Fund. It is planned to launch the Fund during the Summit of the African Union in January 2006. In this regard, UNESCO Member States are invited to support the African-led initiative and to make generous contributions to the Fund.

2.8 Mr Chairman, the Africa group recognizes the opportunities offered by ICTs in accelerating development and poverty eradication. It also recognizes their potential threat to developing countries. The Africa group therefore supports the activities of the Information for All Programme (IFAP), which was essentially created to empower UNESCO Member States to build their capacity in ICTs. Notwithstanding this, the group has identified various challenges and shortcomings facing IFAP. Among them is a dire need to promote and intensify local content development, particularly through the use of local languages, a need for UNESCO to follow up on the establishment of IFAP national committees in Africa, wherever they do not exist, and a need to promote synergy and foster collaborative efforts between IFAP and the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). Further, an imbalance has been identified in resource use for projects and meetings. There is also a lack of adequate resources for project support and implementation. This, if not quickly resolved, could undermine the credibility of IFAP in assisting Member States to overcome the digital divide.

2.9 Mr Chairman, the Africa group recognizes UNESCO's involvement in the activities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)/African Union (AU) Secretariat on policy-related issues. The group recognizes that UNESCO has enhanced cooperation with NEPAD/AU. As previously stated, the Africa group wishes to see more efforts by UNESCO directed towards priority areas within the NEPAD framework. Particular attention should be paid to culture and science and technology for sustainable development.

2.10 With respect to the reform process, the Africa group takes note of the progress made so far, and invites the Director-General to improve staff policy and further strengthen the decentralization measures. The Director-General should also improve UNESCO's recruitment procedure for consultants both at the field offices and at Headquarters.

2.11 I was going to thank Ghana, Mauritius, Namibia and Rwanda for having each donated their minute of talking time, but I notice that I could not finish all I was given. I thank you for listening.

٣,١ السيد غرايبة (الأردن) النص الكامل :

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيد المدير العام، الزملاء أعضاء المجلس، الحضور الكرام، يسرني أن أستهل مداخلتني بتوجيه الشكر إلى كل من رئيس المؤتمر العام ورئيس المجلس التنفيذي وقد شارفت مدة رئاستهما على الانتهاء. فالشكر واجب لرئيس المؤتمر العام لمواظبته على حضور جلسات المجلس ومتابعته لمداولاته ولرئاسته لفريق العمل الخاص المكلف بدراسة العلاقات بين هيئات اليونسكو الثلاث. وبالمثل كان لحيوية وكفاءة رئيس المجلس وحسن إدارته للجلسات واحترامه للوقت أبلغ الأثر في إنجاز أعمال المجلس. وأشيد بجهود المدير العام الدؤوبة، وقد أوشكت فترة إدارته الأولى على الانقضاء والثانية على البدء في كل ما من شأنه تطوير المنظمة وإعلاء شأنها في المحافل الدولية. فله منا كل التهاني بتجديد ولايته.

٣,٢ سيدي الرئيس، تتفق حكومة بلدي مع الكثير مما قيل في مداخلات أمس، لذا فسوف أركز على أمور قليلة تفاديا للتكرار. وعلى الرغم من كثرة ما يقال عن مكافحة الإرهاب فإننا نلاحظ زيادة مدى انتشاره، إذ توسعت قائمة أهدافه فشملت أماكن لم تألفه من قبل. وهذا يستلزم من اليونسكو النهوض

بواجباتها ضمن مجالات اختصاصها لمواجهة هذا التحدي، ولكن ربما بأساليب جديدة. فالعمل على تعميق ثقافة السلام والعمل على تعزيز الحوار بين الثقافات والديانات هو من صميم مهامها. فقد لا يجدي نفعا أن يظل التفاعل في مثل هذه الأمور مقتصرًا على المؤمنين بالحوار، بل من الضروري تجاوز ذلك والوصول إلى شرائح واسعة في المجتمعات، وبشكل خاص قطاع الشباب. ولا بد من التنويه هنا بالقرار رقم ٣٩ الذي اعتمده المؤتمر العام في دورته الحادية والثلاثين، والذي يقضي بتوجيه نداء من أجل التعاون الدولي لمنع أعمال الإرهاب والقضاء عليها، والذي يدعو المدير العام للمنظمة إلى اتخاذ التدابير اللازمة للمساهمة في اجتثاث الإرهاب انطلاقًا من طبيعة المنظمة الفكرية والأخلاقية.

٣,٣ سيدي الرئيس، لم يبق على أمد الاستراتيجية المتوسطة الأجل سوى عامين اثنين، تلك الاستراتيجية التي تستند إلى رؤية تعنى بالإسهام في تحقيق السلام والتنمية البشرية. فما الذي تحقق من الأهداف؟ وهل تمكنت المنظمة من مواجهة التحديات؟ وكيف يمكنها إنجاز إعادة ترتيب بيتها وتغيير الثقافة السائدة فيها وإرساء علاقة صحية مع بقية هيئات الأمم المتحدة؟ والأهم هو تحديد الأطر التي تنظم وتحكم العلاقة بين هيئات اليونسكو الثلاث.

٣,٤ سيدي الرئيس، إن حكومة بلدي تدعم كافة جهود الإصلاح التي تسعى إلى تحسين الأداء الإداري والمالي في المنظمة وتعزيز دورها. وفي نفس الوقت ترى أن ذلك لا يتحقق بتقليص قاعدة التمثيل للدول الأعضاء سواء في المجلس أو اللجان بل بالحفاظ على المبدأ الديمقراطي، مبدأ المشاركة الواسعة مع العمل على زيادة كفاءة أداء هذه الهيئات وفعاليتها.

٣,٥ وفيما يتعلق بمشروع البرنامج والميزانية لعامي ٢٠٠٦-٢٠٠٧، ندعو إلى عدم تخفيض المخصصات المرصودة للمنطقة العربية في قطاع التربية لتمكينها من تحقيق أهداف التعليم للجميع الستة. ونأمل أن يتم دعم خطة تنمية الثقافة العربية، وتعزيز الأنشطة في مجال الحوار بين الثقافات، وتشجيع الدراسات والبحوث والمبادرات الوطنية الخاصة بهذه الخطة. كما تستحق مشاريع إدارة المياه وزيادة كفاءتها واستخدام الطرق الحديثة في تطويرها أن تنال حصتها الكافية من الموارد. وإننا نؤمن بضرورة العمل على الإسراع في تضييق الفجوة بين الدول الصناعية والدول النامية، وخاصة في مجال الاتصالات والمعلومات، قبل أن تتسع هذه الفجوة بحيث يصبح سدها أمراً عصياً. وفي هذا المجال يقترح الأردن عقد مؤتمر خاص بأخلاقيات استخدام الانترنت وإعداد ميثاق عالمي يحدد أسس وأخلاقيات النشر على هذه الشبكة بما لا يتعارض مع حرية النشر والتعبير عن الرأي.

٣,٦ سيدي الرئيس، لا شك أن انسحاب إسرائيل من قطاع غزة يعتبر خطوة إيجابية في تحقيق السلام؛ ونأمل استئناف المفاوضات بشأن بقية الأراضي العربية المحتلة بغية التوصل إلى تسوية شاملة وعادلة تنهي الصراع وتحقيق الاستقرار في المنطقة. وإلى حين تحقيق السلام المنشود تبقى ضرورة تفعيل الجهود للحفاظ على تراث مدينة القدس وهويتها قائمة، ويظل من الضروري متابعة تقرير لجنة الخبراء بهذا الشأن وترجمة توصيات التقرير إلى خطة عمل قابلة للتنفيذ. ونأمل أن تبادر الدول الأعضاء المانحة إلى تقديم الدعم المالي لمشاريع القدس لتمكين المنظمة من تنفيذ المشاريع المطلوبة منها وحماية الممتلكات الثقافية في المدينة. وبالإضافة إلى ذلك فإننا نؤيد ما ورد في كلمة المدير العام من أن المحافظة على التراث لا تقتصر على الحجارة، بل تشمل أيضاً النسيج الاجتماعي والحضاري لهذه المدينة العريقة. وإننا نناشد الدول الأعضاء أن تدعم توجه المدير العام في هذا الشأن.

٣,٧ وفيما يخص المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، فقد عقد فيها المنتدى الاقتصادي الدولي، ومؤتمر الحاصلين على جائزة نوبل للسلام، ومؤتمر وزراء التربية والتعليم في الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا مع مجموعة البلدان الصناعية الثمانية. وأكدت جميع هذه المؤتمرات على أهمية إصلاح نظام التعليم في المنطقة بكافة مراحل وأنواعه وضرورية وضع ذلك على قمة سلم الأولويات، وعلى أن التنمية الاقتصادية والسلام والأمن تساعد جميعها على تحقيق هذا الإصلاح إذا عكس الأولويات الوطنية والمنظومة الثقافية لدول المنطقة.

٣,٨ سيدي الرئيس، لا يسعني في الختام، ونحن على وشك الاحتفال بالعيد الستين لإنشاء اليونسكو، إلا أن أعرب عن التزام حكومتي بالمبادئ النبيلة التي قامت عليها المنظمة وبدعم كافة النشاطات التي من شأنها تحقيق رسالتها، شاكرًا لكم على حسن إصغائكم. وشكرًا، سيدي الرئيس.

(3.1) Mr GHARAIBEH (Jordan) *in extenso* (translation from the Arabic):

Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, colleagues and Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to begin my statement by addressing thanks to the President of the General Conference and the Chairman of the Executive Board, whose terms of office are now coming to an end. Thanks are due to the President of the General Conference for assiduously attending the meetings of the Board and following its deliberations, and for chairing the ad hoc working group on relations between the three organs of UNESCO. Similarly, the vivacity and competence of the Chairman of the Board, together with his skilful steering of its meetings and his observance of time limits had a great impact on the Board's performance of its work. I commend the unflagging efforts of the Director-General, as he approaches the end of his first term of office and the beginning of his second term, to bolster the Organization and enhance its prestige in international fora. We congratulate him heartily on the renewal of his term of office.

(3.2) Mr Chairman, my government is in agreement with much of what was said in the statements delivered yesterday. I shall therefore focus on a limited number of issues in order to avoid repetition. Despite the numerous remarks concerning the fight against terrorism, we note that it is becoming ever more prevalent, the list of its targets is growing ever longer, and it is affecting places that were previously unaccustomed to it. This makes it incumbent upon UNESCO to shoulder its responsibilities within its fields of competence in order to meet this challenge, albeit with innovative methods. Indeed, the efforts to deepen the culture of peace and to strengthen the dialogue among cultures and religions lie at the heart of UNESCO's tasks. It is not sufficient for interaction concerning such matters to remain confined to those who believe in dialogue. Instead, we must go beyond that by seeking to get through to broad sections of society, in particular young people. In this connection, we should recall 31 C/Resolution 39, which launched a call for international cooperation to prevent and eradicate acts of terrorism; it invited the Director-General to take the necessary steps to eradicate terrorism, drawing on UNESCO's character as an intellectual and ethical organization.

(3.3) Mr Chairman, the Medium-Term Strategy, which has only two more years to run, includes a vision of helping to achieve peace and human development. But what objectives have actually been achieved? Has the Organization managed to meet the challenges? How can it carry out the task of reordering its own house, changing the in-house culture, ensuring healthy relations with its sister organizations of the United Nations system, and

most importantly of all, setting guidelines to govern the relations between the three organs of UNESCO?

(3.4) My government supports all the reform efforts aimed at improving the administrative and financial performance and enhancing the role of the Organization. At the same time, it is of the view that this cannot be achieved by reducing the representative base of the Member States, whether in the Board or in the commissions and committees. Rather, what is needed is to preserve the democratic principle, the principle of broad participation while striving to increase the performance and effectiveness of these three organs.

(3.5) With regard to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007, we urge that there should be no reduction in the allocations earmarked for the Arab region in the field of education, so as to enable it to achieve the six EFA goals. We hope there will be support for the Arabia Plan for the development of Arab culture, that activities concerning the dialogue among cultures will be strengthened, and that national studies, research and initiatives relating to the Arabia Plan will be encouraged. Water management projects and projects aimed at increasing water management effectiveness and using innovative methods to develop water management should receive a sufficient share of resources. We believe that efforts should be exerted to speed up the narrowing of the gap between the industrial and the developing countries, particularly in the field of communication and information, before the gap becomes impossible to bridge. In this connection, Jordan is proposing the holding of a conference on the ethics of Internet use with a view to preparing a global charter setting forth the foundations and ethics of publishing on the Internet which is not counter to the freedom of publication and expression of opinion.

(3.6) Mr Chairman, it is beyond doubt that the withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza Strip is a positive step towards the achievement of peace. We hope that the negotiations regarding the other occupied Arab territories will be resumed with a view to reaching a global and just settlement which may put an end to the conflict and help to achieve stability in the region. Until such a peace is achieved, it will be necessary to intensify efforts to preserve the heritage and identity of the City of Jerusalem. It will also remain necessary to follow up the report of the International Committee of Experts and translate their recommendations into a plan of action which can be implemented. We hope that the donor Member States will offer financial support for projects relating to Jerusalem in order to enable the Organization to implement the projects requested of it and protect cultural property in the city. We also support the Director-General's remarks that the preservation of Jerusalem's heritage should not be confined to stones, but should also include the urban and social fabric of the Old City. We urge the Member States to support the Director-General's approach in this regard.

(3.7) Jordan has hosted an International Economic Forum, a Conference of Nobel Laureates, and a Conference of Ministers of Education from the Countries of the G8 and the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative. All these conferences stressed the importance of reforming the education systems in the region, including all types and levels of education, as a matter of top priority; they further stressed that economic development, peace and security all contribute to achieving educational reform, provided that such reform reflects national priorities and the cultural system of the countries of the region.

(3.8) Mr Chairman, allow me, in conclusion, on the eve of the 60th anniversary of UNESCO, to express my government's commitment to the noble aims upon which the Organization was founded, and to supporting all activities which are conducive to

achieving UNESCO's mission. Thank you for your kind attention. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

4.1 Mr EINARSSON (Iceland) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General and members of the Secretariat, fellow representatives on the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, for the sixth – or is it not the eighth – time during the work of this Executive Board, we have the opportunity to reassure the Secretariat and ourselves of our delegations' and our countries' support for the priorities of UNESCO's policies at present: the fight against illiteracy as one of the root causes of poverty and misery, ethical responsibilities in scientific matters, the preservation and promotion of the world's cultural heritage, freedom of expression in all societies, and more equal access to digital modernity. And indeed we will do so a further 58 times at this session, with slight differences in our appreciation of lesser priorities; sometimes, unfortunately, from a more egotistical point of view than our holistic duty towards the Organization actually demands. But now, rather than use up any more of my precious time repeating this – it is incredible how short eight minutes can be – I will dwell on some urgent matters to do with what is facing us not only today, but also in the future.

4.2 Repeatedly we have urged that youth be incorporated into our work, and stressed that a new world of a different kind is emerging in the twenty-first century. We are, some of us at least, middle-aged or more, and wise and experienced, but we have some difficulties with our helping tools – computers and so on. We still read books and want the world to do likewise for the sake of the knowledge society, which is one of our utopian ideas. But the younger generation that, sooner than we think, will succeed us both experiences the world differently and expresses itself differently, due to visual or pictorial literacy. Young minds cannot resist the technological approaches they feel belong to their age, be it multi-channelled television, video recorders, DVDs, mobile phones with all the latest features in picture-taking, interactive facilities and SMS (with the abbreviated language), or the mysteries of playstations, virtual reality, palmtop computers and the Internet. They are at home with it all and think it has been here forever. They do not know another world. And this world has come to stay. So UNESCO has to digitalize. I will make a suggestion, because I do not think it is enough to have a youth forum every second year to imitate our forms and thinking. We should convene a different forum to compose a new programme for UNESCO's visibility in our computerized world. Let the young people come up with new ideas in that respect, hoping that at the same time they share our memory of the world and the renaissance spirit of humankind. I simply suggest we form a division of youngsters to handle some of UNESCO's information and visibility-related programme activities. UNESCO, of course, is not for the chaotic, often oppressive information society. UNESCO is for the knowledge society. What does that imply? Knowledge is a vast and ill-defined concept. Knowledge, for instance, does not only require the intellectual processing we do with the left part of our brain. It also calls for the sensitivity, fantasy and creativity that reside in the other part. I have said it before and I repeat it once again, we are doing outstandingly well in the field of preserving culture and in standard-setting to that end, but we also need sensitivity, fantasy and creativity. Not least if we are to function as a laboratory of ideas. Therefore, the idea of advancing arts education in the school curriculum is most welcome.

4.3 Now a few words about illiteracy and the Dakar goals, the focal point. Many proposals have been made to speed up the urgent process. Let us hope that the discussions at the Ministerial Round Table on Education for All (EFA) at the General Conference, suggested by the Director-General, will be of pivotal importance, especially if they catch the attention of all governments and civil society alike. And special action must be taken vis-à-vis the 36 countries, I think, that currently appear unlikely to attain the Dakar goals by 2015. This is our priority of priorities.

4.4 A few words about cultural rights. What do we mean by this? I have read through the covenants on social, economic, political and cultural rights from the early 1970s, and it has occurred to me that some precious water has run under the bridge since then. UNESCO has distinguished itself by giving the notion of culture broader and more significant meaning in the evolution of societies, for instance through the now famous *Our Creative Diversity* report. Now we have to elaborate further on cultural rights in the light of our efforts in the field of literacy, and our efforts in promoting cultural diversity in a world threatened by commercial conformism. The notion of cultural rights was highlighted at a meeting of Women Ministers of Culture from around the world recently convened by the Icelandic Minister of Culture, Ms Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, in honour of Ms Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador for Languages, and the first woman in the world to be democratically elected Head of State. The meeting resulted in a network that will work for the cultural rights of women.

4.5 Ladies and gentlemen, this will be my last official intervention so to speak in this illustrious circle until the year 2021, as the five Nordic countries are only represented by one member, if I am not with my God or somebody else by then. Allow me, therefore, to conclude on a rather personal note on this occasion. Meeting and becoming acquainted with you has been one of the boons of sitting on this Board. We have shown a great capacity for the tasks of UNESCO, and it has been inspiring to experience your dedication – and this I should also like to extend to Mr Matsuura and his team – I now have several favourites among you. My delegation and I are happy to say that my government is convinced we are on the right track. Although we often feel we are doing so little, it is horrifying to think what would happen if we were not doing our job for our brave little world. UNESCO is needed today more than ever, and I believe in its cause hundred times more than I did when I started working for our Organization 11 years ago. I thank you for your attention, Mr Chairman, and for your personal commitment, and I am grateful for having met you all.

5.1 Ms INAYATULLAH (Pakistan) (Vice-Chairman for Asia and the Pacific group)
in extenso:

Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm. Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Mr Director-General, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific group of Member States, we welcome Singapore's interest in obtaining Permanent Observer status with the Organization. Fully supporting Singapore's initiative, we look forward to their soon being the 192nd Member of UNESCO and to the Organization thereby attaining universality, which is a cherished vision of our mission. I now move on, Mr Chairman, to my intervention. The last session of the Board before a General Conference is stocktaking and wrap-up time. The wrapping up will be done in the Commissions and, in the time available, I shall address two matters with respect to stocktaking: education for all (EFA) and the preliminary draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.

5.2 The Board, as it should, has vigilantly monitored EFA over the past biennium and our scorecard is not too good. The *EFA Global Monitoring Report* reveals that while primary school completion rates have improved globally, many countries remain "off track". Further, after the recent High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York – which had been much hyped and was low on delivery but which, fortunately for UNESCO, recognized the centrality of education for humankind – the second Millennium Development Goal on achieving universal primary education (MDG 2) has assumed even greater priority. The Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality has rightly identified problems with MDG 2, such as the discrepancy between the rhetoric at the political level and the realities at the technical level, the fact that the feasibility of the goals was not established prior to their being adopted by the Heads of State, and the lack of an enforcement mechanism to ensure Heads of State implement the far-reaching goals agreed upon. These problems, we feel, must be addressed through the EFA Joint

Action Plan. In short, let UNESCO not lose the moment. If, as is reported, we are globally off track, fortunately the Joint Action Plan and the Fast-Track Initiative (FTI) agreed to in 2002 can bring MDG 2 back on track. My delegation acknowledges the swift action taken by the Director-General pursuant to the Executive Board decisions taken just a few months ago at its 171st session. The background paper for the EFA Working Group, which also includes an outline of the Joint Action Plan, says the right things. The need now is for an agreed, coherent strategy where Member States do the right thing, and the international stakeholders meet their Dakar commitments.

5.3 This brings me to FTI, which can be viewed as a breakthrough because the Dakar partners forged a sector-wide agreement on supporting locally-driven, national education strategies designed to reduce transaction costs for recipient governments and improve donor coordination. Regrettably, at the recent Paris High-Level Forum II on harmonization, alignment and results for enhanced aid effectiveness, it was voiced by developing countries that the global compact had not delivered on its firm commitments of donor financing while a number of low-income countries had, as required under the compact, come up with credible education plans. Let us recall that the practice of setting goals is like *déjà vu* all over again. The history of goal-setting in education began as far back as 1934, and indeed our results have not been encouraging. It has been a long walk to school. Even today, EFA is shrouded in ambiguity, and yet it represents the world's best chance for making rapid progress in the poorest countries. My question to the Director-General is this: can our Ministers at the forthcoming Ministerial Round Table on EFA during the General Conference be invited, under the Joint Action Plan, to give new life to FTI? And can they agree that UNESCO is acknowledged and accepted not as the general coordinator but as the lead agency for EFA? Finally, it is our request that the Round Table consider the following three issues: first, how to secure the much-needed high-level visible commitment from major donors for the FTI global compact; second, what donor formula, premised on specific national education plans, might provide reliable finances on a long-term basis; and third, what benchmarks in terms of educational impacts, outcomes and governance reform in public expenditure are required to reassure the donors? To achieve MDG 2 by 2015 and to meet the EFA goals, leaders of developing and developed countries have walked the walk. It is now time for them to talk the talk.

5.4 Colleagues, I would now like to move on to the second topic of my statement – the preliminary draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. I do so with a huge round of applause for the many Member States that have laboured on crafting a comprehensive basic text. The very change in the title, which adds the word “promotion” and which has been tightened to read “diversity of cultural expressions”, is the outcome of meticulous drafting and collective wisdom. More important is the applause due to those who bridged the gap in both the conceptual deliberations and the substantive content. The convention comes not a moment too soon because assimilation of otherness appears to have run out of steam, and cultural diversity has become the fault line. This is compounded by the contemporary phenomena of the globalization of extremist Islam and the lionizing of democracy by the predatory appropriation of democratic principles with cultural superiority. There are lessons to be learnt in this regard, and in my circulated text I draw on examples from Lee Kuan Yew and Fareed Zakaria. As a staunch UNESCO believer in the culture of peace, the events of the twenty-first century as they have unfolded in a brief five years are, to say the least, unacceptable. It is a truism that people the world over do not accept oppression. It is also true that culture or religion do not strip them of their basic rights. What does is ignorance and poverty. In societies with strong multi-ethnic and religious groups, the power-brokers appeal to the most basic affiliations of race, religion and ethnicity. This calls for education systems that inculcate tolerance and inclusive thinking. Cultural diversity in a globalizing world needs to serve as a vehicle for creativity and promoting social justice and understanding for world peace and security. This indeed is UNESCO's mandate. It has expertise in the area of cultural diversity, and its universal character requires it to be the repository

of the cultural diversity convention. It is therefore my delegation's expectation that the wide support expressed for the draft convention during its preparatory stages will be reflected in its adoption by Commission IV and by the General Conference. We know that in the name of peace this labour of love spreading over two years must not be lost to divisiveness on the democratic principle of pluralism. Thank you, Sir.

٦,١ السيد النعيمي (البحرين) النص الكامل :

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم. أصحاب السعادة رئيس المؤتمر العام، رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، المدير العام، السادة رؤساء الوفود المحترمون، السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. يسعدني أن أهني سعادة المدير العام على إعادة ترشيحه من قبل المجلس التنفيذي لفترة ثانية، وهذا يؤكد التقدير الكبير لجهوده المثمرة، وكذلك أشكره على تقريره الوافي وعلى طرحه العلمي لواقع العمل في المنظمة وما تحققت من إنجازات وما يواجهها من صعوبات. كما أهني الأخ السفير موسى بن جعفر بن حسن على موافقة المجلس التنفيذي على ترشيحه لرئاسة المؤتمر العام. وأود أن أؤكد أننا نؤيد ما ورد في مشروع البرنامج والميزانية لعامي ٢٠٠٦-٢٠٠٧ من أولويات واستراتيجيات تنطلق في مجملها من الأهداف الإنمائية المتفق عليها دولياً، مما يحتم على اليونسكو الاستمرار في تعزيز مسؤوليتها عن اختصاصاتها الأساسية والاستمرار في مراجعة أدائها بصورة تمكنها من القيام بدورها على أحسن وجه. وهذا ما نأمل أن تتمخض عنه عملية الإصلاح التي يقودها المدير العام.

٦,٢ وهناك أولويات لها خصوصيات تستدعي اهتماماً إضافياً من اليونسكو من بينها المبادرات الأساسية الثلاث التي اقترحها المدير العام في إطار البرنامج الأول وهي مبادرة محو الأمية لتعزيز القدرات (LIFE). ولا بد هنا أن أشيد بقرار حكومة الصين بإنشاء جائزة اليونسكو - كونفوشيوس. ومن بين هذه المبادرات أيضاً مبادرة تدريب المعلمين في أفريقيا جنوب الصحراء الكبرى، والمبادرة العالمية بشأن فيروس الأيدز والتعليم. وتتضمن هذه المبادرات أيضاً تعزيز تعليم العلوم والتكنولوجيا للجميع، وتعزيز التعددية الثقافية والحوار بين الثقافات، وتعزيز العمل في مجال حقوق الإنسان، خاصة المساواة بين الجنسين ومكافحة مختلف أشكال العنصرية والتمييز، والسعي إلى إزالة آثار الحروب والنزاعات. وهنا أود أن أشيد بجهود سعادة المدير العام الرامية إلى مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني والشعب العراقي وشعب أفغانستان وغيرها من الشعوب في مختلف أرجاء العالم.

٦,٣ سعادة الرئيس، إننا نثمن عالياً ما يقوم به سعادة المدير العام من أجل إصلاح المنظمة وتطويرها تطويراً شاملاً مذكراً أنفسنا بأن الشروط اللازمة لرفع الكفاءة وتطوير الأداء تكمن في أن تنطلق كل أعمال اليونسكو ومبادراتها من وضوح الرؤية وارتباط الأنشطة بالأهداف، واختيار الكفاءات الفنية المتميزة. وإننا، ونحن نستعد للاحتفال بالعيد الستين لإنشاء اليونسكو، نتطلع إلى أن تستمر المنظمة في ترسيخ دورها القيادي الفعال، وخاصة في مجال التربية. ونعني "بالدور القيادي" امتلاك القدرة على المبادرة وعلى تقييم النتائج وعلى تصحيح المسار. ونعني "بالتنسيق" التفاعل الإيجابي مع الشركاء في إطار الاستراتيجيات والبرامج المتفق عليها. ولا بد من الإشارة إلى أن سياسة اللامركزية التي تتبعها اليونسكو حالياً قد تكون بحاجة إلى مراجعة على ضوء التحولات الاقتصادية والسياسية، خاصة في آسيا وأفريقيا والمنطقة العربية. ففي مجال التربية مثلاً، هنالك حاجة ماسة إلى برامج جديدة ذات صلة بالواقع، وذات أبعاد عالمية تعالج القضايا التي تواجهها كل وزارات التربية والتعليم بصورة يومية. ومنها على سبيل المثال قضايا التخطيط والإدارة والتقييم وقضايا إعداد وتدريب القوى البشرية، وتطوير المناهج واستخدام التقنيات الحديثة في

التعليم. ونقترح أن يولي المدير العام والمجلس التنفيذي هذا الأمر ما يستحقه من عناية. وقد يرى المجلس التنفيذي ضرورة لإنشاء لجنة تنظر في أمر المكاتب الميدانية أسوة بما تم من دراسة وتقييم لمعاهد اليونسكو، ويكون من مهام هذه اللجنة أيضا النظر في احتياجات المكاتب الميدانية إلى الدعم الفني المطلوب.

٦.٤ إن التعاون بين اليونسكو ومملكة البحرين قد شهد في السنوات الأخيرة تطورا ملحوظا في كل المجالات، خاصة في مجالات التربية والعلوم وتكنولوجيات المعلومات والاتصال، ومن ذلك الاتفاقية التي وقعت في مجال تطوير مناهج التعليم الصناعي، وإنشاء مركز للتميز، والاستفادة من خبراء اليونسكو في العديد من المشاريع التطويرية الحديثة في مملكة البحرين. وإنه ليشرفني أن أفيد مجلسكم الموقر بأن حضرة صاحب الجلالة الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة ملك مملكة البحرين المفدى، حفظه الله، قد وجه بتقديم جائزة باسم اليونسكو للأعمال المتميزة في مجال استخدام تكنولوجيات المعلومات والاتصال في التعليم تقديرا من جلالته للدور الطبيعي الذي تقوم به اليونسكو في هذا الصدد. وذلك أيضا دليل على تقدير جلالته للدول والمؤسسات والأفراد الذين يقومون بمثل هذا العمل الإبداعي. ونحن على ثقة من أن المجلس التنفيذي الموقر سيوافق على إدراج هذه الجائزة المتميزة ضمن جوائز اليونسكو. فهي متميزة لأنه لم يسبق لليونسكو أن قدمت جائزة في هذا المجال، ومتميزة لأنها تقدم في زمن تمسك فيه التكنولوجيا بناصية التطور في عصرنا الحاضر، ومتميزة لأن جلالة الملك هو الذي بادر بطرحها على اليونسكو، وهي تنسجم مع مشروع جلالته المتعلق بمدارس المستقبل المطبق حاليا في مملكة البحرين، وهو المشروع الذي يهدف إلى التحول بالنظام التعليمي من النهج التقليدي إلى التعلم الإلكتروني. ولقد لقي مشروع الجائزة ترحيبا من سعادة المدير العام الذي تفضل بوضعه على جدول أعمال المجلس التنفيذي للدورة الحالية، كما حظي بترحيب سعادة نائب المدير العام ورئيس المجلس التنفيذي عندما أشار إليه في خطابه في الجلسة الختامية للدورة الحادية والسبعين بعد المائة للمجلس التنفيذي. فإننا نقدر لهم جميعا هذا التأييد والاهتمام. لقد ظلت مملكة البحرين على صلة باليونسكو لدراسة هذا الموضوع منذ شهر سبتمبر ٢٠٠٤، وقد رصدت المملكة كل المبالغ اللازمة لهذه الجائزة بما في ذلك تكاليف إدارتها. ونحن على استعداد لإيداع هذه المبالغ لدى اليونسكو حال استلام طلب من اليونسكو بذلك. وإننا نقدر لمجلسكم الموقر دعمه لاقتراح مملكة البحرين باعتماد هذه الجائزة لما لها من أبعاد إنسانية وعلمية بعيدة المدى. وأتمنى لهذه الدورة كل النجاح، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(6.1) Mr AL NOAIMI (Bahrain) *in extenso* (translation from the Arabic):

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Your Excellencies the President of the General Conference, Chairman of the Executive Board, Director-General, esteemed heads of delegation, ladies and gentlemen, peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. I am pleased to congratulate His Excellency the Director-General on his nomination by the Executive Board for a second term of office. This reaffirms our great esteem for his fruitful efforts. I also thank him for his extensive report and for his informative presentation of the work and achievements of the Organization and the difficulties it is encountering. I also congratulate Ambassador Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan on the Executive Board's approval of his nomination for the office of President of the General Conference. I should like to stress that we support the priorities and strategies contained in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007, which are essentially rooted in the internationally agreed development goals. This makes it incumbent on UNESCO to continue to strengthen its responsibility for his fundamental fields of competence and to continue to review its performance in order to be able to perform its role in optimum

fashion. This is what we hope will result from the reform process being led by the Director-General.

(6.2) The specificities of certain priorities necessitate additional attention on the part of UNESCO, including the three core initiatives proposed by the Director-General within the framework of Major Programme I: the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) – and here I must commend the decision of the Chinese Government to establish the UNESCO-Confucius Prize on Literacy –, the Initiative on Teacher Training in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Education, not to mention strengthening science and technology education for all, strengthening cultural pluralism and the dialogue among cultures, strengthening action in the field of human rights, in particular gender equality and combating various forms of racism and discrimination, and seeking to eliminate the impact of wars and conflicts. Here I should like to commend the efforts of the Director-General to help the Palestinian people, the Iraqi people, the people of Afghanistan and other peoples in various parts of the world.

(6.3) Mr Chairman, we highly appreciate the Director-General's efforts to reform and develop the Organization in comprehensive fashion, and recall that the preconditions for building capacity and enhancing performance are that all UNESCO's action and initiatives must be based on a clear vision, with all activities linked to objectives, and proper selection of outstanding technical capacities. As we are preparing to celebrate UNESCO's 60th anniversary, we trust that the Organization will continue to reinforce its active, leading role, particularly in the field of education. By "leading role" we mean the ability to launch initiatives, to assess results and to correct the Organization's course. By "coordination" we mean positive interaction with partners within the framework of the agreed strategies and programmes. It should be noted that the policy of decentralization currently pursued by UNESCO could be in need of revision in the light of economic and social transformations, particularly in Asia, Africa and the Arab region. For instance, in the field of education there is a pressing need for new realistic programmes with global dimensions dealing with issues faced daily by all ministries of education, such as planning, administration and assessment, human resources training, curriculum development, and the use of the new technologies in education. We urge the Director-General to devote all due attention to this matter. The Executive Board may find it necessary to establish a committee to examine the question of the field offices, along the lines of the study and evaluation of the UNESCO institutes; among the tasks of such a committee might be to examine the needs of the field offices with respect to the necessary financial support.

(6.4) Cooperation between UNESCO and Bahrain has undergone considerable development in recent years in all fields, especially education, science and the information and communication technologies, and hence the agreement signed in the field of industrial education curriculum development, the establishment of a centre of excellence, and the use made of UNESCO experts in numerous modern development projects in Bahrain. I am honoured to inform the esteemed Board that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, may God preserve him, has offered to establish a UNESCO prize for outstanding works involving the use of information and communication technologies in education, in recognition of the pioneering role played by UNESCO in that regard, and as an indication of the appreciation of His Majesty for the countries, institutions and individuals involved in that creative endeavour. We are confident that the esteemed Executive Board will agree to endorse this outstanding prize as a UNESCO prize. The proposed prize is outstanding for a number of reasons: UNESCO has not yet offered a prize in this field; the prize is being offered at a time when technology is getting to grips

with development in the modern age; His Majesty the King has offered UNESCO this prize, which is in keeping with His Majesty's Schools of the Future Project currently being implemented in Bahrain – this project is aimed at moving the education system from the conventional system of learning to e-learning. The proposed prize has received the endorsement of the Director-General, who has placed it on the agenda of the Executive Board at its present session. It has also been endorsed by the Deputy Director-General, as well as the Chairman of the Executive Board, who referred to it in his closing address at the 171st session. We are grateful to them all for their support and interest. Bahrain has remained in contact with UNESCO regarding this matter since September 2004, and has earmarked the necessary funds for the prize, including the administrative costs. We are ready to deposit these funds with UNESCO as soon as we receive a request from UNESCO to that effect. We are grateful to the esteemed Board for its support for Bahrain's proposal of this prize in view of its long-term humanitarian and scientific dimensions. I wish this session every success. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

7.1 M. GUEGUINOU (France) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, je voudrais commencer cette intervention par quelques mots à propos du budget de l'Organisation pour 2006-2007. Je ne vous dissimulerai pas qu'aux yeux de mon pays, la solution proposée par le Secrétariat comporte un risque sérieux : celui d'un démembrement progressif de ce budget transformé en budget « à la carte », dans lequel les États membres choisiraient les secteurs, les programmes, voire les bureaux qu'ils accepteraient de financer. Je sais bien que l'extrabudgétaire existe, et qu'il est utile, mais il répond à une logique différente. Ce qui nous est maintenant proposé, c'est le financement d'une partie du budget ordinaire, permettant la mise en œuvre des programmes « classiques », au moyen de contributions volontaires. Même si les raisons qui ont conduit à cette proposition sont compréhensibles, nous estimons que la constitution d'un compte spécial n'est pas un véritable « financement innovant ». En choisissant cette voie, l'Organisation ne tardera pas à perdre en indépendance, en cohérence et en efficacité ce qu'elle aura eu l'illusion de gagner sur le plan des moyens.

7.2 En matière d'instruments normatifs, l'UNESCO a accompli au cours de l'exercice biennal qui s'achève un travail à la fois considérable et utile qui devrait être couronné lors de la prochaine session de la Conférence générale par l'adoption de trois d'entre eux. Je souhaite rendre ici hommage au Secrétariat, qui a su faire face à plusieurs négociations dans un contexte souvent difficile.

7.3 S'agissant du projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles je serai bref, ce qui n'en soulignera que plus la force de ma conviction. Je souscris à la virgule près aux propos tenus à ce sujet par la Présidence britannique de l'Union européenne, comme je souscris d'ailleurs à tous ses propos. Le texte adopté en juin contient une véritable promesse d'épanouissement pour les œuvres de l'esprit dans toute leur richesse et leur variété. Nous sommes convaincus que la communauté internationale saura le reconnaître et que la Conférence générale adoptera ce texte le mois prochain.

7.4 Concernant la Déclaration universelle sur la bioéthique et les droits de l'homme, la France se réjouit que les experts gouvernementaux aient pu parvenir à un accord. Grâce à l'esprit de compromis dont ont fait preuve les délégations et l'opiniâtreté du président du groupe, M. l'Ambassadeur Sader, nous disposons à présent d'un texte satisfaisant. Le moment venu, celui-ci pourra servir de base à l'engagement d'un processus de définition de règles éthiques, rendues indispensables par l'évolution de la biologie et de la génétique.

7.5 Comme le Directeur général lui-même l'a suggéré dans le texte de présentation de sa candidature pour un second mandat, le temps est maintenant venu d'une pause dans le travail normatif de l'UNESCO. Ce travail exige la mobilisation d'une énergie considérable, de la part de l'Organisation et des délégations. Priorité doit être donnée désormais à la mise en œuvre des instruments adoptés et à leur ratification. Cela ne signifie pas que l'UNESCO doive s'abstenir d'étudier tout instrument normatif dans les deux années à venir, mais cela veut dire qu'avant d'entamer un processus elle devra faire preuve d'une particulière vigilance. Rien ne serait plus préjudiciable à l'Organisation que de donner l'impression qu'elle est une instance qui passe une grande partie de son temps à élaborer des textes demeurant lettre morte.

7.6 Cinq ans ont passé depuis le Forum mondial sur l'éducation de Dakar d'avril 2000 au cours duquel la communauté internationale a confié à l'UNESCO le mandat d'assurer le suivi et la coordination des efforts en faveur de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT). De récentes analyses montrent cependant que dans un grand nombre de pays, particulièrement en Afrique subsaharienne, la scolarisation progresse à un rythme tel qu'il ne permettra pas d'atteindre l'enseignement primaire universel en 2015. Il est donc urgent que l'UNESCO occupe toute la place qui lui a été confiée dans le processus. C'est sa priorité pour l'exercice biennal qui va commencer.

7.7 Le défi de l'EPT se situe d'abord au niveau national. Les pays directement concernés doivent être capables de définir et mettre en œuvre des stratégies sectorielles garantissant une utilisation appropriée des ressources tant internes qu'externes. L'UNESCO doit les y aider.

7.8 J'aimerais à présent évoquer deux sujets qui méritent me semble-t-il une attention particulière. Il s'agit tout d'abord de la Convention concernant la protection du patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel. Le Conseil ne peut être indifférent en ce qui la concerne, car elle est devenue l'un des fleurons de l'Organisation. Les dernières sessions du Comité du patrimoine mondial ont révélé pourtant une situation qui devient préoccupante. Avec l'allongement de la liste des biens inscrits surgissent au fil des années des problèmes de conservation croissants, auxquels le Comité n'est plus en mesure de consacrer le temps nécessaire. J'ai la conviction qu'il nous faut revenir à l'objectif premier de cet instrument, qui est de favoriser, par la coopération internationale, la conservation du patrimoine présentant une valeur universelle exceptionnelle. Cet objectif s'est trouvé éclipsé par les attrait – fort compréhensibles au demeurant, et la France elle-même y a cédé – de l'inscription de biens sur la Liste. Les membres actuels ou prochainement élus du Comité auront fort à faire pour rendre la situation plus gérable. Il ne faudra pas craindre de prendre des décisions courageuses, comme rayer de la Liste les biens qui ne répondent plus aux critères de valeur universelle exceptionnelle, ou suspendre pendant un an ou deux toute nouvelle inscription, afin de traiter en profondeur les questions stratégiques que soulève l'avenir de la Convention. En sa qualité d'observateur actif au Comité, mon pays aura à cœur d'apporter son expérience et ses idées à cet exercice.

7.9 Dernière réflexion, plus anecdotique peut-être mais qui révèle que l'Organisation fait parfois preuve d'incohérence. Au vu du rapport qui nous était soumis, le Conseil s'est réjoui en avril de la suppression de onze prix. Or on nous en propose déjà deux nouveaux dans des secteurs déjà pourvus. Les prix sont utiles, mais leur multiplication rend peu claires les priorités de l'UNESCO et surtout accapare le Secrétariat alors que par ailleurs il est contraint de réduire ses effectifs. Il est souhaitable de se concerter sur ce qui existe, de poursuivre la rationalisation et le regroupement et non de créer à chaque session un ou deux prix, quelles que soient les louables intentions des généreux donateurs.

7.10 Notre session est la dernière de l'exercice en cours, et je veux donc saisir l'occasion pour saluer les représentants des États qui vont quitter notre Conseil. Un travail important a été fait dans

cette instance de 2003 à 2005, mais le Conseil sait déjà qu'il aura encore, dans sa prochaine composition, une lourde tâche à accomplir. Je vous remercie.

8.1 Mr AZIZ (Afghanistan) *in extenso*:

Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm. Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, dear colleagues, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I express my deepest sympathy and love to the Government and the good people of the United States of America, particularly to those affected by Hurricane Katrina. I am absolutely sure that the areas affected will soon be shining again with their messages of cultural values which are universal.

8.2 To raise the flags of peace and democracy, I am proud to inform you that the people of Afghanistan have successfully, through a free and democratic election process, elected their representatives, 67 of them women, to the National Assembly. I wish to express my gratitude to our partners for peace and their brave citizens – soldiers of peace I call them – who were engaged in this act of peace and democracy.

8.3 Mr Chairman, on 28 and 29 August 2005, the President and the people of Afghanistan had an honoured guest – His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. In view of the warm, friendly and age-old relationship between our two countries, and due to our shared commitments to the ideals of democracy, peace and security, the great civilization of India has proudly contributed to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Two of the many development projects in particular reflect the spirit, vision and work of UNESCO. First, His Majesty Mohammad Zahir Shah, former King of Afghanistan, laid the foundation stone of the new parliament building of Afghanistan in the presence of Prime Minister Singh and President Karzai. India has already committed \$25 million for the construction of the parliament building. This is a precious gesture of democracy in which India firmly believes. Secondly, as a symbol of the long-standing cooperation between our two countries in education, the 102-year-old Habibia School, after being rebuilt by India, was jointly inaugurated by President Karzai and Prime Minister Singh. His Excellency Prime Minister Singh, during his official visit, also announced 500 university scholarships for Afghan students and 500 short-term fellowships for Afghan men and women. This is a generous and much appreciated contribution on the part of this great country to the human resources development process in our country.

8.4 The programme activities of the Communication and Information Sector receive our utmost support. In the name of the Government of Afghanistan, I wish to express my gratitude to the Director-General and his colleagues for the invaluable assistance UNESCO is providing for the renewal and development of communication and information services in Afghanistan, which are now thriving after four years of growth from level zero. The Constitution of Afghanistan and the Mass Media Law guarantee freedom of expression and thought, and call for pluralistic and independent media. There are now six private and 12 State-run television stations, 32 independent and 18 State-run radio stations, and 350 independent and State-run magazines and newspapers published regularly in Afghanistan. The recent establishment of Afghanistan's Independent Radio and Television Commission is another step towards independent and pluralistic media in Afghanistan. To formulate mass-media objectives, policy and short-, medium- and long-term strategies for the development of communication and information services, my proposal on the establishment of an Ad-Hoc Independent High Commission of Communication and Information for Afghanistan, with which the Director-General has kindly associated himself, has been approved by President Karzai. This 15-member independent commission, composed mostly of independent journalists and intellectuals, writers and legal experts, will work closely with the Communication and Information Sector to accomplish its tasks. Mr Director-General, in the name of the Government of Afghanistan, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to you for this wonderful new joint initiative that we have taken, and for your personal commitment to and assistance in the

accomplishment, I hope, of another important task. I also wish to thank my friends in the Communication and Information Sector for their kindness and the sincere, professional manner in which they are helping us.

8.5 Mr Chairman, to protect our cultural objects and properties, and to cooperate with you and with other Member States of UNESCO, the Afghan Government has decided to accept the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. And I would like to inform you that we have also deposited with the Director-General our instrument of acceptance of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects. My government is supporting the approval by all 191 Member States of UNESCO of the preliminary draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. To reach a common understanding on the matter for a text that is acceptable to all, compromises and serious negotiations in the calmest manner possible, without any cultural agitation, are an absolute must.

8.6 This is an important year for our Organization as we are celebrating its 60th anniversary. We are very much committed, at both the national and international levels, to UNESCO's 60th anniversary because we in Afghanistan have faith in the spirit of its Constitution and its mission, whose aim is to enhance the dignity of humankind. Mr Director-General, let me assure you that we shall be with you in the most active manner possible during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of our Organization at the General Conference and beyond. My government shall help and trust one of Asia's most distinguished sons to whom we pledge to remain at service of peace and human development. I thank you all for your attention.

٩,١ السيدة بناني (المغرب) النص الكامل :

السيد رئيس المجلس، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، زملائي الأعزاء، سيدي المدير العام، يسعدني في البداية أن أهنئكم على عرضكم القيم والواضح الذي تناولتم فيه النقاط الأساسية المطروحة على بساط النقاش خلال هذه الجلسة.

٩,٢ إن هذه الدورة هي الدورة الخاصة بتقييم حصيلة الأعمال المنجزة خلال السنتين الماضيتين وهي كذلك دورة تعنى بوضع اللمسات الأخيرة على مقترحات البرنامج والميزانية لفترة العامين المقبلة وكذلك على الوثائق والمشاريع التي سنقدمها إلى المؤتمر العام. إنها إذن دورة تشكل مرحلة حاسمة في روزنامة المنظمة.

٩,٣ وفي نطاق التربية، فإن التربية للجميع تبقى العملية الأساسية، وإن الوثائق تشير إلى صعوبة تحديد النتائج المحرزة خلال فترة السنتين. إن هذه الصعوبة حقيقية غير أن الإدارة القائمة على النتائج تعد شيئاً حتمياً لا مناص منه إذا أردنا أن يكون لعملنا في المستقبل نصيب من الإيجابية. وإن اجتماع المائدة المستديرة المقبل لوزراء التربية سيتيح لنا فرصة متابعة تبادل الرأي في هذا الموضوع، وتقييم الواقع، وتحديد استراتيجية أكثر نجاعة والوسائل اللازمة لتحقيق التقدم المنشود. إن الجانب الكمي للتربية للجميع ينبغي أن لا يجعلنا نغفل متطلبات التربية الجيدة ولا ضرورة إيلاء كل العناية اللازمة إلى جميع مستويات التربية والتكوين.

٩,٤ أما فيما يخص البرنامج الرئيسي الثاني، فإن مسألة الماء تتحتم علينا يوما بعد يوم. وأضحت منظمنا تمتلك خبرة كبيرة في هذا المجال، غير أن التحولات المناخية الأخيرة التي شهدتها العالم، والتي نبقى عاجزين تجاهها في غالب الأحيان، تحثنا على تقوية البرامج والأعمال الخاصة بهذا القطاع.

٩,٥ وفيما يتعلق بالبرنامج الرئيسي الثالث، ففي عالم يشهد تحولات واضطرابات متعددة ويواجه تحديات جديدة، تتزايد أهمية الدور المنوط باليونسكو بصفتها المؤسسة الثقافية لمنظومة الأمم المتحدة ومنتدى للأفكار. وإن الدراسات المستقبلية والتحليلات التي يجب أن يقوم بها قطاع العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية بشأن خصوصيات عالمنا الحالي تعد ضرورة لدى وضع برامج أعمالنا، وتتجلى بذلك أهمية هذا الجانب من تخصصات المنظمة بالنسبة لمستقبلها مباشرة ومستقبل البشرية جمعاء.

(9.1) Ms BENNANI (Morocco) *in extenso* (translation from the Arabic):

Mr Chairman of the Board, Mr President of the General Conference, dear colleagues, Mr Director-General, I am pleased to begin by congratulating you on your valuable and clear presentation, in which you dealt with the main points up for discussion at this session.

(9.2) This session will be devoted to assessing the work accomplished over the past biennium and to putting the finishing touches to the Draft Programme and Budget for the forthcoming biennium and to the documents and drafts we will be submitting to the General Conference. It thus constitutes a decisive phase in the Organization's calendar.

(9.3) Within the field of education, education for all (EFA) remains the prime activity. The documents refer to the difficulty of determining the results achieved over the biennium. This difficulty is a real one; however, results-based management is essential and inevitable if we want our work in future to have some positive value. The Round Table of Ministers of Education will afford us an opportunity to continue to exchange views on the subject, to assess the situation, to devise a more effective strategy and identify the means necessary to make progress. The quantitative aspect of EFA must not let us lose sight of the requirements of quality education or of the need to devote maximum attention to all levels of education and training.

(9.4) With regard to Major Programme II, the issue of water is becoming increasingly urgent by the day. The Organization has acquired considerable expertise in this field, but the recent climate changes affecting the world, which we are for the most part powerless to do anything about, prompt us to strengthen the programmes and activities relating to this area.

(9.5) Concerning Major Programme III, in a world undergoing numerous forms of transformation and disruption and facing new challenges, UNESCO has an increasingly important role to play as the cultural organization of the United Nations system and a forum for ideas. The forward-looking studies and analyses to be undertaken by the Human and Social Sciences Sector regarding the specificities of today's world will be necessary when drawing up our programme of work, and this points to the importance of this aspect of the Organization's competence for its own future and the future of all humankind.

(L'oratrice poursuit en français)

9.6 Avec le grand programme IV, nous aborderons la face la plus visible de l'UNESCO. Les objectifs stratégiques adoptés permettent au Secteur de la culture de mener des activités en faveur

du patrimoine sous toutes ses formes, de la diversité culturelle et du dialogue interculturel. Ma délégation voudrait le féliciter pour les efforts déployés et l'encourager à intensifier son action en faveur de l'Afghanistan, de l'Iraq et de la Palestine, notamment pour garantir le respect et la préservation du patrimoine culturel de la vieille ville de Jérusalem.

9.7 Dans le cadre du grand programme V, l'accent est mis sur la contribution des technologies de l'information et de la communication à la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et sur la concrétisation du concept de sociétés du savoir. À ce propos, nous nous réjouissons que le rapport mondial sur ce thème soit enfin finalisé et espérons qu'il sera publié à temps pour nourrir la réflexion lors du Sommet de Tunis.

9.8 En ce qui concerne les thèmes transversaux, la lutte contre la pauvreté reste une préoccupation majeure de par le monde. De grands efforts sont déployés à cette fin, mais sans véritable succès, il faut le dire. Mon pays vient de lancer, conformément à la philosophie et aux Objectifs du Millénaire, un projet ambitieux, baptisé « Initiative nationale pour le développement humain », pour lequel il compte sur l'appui de l'UNESCO. Cette initiative, qui « procède d'une vision globale, place l'Homme au cœur du processus de développement, l'associant tant à la conception des projets qu'à leur mise en œuvre ». Elle est « destinée à soustraire les populations défavorisées, notamment les jeunes, à la pauvreté, à l'analphabétisme et au chômage et à leur permettre de mener une vie digne ».

9.9 Ma délégation a par ailleurs salué en son temps la Stratégie régionale pour l'Afrique (2002-2007), et son soutien au NEPAD. À ce propos, nous ne saurions insister suffisamment sur le fait que ni le politique à lui seul, ni l'économique à lui seul, ni les deux réunis, ne peuvent apporter des réponses efficaces aux grands problèmes de l'humanité. Le culturel, en revanche, peut y contribuer amplement. C'est là le sens du message adressé par le Roi du Maroc au colloque sur le thème « L'Afrique demain » qui a été organisé cet été au Maroc : les objectifs de développement pour l'Afrique ne peuvent être réalisés qu'en faisant de la culture et de l'ensemble des supports institutionnels et médiatiques qui la sous-tendent la véritable locomotive des chantiers économiques, politiques et sociaux.

9.10 S'agissant de la mission normative de l'UNESCO, celle-ci s'en est amplement acquittée dans les domaines de la bioéthique, du dopage dans le sport et de la diversité des contenus culturels et des expressions artistiques, et mon pays espère vivement que le projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de cette diversité obtiendra l'approbation attendue de la Conférence générale.

(The speaker continued in Spanish)

9.11 Señor Director General, en el Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2006-2007 Revisado (33 C/5 Rev.) usted ha logrado mantener, conforme a la recomendación del Consejo Ejecutivo, un presupuesto de crecimiento nominal cero. Por supuesto, ello no se hizo sin nuevos recortes en los programas, que no dejan de preocupar a mi delegación por sus consecuencias, pues requieren en realidad un planteamiento nuevo de nuestros objetivos y prioridades, y por la situación de dependencia de los fondos extrapresupuestarios en la que colocan a la Organización.

9.12 Concluyo mi intervención refiriéndome al diálogo entre civilizaciones. La Organización ha dedicado muchos encuentros y varias reflexiones al particular. El encuentro de Rabat de junio pasado señala un hito importante en el tratamiento del tema, ya que dio lugar a una serie de propuestas para actividades concretas y pragmáticas comunes. Aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterar mis felicitaciones a la Oficina de Planificación Estratégica (BSP), que dirigió el encuentro. No obstante, en el documento 33 C/5 Rev. no parecen haberse previsto los medios financieros para

aplicar las recomendaciones del Compromiso de Rabat. También en relación con el diálogo de culturas, nos ha sorprendido saber que el proyecto de alianza entre civilizaciones propugnado por España ha sido confiado a las Naciones Unidas y no a la UNESCO. El Secretario General acaba de constituir un grupo de alto nivel encargado, y cito: “de reflexionar sobre las medidas prácticas que hay que oponer en el dominio cultural a la amenaza global del terrorismo”. Sin embargo, la UNESCO no forma ni siquiera parte del grupo de alto nivel.

9.13 Después de la reforma administrativa que usted ha llevado a cabo con determinación, creo que resulta urgente que ese proceso deje patente a ojos de todos la visión que tiene de su porvenir ante las nuevas realidades del mundo. Es éste por lo demás un reto del sistema de las Naciones Unidas en su conjunto. Para concluir, quisiera felicitar encarecidamente al Sr. Mussa Ibn Jaafar y al Sr. Koichiro Matsuura por la confianza que el Consejo Ejecutivo ha depositado en ellos.

(The speaker continued in Spanish – translation from the Spanish)

(9.11) Mr Director-General, in the Revised Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5 Rev.) you have managed to maintain a budget of zero nominal growth, in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Board. Of course, this was not achieved without further programme cuts, which are giving rise to concern in my delegation in view of their consequences – since they require, in fact, a reassessment of our objectives and priorities – and in view of the subsequent reliance of the Organization on extrabudgetary funds.

(9.12) I should like to conclude my statement by turning to the dialogue among civilizations. The Organization has held many meetings and organized several studies on this particular subject. The Rabat meeting held last June represents a significant step forward in addressing the issue, since it gave rise to a series of proposals for jointly-organized concrete and practical activities. I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate, once again, the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), which conducted the meeting. Nevertheless, the revised draft 33 C/5 document does not appear to contain financial provisions for the implementation of the recommendations of the Rabat Commitment. Furthermore, with regard to the dialogue among cultures, we were surprised to learn that the project for an Alliance of Civilizations advocated by Spain has been entrusted to the United Nations, rather than to UNESCO. The Secretary-General has just set up a High-Level Group “to reflect on the practical measures to counter in the field of culture the global threat of terrorism”. However, UNESCO does not even form part of the High-Level Group.

(9.13) Following the administrative reform which you have carried out with determination, I believe that there is an urgent need for this process to make clear to everyone your vision for the future in the light of the new global realities. Moreover, this is a challenge for the United Nations as a whole. To conclude, I should like to warmly congratulate Mr Musa bin Jafar bin Hassan and Mr Koichiro Matsuura for the confidence placed in them by the Executive Board.

10.1 El Sr. DAYRELL DE LIMA (Brasil) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señor Director General, señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, caros colegas, señoras y señores: empiezo por hablar como vocero del Grupo regional que represento gracias a los dos minutos cedidos por dos delegaciones. El GRULAC, que ha manifestado siempre su preferencia por un presupuesto de 610 millones de dólares para 2006-2007, estima que el Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2006-2007 Revisado (33 C/5 Rev.) presentado por el Director General es coherente con esa posición y con la Decisión

171 EX/20 del Consejo Ejecutivo, al contemplar una base de 610 millones de dólares, con 25 millones adicionales de recursos extrapresupuestarios para la ejecución de actividades prioritarias.

10.2 El GRULAC respalda el Anteproyecto de convención sobre la protección y promoción de la diversidad de las expresiones culturales aprobado en la tercera sesión de la reunión intergubernamental de expertos, y confía en que dicho texto sea aprobado durante la 33ª reunión de la Conferencia General. Del mismo modo, el GRULAC expresa su satisfacción por la aprobación del Proyecto de Declaración Universal sobre Bioética y Derechos Humanos al cabo de la segunda sesión de la reunión intergubernamental de expertos, y espera que la Conferencia General la apruebe en su 33ª reunión. Los países del GRULAC, que han participado con interés en el proceso de elaboración del proyecto de Convención Internacional contra el Dopaje en el Deporte, confían en que durante la próxima Conferencia General puedan resolverse los temas pendientes de manera que no se vea afectado el financiamiento de otras áreas de acción prioritarias para la UNESCO.

(10.1) Mr DAYRELL DE LIMA (Brazil) *in extenso* (translation from the Spanish):

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen: I should like to begin by speaking on behalf of the regional group I am representing, using the two minutes granted to me by two delegations. The Latin America and the Caribbean group (GRULAC), which has always expressed its preference for a \$610 million budget for 2006-2007, considers that the Revised Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5 Rev.) presented by the Director-General is consistent with this position and with 171 EX/Decision 20 of the Executive Board in envisaging a baseline of \$610 million, with an additional \$25 million of extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of priority activities.

(10.2) GRULAC supports the preliminary draft convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions approved at the third session of the intergovernmental meeting of experts, and is confident that this text will be adopted at the 33rd session of the General Conference. In the same way, GRULAC welcomes the approval of the Draft Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights at the end of the second session of the intergovernmental meeting of experts, and hopes that the General Conference will approve it at its 33rd session. The GRULAC countries, which participated with interest in the process of drawing up the draft international convention against doping in sport, are confident that the questions still pending can be resolved at the next session of the General Conference so that the funding of other UNESCO priority action areas is not affected.

(L'orateur poursuit en français)

10.3 Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi à présent de souligner sept points de l'ordre du jour de la présente session qui sont prioritaires pour le Brésil. Tout d'abord, nous venons d'engager avec succès le processus de l'élection du Directeur général. Le Brésil insiste pour qu'il soit fondé sur une transparence totale, le but étant la clarté des orientations futures de cette Organisation, et non la prise en otage du Secrétariat ou de son représentant principal (nous connaissons déjà ce scénario).

10.4 Nous devons transmettre à la Conférence générale les projets de texte de trois importants instruments internationaux. De dures négociations internationales, très poussées, au niveau intergouvernemental adéquat ont eu lieu au cours de ces deux dernières années, aboutissant à une myriade de compromis et d'engagements importants qui ne doivent pas être remis en cause ou modifiés par des manœuvres de dernière heure et dans l'intérêt exclusif d'une très petite minorité.

10.5 La Conférence générale devra, en particulier, approuver un projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, convention en fonction de laquelle les pays pourront, en toute légitimité, élaborer leurs propres politiques culturelles conséquentes. Il n'est pas question, pour le Brésil, de faire marche arrière dans ce domaine. Le Brésil se prononce vivement contre l'éventuel sabotage de ce projet de convention et soutient fermement toute mesure propre à enrayer une action ou une attitude dilatoire en la matière.

10.6 Au cours de la négociation du projet de déclaration universelle sur la bioéthique et les droits de l'homme, instrument pionnier auquel nous concourons sans réserve, le Brésil a insisté, avec succès, sur la nécessité de mettre en place des garde-fous en ce qui concerne l'activité des technosciences de la vie, en prenant en compte aussi les aspects liés à leurs incidences sociales - dans le cadre d'une véritable éthique de la responsabilité.

10.7 À sa présente session, le Conseil exécutif se prononcera également sur l'opportunité de l'élaboration d'une déclaration internationale sur l'éthique dans la science, dont nous appuyons par conséquent l'initiative. Il sera question, de même, de la participation de l'UNESCO au Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information de Tunis, dont le rôle dans l'établissement d'une société mondiale du savoir – équanime et multiculturelle – est essentielle, à la lumière des principes fondamentaux énoncés dans cette enceinte.

10.8 Nous nous pencherons sur l'importance du Programme international relatif aux sciences fondamentales (PISF), au sujet duquel le Brésil estime opportun d'établir un mécanisme de suivi à la hauteur de l'importance de cet effort de coopération scientifique internationale. Le Brésil espère aussi obtenir l'avis favorable de ce Conseil sur notre requête d'association de l'Institut de mathématiques pures et appliquées à l'UNESCO, objet d'une étude de faisabilité présentée par le Secrétariat.

10.9 Il est clair que les politiques budgétaires et institutionnelles de notre Organisation doivent s'adapter aux nouvelles réalités du monde contemporain, lesquelles incluent des restrictions budgétaires. Le Brésil défend la thèse de la nécessité d'une croissance nominale zéro du budget. Mais nous considérons aussi, Monsieur le Directeur général, que les restrictions budgétaires ne doivent pas induire l'affaiblissement ou la détérioration de la mission originale et du caractère spécifique de l'UNESCO, en tant qu'organisation multilatérale.

10.10 L'UNESCO jouira d'une visibilité d'autant plus grande que ses directives transformatrices adhéreront aux réalités concrètes du terrain. Dans ce prisme, la politique de décentralisation qui se poursuit apparaît fertile et prometteuse.

(The speaker continued in English)

10.11 Mr Chairman, allow me to continue and conclude with a plea for the future of this Organization, a plea that can only be impassioned, as it comes from Brazil, one of its founding Members. UNESCO's job is to combine diversity with basic common understanding – and it seems to me that this is our main working ingredient today if we want to look forward to a better future for humankind. But it seems that we are moving further and further away from this goal in this early twenty-first century, because of political solipsism. UNESCO has always recognized the essential pluralism of an international society. Why should we falter just now? Do we want this Organization to be just a mediocre ancillary arm of the United Nations system – in some specialized niche, under the control of a few countries and frantically struggling for some catchy, concurrent and palliative *ex post facto* role in the wake of the wars and disasters that are inevitably going to come – or do we feel that UNESCO, from the start, has never been like the others, and has been given a *sui generis* mission? Should we now reinterpret this mission? Is there, or has there ever been, any other

international organization dedicated to transforming the world positively through forceful ideas, harnessing to that effect the power of education, science, culture or communication? Should we relinquish this privilege? UNESCO is ultimately about imagination, not about some shopkeeper's cost-benefit evaluation or trying to emulate a desperate carpetbagger. It is about forceful ideas that spur effective action in the international sphere. It is therefore about recognizing the transformative power of knowledge for the good. But it is certainly not about creeds or dogmas, even economic ones; let alone trade, cheap expediences of market domination, public relations or some spin-doctor syndrome. It is about the clarity of reason and the power of the word – and it was created expressly to end the nefariousness of ideological behaviour, and the totalitarian intoxication of the mind. The past and future successes of this Organization actually have stemmed – or will stem – from the fact that it has a unique and profoundly modern mission: to change humanity – as a whole – for the better, mainly through reason and, hence, intimate persuasion. Should we reverse this purpose just now, in these times of collective madness? The point is not that we here should forever and pretentiously strive – like Sisyphus – to impose collective moral principles, illumination or idealism upon governments and the international system in order to curtail power politics, but that the bottom line of this forum has always been to resist intellectual bullying or the unilateral control of ideas, and this is intrinsically good. UNESCO – because of this – has managed to spread effectively some of the most progressive and achievable common insights and endeavours that have spurred really positive moves in international society for 60 long years. If UNESCO had not existed, would the change in attitudes we now observe regarding the unassailable importance of education, the absurdity of racism or the foolishness of natural and cultural heritage degradation ever have led to those issues figuring on today's international political agenda? The articulation and spread of forceful collective ideas cannot be left only in the powerful hands of the very few, or consigned to some purely utilitarian machine of communication: that is to say, when push comes to shove, to remain nothing but the end result of the powerful propaganda that individual governments, faiths or markets use, through mass culture, to influence people. I will not recall here all of UNESCO's historic achievements, but we can all see that it has obviously and ultimately been able to erode a fair amount of the crust of ignorance and its adverse consequences throughout the world. This explains Brazil's deep commitment to UNESCO since its inception – in which we were intimately involved – precisely because we saw then and still see this Organization as a necessary, high-minded, pluralistic and multilateral bulwark in harsh utilitarian and materialistic times. How can we now forsake it, I ask you? Thank you.

11.1 M. LÊ (Viet Nam) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants au Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO s'apprête à fêter son soixantième anniversaire et à réélire son Directeur général pour un second mandat. C'est sous ces heureux auspices que je voudrais faire part de mes observations concernant les points 3, 4 et 21 de l'ordre du jour.

11.2 J'ai pris connaissance du Projet de programme et de budget révisé (33 C/5 Rev.), qui répond parfaitement aux demandes du Conseil exécutif. Je voudrais exprimer ma haute appréciation au Directeur général pour le maintien des domaines de programme prioritaires, l'Éducation pour tous (EPT), notamment la promotion d'une éducation de qualité pour tous, la prévention et l'atténuation des risques de catastrophes naturelles, le développement des capacités pour le patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel, et le renforcement des activités au niveau des pays.

11.3 L'éducation est le programme prioritaire de l'Organisation, et l'Éducation pour tous (EPT) l'enjeu principal des efforts pour atteindre les objectifs de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation, les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et ceux de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation en vue du développement durable (DEDD). Nous nous félicitons

des efforts faits par l'UNESCO en vue de mieux cibler son action et remplir ainsi son rôle de coordonnatrice de l'action internationale. L'élaboration du Projet de plan international de mise en œuvre de la DEDD et du projet de contribution de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre de cette décennie est à cet égard un grand pas en avant.

11.4 Nous sommes heureux de vous informer que le Viet Nam a approuvé son Plan d'action national de l'EPT pour 2003-2015. La consolidation des résultats obtenus en l'an 2000 pour l'alphabétisation et l'éducation primaire universelle sera réalisée de pair avec les objectifs d'égalité sociale dans l'éducation en vue d'atteindre l'éducation secondaire universelle en 2010. Nous avons également incorporé dans cette stratégie la promotion des centres d'apprentissage communautaires avec un statut d'établissements officiels d'éducation non formelle chargés d'assurer l'alphabétisation et la formation permanente, ce en vue d'encourager un vaste mouvement vers la société du savoir. Ce Plan d'action national va de pair avec le lancement de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation en vue du développement durable pour laquelle nous sommes en train de mettre sur pied un comité national en vue de mobiliser et de coordonner tous les efforts.

11.5 L'année dernière, la communauté internationale dans son ensemble a été secouée par l'ampleur de la tragédie causée par le tsunami qui s'est abattu en Asie. Tout récemment, c'est la Louisiane et la Nouvelle-Orléans que le cyclone Katrina a frappées, apportant deuils, souffrances et pertes. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour exprimer toute notre sympathie et nos condoléances à la population de la Louisiane, aux victimes, à leurs familles ainsi qu'au Gouvernement des États-Unis. La multiplication de ces catastrophes naturelles demande de la part de la communauté scientifique dans le monde une réponse urgente. L'UNESCO a su répondre à temps en s'attelant activement à l'établissement d'un système mondial d'alerte aux tsunamis, en renforçant sa coopération avec le Système mondial des systèmes d'observation de la Terre (GEOSS), et en recommandant la création d'un Centre international sur les risques liés à l'eau et leur gestion (ICHARM).

11.6 Je voudrais aussi mentionner le Programme international relatif aux sciences fondamentales (PISF), nouveau programme créé dans le 33 C/5 sur la base des propositions concrètes faites par les commissions nationales et retenues par le Conseil scientifique du PISF. Nous saluons cette initiative phare qui, pour la première fois, a été édiflée à partir des besoins concrets et des propositions des États membres de l'UNESCO.

11.7 Le peuple vietnamien est très attaché à son patrimoine, héritage de ses ancêtres. Cet attachement va au-delà de la protection des sites culturels et naturels ; il nous incite aussi à la sauvegarde du patrimoine immatériel, à la sensibilisation et au respect des valeurs éthiques et humaines inhérentes à ce patrimoine. Il nous semble en effet de plus en plus urgent de sensibiliser les jeunes générations et de leur transmettre cet attachement et cette sensibilité afin qu'elles sachent éviter les désastres que peuvent causer la famine, la guerre, les catastrophes écologiques ou la perte de la dignité. Nous encourageons vivement l'UNESCO à aider ses États membres à introduire l'éducation au patrimoine à l'école.

11.8 Dans cet esprit, je suis très heureux de vous informer que le Viet Nam compte parmi les 30 premiers pays qui ont ratifié la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel.

11.9 Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, je me réjouis des excellents résultats obtenus dans la préparation de trois instruments normatifs majeurs – à savoir la Convention internationale contre le dopage dans le sport, la Déclaration relative à des normes universelles en matière de bioéthique et la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions

culturelles. Nous espérons que ces instruments seront adoptés par la Conférence générale à sa prochaine session.

11.10 Monsieur le Directeur général, face aux nouvelles menaces qui pèsent sur la paix et le développement, le mandat de l'UNESCO – élever les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes - est plus pertinent que jamais. Nous sommes convaincus que, sous votre direction, l'UNESCO, plus à l'écoute de ses États membres, a jeté les bases d'une action efficace. Aussi, comme tous les membres du groupe Asie-Pacifique, nous sommes fiers de votre candidature au poste de directeur général et nous nous réjouissons de vous voir à la tête de l'Organisation pour un second mandat afin que vous puissiez mener à bien cette tâche. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Mr Salama took the Chair.

12.1 Mr KUSI-ACHAMPONG (Ghana) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the Ghana Delegation wishes to join the Distinguished Delegates who have spoken earlier in congratulating the Chairman of the Executive Board for his thought-provoking opening statement. We are indeed very happy to note that in the two years in which he has led the Executive Board in its deliberations, remarkable achievements have been made in the Board's decision-making. We also wish to commend the Director-General for the very comprehensive report he has presented on the execution of programmes and activities approved by the General Conference at its 32nd session, especially the enlightening information he has given on the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Board in regard to the implementation of the programmes and activities. Mr Director-General, your nomination for a second term yesterday was therefore in recognition of your professional and administrative experience leading to appreciable improvements in performance. Mr Chairman, notwithstanding what has been said, Ghana would like to comment on some of the issues raised in the Director-General's report and in the information on the Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 as carefully analysed in documents 172 EX/INF.5, 172 EX/INF.6 and 172 EX/4.

12.2 In regard to the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition (2004), Ghana is happy to have been included among the four countries that hosted events simultaneously. It helped expose this cruel trade as a blot on the conscience of humanity. It is our prayer that never again should humanity mete out such cruelty on fellow beings.

12.3 Mr Chairman, Ghana is pleased that UNESCO has initiated a number of important case studies, as highlighted in the report. Particular reference is made to studies involving Ghana and other African countries. Regarding 171 EX/Decision 64 on greater cooperation between National Commissions and UNESCO field offices, it is the hope of the Ghana delegation that in the years ahead, the National Commissions in the respective countries where the studies were conducted will be directly involved. This is the only way for the outcome of the studies to benefit the people at the grass-roots level, and to further uphold the principle of decentralization.

12.4 Mr Chairman, Ghana notes with satisfaction the efforts being made with respect to the reform process. We commend the Director-General for the attempts to bridge the gap regarding the progress of programmes and activities in relation to established posts. The rotation policy in particular is noted to have introduced mandatory rotation for newly recruited staff from Headquarters to field offices and vice-versa. Ghana urges the Director-General not to relent in his efforts towards the reform process aimed at making the Organization perform better.

12.5 Regarding education for all (EFA), Ghana appreciates that in the next biennium UNESCO plans to pay greater attention to its coordinating and monitoring role, which will ensure that

countries are on course towards achieving the EFA goals. The Government of Ghana equally appreciates UNESCO's determination to help countries in sub-Saharan Africa produce and retain quality teachers. In this respect, the strengthening of the International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) in Addis Ababa, as mentioned earlier by the Vice-Chairman for the Africa group, cannot be overemphasized.

12.6 As for the ethics of science and technology, action in this area is based on the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights. We therefore endorse efforts being made by UNESCO to set up a Global Ethics Observatory database that would enable us to have access to the relevant information and to disseminate it to the public.

12.7 With respect to international migration and social integration, recent geopolitical developments in the West African subregion, for instance, have led to the migration of large numbers of refugees into Ghana, specifically from neighbouring countries and even from the far-off Darfur region of Sudan. This is in addition to the previous waves from Liberia and Sierra Leone. The consequences of such large inflows into a single country requires evidence-based policies to manage the phenomenon and lessen the long-term effect on the host country. Ghana is therefore taking a fresh step towards conducting a scientific study in order to comprehend the ongoing refugee problem and provide reliable evidence to back a crisis-response system that is consistent with best practices in international migration management. It is our hope that UNESCO will lend the necessary support for the study, and also contribute to a solution of the refugee problem in the subregion.

12.8 Regarding museums and the protection of cultural diversity, we are pleased with the Culture Sector's programme on endangered moveable cultural properties. The museums of today play many roles as centres of culture, knowledge and education. The programme on capacity-building in museum management in this era of ICTs is encouraging and we hope that Ghana will have the privilege of participating in it.

12.9 As for empowering people through access to information and knowledge, Ghana supports UNESCO's concept of infostructures operating through libraries, archives and community learning centres or the Ghanaian equivalent, the community information centres. We believe such goals can be met through human and institutional capacity-building. Apart from that, we also strongly support participation in the area of the creation of knowledge societies. We urge UNESCO to note the digital divide and to strengthen its programmes on the multipurpose community centres that will help rural areas become part of the information society.

12.10 With respect to the budget ceiling, Mr Chairman, the Director-General in his report has provided a response to our appeal to him to explore and identify new and creative methods for the additional \$25 million to strengthen principal programme priorities including the Teacher Training Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa which he has presented under four thematic areas.

12.11 Mr Chairman, UNESCO needs to be productive and effective in order to grow beyond the 60 years, and to have a clear view of its mandate in the years ahead within the United Nations system. This, Mr Chairman, Ghana sees as a big challenge to all the Member States of the Organization. Thank you.

13.1 M. BOUGHABA (Algérie) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, la délégation algérienne essaiera d'être très brève pour dire, en ce soixantième anniversaire de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et de l'UNESCO qu'il faut peut-être s'arrêter sur un certain nombre d'évolutions que nous constatons et

qui montrent que notre Organisation, l'UNESCO, a gagné en universalité, en légitimité, en crédibilité et en solidarité du fait du consensus qui se dégage de plus en plus autour de son action. Je crois qu'il faut s'en féliciter.

13.2 Je voudrais, avant d'aborder les questions concrètes, saluer la volonté du Directeur général de l'UNESCO de poursuivre son appui au peuple palestinien dans la construction et le renforcement de ses institutions à un moment où celui-ci traverse une nouvelle fois une phase cruciale pour son devenir. À ce propos, mon pays salue l'appel lancé hier devant le Conseil par notre Directeur général, M. Koïchiro Matsuura, en faveur de la préservation du patrimoine naturel et culturel de la vieille ville de Jérusalem. Nous adhérons à une telle démarche car elle est nécessaire et nous insistons sur la nécessité de l'appuyer fortement car elle s'inscrit dans le cadre des efforts consentis par la communauté internationale pour l'établissement d'une culture de dialogue – et d'un dialogue pour la paix – dans cette région névralgique du Moyen-Orient. Cela ne peut que renforcer le rôle international de notre Organisation, sa légitimité, sa crédibilité et surtout les principes de solidarité qui sont à la base de son action.

13.3 Monsieur le Président, mon pays, qui a participé aux travaux d'élaboration d'un nouvel instrument juridique sur la protection de la diversité des contenus culturels et des expressions artistiques, forme le vœu que ce texte soit adopté à la prochaine session de la Conférence générale. À l'instar des nombreux États membres qui se sont exprimés en faveur de cette convention, mon pays est convaincu qu'un tel maillon viendra renforcer le réseau normatif visant à rationaliser et optimiser l'action cohérente de l'UNESCO.

13.4 Nous souhaitons, par ailleurs, que la ratification en cours de la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel, déjà effectuée par 20 pays, puisse aboutir rapidement à l'entrée en vigueur de cet instrument. À ce propos, nous saluons l'initiative prise en vue de la création d'un centre régional pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel à Cuzco, au Pérou, et nous faisons part de l'intérêt de l'Algérie pour l'accueil d'une institution analogue.

13.5 J'exprime aussi le soutien de mon pays à l'action normative réalisée dans le domaine urgent et prioritaire qu'est celui de la bioéthique. Notre époque est effectivement marquée par de prodigieux progrès scientifiques et technologiques qui touchent à l'essence de l'être humain et pourraient, s'ils n'étaient balisés, remettre jusqu'à son existence en cause. Cet instrument universel sur la bioéthique renforcera certainement les autres conventions relatives à la protection des droits de l'homme et au respect de la dignité humaine et des libertés fondamentales, mais il permettra aussi à de nombreux pays d'avoir accès aux nouvelles technologies.

13.6 Enfin, nous saluons le travail qui a été réalisé pour élaborer une convention contre le dopage dans le sport, convention qui traduirait également dans les faits la volonté de la communauté internationale de poursuivre et d'intensifier les efforts visant à assainir la pratique sportive et à donner ou à redonner à l'éducation physique et au sport la place qu'ils méritent dans les systèmes éducatifs.

13.7 Mon pays attache une attention particulière à l'éducation, et notamment au développement des systèmes éducatifs, en Afrique. À ce propos, nous encourageons le Directeur général à poursuivre ses efforts en faveur de la mise en œuvre du Cadre d'action sur l'Éducation pour tous, afin de compléter l'action des États membres qui considèrent l'éducation comme un facteur déterminant du développement durable en Afrique. Cet objectif, dont la réalisation est prévue pour 2015, ne saurait être atteint sans une allocation de ressources supplémentaires au bénéfice d'une région qui a des difficultés à réaliser les autres objectifs de développement convenus à l'échelon international. Cette action converge avec les efforts déployés en faveur des systèmes éducatifs dans le cadre du NEPAD, dont les objectifs adoptés par l'Union africaine ont été consacrés par la

Déclaration du Millénaire. Le prochain sommet de l'Union africaine, à la préparation duquel l'UNESCO a activement participé, aura pour thèmes majeurs l'éducation et la culture. Soulignons également l'importance des programmes d'alphabétisation et du rôle de catalyseur que joue l'UNESCO dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action pour la décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation. L'UNESCO doit d'autre part continuer d'apporter sa précieuse contribution aux efforts de la communauté internationale dans la lutte contre le VIH/sida en privilégiant la prévention, notamment en Afrique, grâce à des programmes de sensibilisation par l'éducation. Tout cela exprime d'une façon éclatante le concept de solidarité qui est à la base de l'action de l'UNESCO. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

14.1 M. CHARBONNEAU (Canada) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs, je tiens tout d'abord à féliciter le Directeur général pour la confiance que lui a exprimée le Conseil exécutif en vue du renouvellement de son mandat. Nous serons heureux de continuer à travailler avec lui à la construction d'une Organisation de plus en plus performante. Nous traversons une période où la solidarité internationale est grandement sollicitée et aussi rudement mise à l'épreuve dans le cadre de conflits et de crises non encore résolus dans plusieurs régions du monde.

14.2 Le Sommet de New York a illustré à quel point il est difficile de concilier – et surtout de dépasser – les intérêts particuliers des uns et des autres au profit du progrès général. Il a aussi démontré à quel point le système onusien, qui a besoin d'être réformé au tournant de ses 60 ans, demeure le dernier rempart de l'humanité contre l'anarchie, la violence généralisée et la croissance des inégalités.

14.3 Dans les prochaines semaines, les feux des projecteurs se tourneront vers l'UNESCO. À l'occasion de sa Conférence générale, l'UNESCO va ouvrir ses livres et rendre compte de ses activités devant ses 191 membres et devant l'opinion internationale. Ce grand rendez-vous ne manquera pas, encore une fois, de mettre en lumière le caractère unique de l'UNESCO, une organisation essentielle pour l'amélioration de la condition humaine.

14.4 Puisque le moment se prête aux évaluations d'ensemble, notre appréciation et notre message tiendront en une phrase : l'UNESCO témoigne d'une santé en voie d'amélioration ; elle doit continuer à renforcer sa vigueur, sa pertinence et son efficacité. C'est pourquoi nous nous réjouissons des résultats atteints et félicitons ceux qui en sont responsables. D'autre part, nous continuerons d'apporter notre contribution, à l'instar de nos collègues, dans le sens des réformes entreprises par l'Organisation.

14.5 Nous avons pris note avec satisfaction du rapport du Directeur général sur l'exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale au cours des 18 premiers mois de l'exercice 2004-2005. Nous nous réjouissons de constater les améliorations apportées à la présentation de ce document qui devient de plus en plus lisible d'une session à l'autre.

14.6 Le dernier exercice biennal aura permis l'avènement de trois nouveaux instruments normatifs dont sera saisie la Conférence générale. Nous félicitons tous les responsables de ces résultats qui ont mobilisé beaucoup d'énergie tant au Secrétariat que dans les États membres. S'il y avait eu échec dans l'un ou l'autre de ces dossiers – diversité des expressions culturelles, normes universelles en matière de bioéthique, convention contre le dopage dans le sport – certains n'auraient pas hésité à dénoncer l'inefficacité de l'UNESCO. Mais à la lumière des résultats obtenus, il faut reconnaître en toute bonne foi que l'UNESCO constitue un cadre de réflexion et de débats efficace et pertinent face à des enjeux pourtant controversés et délicats. Aussi est-ce avec satisfaction et enthousiasme que nous souhaitons l'adoption intégrale par la Conférence générale

des trois projets d'instruments qui lui seront soumis, et c'est avec beaucoup de soin que nous travaillerons à leur ratification et à leur mise en œuvre.

14.7 Au chapitre de sa fonction normative, l'action de l'Organisation dépasse, comme chacun le sait, l'élaboration, l'adoption et la ratification de conventions. L'UNESCO, et les États parties, héritent de responsabilités importantes quant à la suite des choses. Dans le domaine du patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel, par exemple, nous souhaitons que s'approfondisse le débat sur le concept central de « valeur universelle exceptionnelle », lequel devrait être le seul véritable déclencheur de l'inscription d'un site sur la Liste. Tout comme nous souhaitons que « la gestion et la conservation actives » des sites inscrits accaparent autant l'attention du Comité et des États parties que la procédure d'inscription elle-même. Il en va de même dans le secteur connexe des autres conventions portant sur la protection des biens culturels, où nous proposons le renforcement des moyens de l'Organisation afin qu'elle puisse mieux remplir ses obligations statutaires. Nous visons par cette proposition à mieux équilibrer la distribution des ressources au sein du Secteur de la culture.

14.8 S'agissant maintenant du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2006-2007, c'est avec grand intérêt que nous accueillons les orientations et les ajustements proposés par le Directeur général dans le document 33 C/5 révisé. Nous sommes d'avis que les recommandations du Conseil exécutif contenues dans le document 33 C/6 demeureront toutefois d'une grande utilité lors des débats de la Conférence générale.

(The speaker continued in English)

14.9 Mr Chairman, Canada is pleased to see that document 33 C/5 Rev. places a clearer focus on education for all (EFA). Education is the foundation upon which the work of UNESCO is built. I was struck and enthused by the Director-General's comments yesterday, which reminded us that world leaders clearly placed education at the heart of the international agenda during the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. This focus is recognition of the fundamental importance of education to sustainable development, well-being and peace, and provides a unique opportunity for UNESCO to advance its mandate in this field. If the leaders have placed education at the heart of the international agenda, then UNESCO must place teacher training at the heart of its own agenda. UNESCO has a key role to play in strengthening the capacity of teachers worldwide by providing effective opportunities for them to gain the skills needed by their profession. We are also pleased that UNESCO has made important links between the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) and sustainability. Mr Chairman, the budget must support these types of activities in a consistent manner. Although we acknowledge the innovative budgetary approach taken by the Director-General, we consider that increased reliance on voluntary contributions for the implementation of core priorities might not be sustainable in the long run. While voluntary contributions by Member States are important sources of funds for the Organization, we must not satisfy ourselves with a growing dependency on these resources for the implementation of our core activities.

(L'orateur poursuit en français)

14.10 Monsieur le Président, quant à la préparation du Projet de stratégie à moyen terme pour 2008-2013, nous nous réjouissons qu'un débat préliminaire ait lieu à la 33^e session de la Conférence générale. Il en résultera, souhaitons-le, un processus plus transparent, plus intégrateur et plus mobilisateur.

14.11 À ce propos, s'il est vrai que l'UNESCO peut apporter une contribution remarquable dans plusieurs domaines, il en est un où, non seulement elle peut, mais elle doit absolument réussir à

assurer un leadership compétent, indiscutable et universellement reconnu : c'est celui de l'éducation. Comme l'a dit notre Directeur général, l'éducation – dans toutes ses dimensions – est le fil rouge, le fil conducteur de la mission de l'UNESCO et le préalable incontournable à la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire.

15.1 Mr RACHMAN (Indonesia) *in extenso*:

Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm. As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh.

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all we would like to congratulate Mr Matsuura on his nomination for a second term as Director-General. And we would like to extend these congratulations to the Secretariat team for the success that they have achieved in the past years. We would also like to congratulate His Excellency Mr Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan as the coming President of the General Conference.

15.2 The 172nd session of the Executive Board is a special gathering since it coincides with the 60th anniversary of UNESCO. Sixty years since leaders from all countries first assembled to share their views, experiences and visions for a world at peace. It shows that all Member States are committed to peace through dialogue and debate. This dialogue and debate shows a universal acceptance and observance of human rights as a moral framework for UNESCO. We are also here to share our vision that all nations are willing to help and be generous to keep life sustainable; so that we can put the emphasis on intergenerational solidarity with a strong moral obligation to leave to future generations natural resources that are as good as those that we inherited together with a peaceful planet. We have discussed all the materials that enhance our awareness of the importance of culture, education, science, technology and communication so that we cultivate our sensitivity and trust in order to work together to build peace. It is only through human solidarity that we might be able to prevent wars, eradicate poverty, and combat ignorance. UNESCO, therefore, should be more accountable and more effective in its work. On this occasion, we would like to congratulate the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam on its decision to join UNESCO. Also Singapore will soon renew its membership of UNESCO. All Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries rejoice at the prospect of the full adherence of its members.

15.3 Our delegation will support the approval of three important instruments: the draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, the draft universal declaration on bioethics and human rights, and the draft international convention against doping in sport. Indonesia also supports the programmes designed to meet the needs of African countries, especially in the fields of basic education, teacher training, science capacity-building, and last but by no means least HIV/AIDS preventive education. Further, our delegation would like to support programmes for maintaining peace in the Middle East, now that the situation in Palestine has become much better. UNESCO should play a more important role there. Indonesia is also supportive of the establishment under the auspices of UNESCO of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) in Tsukuba, Japan, a regional centre for biotechnology training and education in India, and the global tsunami warning system. Recognizing the progress of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, an important achievement of UNESCO in efforts to cope with international disasters in various regions, we would like to express our gratitude to all the Member States that have helped Indonesia in tsunami problems. In particular we would like to extend our thanks to our colleagues and friends from Germany for fostering the Early Warning System for Indonesia.

15.4 Finally, my delegation would like to support the Fourth UNESCO Youth Forum to be held just before the 33rd session of the General Conference from 30 September to 2 October 2005. We suggest that UNESCO bring youth into the mainstream of UNESCO activities because this generation represents 18% of the world's population and almost 85% of those living in developing countries are illiterate. We strongly recommend that the Director-General strengthen efforts to

eradicate illiteracy in the E-9 countries. We are happy that we already have some close working relations with Australia to foster dialogue for interfaith understanding. Therefore, my delegation is highly supportive of the Director-General's policy to put every child in school so as to achieve the education for all (EFA) goal of universal primary education by making basic education accessible as a right to millions of children living in poverty. We would also like to recommend that the Director-General encourage scientific cooperation with various non-governmental scientific institutions that are eager to collaborate with UNESCO. In fact, Indonesia is going to host an international conference on the legal framework for financing basic education as a fundamental human right supported by UNESCO, as our initial initiative in support of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

15.5 Given that UNESCO is trying to do a lot with too little, we should keep more measurable goals with clear performance indicators, so that we may improve our work and become more focused. Cooperation between UNESCO field offices and the National Commissions should be more effective. This can only be achieved if we have a strong commitment to UNESCO's purpose and function. This commitment should also allow us to help each other, with the assistance flowing not only from the developed countries to the developing countries, from the rich to the poor, but vice versa. The poor countries can also help the rich countries in certain aspects. Indonesia would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathy to our brothers and sisters who have faced natural disasters, among others in the United States of America. I have a strong belief that they will be able to recover and to rebuild their cities, societies and families.

15.6 A word on communication. UNESCO should pay more attention to communication. The media are actually part of our new culture today. Our behaviour is sometimes dictated by the media. But how strong is our cultural diversity? Educational programmes and scientific strength could create peace by using the media.

15.7 Last but not least, Mr Chairman, dear colleagues and friends, we believe that the creator – or our creator – has formed us into nations, clans and families in order to facilitate identification and cooperation. The world society that gathers together the different races and nations on the basis of the complete equality of all individuals will eventually respect beliefs and all distinctions of race, colour, language and religion. Today should be better than yesterday, and tomorrow should be better than today. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh*. Thank you.

Mr Sheya took the Chair.

16.1 Ms OMAMO (Kenya) *in extenso*:

Mr Director-General, Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the Kenyan delegation joins other delegations here present in congratulating the Director-General on the resounding endorsement of his nomination for re-election to the post of Director-General of UNESCO. This is a clear signal of the confidence that the Executive Board has in the Director-General's ability and in the quality of his leadership. Our delegation salutes the Director-General for his continued focus on Africa and for his belief in the potential of our people.

16.2 Turning now to the issues contained in items **3**, **4**, and **21** of the agenda, the Kenyan delegation expresses its appreciation to UNESCO for the exemplary work that it is carrying out in respect of its core programmes and initiatives, albeit on a very tight budget. Of particular importance to us are the strides that have taken in the areas of education and literacy. We welcome the imminent launch of the Teacher Training Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa as well as other bold programmes related to basic and higher education, gender equality in education for all (EFA), quality assurance in education and, of course, the unprecedented progress made in HIV/AIDS preventive education. For us in Kenya, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in

education is an imperative. Thus, the radical reform of the policy framework underpinning education delivery in Kenya has been prioritized. In this regard, the Kenyan government has recently published a new policy structure for education which has been translated into a five-year implementation programme for the period 2005 to 2010. Mr Chairman, in sub-Saharan Africa, we have come to realize that positive solutions for change can, and must, emanate from well-designed, home-grown strategies as opposed to moribund ideas derived from far afield and imposed upon us with impunity. The power of African ideas – their transforming attributes, and their ability to foster growth, renewal and progress – ought to be acknowledged more enthusiastically by our development partners. In this regard, we appreciate the support that UNESCO has accorded our government in analysing, reinforcing and enriching our plans for the education for our people. This is the sort of partnership that we require and desire in Africa. For where true partnerships exist, reforms can be accelerated and the conditions for the alleviation of poverty created. In Kenya, as in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, we desire nothing more than the empowerment of our youth through education. Some 75% of Kenya's population is comprised of young people below the age of 30 years. They are our primary asset, our key resource, and the gateway to the revival of our nation. Hence, our government allocates over 28% of its resources to education. It is our hope that we shall continue to rely on UNESCO's unique competencies in education, especially in the area of capacity-building, as we develop innovative methods to bridge the infrastructure and financial gaps that continue to plague our grand march towards the attainment of the Millennium Development goals by 2015.

16.3 Mr Chairman, UNESCO's effective engagement with Kenya and the countries of our region in the field, however, is dependent on the efficiency of the Nairobi cluster office. Therefore, whilst we welcome the appointment of a new director to this office, we trust that the challenges, trends and proposals alluded to in document 172 EX/4 Part I Add. will precipitate the rejuvenation and refocusing of this cluster office. We expect the Nairobi Office to markedly increase UNESCO's visibility in our region and, more importantly, to actively buttress and invigorate the efforts of East African governments in the arduous task of meeting global development targets. We look forward to the consolidation of gains already made, and to the injection of new impetus into programme implementation through an integrated results-based approach. The Kenyan delegation therefore appeals for the strengthening of the Nairobi cluster office within the context of UNESCO's decentralization agenda. The pressure of time and the expectations of our people demand a strong and dynamic presence of UNESCO on the ground.

16.4 Mr Chairman, in closing may I commend the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO for commencing an invaluable process of dialogue between women actors in the Great Lakes region, on the subject of peace, human rights and security. This consultation, which took place in Addis Ababa in May this year, heralded a fundamental shift in the management of conflicts in our region. The convergence of women scholars, women NGO representatives and women policy-makers generated a harvest of new thinking on the complex questions regarding the architecture of peace and the struggle for the entrenchment of political, economic, social and cultural rights in our region. By recognizing and affirming the intellectual capacity of the women of the Great Lakes region, by edifying their ability to reason, and by appreciating the depth of their rationality and the sweetness of their logic, UNESCO has empowered a new battalion of peace-makers, intermediaries and reconcilers in our region, and for this we are deeply grateful. Accordingly, we look forward to further collaboration with the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO for the empowerment of women and the expansion of democratic space and social justice in our region. I thank you.

17.1 Mr ZHANG Xinsheng (China) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, fellow Members of the Board, I am delighted to be back in Paris in the season of the harvest and mid-autumn – the traditional Chinese Moon Festival, – and to meet with all of you again. It is with great pleasure that I have listened to the previous speakers.

17.2 I would like first of all to express our sympathy and solicitude to the American people, for their suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina.

17.3 I thank the Director-General for his report, and congratulate him on his nomination for a second term, which China supports. I would like also to applaud the nomination of the President of the next General Conference. And my thanks go to the Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Wrede, for the leadership and the fruitful work that he has done during his term.

17.4 Ladies and gentlemen, as we prepare to celebrate the 60th anniversary of UNESCO this year – and as the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius said, at 60 one knows the rules of natural law to do things – we are reminded once again of the profound wisdom of the founding fathers of this Organization. We must do our best to live up to their vision. Pioneering work is difficult, but to sustain and improve upon it is by no means easy. UNESCO has grown from the original 20 to the current 191 Member States. This fact fully demonstrates that the world needs this Organization, and that the Organization's continued vitality for peace, security and human development must come from the wisdom of all the Member States. The sea can hold the water of all rivers, as Lao Zi, the ancient Chinese philosopher says. Guided by this philosophical wisdom, we are in favour of education for all (EFA) as a foremost priority in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007. We also support the key subprogramme of capacity-building in Asia and the Pacific and all developing countries, and call on the international community to pay special attention to the situation in least developed countries (LDCs), and to education for women and children. The critical importance of EFA should be understood in a broad, strategic view. Quality education is key not only to national economic growth and social prosperity, it is also fundamental to peace-building, democracy, rule of law, and tolerance and respect among cultures. So we must be focused and inspire confidence by engineering breakthroughs in this domain of our competence. In so doing, priority needs to go to developing countries, especially LDCs, and we need to make full use of modern technology in the implementation of EFA. In this respect, I echo the appeal for developed countries to step up their assistance efforts. In the case of my country, our experience tells us that for economic growth and social progress to be sustained, it is imperative to improve education in rural areas, not only in specific places but also across a vaster rural area, which is more challenging. The distribution of more resources, teacher training and motivation, and the deployment of information and communication technology there has proved to be an effective tool in broadening the horizon for our rural kids. From a low-level starting point, we have made great progress in economic growth. Millions of Chinese people, however, continue to live at subsistence levels, and our education budget is still not high enough. Notwithstanding this, we will try our best to continue to strive towards EFA, and to support the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012). China has decided to donate \$150,000 each year to the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy in order to encourage contributing to EFA in circumstances of hardship. We also support and appreciate the UNESCO King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education. Ladies and gentlemen, 2,000 years ago Confucius proposed that education should be open to all regardless of social status. In that spirit we shall hold the fifth meeting of the High-Level Group on EFA in late November this year in Beijing to discuss global literacy and EFA in rural areas. We shall seize this opportunity to raise the visibility of our work and to galvanize the international community into turning talk into action for the cause of world literacy. And we appreciate and agree with the European Union's recommendation put forward

yesterday that the High-Level Group meeting in Beijing produce a succinct communiqué that can act as a feasible action plan.

17.5 Mr Chairman, fellow Members of the Board, Hurricane Katrina in the United States and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean remind us that human beings continue to be vulnerable to disasters, natural or otherwise. Today we continue to live under various threats such as energy shortages, deforestation, desertification, water and air pollution, and the spread of disease. This is especially true in developing countries, which deserve our special attention. The challenge we face is without doubt, however, how to increase awareness among nations as to the vital importance of maintaining ecosystems to help the cause. UNESCO has a unique role to play both in terms of scientific research and in terms of synergy and coordination with other international organizations. Fundamentally, I believe that it is through advances in science and technological innovation that we can go a long way in tackling this problem.

17.6 Ladies and gentlemen, turning to culture, we appreciate UNESCO's efforts for the protection of world heritage, and back the draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. We believe that with further work and confidence we can build a consensus, and hope that it can be adopted by the General Conference. The variety of the world is manifested in the long river of history. Each nation has contributed in its own way to its cultural richness, and has made the world in which we all live today. Just as biodiversity is a key to equilibrium, cultural diversity is essential for human development. In this context, I would suggest that education on world heritage be encouraged and promoted in primary and secondary schools.

17.7 Ladies and gentlemen, the last six years have witnessed the initial success of the Organization's reform efforts. However, I agree with you that more needs to be done. Indeed, reform is a dynamic process as evidenced by our Chinese experience of reform. While old problems are tackled, new ones crop up on the way. We must constantly keep our eye on the ball. That is to say, at a strategic level, striving for efficiency, balance, transparency and accountability; and at a tactical level, first of all engineering breakthroughs and then spreading the lessons and best practices. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

18.1 Ms MAKHUBU (Swaziland) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, my delegation begins by congratulating the Director-General on his nomination for a second term at the helm of UNESCO. It is noteworthy that this meeting of the Executive Board is taking place at a time when the eyes of the international community are focused on Africa through the G8 Summit in Gleneagles and the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, meant to review the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, as this year marks the 60th anniversary of the Organization, it might be a good time to take a look at its role in shaping international affairs. It is in the context of these events that, in part, we reflect on the Director-General's report.

18.2 We preface our remarks by reiterating that education is the foundation for sustainable development. We would therefore wish to urge UNESCO, as the lead agency responsible for education, to take special measures to further sensitize our political leadership to this fact. Mr Chairman, for this reason we commend the sustained commitment to education for all (EFA) as the principal priority in Major Programme I. EFA constitutes a fundamental strategy for human development and the eradication of poverty. The selection of literacy, HIV/AIDS and education, and teacher training as key supporting elements of EFA is equally commendable. The inclusion of HIV/AIDS preventive education in the teacher training curriculum is critical in the fight against the spread of the pandemic among students, teachers and the community. As the ravages of the pandemic begin to take their toll on the education system in our country, we especially thank the Director-General for including Swaziland in the first wave of countries under the EDUCAIDS

initiative, which is aimed at building capacities for HIV/AIDS and education. Swaziland also supports the recognition that secondary and higher education are the backbone for sustainable development, and vehicles for enabling developing countries to face the challenges of a globalizing world. They are keys to the future.

18.3 Mr Chairman, the retention of water and associated ecosystems as priorities in Major Programme II remains valid. Water is essential to life everywhere, but is especially crucial in arid and semi-arid zones of the world, which suffer from endemic drought and its devastating consequences. The most serious result has been the food insecurity that has plagued southern Africa, aggravated poverty and hampered development.

18.4 We further support the emphasis on capacity-building in science, technology, engineering and mathematics as further elements essential for development and poverty eradication. The launch of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) will address and strengthen capacities in many developing countries. However, the involvement of women in science still leaves much to be desired in many parts of the world. This is why we appreciate the L’Oreal-UNESCO Awards, which gives recognition to distinguished women scientists from around the world, and the grants for young women scientists to undertake research in the fields of life sciences. We also recognize that science and technology policies are weak in many countries. The assistance given to developing countries for capacity-building in the management of science and technology and in policy formulation should be expanded. Swaziland notes with appreciation that the social and human sciences programme has retained the ethics of science and technology with an emphasis on bioethics. However, we are concerned that on the whole, social and human sciences programmes are not being given the necessary prominence, even though they are crucial for addressing social concerns and are at the very heart of UNESCO’s work.

18.5 Ladies and gentlemen, we appreciate the activities of the Culture Sector for the protection of cultural heritage, the safeguarding of cultural diversity and the promotion of training and capacity-building, particularly those aimed at enabling Member States to address policies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. We are also pleased that Swaziland will finally ratify the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

18.6 Major Programme V – Communication and information – cuts across the activities of UNESCO. This important programme has been marked by attempts at building and strengthening capacities to access information and knowledge. We welcome the use of ICTs in education, in particular in distance education for teacher training and the training of communication and information professionals.

18.7 Mr Chairman, on decentralization, we appreciate the efforts to strengthen field offices through the creation of new posts, which should in turn strengthen programme delivery and implementation at the country level. This, in turn, should contribute to UNESCO’s visibility alongside the rest of the United Nations team. Collaboration with the rest of the United Nations team at country level is vital in order to ensure a greater impact of the role of the United Nations in our countries.

18.8 Finally Mr Chairman, Swaziland will be leaving the Executive Board at the end of this session. We have appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Board, and thank everyone for the cooperation accorded our country. We thank you for your attention.

19.1 La Sra. LUX DE COTÍ (Guatemala) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Director General de la UNESCO, estimados colegas: me uno a las manifestaciones de complacencia

expresadas por los colegas que me antecederon en el uso de la palabra y felicito al Director General por la calidad del informe presentado en el documento 172 EX/4 y por los resultados alcanzados en la ejecución del programa en los últimos meses del bienio 2004-2005.

19.2 Es evidente que los principios constitucionales y la filosofía que orientan el quehacer de la UNESCO, plasmados en las estrategias a medio plazo y en los documentos C/5, sobre todo tomando en cuenta los grandes cambios ocurridos en el mundo, están dando resultados importantes para el diseño de políticas y estrategias que sustenten el desarrollo de las naciones y las relaciones internacionales.

19.3 Estoy convencida de que, gracias a los aportes de la UNESCO, hoy existe más conciencia ciudadana y responsabilidad política en la administración de los países ante los retos que plantean la lucha contra la pobreza, la universalidad del desarrollo, el reconocimiento del pluralismo y la democracia, la seguridad ciudadana y el respeto de los derechos humanos. Igualmente soy consciente del papel que corresponde a la UNESCO desde una perspectiva humanitaria y realista y desde una visión prospectiva fundamentada en sus experiencias de cooperación y conocimientos suficientes para orientar el futuro del desarrollo humano.

19.4 Los resultados que se presentan en el 172 EX/4, aun cuando no plasmen en detalle la total dimensión de sus efectos, sí permiten evaluar los resultados y facilitan elementos para la aprobación del nuevo programa y presupuesto. Uno de los principales retos será el de alcanzar las metas propuestas en Dakar, que deben ser complementarias de los objetivos del Milenio y los del Segundo Decenio Internacional de las Poblaciones Indígenas del Mundo. En la Cumbre Mundial de 2005 dedicada al seguimiento de los resultados de la Cumbre del Milenio se concluyó que la paz, la igualdad entre hombres y mujeres y la lucha contra el terrorismo son objetivos prioritarios. En este sentido, es importante que la UNESCO retome lo dicho en la Declaración y Programa de Acción sobre una Cultura de Paz y en el Programa Mundial para el Diálogo entre Civilizaciones aprobado por la Asamblea General la semana pasada. Reiteramos nuestro apoyo total a los esfuerzos que se realicen en esta dirección y a todas las acciones posibles para lograr que las políticas educativas refuercen el trabajo relativo al VIH/SIDA, a la igualdad entre los sexos, a la equidad en beneficio de minorías, mujeres y pueblos indígenas y a una educación que reconozca la importancia de la naturaleza y de su adecuada conservación.

19.5 Igualmente agradecemos los esfuerzos en pro de la educación no formal y la alfabetización. Es evidente que la violencia juvenil en América, y particularmente en Centroamérica, tiene como una de las principales causas el difícil acceso a la educación secundaria, como ocurre en nuestro país, donde menos del 20% de los jóvenes mayores de 12 años asisten a un centro escolar, que en el 80% de los casos es privado. El resto de la población, sobre todo en las zonas urbanas, tampoco tiene facilidad para trabajar por no tener la edad legal, con lo que engrosa fácilmente los grupos de jóvenes de la calle, vulnerables al tráfico y consumo de drogas, la violencia y el delito. Agradezco en nombre de los países centroamericanos la pronta respuesta a nuestra demanda en relación con el proyecto de prevención relativo a los jóvenes en situación de riesgo.

19.6 No cabe duda de que los cambios ambientales han dado lugar a las más sorprendidas expresiones de la naturaleza. Vemos con preocupación el aumento de enfermedades respiratorias debidas a la contaminación, el incremento de los índices de pobreza derivados de la deforestación, con sus secuelas de violencia y disminución de los recursos hídricos, y fenómenos como incendios, inundaciones y sequías. De ahí que felicitemos al Sector de Ciencia Exactas y Naturales por los esfuerzos que realiza y lo alentemos a continuar procesos de investigación, sensibilización y educación ambiental.

19.7 Tomando en cuenta la enorme fuga de cerebros hacia los países desarrollados y las necesidades de formar profesionales que contribuyan al desarrollo local, se requiere un mayor esfuerzo concertado del Sector con las instancias dedicadas a la educación superior, facilitando una asistencia técnica que permita mejoras sustantivas y pertinentes en los establecimientos universitarios y tecnológicos y escuelas especializadas de los países menos desarrollados. Agradecemos el apoyo que se preste a las universidades indígenas, como se ha hecho en mi país para la instalación de la Universidad Maya.

19.8 Apreciamos el trabajo que realiza el MAB y el interés que los países han manifestado por que se declaren más reservas de biosfera como vía estratégica para alcanzar un desarrollo duradero. Nos preocupa que la diversidad biológica disminuya a diario y que especies animales y vegetales desaparezcan por el avance incontrolado de las fronteras agrícolas y el incremento extensivo de urbanizaciones, carreteras, proyectos de minería, plantas industriales y deforestación. Estamos seguros de que los progresos alcanzados en el marco del MAB podrán ser ampliados y de que tendremos más presencia y cooperación en nuestros países, en particular en el año 2007, proclamado Año Internacional del Planeta Tierra por las Naciones Unidas.

19.9 Nos alegramos de las iniciativas referentes a la celebración de un año internacional de la conciencia planetaria y la ética del diálogo entre los pueblos y a la proclamación de un día mundial de la filosofía, que serán tratadas en la 33ª reunión de la Conferencia General. Nos parece interesante profundizar y reflexionar tanto sobre la realidad material como la inmaterial. Se hace necesario actualizar principios y valores de vida. Corresponde a la UNESCO promover la ética y proponer normas de procedimiento para el manejo de los adelantos científicos, con especial énfasis en aquellos adelantos que se vinculan a la genética y las formas de pensamiento.

19.10 Reafirmamos nuestro apoyo al Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas, ya que son las ciencias del ser humano. Un desarrollo científico sin conciencia social, al servicio de los centros de poder o con fines especulativos vinculados al mercado, solamente conducirá al incremento de las barreras económicas, sociales y políticas y al riesgo de nuevas y más complejas confrontaciones. Si bien se reconoce el valor y los aportes de los científicos, también se hacen evidentes casos de aprovechamiento inmoral, de falta de ética y de donaciones, contribuciones y subsidios otorgados a instituciones cuyo objetivo se centra en los reconocimientos, los registros y la especulación mercantil de patentes y registros. Siendo América una región objeto de permanente investigación antropológica y arqueológica, el tráfico ilícito de sus bienes culturales y la explotación turística de su patrimonio inmaterial cobran grandes proporciones. Apoyamos el trabajo del Comité Intergubernamental para Fomentar el Retorno de los Bienes Culturales a sus Países de Origen o su Restitución en caso de Apropiación Ilícita y esperamos poder aportar toda nuestra experiencia a ese órgano. De igual forma apoyamos el Anteproyecto de convención sobre la protección y promoción de la diversidad de las expresiones culturales. Muchas gracias.

(19.1) Ms LUX de COTÍ (Guatemala) *in extenso* (translation from the Spanish):

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General of UNESCO, dear colleagues, I should like to associate myself with the satisfaction expressed by colleagues who took the floor before me, and I congratulate the Director-General on the quality of the report presented in document 172 EX/4 and on the results achieved in programme implementation in the final months of the 2004-2005 biennium.

(19.2) It is clear that the constitutional principles and philosophy which guide the work of UNESCO, as enshrined in the Medium-Term Strategy and the C/5 document, particularly bearing in mind the major changes that have occurred in the world, are having

a considerable impact on the formulation of policies and strategies which sustain national development and international relations.

(19.3) I am convinced that as a result of UNESCO's contribution, there is greater public awareness and political responsibility in the administration of countries in the face of the challenges arising from poverty reduction programmes, the universality of development, the recognition of pluralism and democracy, the security of the citizen and respect for human rights. I am also aware of the role that UNESCO should play from a realistic and humanitarian point-of-view and with a vision of the future based on its experience of cooperation and knowledge that will be able to guide the future of human development.

(19.4) The results presented in document 172 EX/4, although they do not convey in detail the full scale of their effects, do make it possible to assess the outcomes and provide elements for the approval of the new Programme and Budget. One of the main challenges will be to achieve the objectives set out at Dakar, which should be complementary to the Millennium Development Goals and to the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2014). It emerged from the 2005 World Summit devoted to the follow-up to the results of the Millennium Summit that peace, equality between men and women and the fight against terrorism are priority objectives. In that connection, it is important that UNESCO draw on to the contents of the United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and of the United Nations Global Agenda for the Dialogue among Civilizations endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly last week. We reiterate our support for all the efforts undertaken to that end and for all potential actions aimed at ensuring that educational policies strengthen the work relating to HIV/AIDS, gender equality, the fair treatment of minorities, women and indigenous peoples, and education that recognizes the importance of the natural world and of its proper conservation.

(19.5) We also welcome the efforts to promote non-formal education and literacy. It is clearly the case that one of the main causes of youth violence in America, and in particular in Central America, is the difficulty of access to secondary education, as is the case in our country, where fewer than 20% of young people over the age of 12 attend school, which is private in 80% of cases. The rest of this group of people, especially in urban areas, do not have the opportunity to work since they are below the legal age, thereby readily swelling the number of street children, who are vulnerable to drug trafficking and consumption, violence and crime. I should like, on behalf of the Central American countries, to express our appreciation at the swift response to our request concerning the preventive project on young people at risk.

(19.6) There is no doubt that environmental changes have resulted in the most surprising manifestations of nature. We view with concern the increase in respiratory diseases caused by pollution, the increase in poverty indices as a result of deforestation, with its repercussions of violence and reduction in water resources, and phenomena such as fires, floods and droughts. Therefore, we congratulate the Natural Sciences Sector for the efforts it is making and we urge it to continue its work on research, awareness-raising and environmental education.

(19.7) Taking into consideration the enormous brain drain towards the developed countries and the need to train professionals who contribute to local development, greater concerted efforts are required on the part of the Sector and higher educational establishments, to provide technical assistance which will allow substantive and relevant improvements in university and technological institutions in the least developed countries.

We are grateful for the support given to indigenous universities, as has been the case in my own country with the establishment of the Mayan University.

(19.8) We appreciate the work carried out by the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the interest expressed by countries for the declaration of more biosphere reserves as a strategic step on the way to achieving sustainable development. We are concerned that biological diversity is declining daily, and that animal and plant species are disappearing with the uncontrolled expansion of agricultural frontiers and the extensive growth of urban developments, roads, mining projects, industrial plants and deforestation. We feel sure that the progress achieved in the context of MAB can be enhanced and that we shall achieve greater presence and cooperation in our countries, in particular in 2007, which has been proclaimed International Year of Planet Earth by the United Nations.

(19.9) We are delighted at the initiatives concerning the celebration of an international year of global consciousness and the ethics of dialogue among peoples and the proclamation of a world philosophy day, which will be discussed at the 33rd session of the General Conference. We consider it interesting to examine in depth and analyse both tangible and intangible reality. It is necessary to update life principles and values. It is UNESCO's role to promote ethics and to propose standards of procedure for the use of scientific advances, with special emphasis on those advances relating to genetics and cognitive processes.

(19.10) We reiterate our support for the Social and Human Sciences Sector, since they are the sciences of the human being. Scientific development without a social conscience, for the benefit of centres of power or with market-related speculative objectives, will only lead to an increase in economic, social and political barriers and the risk of new and more complex confrontations. Although the value and contribution of scientists is acknowledged, there are also clear cases of immoral appropriation, lack of ethics, and donations, contributions and subsidies granted to organizations whose main objective lies in the recognition, registration and commercial speculation of patents and registers. Since America is a region subject to permanent anthropological and archaeological research, the illicit trafficking of its cultural goods and the exploitation of its intangible heritage for purposes of tourism have attained considerable proportions. We support the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, and we hope to be able to contribute the full range of our experience to this body. Similarly, we endorse the preliminary draft convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions. Thank you very much.

Mr Wrede resumed the Chair.

20.1 Ms OLIVER (United States of America) *in extenso*:

Thank you Mr Chairman. Excellencies, friends, colleagues, I would like to begin my remarks this morning by expressing my appreciation and gratitude for the sympathy and support that so many of you have shown to me during the past several weeks. I am particularly grateful, Mr Director-General, for the kind letter you wrote to President Bush. The solidarity of the international community, in responding to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, has demonstrated once again that during times of crisis, the bond of our shared humanity is far stronger than the disagreements that may divide us. I might add, Mr Director-General, that we were pleased by the Executive Board's vote of confidence in you yesterday.

20.2 When the United States rejoined UNESCO two years ago, we looked forward to working with other nations to improve the quality and impact of UNESCO's programmes. We also re-established our National Commission to help support UNESCO's work by mobilizing the resources and expertise of United States civil society. Although we are pleased that our capacity-building initiative was adopted by consensus at the 171st session of the Executive Board last spring, we are disappointed by the lack of progress that has been made in other areas during the past two years. Instead of being able to focus on programmes, we have had to spend our time and energy negotiating normative instruments. Standard-setting should not be done at the expense of UNESCO's programmes. Moreover, no normative instrument should be negotiated at UNESCO unless we agree that it is truly necessary and that it will be a quality consensus document. UNESCO's influence on the international stage can come only from its intellectual rigour, its moral imperative, its universality, and its ability to get things done. Without these, UNESCO risks becoming irrelevant, as it is not a funding or development agency. The spirit that should drive all of UNESCO's work must be one of openness and transparency, cooperation and collegiality, dialogue and communication. Negotiations on two of UNESCO's proposed instruments – the anti-doping convention and the bioethics declaration – thrived in that atmosphere.

20.3 Unfortunately, we have not seen that spirit of cooperation and respect with what is commonly referred to as the cultural diversity convention. When we brought experienced high-level experts to negotiate in Paris, they had to work in an atmosphere that was anything but collegial, and certainly not worthy of UNESCO. The preliminary text addresses a number of complex issues including culture, development, intellectual property rights, trade, and human rights. Have we discussed all of these issues thoroughly? Is this preliminary text coherent, with clearly defined obligations and objectives? Are we convinced that there are no potentially negative consequences that may result from the provisions of this convention? For us the answers to these questions unfortunately are "no, no, and no". The United States, the most culturally diverse country in the world, is a vigorous proponent of cultural diversity. Since arriving at UNESCO, I have repeatedly stated that we would support a convention on cultural diversity that truly promotes dialogues between nations and cultures, and the free flow of ideas and information as guaranteed in the UNESCO Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We know that some countries feel their cultural expressions are threatened by globalization, but throughout history, cultural exchanges across the globe have strengthened cultures and nations, not weakened them. Cultural diversity is based on freedom, and on the individual's fundamental right to choose.

20.4 In our view, because of its lack of clarity, the preliminary draft text could be used to restrict cultural exchange and individual freedom, which is why we cannot support the preliminary convention text as currently drafted. We are disappointed, therefore, by attempts to prevent further discussion on that text, such as the draft decision being circulated by our friends from Canada that asks the Executive Board to recommend revising the instructions given by the General Conference at its 32nd session on the process that was supposed to be followed in the development of this important convention. We think that recommendation is contrary to the spirit of dialogue at UNESCO. Why is it so threatening to continue to work for a consensus document? We are of course aware of the particular problems faced by developing countries as they try to modernize their countries while maintaining their traditional cultures. And we are pitching in to help. As we all know, the United States is by far the largest donor of public and private funds to developing countries. Stronger economies will enable developing countries to nurture and promote their own unique cultures, thereby increasing cultural diversity. We will continue to provide such help, and to try and improve the preliminary text of the cultural diversity convention so that it can become a document that does not just attract broad support, but full support. We know that many countries are tired of discussing this convention, and just want the entire process to be finished as soon as possible, even if it means accepting a document that is mediocre or worse. We reject that approach.

20.5 At a time when many wonder whether UNESCO can live up to its global mandate, UNESCO must demonstrate that it is a serious organization that takes the time to get things right, which includes producing quality instruments. Otherwise, UNESCO will suffer enormous damage to its reputation, particularly in the academic and cultural communities. If UNESCO is going to fulfil its potential, it must be able to address global challenges with results-oriented programmes and initiatives. Right now UNESCO's most important job is to make real progress towards the goals of education for all (EFA). And where are we on that? Every single *EFA Global Monitoring Report* has broadcast the sad news that we are not even close to achieving one single goal. Not one. When the next report comes out, we'll hear it again – this time for literacy. And a key reason for this monumental failure is that the time and resources of UNESCO's Member States have been directed at things that do nothing towards achieving these important goals. And what about clean water, sustainable development, poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS prevention, world heritage and peace? Instead of focusing on these vital issues, we debate conventions that may never be ratified by many of UNESCO's Member States.

20.6 So we believe it is now time to move beyond good intentions and to focus our time and resources during the next biennium on strengthening UNESCO's programme, particularly in education. We also feel strongly that the upcoming General Conference should not support the development of any new instruments during the next biennium. Nevertheless, if the General Conference does decide to support the development of more instruments, we will insist that all intergovernmental negotiating meetings be paid for from UNESCO's core budget. UNESCO is supposed to use its core budget for its priorities, and a standard-setting instrument should not be negotiated unless it is a priority. Moreover, given UNESCO's limited resources, we believe that the expenses of a convention should be borne by the States Parties to that convention, not by the Organization as a whole. Instruments, programmes, and budgets – these are the things that will determine what kind of organization UNESCO will be in the future. Sixty years from now history will be our judge. It will determine whether we showed leadership and made the hard choices, whether we did what we promised to do, and whether we left the world a better place than we found it, a place of opportunity and freedom for all. Thank you Mr Chairman.

21.1 Ms MOSEROVÁ (Czech Republic) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, dear colleagues and friends, we are now finalizing the preparations for the forthcoming session of the General Conference, which will be a unique opportunity to discuss the future of UNESCO. My delegation is looking forward to participating actively in the efforts to further improve our methods and actions.

(L'oratrice poursuit en français)

21.2 Nous sommes convaincus que le moyen le plus efficace d'améliorer le monde est l'éducation. Or l'éducation, selon notre opinion, n'a pas seulement pour but l'acquisition de connaissances, mais aussi l'acquisition de vertus publiques. L'UNESCO doit jouer son rôle irremplaçable dans le cadre du système des Nations Unies. Le Sommet mondial 2005 des Nations Unies a souligné l'importance de l'éducation pour l'éradication de la pauvreté, et c'est sans doute là notre tâche principale.

(The speaker continued in English)

21.3 Our activities should and will be an important part of the joint efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals which seem so difficult to attain. We should not be afraid to terminate programmes that do not have a substantial impact and to concentrate on the well-defined priorities. We fully agree that Africa is the priority, as well as other countries struggling with

poverty and illiteracy in Asia and in Latin America, as many of their citizens do not have access to basic education. Yet I know that the intellectual potential of Africa is enormous. We welcome the inclusion in the programme for the coming biennium the development of local radio broadcasting, as there are indeed areas where only the spoken word can help people obtain vital information (for instance on AIDS prevention). And it can also be used for distance education. It is encouraging that the world's leaders are becoming aware of the dire need in some countries. I am also proud to say that in our country, and others, the younger generation has started to initiate activities aimed at helping the developing world.

21.4 Although we are convinced that education is the main pillar of UNESCO, science must not be forgotten or neglected, especially in view of all the recent natural disasters. At this point may I express our deepest sympathy to the people of New Orleans and the other localities hit by the destructive hurricane, as well as our hope that UNESCO will find a way in which to contribute to the resumption of activities at all the learning institutions of the region. On the subject of science, my delegation supports the proposal that the year 2009, the 400th anniversary of Galileo's discovery, be proclaimed the international year of astronomy.

(The speaker continued in Spanish.)

21.5 Para que pueda jugar su papel adecuado tanto en el nivel internacional como en el nivel nacional la UNESCO debe gozar de unos recursos adecuados. Mi país está preparado a aceptar un pequeño aumento nominal del próximo presupuesto ordinario. La República Checa está planeando aumentar aún más nuestras contribuciones voluntarias hacia los programas prioritarios de la UNESCO.

(21.5) In order to perform its function properly at the international and national levels, UNESCO requires sufficient resources. My country is prepared to accept a small increase in the nominal value of the next regular budget, and plans to increase its voluntary contributions to the Organization's priority programmes.

(The speaker continued in English)

21.6 We should also remember the key role of the National Commissions. These should be duly respected and recognized. This year's opening of the European Heritage Days was recently held in my country with the presence of UNESCO and the Council of Europe, and it did help the visibility of UNESCO that the Secretariat was represented. To further promote UNESCO's role in the protection of the heritage, the Czech Republic, in close cooperation with the International Federation of Film Archives, would like to propose to the General Conference that 27 October be proclaimed world day of the audiovisual heritage. Further enhancing the visibility of UNESCO should be the task of everybody involved in the implementation of its programmes. Our National Commission traditionally grants its patronage to selected projects implemented in the Czech Republic. We are not able to provide direct financial assistance, but the fact that a given project has received the patronage of the Czech National Commission for UNESCO is highly appreciated and is considerably helping the organizers to find sponsors, and this I may recommend.

21.7 UNESCO is approaching the 60th anniversary of its inception, and this is a very important moment for a comprehensive evaluation of our past activities and, much more importantly, for the formulation of the vision for the coming years – the vision not only of what we want to achieve but also of how. With the end of another biennium and the preparation of the future programme we should exercise foresight. UNESCO is an organization striving to enhance the quality of life on this planet and the dignity of humankind. No doubt there are still people that are denied full dignity – be they men, women or children – because of poverty, prejudice or oppression. So let me finish with a

quote I shall always use: Whoever violates the human dignity of others destroys their own. Whoever elevates the human dignity of others enhances their own. Thank you for your attention. Merci de votre attention, *bol'shoye spasibo za vnimaniye, shukran.*

22.1 The CHAIRMAN *in extenso*:

And in Chinese, *xiexie*. Thank you very much for your contribution.

22.2. I have good news for you. Since everyone is talking so efficiently within the time limits, we are aiming to conclude this morning punctually at 1 p.m., and I have the great opportunity of giving you another half hour of lunch break so we start at 3 p.m., contrary to what we announced yesterday – 2.30 p.m. Second point: this afternoon, I would like to announce, we now have 18 speakers on the list, and we will conclude, as is our very good custom, with the speech by the distinguished President of the General Conference. After those 18 speakers, I would also like to ask your permission, as is usually the case to allow for one observer delegation, Peru, who has asked for the floor, and we do have the three minutes to spare for the Peruvian statement. I see no objections. Thank you very much. I shall now give, with pleasure, the floor to the distinguished delegate from India. You have the floor, Madam.

23.1 Ms VATSYAYAN (India) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, let me begin first and foremost by congratulating the Director-General for his highly deserved nomination for a second term, and also for his excellent summary of the execution of previously approved programmes. The Indian delegation generally welcomes the programmes for the forthcoming biennium. It is heartening to note that UNESCO has worked to fulfil its mandate in a very efficient manner, and that the Director-General has provided the desired stewardship. At the last session, many Members of the Executive Board repeatedly, almost like a mantra, reminded us of the founding of UNESCO 60 years ago, and the fact that UNESCO at that time had pledged to create the “defences of peace in the minds of men”. In the decades that followed the world certainly has undergone many traumatic changes, and not many defences of peace have been built. While there are no longer fears of a third world war, there are smaller-scale yet graver conflicts, and violence of enormous proportions. Therefore, in that context, the message of Gandhi continues to be most relevant. I was naturally gratified that the Chairman of the Executive Board referred to Mahatma Gandhi twice in his remarks. I hope that we all will put the credo, basically, of Mahatma Gandhi of non-violence into practice. It is in this spirit that our Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, had offered aid and fellowships for the parliament of Afghanistan, and I was again most gratified that the distinguished delegate from Afghanistan made mention of this. Thank you. We have always been great admirers of the great civilization of Afghanistan, and will do everything to help restore it to its former glory.

23.2 Mr Chairman, Sir, in my interventions at the last session of the Board, even at the risk of repetition, I drew attention to UNESCO's special mandate of upholding ethical values. UNESCO, more than any other organization in the United Nations system, has the potential and responsibility to reshape the attitudes of future generations so that harmony and peace become the motivating forces of any human action. Only a transformed human consciousness – individual and collective – can ensure a more equitable, harmonious world order. Unquestionably, UNESCO has played a key role, but it has much greater challenges in the future. It is in that context that we have all talked about education, but what kind of education? Appropriate education, relevant education, education that again in the words of Mahatma Gandhi will make an individual rooted to his roots and yet be a citizen of the world.

23.3 I offer my congratulations even though one should not congratulate oneself, to the Asia and the Pacific group for the excellent and timely initiative in having an item on the future of

UNESCO incorporated into the agenda of the 33rd session of the General Conference. It is an initiative that has great relevance for the Organization. It was India's privilege to play the lead role in it.

23.4 At this time let me restrict myself, which is not like me, only to very specific issues. First, the budget. Regarding the baseline budget of \$610 million, the Director-General had been requested to make additional proposals on the basis of the priorities and core mandate of the Organization. We hope that it might be possible to examine these proposals in the context of the priority mandate and make cuts in non-priority areas. We note that the Director-General has suggested that a Special Account be created to raise additional resources to the tune of \$25 million. Several Member States have expressed concerns that the cuts made in the regular budget, especially in the Culture Sector, are not equitably enforced, even with the proposed Special Account. We are concerned that only \$2.5 million has been set aside for capacity-building for the protection of world heritage. India remains strongly committed to the preservation and protection of world heritage, particularly in Africa. The recently concluded meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Durban, in which India participated, has paved the way for the creation of an African Heritage Fund. It gives me great pleasure to announce on behalf of the Government of India that my government will contribute \$30,000 to the African Heritage Fund. I also take this opportunity to announce that India has ratified the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, paving the way for its entry into force. But the intangible heritage is directly linked and intrinsic to the entire process of building a consensus on the preliminary draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. Many delegates have already voiced their agreement to this draft, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Iceland, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, to mention but a few who have intervened today. It is obvious that there is a consensus, and therefore we strongly urge Member States to adopt the agreed text.

23.5 We believe that one of the major goals of the programmes and actions of UNESCO, be they in the field of education or science, ethics or communication, is the empowerment of people. Indeed, empowering people through access to information and knowledge, with special emphasis on freedom of expression has been identified as the principal priority for the Communication and Information Sector with the major thrust area being the promotion of freedom of expression. To bolster this effort – which is reflected in document 33 C/5 – at the last session of the Board, India put forward an item to inform the Member States of the developments taking place at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on the issue of providing additional rights to broadcasting organizations. The aim has always been to bring about wider discussion on this crucial topic, which impacts on the creation and sustainability of the public domain, which is so essential for development of knowledge societies. India believes any such discussion should involve a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The rights of broadcasting organizations must therefore not interfere with the right of the public and other stakeholders to have access to the public domain. In this context, the discussions should not be seen only from the perspective of intellectual property rights, but in the broader perspective of the right to freedom of information and knowledge dissemination. UNESCO, with its cross-cutting mandate of communication, promotion of access to knowledge, education and ethics of science, is an ideal forum for such discussions. When we talk of information and knowledge dissemination, this is exactly where technology comes in. We overlook the vast reserves of local knowledge and traditional wisdom held by communities – sometimes called indigenous communities – that we have marginalized. Each aspect of the traditional knowledge system is but a strand of knowledge intricately interwoven and inextricably linked to the whole web of existence. In contrast, we know that technology prides itself on its detached, objective and analytical mode of thinking, an abstract model that separates the observer from the observed – not to mention the right from the left side of the brain, as noted by the distinguished delegate from Iceland, and rightly so. This creates an artificial model of reality in which each part can be

examined in isolation as if it has no bearing on the whole. Traditional knowledge, on the other hand, seeks to comprehend the interwoven aspects of the ecosystem by means of identification rather than by abstraction. In recent years scientists have increasingly been turning to the keepers of local and traditional knowledge, realizing that these age-old systems have managed to preserve an ecological system and a balance that may be of the utmost relevance to a future humanity. The debate surrounding biopiracy, intellectual and cultural property rights, and benefit sharing has been raging for well over a decade, and still no satisfactory answers have been found. The problem incorporates the whole of this into a process of finding a solution that involves the representatives of traditional communities. It is a difficult task, but a task that is essential for the sake of our future as a human family. It is vital that we resolve these issues and achieve equity. The UNESCO Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) project is an attempt at building dialogue amongst traditional knowledge holders, natural and social scientists, resource managers and decision-makers to enhance biodiversity conservation and secure an active and equitable role for local communities. We need to bring a greater focus and not only allocate sufficient funds and resources, but also have intersectoral programmes in all the sectors – education, culture, social and human sciences, natural sciences, and so on.

23.6 You have asked us, Mr Chairman, not to thank you at the end, and therefore I shall not do so. But thank you very much.

٢٤,١ السيد العمري (اليمن) النص الكامل :

السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد المدير العام، أصحاب السعادة أعضاء المجلس الموقر، السيدات والسادة، أود في البداية أن أتقدم بشكري وتقديري إلى السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، سعادة السفير هانس هاينريخ وريدي، وإلى السيد كويشيرو ماتسورا، المدير العام لليونسكو، وإلى الأمانة على الجهد الكبير الذي بذل في إعداد الوثائق وتوزيعها في الوقت المناسب.

٢٤,٢ السيد الرئيس، السيدات والسادة، تصادف هذه الدورة احتفالات اليونسكو بالذكرى الستين لتأسيسها. وبهذه المناسبة السانحة فإن اليمن تهنيئ المنظمة آملة أن تكون هذه الذكرى نقطة انطلاق جديدة في التخطيط والعمل. ولقد شهدت اليونسكو هذا العام ميلاد مجموعة سفراء دول منظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي، وإن بلدي، الذي يتشرف برئاسة هذه المجموعة، يهنئ اليونسكو ومجموعة سفراء دول منظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي الذين أنشأوا مجموعتهم في نطاق هذه المنظمة للتعاون والعمل معها من أجل تيسير الحوار والتفاهم بين الثقافات والحضارات على أسس الاحترام المتبادل والفهم المشترك لقيم الأخوة الإنسانية.

٢٤,٣ السيد الرئيس، سبق وأن أعرب بلدي في الدورة السابقة للمجلس التنفيذي عن مساندته ودعمه لبرنامج اليونسكو الرامي إلى صياغة استراتيجية للتعليم للجميع للفترة ٢٠٠٥-٢٠١٥، وإلى تعزيز دور المنظمة على الصعيد الدولي كوكالة رائدة ومتخصصة في هذا المجال. وفي هذا الصدد، فإن بلدي قد جعل من قضية التعليم أولوية قصوى، سواء كان ذلك على مستوى التعليم العام أو المهني أو العالي أو في مجال محو الأمية. وفي هذا الاتجاه، فقد أنجز بلدي استراتيجية التعليم الأساسي واستراتيجية محو الأمية، ونعمل حالياً على إنجاز استراتيجية التعليم الثانوي والتعليم العالي. وتشكل هذه الاستراتيجيات أطراً تقنيية من شأنها أن ترسم قنوات واضحة لمسار الجهود الوطنية اليمنية، وتدفع المساندة الدولية لبرنامج التعليم في اليمن، الذي حقق رغم الصعوبات الكبيرة نجاحاً يحمل على التفاؤل ويدعو إلى الدعم والمساندة.

٢٤,٤ السيد الرئيس، السيدات والسادة، إن قضية التنوع الثقافي تشكل حجر الزاوية في إنجاح مسار عولمة ذات وجه إنساني يحافظ على ثراء التنوع وقيم التعدد وميزات أوجه الاختلاف البناء بما لا يجعل عالمنا على نمط واحد يخالف حقيقة التنوع وفوائده. وفي هذا الصدد، أود التأكيد على أهمية نجاح المؤتمر العام القادم (في دورته الثالثة والثلاثين) في التوصل إلى اتفاقية دولية تؤطر لهذا التنوع وتحميه وتنمي فوائده. فسوف يمثل ذلك نجاحا يضاف إلى رصيد منظمنا العتيده.

٢٤,٥ السيد الرئيس، أما بشأن مشروع البرنامج والميزانية لعامي ٢٠٠٦-٢٠٠٧، فإن بلدي قد ساند مقترح المدير العام المتمثل في اعتماد ميزانية قدرها ٦٣٥ مليون دولار. ونعبر عن التزامنا بتوصية الدورة الحادية والسبعين بعد المائة بشأن هذا الموضوع، ونحن على ثقة من نجاح المدير العام في التمكن من إيجاد المبلغ الإضافي. لكن هذه الثقة لا تعفي المجلس التنفيذي من تحمل مسؤولية دعم المدير العام فيما سيقتصره من آلية للحصول على هذا المبلغ الإضافي المطلوب لمساعدة اليونسكو في القيام بمهمتها، وخاصة في مجال التعليم ودعم البلدان الأقل نموا في هذا المجال الحيوي.

٢٤,٦ أما فيما يخص برنامج اليونسكو الخاص بدعم اللامركزية، فإن الجمهورية اليمنية تقترح على المنظمة القيام بدراسة المراحل المنجزة في طريق اللامركزية بحيث يتم استخلاص الجوانب الإيجابية لهذه السياسة ومحاولة تفادي العيوب التي تقع بها بعض الجهات المنفذة لهذه السياسة. فإننا ندعو، إذن إلى وقفة متأنية وتقييم للمراحل المنجزة في مجال تحقيق اللامركزية.

٢٤,٧ السيد الرئيس، نود أن نشكر المدير العام على التقرير الخاص بأوضاع المؤسسات التعليمية في فلسطين والجولان المحتل، وأن ندعم ونؤيد نداءه بشأن القدس. وندعو اليونسكو إلى القيام بواجباتها في هذه المنطقة من العالم التي تحتاج إلى روح التعاون الدولي وصدق النوايا والتنسيق بين الأطراف المعنية بعيدا عن التفرد بالحلول وسياسة الأمر الواقع. فالسلام الشامل والعادل للجميع هو الذي نسعى إليه جميعا. إن ثقافة السلام تعني تعاون أطراف النزاع في التوصل إلى التسويات والتنسيق فيما بين هذه الأطراف لتفادي الآثار السلبية على أي طرف ضمانا لدوام الاستقرار. ويبقى دور اليونسكو محوريا في الحفاظ على المعالم والآثار الثقافية وحماية المؤسسات التعليمية في فلسطين والجولان المحتل.

٢٤,٨ السيدات والسادة، في الختام، نجدد موقف اليمن الداعم للسيد المدير العام ونهنئه بالثقة التي حظي بها من المجلس التنفيذي يوم أمس، ونجدد لكم شخصيا، السيد الرئيس، الشكر على الحكمة والفاعلية التي تديرون بهما جلسات مجلسنا هذا. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(24.1) Mr ALAMRI (Yemen) *in extenso* (translation from the Arabic):

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, esteemed Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, I should like, at the outset, to offer my thanks and appreciation to Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, the Director-General of UNESCO, and to the Secretariat for the great effort they have exerted to prepare and distribute the documents on time.

(24.2) Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, this session coincides with the celebrations of UNESCO's 60th anniversary. Yemen congratulates the Organization, and hopes that this celebration may constitute a fresh starting-point with regard to UNESCO's planning and action. UNESCO has witnessed this year the birth of the group of ambassadors of the countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. My country, which has the honour

to be the current Chair of this group, congratulates UNESCO and the group of ambassadors of the countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, who established their group within UNESCO in order to cooperate and work to facilitate dialogue and understanding between cultures and civilizations on the basis of mutual respect for and joint understanding of the values of humanitarian fraternity.

(24.3) Mr Chairman, my country has already, at the previous session of the Executive Board, expressed its support for UNESCO's programme aimed at formulating a strategy for education for all (EFA) for 2005-2015 and at strengthening the Organization's role at the international level as a lead agency specialized in this field. In this connection, my country has made the question of education a top priority, whether at the level of general education, vocational education, higher education or literacy. In this regard, my country has implemented a strategy for basic education and a literacy strategy, and we are currently working to carry out a secondary and higher education strategy. The strategies form a legislative framework aimed at mapping out a clear course for our national efforts in this domain and for the flows of international support for the education programme in Yemen, which, despite great difficulties, has achieved a level of success which prompts optimism and invites further support.

(24.4) Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the question of cultural diversity is the cornerstone of ensuring a successful globalization with a human face which preserves the wealth of diversity, the values of pluralism, and the advantages of constructive differences in such a way as to avert cutting our world according to a single model which goes against the truth and the benefits of diversity. In this connection, I should like to stress the importance of having a successful 33rd session of the General Conference which agrees on an international convention which provides a framework for such diversity, protects it and develops its benefits. That would be a success which would add to our venerable Organization's credit.

(24.5) Mr Chairman, concerning the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007, my country supports the Director-General's proposal for the adoption of a budget of \$635 million. We express our commitment to the recommendation of the Executive Board at its 171st session in this regard. We are confident that the Director-General will succeed in finding the additional amount. However, this confidence does not absolve the Executive Board of its responsibility to support the Director-General concerning his proposed mechanism for the collection of the additional amount necessary to enable UNESCO to perform its mission, particularly in the field of education, and to support the least developed countries in that vital area.

(24.6) With regard to UNESCO's programme in support of decentralization, Yemen suggests that the Organization should undertake a study of the phases already accomplished on the path to decentralization in order to ascertain the positive aspects of this policy and endeavour to avoid the pitfalls encountered by certain executives of the policy. We therefore call for an unhasty approach and an assessment of the phases already accomplished towards the achievement of decentralization.

(24.7) Mr Chairman, we should like to thank the Director-General for the report on the situation of educational institutions in Palestine and the occupied Golan. We support his appeal concerning Jerusalem. We call upon UNESCO to shoulder its responsibilities in this region of the world, which needs a spirit of international cooperation, truthful intentions, and coordination among the parties concerned, taking care not to monopolize solutions or pursue a policy of *fait accompli*. For it is a comprehensive and just peace for all which we

are all pursuing. The culture of peace entails the cooperation of the parties to the conflict in arriving at solutions, and coordination among those parties in order to avert an adverse impact on any party and guarantee lasting stability. UNESCO's role remains pivotal in preserving the cultural landmarks and antiquities and protecting educational institutions in Palestine and the occupied Golan.

(24.8) Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, we reiterate Yemen's position in support of the Director-General, and we congratulate him on the vote of confidence he received from the Executive Board the day before yesterday. We renew to you personally, Mr Chairman, our thanks for the wisdom and effectiveness with which you steer the meetings of the Board. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

25.1 M. MOSCATO (Italie) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, c'est pour moi un véritable honneur et un grand plaisir de siéger pour la première fois au Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO en tant que représentant de l'Italie. Mon pays joue depuis toujours un rôle actif au sein de l'UNESCO et je tiens à vous faire part de mon intention d'apporter, à l'instar de mes prédécesseurs, ma contribution convaincue aux travaux du Conseil. Je voudrais tout d'abord présenter mes félicitations au Directeur général pour la décision du Conseil d'appuyer sa candidature pour un second mandat, qui coïncide avec le soixantième anniversaire de notre Organisation. Je désire aussi exprimer l'appui et le soutien de la délégation italienne aux propos qui ont été énoncés par mon collègue britannique au nom de la Présidence de l'Union européenne. Je concentrerai donc mon intervention sur quelques thèmes qui nous tiennent particulièrement à cœur.

25.2 Ma première considération concerne la culture : il est indéniable que le Secteur de la culture est celui qui garantit à l'UNESCO la plus grande visibilité à l'échelle mondiale. Tout en admettant la nécessité d'un équilibre général dans la distribution des ressources, il faut néanmoins constater qu'il existe un décalage entre cette visibilité et les ressources affectées au Secteur de la culture, et notamment à la sauvegarde du patrimoine mondial. Comme cela a été souvent souligné au sein même de cette assemblée, l'UNESCO est la seule organisation du système des Nations Unies qui a un mandat spécifique dans ce domaine. La sauvegarde de nos monuments, de nos paysages et de notre mémoire spirituelle est un objectif fondamental qui ne peut pas être séparé du dialogue entre les peuples.

25.3 Et c'est justement sur la question du dialogue entre les peuples que je me permets d'attirer plus particulièrement votre attention. Au cours de précédentes interventions au Conseil exécutif, le représentant de l'Italie avait formulé ses considérations sur les liens existant entre l'insuffisante connaissance de l'Autre, en particulier de sa culture et de ses expressions religieuses, et l'intolérance et les extrémismes, qui s'inscrivent parmi les causes du terrorisme. Nous sommes de plus en plus convaincus de la nécessité d'un dialogue plus concret et structuré au sein de l'UNESCO sur ce sujet et estimons que l'Organisation doit jouer dans ce domaine un rôle crucial, en assumant toutes les responsabilités relevant de son mandat vis-à-vis de la communauté internationale.

25.4 Je reviens donc sur la nécessité urgente de mettre en place avec détermination des mesures de plus en plus concrètes afin que l'action de l'UNESCO ne reste pas un *flatus vocis* mais puisse avoir un impact véritable dans la lutte contre le terrorisme. Dans ce but, je voudrais rappeler le souhait de l'Italie que l'UNESCO puisse coopérer avec des organisations internationales et des institutions privées déjà actives dans le secteur du dialogue entre les peuples et notamment entre les religions. Je souhaite, à cet égard, rappeler qu'une Déclaration sur le dialogue interreligieux avait

été adoptée en décembre 2001 par les chefs d'État et de gouvernement des pays membres de l'Union européenne lors du semestre de la Présidence italienne de l'Union.

25.5 Ma deuxième considération concerne le budget. L'Italie est favorable à la nouvelle proposition de budget présentée par le Directeur général, à savoir une partie constituée du budget ordinaire de 610 millions de dollars et une autre partie constituée de 25 millions de dollars qui serait financée par des contributions volontaires versées sur un compte spécial. Mon pays apprécie l'effort du Directeur général visant à réserver le budget de 25 millions de dollars dans son intégralité aux programmes et aux activités, et cela dans l'optique de renforcer la réalisation des objectifs prioritaires du programme biennal, notamment en faveur des pays en développement. Bien qu'il ne soit pas possible à l'heure actuelle de déterminer l'engagement précis de mon gouvernement, je peux d'ores et déjà faire état de l'intention de principe de l'Italie de contribuer au financement du compte spécial au cours de 2006. Cela dit, je tiens à souligner que mon pays attache beaucoup d'importance à la poursuite effective de l'action de rationalisation sur le plan administratif et financier qui a été engagée depuis quelques années par le Directeur général.

25.6 Ma troisième observation concerne l'importance pour l'UNESCO de donner une dimension politique accrue à son action. Cela peut être réalisé notamment en renforçant le lien entre la réflexion intellectuelle, confiée à des personnalités éminentes, et l'action opérationnelle de l'Organisation. Nous souhaitons que les différents débats au sein de celle-ci puissent s'orienter de plus en plus vers des résultats qui contribuent à satisfaire les besoins réels de nos populations. Il est certain qu'une UNESCO ainsi conçue ne peut que bénéficier d'un appui plus fort de la part de nos gouvernements. Merci Monsieur le Président, et tous nos compliments pour la manière dont vous dirigez nos débats.

Mr Dayrell de Lima took the Chair.

26.1 Mr LAKATOS (Hungary) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, UNESCO has begun to celebrate its 60th anniversary this month. Such an anniversary is a good time to take stock of what has been done in the first 60 years. But what about the next 60? And how about UNESCO in the twenty-first century? At historical moments such as this, we have the opportunity, and the duty in some sense, to raise questions about long-term goals and orientations. It was an inspired vision that provided the impetus for the foundation of this Organization in November 1945 after the "great and terrible war". Today, the original mission of advancing "the objectives of international peace and the common welfare of humankind" still has an acute relevance. The question of how to advance the realization of those objectives is particularly important in the immediate aftermath of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly and in the light of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2005. The 2005 World Summit Outcome document places a great emphasis on education, culture, sustainable development and dialogue among cultures as guarantees of peace and development. As these fields of action are within UNESCO's mandate, the Summit provided an opportunity for the Organization to figure at the forefront of the international agenda. That is why I find it particularly important that the review of the Organization's past be accompanied by a reflection on its future within the United Nations system. The inclusion of the three strategic thrusts of document 31 C/4 in the commemoration is therefore particularly important. Indeed, the jubilee context must also be used to reassess the major policy directions and to highlight priority areas by giving greater visibility to ongoing activities. We are also at a juncture in terms of the management of the Organization. A successful six-year period is coming to its end in a month, and a new term of four years begins. Furthermore, the General Conference is about to begin the elaboration of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013. The relevance of the intersectoral approach in programme planning is more pertinent than ever in the light of the complex challenges that face us. So, Mr Chairman, there is a

lot to be done in the next two months, until we turn 60, in order to deserve the birthday cake, a birthday cake with 60 candles.

26.2 We must acknowledge the success of the bridge-building initiatives of UNESCO in South-East Europe, including the regional forums organized in Ohrid, Tirana, and most recently in Varna. UNESCO has also been active in the field of the protection and preservation of this region's rich cultural heritage. In May, a donors' conference on the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage in Kosovo was organized by UNESCO with important results. Such initiatives help to promote the respect of cultural diversity in the region, and to foster amicable cross-border and inter-ethnic relations.

26.3 The elaboration and drafting of standard-setting instruments in the fields of culture, education and the sciences has progressed in the past two years. Hungary reiterates its support for normative action within UNESCO. The Organization's mandate requires that it continue to assume its responsibility by producing, with the involvement of all stakeholders, international legal instruments based on shared values such as democratic principles, the rule of law and respect for human rights. More broadly speaking, we are of the view that efficient multilateralism needs good-quality and relevant normative instruments. UNESCO must remain active in the domains of its competence because no one else will draft declarations on bioethics or the ethics of science or outer space, to name but a few. We agree with the Director-General that more attention has to be given to the monitoring of the adopted instruments. The implementation of this task must be accompanied by the reinforcement of legal expertise in the relevant domains. Furthermore, such normative action must continue to be underpinned by concomitant thinking that requires the intellectual skills and complementary professional expertise that we have within this House. We therefore consider crucial the harmonious and balanced development of both the Social and Human Sciences Sector and the Natural Sciences Sector. Moreover, the Social and Human Sciences Sector, in order to provide pertinent services to Member States, must be able to act as an interface, bridging and interlinking initiatives for the sake of global cooperation.

26.4 Mr Chairman, Hungary is convinced that the protection and promotion of cultural diversity is indeed inseparable from full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The draft cultural diversity convention is an important step forward in this direction, but there certainly remains a lot to be done. For example, the nature of the link between linguistic and cultural diversity needs to be developed further in accordance with the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its Action Plan.

(L'orateur poursuit en français)

26.5 Monsieur le Président, la Déclaration adoptée en 2001 a posé les jalons conceptuels, éthiques et juridiques en ce qui concerne la diversité culturelle. Il revient à l'UNESCO de faire avancer la réflexion sur ces questions qui sont plus que jamais au cœur des préoccupations actuelles. La Conférence internationale sur l'approche en termes de capacités, qui a eu lieu dans cette maison la semaine dernière, a donné un bon exemple de la manière dont l'UNESCO peut servir de laboratoire d'idées en identifiant les nouvelles problématiques, en recherchant des solutions novatrices et en créant un espace de dialogue.

26.6 Mais nous devons nous engager aussi sur le champ de l'action pour que les lignes directrices se concrétisent pleinement. La Déclaration a mis en relief les droits culturels comme « cadre propice à la diversité culturelle » et comme partie intégrante des droits de l'homme. Parmi les droits culturels, l'aspect linguistique joue un rôle crucial. En effet, Monsieur le Président, comme le souligne votre rapport sur l'activité du Conseil exécutif, il ne saurait y avoir de véritable diversité culturelle sans une diversité linguistique florissante. C'est pour cette raison que, lors de

notre session du printemps dernier, un certain nombre de pays, dont la Hongrie, se sont joints à l'Islande pour soutenir sa proposition concernant un programme intersectoriel dédié aux langues dans le Projet de programme et de budget (33 C/5). Le Conseil a fait sienne cette initiative dans le cadre de ses recommandations sur le document 33 C/5. Nous avons l'espoir – et, depuis l'entretien que nous avons eu hier après-midi avec le Directeur général, la certitude – que les incidences de cette mesure du Conseil exécutif seront prises en compte au moment opportun.

26.7 L'Académie des sciences hongroise, en partenariat avec l'UNESCO et le Conseil international pour la science (ICSU) et avec le soutien du Gouvernement hongrois, organisera le deuxième Forum mondial de la science à Budapest, en novembre 2005. Les thèmes centraux de cette année seront le savoir, l'éthique et la responsabilité. Le Forum réunira également des scientifiques palestiniens et israéliens en vue de promouvoir leur actuelle coopération dans le cadre du Conseil scientifique de l'Organisation scientifique israélo-palestinienne (IPSO). Nous sommes favorables à l'établissement de nouveaux partenariats avec la société civile. Du fait de ses domaines de compétence et de son expérience propre, l'UNESCO dispose sur ce plan d'un atout considérable.

26.8 Enfin, permettez-moi de conclure, Monsieur le Président, en évoquant la mémoire de toutes celles et de tous ceux qui ont siégé et travaillé au Conseil exécutif pendant ses soixante ans d'existence et qui ne sont plus avec nous aujourd'hui. Merci de votre attention.

27.1 Mr AZIZ (Bangladesh) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity for the first time to participate and give statements to the 172nd session of the Executive Board of UNESCO. My delegation would like to wish every success to Mr Wrede and to express its special appreciation of his role as Chairman of Executive Board meetings since the 169th session.

27.2 Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

27.3 We congratulate the Director-General on his nomination for a second term, and applaud his relentless efforts to upgrade the premises of UNESCO Headquarters and initiate measures for improved governance and functioning and effective coordination between Headquarters, regional bureaux and field offices. We especially thank him for giving in his report presented for our consideration a comprehensive reflection of the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference, the follow-up of decisions and resolutions adopted at previous sessions of the Executive Board and General Conference, and the meticulously crafted budgetary statements for 2005-2006.

27.4 Mr Chairman, we feel that document 33 C/5 could have been more focused on the education for all (EFA) programme. UNESCO may more adequately motivate and encourage the E-9 countries to quickly implement the Dakar Framework for EFA and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. We would like to propose that a separate budget line should be maintained for E-9 countries, and that resource allocation should be increased in this regard. In Bangladesh, progress achieved in the field of primary and secondary education and literacy programmes reflects the government's commitment to EFA. Mr Chairman, my delegation wholeheartedly welcomes the priorities set by UNESCO in Africa and Latin America in respect of EFA, teacher training and EDUCAIDS. But the Organization should not lose sight of Asia, especially Bangladesh, where a significant number of people live below the poverty line. I will try to inform you of some of our efforts in the related fields for supportive cooperation of UNESCO. Our education at the primary and secondary levels has made much progress in enrolment, retention and gender equity. Similar progress has been achieved in adult literacy. Incentives provided, such as

stipends covering all children at primary level and female students at secondary level, have encouraged targeted families to enrol and keep their children in primary and secondary school education. Under these projects, the government is planning to compensate the opportunity cost of sending children to school and thus to address the issue of equity. Mr Chairman, the Government of Bangladesh is striving to achieve its EFA goals. To this end, various approaches, programmes and projects have been undertaken and steps taken for successful implementation. In the primary education sector, the government is taking into account its constitutional obligations, the MDGs and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), and has launched a primary education development project (PEDP-II) for the further development of primary education and to ensure quality education for all the children of Bangladesh. In order to address problems relating to children that have no opportunity for education, the Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) project, has been implemented by the government. Under this project education centres are being established as needed throughout the country in collaboration with NGOs.

27.5 Mr Chairman, the contribution of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) is reinforcing the capacities of Member States in design, implementation and monitoring, which is undoubtedly desirable. But enhanced resource availability is needed because it is difficult for many developing nations to meet the expense of strengthening training programmes in educational planning, management, evaluation and monitoring. Regarding fellowships, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Director-General to the need to relax criteria and qualifications for developing countries since there are many subjects mentioned in the list of criteria not taught in countries like Bangladesh.

27.6 Mr Chairman, the Bangladesh UNESCO country office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, is trying to infuse HIV/AIDS prevention education in the curriculum. We have included it in health science studies. Through this, we are making students aware of HIV/AIDS. We have an HIV/AIDS focal point at the Ministry where we take care of HIV/AIDS education and related conferences and seminars. One of the major problems that we face in making it a very strong intervention at the school level concerns the resource constraints, both financial and technical.

27.7 We thank the Director-General for granting us \$25,000 in emergency flood assistance. We would like to inform him that the amount has already been utilized among flood-affected schools all over Bangladesh. We are also grateful to UNESCO for ICT-induced education programmes in our country and also for the Arsenic Mitigation Project.

27.8 I would like to end by thanking the Members of the Executive Board, the sectoral commissions and the working groups for their dedication and contributions to the commitment of furthering the goals of UNESCO around the world. We are also grateful for the continuing support and contributions of UNESCO, the National Commissions and partners at all levels. Thank you Mr Chairman and respected delegates for your patient attention.

28.1 M. ITEN (Suisse) *in extenso* :

Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'exprimer la profonde compassion de mon pays devant le désastre provoqué par l'ouragan Katrina. La Suisse adresse ses sympathies à celles et ceux qui en ont été victimes et, à leurs proches, message que je fais également mien.

28.2 Monsieur le Directeur général, la Suisse se félicite des 60 ans d'existence de l'UNESCO. En cette date anniversaire, je souhaiterais citer le rapport de notre Conseil sur sa propre activité en 2004-2005 qui rappelle une ambition de taille assignée à notre Organisation, celle d'avoir un impact durable. Joignons nos forces pour que cela ne reste pas un vœu pieux, en considérant attentivement les défis, nouveaux et anciens, que nous devons et pourrons relever.

28.3 En ce sens, j'évoquais lors de la dernière session de notre Conseil le stade crucial auquel étaient parvenues les réformes, réformes que l'UNESCO doit pouvoir mener avec cohérence. Mon pays attend beaucoup de la Conférence générale qui s'annonce pour nous permettre de franchir ce cap. Les signes sont prometteurs, notamment grâce à la volonté démontrée par les États membres d'œuvrer en faveur d'une efficacité renouvelée de notre Organisation. C'est aussi à cet égard que mon Gouvernement vous a réitéré et vous réitère sa confiance, Monsieur le Directeur général, avec cette mission : accomplir sans ambages les réformes.

28.4 Tout d'abord, il importe de parachever les efforts engagés il y a six ans maintenant, notamment en ce qui concerne la décentralisation. L'expérience acquise en la matière devrait permettre d'identifier les lacunes et les limites de cette entreprise. Un équilibre justifié et mesuré au regard du potentiel de l'UNESCO et des nécessités du terrain devra être rapidement atteint. On ne saurait attendre plus longtemps pour assurer une mise en œuvre pleinement efficace du programme. À ce titre, il s'agit du point de vue de la Suisse de concentrer les efforts de notre Organisation sur ses activités propres. La valeur ajoutée et l'image de notre Organisation, ses ressources au Siège comme hors Siège, sont à préserver. Le « tout UNESCO » présente le risque d'une trop grande dispersion et d'une dilution des moyens. En ce sens, l'implication de l'UNESCO au sein d'institutions ou d'autres organismes dont elle n'est pas l'initiatrice appelle une grande vigilance.

28.5 Une seconde série d'améliorations devrait aussi aboutir dans les meilleurs délais. Je pense ici aux méthodes de programmation et de budgétisation, dont la refonte permettra de mieux définir le rôle de l'UNESCO par rapport à ses fonctions et aux mandats qui lui ont été confiés. Définir des objectifs clairs et planifier au plus près les activités à mener pour atteindre ces buts en coordination avec les autres acteurs bilatéraux et multilatéraux, telle est la démarche à adopter et sur laquelle doit reposer la construction budgétaire. La responsabilité en incombe en premier lieu aux États membres. La Suisse espère vivement que la Conférence générale, en abordant le Projet de programme et de budget pour 2006-2007 comme la préparation de la prochaine Stratégie pour 2008-2013, saura saisir l'occasion de définir des lignes politiques fortes et d'établir des priorités.

28.6 Les autorités suisses tiennent à saluer les résultats de l'exercice qui a abouti au projet unique de Programme et budget pour 2006-2007. L'effort de rationalisation qui a été fourni a permis d'absorber les « nouveaux » coûts et, surtout, a facilité la mise en perspective des priorités. La proposition de programme et de budget qui est présentée laisse bien augurer du renouvellement du processus de planification. Certes, le développement à long terme de cette méthodologie, notamment sa relation avec le principe d'un cycle biennal actuellement en vigueur, devra faire l'objet d'un examen plus approfondi. Cette approche demande aussi les plus grandes garanties de transparence dans le domaine de l'évaluation, accompagnées d'un renforcement de la responsabilisation.

28.7 La mise en œuvre du programme biennal actuel s'achèvera à la fin de cette année. Je vous adresse, Monsieur le Directeur général, une première question générale : devons-nous nous inquiéter du niveau relativement bas des taux indicatifs de dépenses par programme ?

28.8 S'agissant du Secteur de l'éducation, la Suisse salue la révision du plan international de mise en œuvre de la Décennie pour l'éducation en vue du développement durable. La Commission nationale de mon pays, qui s'engage particulièrement en faveur de cette initiative, attend un soutien continu de « Paris », jouant son rôle de chef de file. Toujours dans ce secteur, les autorités suisses souhaiteraient pouvoir être renseignées sur l'avancée et les résultats des discussions avec les partenaires clés de l'EPT évoquées dans votre rapport, puisque ce point ne figure pas à notre ordre du jour.

28.9 La Suisse, lieu important de la recherche scientifique, soutient la proposition tendant à développer un outil de réflexion éthique pour aider les chercheurs dans leur prise de décisions au quotidien. Le lancement par le Secteur de la science d'une étude relative à l'opportunité d'élaborer une déclaration internationale sur l'éthique scientifique représente une première étape importante à cet égard.

28.10 L'actualité dans le domaine de la culture reste pour la Suisse – comme pour beaucoup d'autres pays – la diversité culturelle. La Suisse a ainsi soutenu le processus d'élaboration d'une convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, en prenant une part active aux travaux. Elle soutient l'avant-projet de convention tel qu'il a été adopté le 3 juin 2005 à l'issue de la troisième réunion intergouvernementale d'experts et souscrit à la recommandation formulée par ladite réunion qui invite le Directeur général à soumettre l'avant-projet en l'état à la Conférence générale en vue de son adoption (moyennant les quelques modifications apportées sur le plan de la forme par le Secrétariat). Elle espère que le Conseil exécutif transmettra une recommandation explicite à la Conférence générale dans ce sens. Les autorités suisses sont convaincues que le franchissement de cette étape facilitera le processus de ratification de la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel de 2003, dès lors que le « bouquet » d'instruments juridiques internationaux en matière de culture sera ainsi complété.

28.11 Enfin, en ce qui concerne le grand programme IV (relatif à la culture), la Suisse espère vivement que les moyens nécessaires seront alloués à l'initiative de développement de la base de données sur les législations relatives au patrimoine culturel, que nous jugeons prioritaire pour la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1970 sur le trafic des biens culturels. S'agissant du nouvel accent qu'il est proposé de mettre sur les musées, la Suisse rappelle le rôle important du Conseil international des musées (ICOM) dans ce domaine. Il s'agit dès lors de veiller à ce que l'UNESCO ne concurrence pas cette organisation non gouvernementale et surtout d'éviter les chevauchements. Une coordination efficace des travaux est nécessaire si l'on entend améliorer la place et le rôle des musées dans le monde. Je vous remercie.

Mr Wrede resumed the Chair.

29.1 Mr MOLNÁR (Slovakia) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, ladies and gentlemen, my last intervention on a new vision for UNESCO was about using a lens or window of SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis. It is good practice in many organizations when they are looking for fresh vision. If SWOT analysis works for them, I think we can learn from it as well. For this intervention, I have changed my lens or window to the broader notion of knowledge. There are many reasons for this. We are about to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our Organization – that is 60 years of activities, but also 60 years of experience and good practices that have naturally led to competence and knowledge. We might hear a lot of talk about knowledge dissemination, which is more or less impossible. But I am selfish. I prefer “to keep knowledge here in our Organization” and to base all of our activities and decisions on knowledge that is deep and professional. Looking through the lens of knowledge at the structure and functioning of our Organization might put some of our activities in a different light. For a start we should realize that only part of our knowledge can be disseminated. A fair share of our knowledge is in our heads and is impossible to disseminate. Therefore, professionals in a knowledge-related field do not use the term “dissemination” but rather “sharing” to stress the fact that the management and utilization of knowledge involve manipulation of that knowledge by human beings. The synergy of knowledge-sharing very naturally brings benefits for all participants. For every sector of our Organization inevitably and very naturally participates in knowledge sharing. But what is most important is the fact that knowledge-sharing does not depend on sectors.

Knowledge-sharing depends on each and every human being in those sectors. Knowledge-sharing accumulates the value added by each individual participant. I fully realize that implementing these ideas is neither simple nor straightforward. But we are talking about a new vision for UNESCO, a form of organization that will be functioning in and for a new form of society, what we call the “knowledge societies”. By the way, knowledge-sharing is the only reasonable justification for using the plural form. And Thomas Jefferson already in 1807 said that “the field of knowledge is the common property of all mankind”.

29.2 In regard to education, – there is no other way how to become “knowledgeable” than through education – formal and informal. And once again, I call for family education. Knowledge societies need people who are not only knowledgeable, but who also have a high sense of moral responsibility.

29.3 New technologies, above all ICTs, offer very useful tools for communication, but we can see that this communication is more and more virtual, and there is no doubt that it cannot replace face-to-face communication.

29.4 As for science, new knowledge cannot be created without it. Especially now that almost all processes – material, industrial, technological and even social – are based on deep scientific knowledge. Nevertheless, I have a bad feeling that science is “dropping out” of our speeches, of our arguments. Knowledge societies, more than any other form of society, need science, new scientific results. And science needs our support; if for no other reason than the fact that the word “science” stems from the Latin verb *scire* meaning “to know”.

29.5 Mr Chairman, Slovakia appreciates the activities of the Director-General, the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) and the Member States that have helped prepare the draft universal declaration on bioethics and human rights.

29.6 As for culture, Slovakia welcomes the activities that have led to the preliminary draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and strongly supports its adoption. And with respect to sport, we welcome the activities of UNESCO leading to the final draft of the international convention against doping in sport. The Slovak Ministry of Education, in cooperation with UNESCO, recently organized a round table on doping in sport, and we would like to express our appreciation and thanks to the Director-General for taking part in that round table during his visit to Slovakia.

29.7 As for the last Major Programme – Communication and information – this year we at UNESCO will participate in the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunisia, and I hope our standards will remain as high.

29.8 UNESCO has a chance and a duty to offer complex, integrated and holistic contributions that take into account our competences in education, science and culture to offer knowledgeable and wise contribution.

29.9 In conclusion, Mr Chairman, distinguished colleagues, as our term as a Member of the Executive Board is coming to an end and this is our last official statement, allow me to express our thanks and appreciation to each and every distinguished colleague of the Board for their cooperation and understanding. For me personally it has been a time of knowledge-building. I have learnt a lot. In return, I have done my best to contribute to the knowledge-sharing of the Executive Board. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

FOURTH MEETING

Tuesday 20 September 2005 at 3.10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede
later: Mr Gueguinou
later: Mr Wrede

Point 3 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR L'EXÉCUTION DU PROGRAMME ADOPTÉ PAR LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE (172 EX/4 Partie I et Add. et II ; 172 EX/INF.5 ; 172 EX/INF.6 ; 172 EX/INF.9 ; 172 EX/INF.10) (*suite*)

Point 4 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LE SUIVI DES DÉCISIONS ET RÉOLUTIONS ADOPTÉES PAR LE CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF ET LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE À LEURS SESSIONS ANTÉRIEURES (172 EX/5 ; 172 EX/INF.5 ; 172 EX/INF.6 ; 172 EX/INF.7 (Rev. : anglais seulement)) (*suite*)

Point 21 EXAMEN DU PROJET DE PROGRAMME ET DE BUDGET POUR 2006-2007 (33 C/5) ET RECOMMANDATIONS DU CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF (33 C/5 Projet, Rev. et Add. ; 172 EX/INF.5 ; 172 EX/INF.6) (*suite*)

1.1 M. SAWADOGO (Burkina Faso) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, au moment où le Burkina Faso s'apprête à quitter le Conseil exécutif, il me plaît de rappeler notre conviction que les idéaux de notre Organisation seront demain les seuls repères pour progresser. Les avancées obtenues durant l'exercice écoulé et qui sont pertinentes, permettront d'atteindre, j'en suis sûr, des résultats encore meilleurs si nous arrivons à préserver et surtout à réadapter nos stratégies là où cela s'avère nécessaire. Si les défis du monde actuel sont édifiants voire effrayants, notre Organisation, aujourd'hui pétrie de sagesse avec ses 60 ans, joue efficacement son rôle.

1.2 Monsieur le Président, notre monde reste marqué par une paix précaire, un analphabétisme chronique pour plus de 800 millions d'adultes, le nonaccès à la scolarisation de plus de 100 millions d'enfants, le renforcement de l'extrême pauvreté dans la plupart des pays africains, des transitions politiques difficiles et parfois même dramatiques ici ou là, la destruction effrénée des écosystèmes, la recrudescence et la persistance de maladies endémiques comme le choléra, la méningite, le paludisme et le VIH/sida, autant de calamités auxquelles nous sommes confrontés. Si l'on ajoute à cela les catastrophes qui ont endeuillé ces derniers temps certaines populations du monde en Asie et aux États-Unis, la tâche de l'UNESCO reste immense. Et pourtant, que de grands sommets, de grandes réunions internationales dont les conclusions n'apportent que très peu de réponses à la condition des populations dites cibles, au nom desquelles pourtant ces rencontres ont été convoquées !

1.3 Monsieur le Président, la précarité de la condition humaine reflète aujourd'hui notre communauté de destin sur la planète Terre et nécessite un engagement collectif dans la voie de la solidarité, du dialogue en vue de la compréhension mutuelle, de l'approfondissement du savoir vivre ensemble et du renforcement des compétences des ressources humaines dans tous les domaines. L'UNESCO doit désormais redoubler d'efforts dans le choix de ses priorités en évitant toute compétition avec ses partenaires du système des Nations Unies, dont les membres se doivent d'être complémentaires. Son alignement sur les procédures du système des Nations Unies ne doit en aucun cas remettre en cause la spécificité que lui ont conférée ses pères fondateurs. L'Organisation

doit adopter des méthodes de programmation à la portée de tous ses États membres et rendre compte de l'exécution de manière à mettre en exergue les efforts consentis et surtout l'impact des activités entreprises en débouchant sur des résultats concrets et mesurables sur les plans qualitatif et quantitatif.

1.4 Ainsi, dans le domaine de l'éducation, la mise en œuvre du projet de l'EPT lancé à Jomtien (Thaïlande) en 1990 et revu et corrigé en 2000 à Dakar, continue d'être une source de préoccupation majeure pour les États membres de toutes les régions d'Afrique. Tous les observateurs s'accordent à dire en effet qu'en Afrique, ce projet est encore très loin des résultats escomptés pour 2015. Il s'est intéressé trop tardivement à la formation des personnels enseignants, ce qui est regrettable, et ce malgré les efforts personnels du Directeur général, dont nous lui savons gré. Le Secrétariat n'a pu encore répondre à la demande des États membres de ce continent, où le manque de ressources humaines appropriées freine considérablement tout effort national en faveur de l'Éducation pour tous. Nous espérons vivement que l'arrivée de M. Peter Smith à la tête du Secteur de l'éducation facilitera de nouvelles avancées.

1.5 Par ailleurs, considérant que la sensibilisation au projet de l'EPT relève non seulement de la responsabilité du Secrétariat, mais aussi de celle de tous les États membres, le Burkina Faso, dont la Constitution accorde une priorité particulière à la parité hommes-femmes, a entrepris d'encourager, en coopération avec l'UNESCO, la création du Centre international pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes en Afrique (CIEFFA), projet pour lequel le Directeur général a soumis à notre présente session un document (172 EX/8) relatif au classement de ce centre dans la catégorie 2. Comme il l'a déjà fait pour le Festival panafricain du cinéma et de la télévision de Ouagadougou (FESPACO), le Salon international de l'artisanat de Ouagadougou (SIAO), le Tour cycliste du Faso et le Conseil africain et malgache pour l'enseignement supérieur (CAMES), qui sont tous aujourd'hui des réalisations ayant une dimension panafricaine et mondiale, le Burkina Faso s'investira dans la réussite du Centre international pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes en Afrique (CIEFFA). Nous espérons que le Conseil exécutif, à sa présente session, autorisera le Directeur général à renforcer davantage la coopération entre l'Organisation et ce Centre, que la Conférence des Chefs d'État de l'Union africaine considère comme un instrument essentiel pour parvenir à l'EPT en Afrique. Enfin, ma délégation tient à remercier sincèrement le Président du Conseil exécutif, M. Hans Heinrich-Wrede, d'avoir bien voulu nous encourager en soulignant hier, dans son discours, l'importance de la création de ce Centre.

1.6 Pour ce qui est des sciences, le peu d'attention accordée aux recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur la science (Budapest, juin 1999) relatives au développement de la science et de la technologie dans les pays en développement, en particulier ceux d'Afrique, est une grave lacune qui devra être comblée. La création du Programme international relatif aux sciences fondamentales est une bonne initiative, certes, mais elle est très insuffisante. Toutefois, là encore nous sommes très reconnaissants au Directeur général qui a montré qu'il nous a compris en créant en avril dernier (DG/NOTE/05/12) une division chargée d'apporter le concours de l'Organisation aux États membres qui le souhaitent pour la définition de leur politique scientifique. Enfin, l'autre préoccupation fondamentale en ce qui concerne le développement durable en Afrique a trait aux énergies nouvelles et renouvelables, en particulier l'énergie solaire. L'expérience a montré, à travers quelques projets pilotes, que l'accès à l'énergie solaire pouvait contribuer efficacement au développement des zones rurales dans tous les domaines. Un engagement ferme de notre Organisation en faveur du développement de l'énergie solaire répondra hautement aux attentes de nombreux pays africains, notamment les pays membres de la SENSAD, attentes exprimées lors du récent Sommet des Chefs d'État réuni à Ouagadougou, en juin 2005.

1.7 En ce qui concerne les sciences sociales, nous souhaitons vivement que l'UNESCO fasse tout pour mieux s'acquitter de son rôle dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, qui ne semble pas

actuellement, hélas, bénéficiaire d'un rang de priorité élevé. De même, nous ne comprenons pas le grand retard pris dans la publication du Rapport mondial sur la construction de sociétés du savoir.

1.8 Dans le domaine de la culture, il faut saluer le dynamisme et la compétence dont ont fait preuve le Directeur général et le Secrétariat. En effet, en présentant un avant-projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, le Directeur général a rempli parfaitement sa mission. Nous nous félicitons également du consensus dont a fait l'objet le projet de convention internationale contre le dopage dans le sport. Toujours au sujet de la culture, ma délégation voudrait exprimer sa satisfaction au Centre de l'UNESCO pour le patrimoine mondial, qui a fait bénéficier le Burkina Faso de ses compétences expertes aux fins de la préparation de ses deux propositions d'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, sur laquelle jusqu'à présent le Burkina Faso ne comptait aucun site.

1.9 S'agissant du budget de l'Organisation, à la 171^e session du Conseil exécutif, ma délégation a accordé son soutien, Monsieur le Directeur général, au projet de budget que vous avez présenté. Or les allocations budgétaires prévues pour financer les services de sécurité des bureaux hors Siège sont exorbitantes par rapport à celles qui sont réservées au programme proprement dit. Nous pensons qu'une contribution des pays hôtes desdits bureaux permettrait de réduire sensiblement cette dépense.

1.10 Enfin, au moment de quitter le Conseil exécutif, je tiens à témoigner au Directeur général, au Secrétariat et à tous les membres du Conseil toute la gratitude de mon gouvernement et de moi-même pour la disponibilité que nous avons rencontrée durant tout notre mandat. Je vous remercie.

2.1 Ms CAMPBELL (Jamaica) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, as an aside before I begin, I should probably remind my audience that the world record holder for the 100 metres is a Jamaican, Asafa Powell. I'm going to see if I can equal his record or at least beat it in my presentation, with the speed at which I'm going to try to get through it.

2.2 Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Director-General, colleagues, for half of us, this session marks the end of a significant four-year period as Members of this important organ, to use a word very much in vogue. Let me start by commenting on some of what I would call the highlights of the last biennium's efforts. It has been a productive term within the Secretariat, witnessing as it has spirited and lengthy negotiations on two major conventions, one dealing with cultural diversity and the other doping in sports. The declaration on universal norms on bioethics, a third normative instrument, culminated the work of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee and the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts Aimed at Finalizing a Draft Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics, chosen by the Director-General. The Government of Jamaica was happy to make a contribution to the efforts of the experts which led to the draft declaration through the participation of one of our distinguished sons, Judge Patrick Robinson of the International Criminal Tribunal at The Hague.

2.3 The reform of the organs of governance, a major preoccupation of the Organization over the last biennium, involved not only the deliberations of an ad hoc committee of experts chosen on a regional basis, but also received input from senior members of the Secretariat, special advisers chosen by the President of the General Conference and the Special Committee of our own Board. As others have remarked, this was not an unusual or novel area of study as, since the beginning of our very existence, deliberations on reform and change have held a crucial niche on our agenda. It is to be hoped that the 33rd session of the General Conference will find it possible to adopt some of the recommendations in the experts' report, and agree on a plan of action.

2.4 The reform of the working methods of the Secretariat, a costly exercise for the Member States, especially with regard to the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), its financial component, and the human resources element, is, according to the Director-General's reports, making progress. If the eventual outcomes confirm that it has made a significant difference in the functioning of the entire Organization, both in the field and at Headquarters, the Director-General should be able to proudly claim that he has been able to fulfil the promises of improved management made at the start of his mandate. The jury is still out, however, on the success of the decentralization exercise.

2.5 In the field of education, Mr Chairman, it seems that renewed efforts are being made to straighten out the kinks in the education for all (EFA) programme. If a joint action plan with clear definitions and mutual understanding of roles and a coherent strategy of operation emerges from the Round Table of Ministers of Education on EFA at the General Conference, it will herald a major step forward.

2.6 It is probably appropriate that I should mention also the significant efforts taking place in Jamaica with regard to the achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The government has decided that its priority policy, the achievement of basic education for all, should be the foundation on which all other aspects of human development should rest. With respect to the achievement of universal primary level school-age education, 99.5% of the primary level school-age population is in school. With this achievement, major attention has now been turned to improving quality at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, and to early childhood care and education. The seriousness of this new thrust is evidenced by the fact that the budget allocation to education in the current budget is the largest in Jamaica's history.

2.7 The International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), a welcome initiative, already seems to be bearing fruit. Unfortunately the Caribbean region was unable to come forward with projects to be included among the first 30 selected by the Scientific Board for implementation in the next biennium. Plans are afoot, however, to hold a high-level conference in Jamaica to sensitize Caribbean Community (CARICOM) ministers as to the strategic importance of science to development. Hopefully, by this means, projects suitable for consideration under this programme will be submitted in the not too distant future.

2.8 Also in the field of natural science, the CARICOM States continue to hope that after nearly ten years of effort, the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Science at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies will at last have the means to be accepted as a category 2 institute. Mr José Israël Vargas, former Brazilian representative to this Executive Board and a member of the Board of Directors of the Centre, has over the years combined his efforts with ours to achieve this aim.

2.9 In the field of communication, we wish to pay special tribute to the work of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and to its indefatigable Chairman, Torben Krogh, for fund-raising and for initiating the reform process of the Programme's working methods. The IPDC Bureau, through the agency of my delegation, which holds the office of Rapporteur, hopes to place before the General Conference, in the form of a draft resolution, an appeal for the developed countries to reinforce their financial commitment to this Programme. We feel that such an action will enable IPDC to continue to act as a major forum in the United Nations system for developing free and pluralistic media with a global approach to democratic development. If and when the resolution comes before the General Conference in Commission V, my delegation would especially solicit the support, by co-sponsorship, of the numerous countries which have benefited from the Programme.

2.10 With regard to the 60th anniversary of UNESCO six months ago, the Government of Jamaica established a national committee to plan activities for the joint celebration of the 60th anniversary of UNESCO and the 40th anniversary of the Jamaican National Commission for UNESCO. The celebrations will commence in November with a flag-raising ceremony and a number of other events. As I stated in the private session, I would again like to return to the problem of the election of the External Auditor, because a number of delegations who are not on this Board continue to approach me about the lack of a procedure for selecting someone to fill such a strategic post. It seems that despite the strategic nature of this post and its critical function in the oversight mechanism of the Organization, there are no guidelines to aid Member States in making a considered decision. It is my view that the Member States' choice requires more thought and consideration than is usually the case with some other elections on the agenda of the Nominations Committee, such as those leading to membership in the intergovernmental committees. So, again, may I suggest that the Executive Board ask the Director-General to engage expertise to analyse the applications received and to advise Member States as to whether they meet the objective criteria necessary for such an important function. The conclusions of the analysis should be technical and a guide to decision-making, and should in no way attempt to rank applicants for the post, thus exercising undue influence on the choice of Member States.

2.11 My two other paragraphs that I will be forced to omit were thanking the Director-General for his work during the six-year term, and hoping that he will continue the work that he has started and thanking you, Mr Chairman, for your work as head of the Executive Board.

3.1 Mr PLATTE (Germany) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this delegation fully endorses the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union.

3.2 This year, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of UNESCO, it is certainly the right occasion to take stock and to rededicate ourselves to the noble objectives this Organization set itself in 1945. Now – today – it is our duty to ensure together that UNESCO remains relevant, both by concentrating on its principal priorities and by adapting to new, urgent tasks of a truly global nature. For this, we need foresight, courage and determination. My delegation will – as in the past – support all efforts to accomplish our common goals.

3.3 Mr Chairman, three weeks ago, another violent stroke of nature claimed many hundreds of lives of innocent people. Please allow my delegation to express its sincere condolences to the American people. Whatever type of hazard, be it a weather, a water or a geological hazard, it is our duty to engage ourselves even more in disaster prevention. The tragic 2004 tsunami has led Germany to contribute to efforts aimed at mitigating similar disasters in the future. In collaboration with Indonesia, contributing to the Regional Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean under the umbrella of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Germany will implement an early warning system for Indonesia. The first buoys and satellite-linked gauges are scheduled to begin issuing warnings in the Indian Ocean in November 2005. To implement the lessons learned from this disaster and as a follow-up to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan (18-22 January 2005), my government invites all interested Member States to Bonn, Germany in March 2006 for an international early warning conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the theme “From Concept to Action”.

3.4 Regarding the relations between UNESCO's different entities, my delegation emphasizes the central role of the UNESCO education institutes. Their competences have been duly acknowledged on the ground. I am confident that the ongoing evaluation process will reveal this, too. In times of scarce money, while UNESCO is implementing a major reorientation, such as the

new decentralization policy, these institutes also need to be linked to Headquarters by an overall strategy. This would reveal a certain overlapping of their activities and motivate Headquarters to make better use of their competences. This delegation wonders why the *EFA Global Monitoring Report* does not rely more on input from the specialized UNESCO institutes. It is evident that expensive consultants are needed to perform objective external evaluations. However, annual reports should be compiled by the relevant staff members of this Organization.

3.5 My government welcomes UNESCO's initiative to serve as a catalyst for international cooperation within the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). The Decade remains a key political priority in Germany; more than 120 projects are already under way.

3.6 Mr Chairman, we are currently celebrating the International Year for Sport and Physical Education. Germany provided funding for 24 projects which covered the different objectives of this International Year. Germany promotes sports in Afghanistan, South-East Asia and some African countries, with an eye to development, as well as to integrating minorities such as handicapped persons and migrants.

3.7 The Supplements Symposium scheduled for 29 and 30 September 2005 in Leipzig, Germany, will explore the tremendous potential of the soon-to-be-adopted international convention against doping in sport, which Germany staunchly supports.

3.8 Germany welcomes the initiative taken by the Director-General to draw attention to the overriding importance of National Commissions. Indeed, the National Commissions play a crucial role as experts, coordinators and multipliers in Member States, thus mobilizing civil society as a whole.

3.9 Mr Chairman, my delegation eagerly welcomes the consultative process for the next Medium-Term Strategy, which will be initiated at the 33rd General Conference. UNESCO will gain even greater importance in the era of globalization. Contributing to the human dimension of globalization that puts human dignity at its centre is at the heart of this Organization's mandate. My country, my government and this delegation will continue their full support for the fulfilment of our mandate.

3.10 Let me, in conclusion, congratulate the Director-General on his nomination for a second term of office. We wish you success – you can count on Germany! Let me express also to the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Dr Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan, my sincere congratulations on his nomination for the office of President of the 33rd session of the General Conference. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

4.1 El Sr. BARNET LANZA (Cuba) *in extenso*:

Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, Presidente de la Conferencia General, Director General, estimados colegas. Ante todo, mi país desea expresar su más profunda condolencia al pueblo de los Estados Unidos que ha sufrido las trágicas consecuencias del paso del ciclón Katrina. Cuba mantiene su ofrecimiento de enviar ayuda humanitaria a las zonas devastadas en forma de un contingente de 1.583 médicos, con su necesario equipamiento para salvar vidas. Todavía estamos esperando la respuesta del Gobierno de Estados Unidos.

4.2 He decidido dedicar estos minutos a las insatisfacciones que aún tenemos sobre los logros de la UNESCO, con el ruego de que sean consideradas en el próximo Programa y Presupuesto de la Organización. Nos preocupa profundamente que en la actualidad los acuerdos adoptados en la Conferencia Mundial sobre la Educación para Todos, celebrada en abril del 2000 en Dakar, que se

proponía entre sus objetivos disminuir en un 50% la cantidad de analfabetos a escala mundial para el 2015, no sean alcanzables, y que los compromisos de cooperación internacional continúen siendo insuficientes, precisamente en el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Alfabetización. Sin embargo, la UNESCO apenas ha difundido la experiencia de Venezuela donde fueron alfabetizadas 1.406.000 personas en menos de año y medio, habiéndose decretado ese país libre de analfabetos. ¿Es que acaso, ejemplos como éstos no son válidos para lograr alfabetizar a los más de 800 millones de analfabetos que existen en el mundo, cuando dos tercios de esa cantidad son mujeres y cuando más de 100 millones de niños en edad escolar no asisten a la escuela, bien sea porque no tienen escuela o no tienen maestros, o bien porque tienen que dedicarse a trabajar para buscarse el sostén de cada día? Habrá que esperar entonces al 2015, para comprobar la veracidad de los últimos análisis realizados por la UNESCO, en los que se reconoce la gravedad de la situación del analfabetismo en el mundo y se considera quimérico lograr siquiera el 50% de las metas establecidas en la última Conferencia Mundial sobre Educación para Todos.

4.3 Cuba, a pesar de sus escasos recursos como país subdesarrollado, ha cooperado con 19 países de diversas áreas geográficas en acciones para la alfabetización y continuará apoyando a todos aquellos que sufren el flagelo del analfabetismo, consciente de que la educación es uno de los derechos fundamentales del individuo y que desempeña un papel importante en el desarrollo político, económico, cultural y social de un país. Por estos motivos el ofrecimiento cubano a la UNESCO del método de alfabetización cubano “Yo sí puedo”, el cual ha sido adaptado a los idiomas francés, inglés y portugués, posibilita además la continuidad de los estudios hacia la educación primaria de la población recién alfabetizada y semianalfabeta, constituyendo una forma más de cooperación Sur-Sur, con el fin de disminuir el analfabetismo, principalmente en los países subdesarrollados, como expresión solidaria de Cuba.

4.4 En materia de deportes, apoyamos la Convención contra el Dopaje en el Deporte, así como que los fondos que se proporcionen para su implementación procedan del Presupuesto Ordinario de la Organización.

4.5 En el Sector de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, apoyamos una concepción del desarrollo de capacidades en ciencias básicas que propicie no sólo el acceso a la formación de personal, sino también a la creación de una infraestructura que posibilite la inserción de los países con atraso científico y tecnológico a la sociedad del conocimiento.

4.6 Defendemos el agua como recurso natural de los pueblos, así como la concepción de una cultura hidrológica que la conciba como base de la vida en su uso, aprovechamiento y conservación.

4.7 Aprobamos la creación y desarrollo del programa de ciencias básicas recientemente lanzado por la UNESCO y sugerimos que se amplíe la proyección del programa hacia una mayor cobertura de las ciencias básicas y que éstas se apliquen de forma tal que puedan resultar beneficiosas para la disminución de la pobreza.

4.8 Apoyamos también la celebración del 2006 como el Año Internacional del Planeta Tierra. Respaldamos además la promoción de la nueva estrategia y plan de aplicación de la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental para la creación de capacidades en ciencias, servicios y sistemas de observación en asuntos marinos y costeros. Enfatizamos la necesidad de abordar adecuadamente el desarrollo de las energías renovables como recurso para el desarrollo, para la independencia energética, la soberanía y la seguridad nacional.

4.9 En el Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas, proponemos que entre los problemas éticos de la ciencia y la tecnología sean abordados: la mercantilización de la ciencia y sus aplicaciones; la

fuga de cerebros; el uso de la ciencia y la tecnología con fines militares y las normas de propiedad intelectual.

4.10 Proponemos, además, que los Derechos de los Pueblos sean considerados dentro del concepto de Derechos Humanos y recordamos que, entre los aspectos contenidos en la Declaración y Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Derechos Humanos, se plantearon los Derechos de los Pueblos como elementos consustanciales al concepto de Derechos Humanos.

4.11 Favorecemos la creación y fortalecimiento de redes de cooperación e intercambio de conocimientos en la región de América Latina y el Caribe que abarquen temas como la pobreza crítica, la desigualdad social, el racismo, la marginalidad, la migración y problemas ambientales.

4.12 Consideramos que se debe dedicar un eje de acción al estudio de las causas que originan el crecimiento de la actividad delictiva a escala mundial y a la propuesta de medidas de políticas para enfrentarlas. Proponemos que la celebración de un Año de la Conciencia Planetaria y el Diálogo entre los Pueblos analice las causas y consecuencias de la crisis ambiental; los cambios demográficos; la brecha socioeconómica Norte-Sur y la nueva carrera armamentista

4.13 Consideramos importante que se suscriba la Declaración relativa a las normas universales sobre la bioética. En el Sector de Cultura, nos pronunciamos por la protección y la salvaguardia del patrimonio cultural en todo el mundo.

4.14 Las actividades y acciones realizadas en el Proyecto emblemático de la Ruta del Esclavo y la celebración en 2004 del Año Internacional de Conmemoración de la Lucha contra la Esclavitud y de su Abolición deben reforzarse para el próximo bienio, como componente del diálogo intercultural e interreligioso, lo cual estaría en plena correspondencia con los acuerdos adoptados en Durban y con la propia proyección del programa La Ruta del Esclavo

4.15 Cuba favorece todas aquellas actividades encaminadas a la conservación y difusión del patrimonio cultural, el fomento y estímulo a la creación artística y literaria y reconoce el papel de la cultura en el impulso y orientación de los procesos socioeconómicos. No favorecemos, sin embargo, aquellos que promueven la implantación de una cultura única, globalizada y banal que incide negativamente sobre la preservación de la identidad y diversidad culturales.

4.16 Apoyamos firmemente el proyecto de Convención sobre la protección y promoción de la diversidad de las expresiones culturales, por constituir un instrumento jurídico internacional que estimula la relación, la independencia y la no interferencia de las obligaciones de los Estados Partes con esta Convención y otros instrumentos jurídicos internacionales y porque, entre otras cosas, reconoce la aceptación y el respeto a la diversidad cultural como un medio para el logro de un verdadero diálogo intercultural, reafirma el derecho soberano de los países a adoptar y aplicar la política cultural que consideren más conveniente, valora y enaltece a la par que reconoce el respeto a los derechos humanos, individuales y colectivos, como principio fundamental de la diversidad, apoya las prácticas culturales más legítimas y evita que queden atrapadas en la devastadora ley del mercado mundial.

4.17 También reiteramos los planteamientos hechos ante la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Sociedad de la Información, tales como la creación de un organismo intergubernamental que regule y promueva la cooperación internacional sobre el uso de Internet.

4.18 Por otra parte, consideramos que se debe continuar ayudando a los Estados Miembros, fundamentalmente a los países subdesarrollados, mediante el Programa Internacional para el Desarrollo de la Comunicación y el Programa Información para Todos.

4.19 Estas son algunas sugerencias que Cuba propone para el próximo bienio a la UNESCO, con la esperanza de que nuestra Organización cumpla eficazmente con los preceptos constitucionales que la sustentan.

(4.1) M. BARNET LANZA (Cuba) *in extenso* (traduit de l'espagnol) :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, avant toute chose mon pays souhaite exprimer ses plus profondes condoléances au peuple des États-Unis qui a souffert des tragiques conséquences du passage du cyclone Katrina. Cuba maintient son offre d'envoyer une aide humanitaire dans les zones dévastées sous la forme d'un contingent de 1.583 médecins, avec l'équipement correspondant, pour sauver des vies. Nous attendons encore la réponse du Gouvernement des États-Unis.

(4.2) J'ai décidé de vous faire part pendant ces quelques minutes de nos préoccupations actuelles en ce qui concerne les résultats de l'UNESCO, en espérant qu'il en sera tenu compte dans le prochain Programme et budget de l'Organisation. Nous sommes très inquiets de voir qu'en réalité, les objectifs fixés lors du Forum mondial sur l'éducation, organisé en avril 2000 à Dakar, notamment celui de réduire de moitié le nombre des analphabètes dans le monde d'ici à 2015, ne sont pas réalisables, et que les engagements de coopération internationale demeurent insuffisants, même pendant la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation. Pourtant, l'UNESCO n'a guère fait connaître l'expérience du Venezuela où ont été alphabétisées 1.406.000 personnes en moins d'un an et demi, et ce pays s'est déclaré exempt d'analphabétisme. Est-ce que par hasard des exemples comme celui-ci ne seraient pas valables pour réussir à alphabétiser les quelque 800 millions d'analphabètes dans le monde, quand les deux tiers de ce total sont des femmes et que plus de 100 millions d'enfants d'âge scolaire ne vont pas à l'école, parce qu'il n'y a pas d'école, parce qu'il n'y a pas de maître, ou bien parce qu'ils doivent passer leur temps à travailler pour trouver quotidiennement de quoi se nourrir ? Faut-il attendre jusqu'en 2015, pour constater l'exactitude des dernières analyses effectuées par l'UNESCO, dans lesquelles on reconnaît la gravité de la situation de l'analphabétisme dans le monde et où l'on juge chimérique d'atteindre ne serait-ce que la moitié des objectifs fixés au Forum mondial sur l'éducation pour tous ?

(4.3) Cuba, malgré ses maigres ressources de pays sous-développé, a coopéré avec 19 pays de diverses zones géographiques à des initiatives d'alphabétisation, et le pays continuera à aider tous ceux qui souffrent du fléau de l'analphabétisme, conscient que l'éducation est un des droits fondamentaux de la personne humaine et qu'elle joue un rôle important dans le développement politique, économique, culturel et social d'un pays. Ainsi, Cuba a offert à l'UNESCO la méthode d'alphabétisation cubaine « Yo sí puedo », qui a été adaptée en langues anglaise, française et portugaise, et permet aussi la poursuite des études vers l'enseignement primaire pour la population récemment alphabétisée et semi-analphabète, ce qui constitue une forme supplémentaire de coopération Sud-Sud, visant à réduire l'analphabétisme, surtout dans les pays sous-développés, comme expression de la solidarité de Cuba.

(4.4) En ce qui concerne le sport, nous appuyons la Convention internationale contre le dopage dans le sport et nous approuvons le fait que les crédits prévus pour sa mise en œuvre proviennent du budget ordinaire de l'Organisation.

(4.5) Dans le secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles, nous soutenons le concept de renforcement des capacités en sciences fondamentales qui favorise non seulement l'accès à la formation pour les personnels, mais aussi la création d'une infrastructure qui permette

l'intégration dans la société du savoir des pays en retard sur le plan scientifique et technologique.

(4.6) Nous défendons le concept de l'eau comme ressource naturelle des peuples, ainsi qu'une culture hydrologique concernant l'eau comme source de vie dans son utilisation, sa gestion et sa conservation.

(4.7) Nous approuvons la création et le développement du Programme international relatif aux sciences fondamentales récemment lancé par l'UNESCO et nous suggérons qu'il vise une plus grande couverture des sciences fondamentales et que celles-ci soient appliquées de manière à contribuer à la réduction de la pauvreté.

(4.8) Nous soutenons également la célébration en 2006 de l'Année internationale de la planète Terre. Nous appuyons aussi le plan de mise en œuvre de la nouvelle stratégie de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale pour le renforcement des capacités des sciences, services et systèmes d'observation concernant les questions marines et côtières. Nous soulignons la nécessité d'envisager de manière adéquate le développement des énergies renouvelables en tant que ressource pour le développement, l'indépendance énergétique, la souveraineté et la sécurité nationale.

(4.9) Dans le secteur des sciences sociales et humaines, nous proposons d'aborder, parmi les problèmes éthiques des sciences et des technologies, la commercialisation de la science et de ses applications, la fuite des cerveaux, l'utilisation des sciences et des technologies à des fins militaires et les normes en matière de propriété intellectuelle.

(4.10) Nous proposons en outre que les droits des peuples soient envisagés dans le cadre des droits de l'homme et nous rappelons que, parmi les aspects figurant dans la Déclaration et programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur les droits de l'homme, les droits des peuples ont été posés comme indissociables du concept des droits de l'homme.

(4.11) Nous encourageons la création et le renforcement de réseaux de coopération et d'échange des connaissances dans la région Amérique latine et Caraïbes qui englobent des thèmes comme la pauvreté critique, l'inégalité sociale, le racisme, la marginalité, la migration et les problèmes d'environnement.

(4.12) Nous considérons qu'il faut consacrer un axe d'action à l'étude des causes de la croissance de la délinquance à l'échelle mondiale et à la recherche de solutions politiques visant à y faire face. Nous proposons que la célébration d'une Année internationale de la conscience planétaire et de l'éthique du dialogue entre les peuples soit consacrée à l'analyse des causes et des conséquences de la crise de l'environnement, aux changements démographiques, au fossé socioéconomique entre le Nord et le Sud et à la nouvelle course aux armements.

(4.13) Nous considérons qu'il est important d'adopter la Déclaration relative à des normes universelles en matière de bioéthique. Dans le secteur de la culture, nous sommes favorables à la protection et à la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel dans le monde entier.

(4.14) Les activités et initiatives entreprises dans le cadre du projet emblématique La route de l'esclave et de la célébration en 2004 de l'Année internationale de commémoration de la lutte contre l'esclavage et de son abolition doivent être renforcées dans le prochain exercice biennal, comme élément du dialogue interculturel et

interreligieux, ce qui correspondrait pleinement aux engagements pris à Durban et au prolongement du programme La route de l'esclave.

(4.15) Cuba encourage toutes les activités visant à conserver et diffuser le patrimoine culturel et à promouvoir et stimuler la création artistique et littéraire, et reconnaît le rôle de la culture dans la dynamique et l'orientation des processus socioéconomiques. Nous n'encourageons pas cependant tout ce qui favorise l'implantation d'une culture unique, globalisée et banale qui a des incidences négatives sur la préservation de l'identité et de la diversité culturelles.

(4.16) Nous appuyons fermement le projet de Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles car il s'agit d'un instrument juridique international qui renforcera la relation, l'indépendance et la non-interférence des obligations des États parties à cette Convention et à d'autres instruments juridiques internationaux et parce que, notamment, le texte reconnaît que l'acceptation et le respect de la diversité culturelle est un moyen de parvenir à un véritable dialogue interculturel, qu'il réaffirme le droit souverain des pays à adopter et appliquer la politique culturelle qu'ils considèrent la plus adaptée, qu'il valorise, exalte et reconnaît le respect des droits de l'homme, individuels et collectifs, comme principe fondamental de la diversité, qu'il appuie les pratiques culturelles les plus légitimes et évite qu'elles soient prises au piège de la loi dévastatrice du marché mondial.

(4.17) Nous réitérons aussi les déclarations faites au Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information et nous soutenons la création d'un organisme intergouvernemental qui réglemente et encourage la coopération internationale concernant l'utilisation de l'Internet.

(4.18) D'autre part, nous considérons qu'il faut continuer à aider les États membres, essentiellement les pays sous-développés, au moyen du Programme international pour le développement de la communication et du programme Information pour tous.

(4.19) Telles sont quelques-unes des propositions que Cuba adresse à l'UNESCO pour le prochain exercice biennal, dans l'espoir que notre Organisation s'acquitte efficacement des missions qui lui ont été confiées par l'Acte constitutif.

5.1 Mr JOHNSON (Dominica) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chairman, Your Excellency the President of the General Conference, Your Excellency the Director-General of UNESCO, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. In my brief remarks, I shall touch on a few matters falling within UNESCO's fields of competence referred to us in the documents from the Secretariat.

5.2 In his report, the Director-General advised that an EFA Joint Action Plan is being prepared in order to provide a clearer understanding of the roles of international education for all (EFA) stakeholders. Also being developed is a coherent strategy of how these stakeholders can work together for greater efficiency, focusing, *inter alia*, on mobilizing resources to a greater extent, making aid effective, building national capacity, and ensuring mutual accountability for EFA progress.

5.3 This initiative is timely. The *Human Development Report 2005* pointed out how great an effort is needed if the international community is to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), two of which mirror the Dakar EFA goals of universal primary education provision and gender equality promotion. Though much has been achieved, many countries are off track for many of these development goals. According to the *Human Development Report*, for example, the target

of universal primary education will be missed if current trends continue with a projected 47 million children out of school in 2015.

5.4 My delegation, therefore, wishes to underscore the importance of reinstating international purpose on education, as contained in the World Summit Outcome document referred to by the Director-General in his oral report to us yesterday morning. If rigorously pursued, this will undoubtedly chart a new course for the next decade.

5.5 Mr Chairman, the 2005 World Summit reaffirmed the Dakar Framework for Action and recognized the importance of UNESCO's strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the EFA programmes as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. The world leaders also re-affirmed their commitment to supporting developing country efforts to ensure that all children have access to and are able to complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality. These leaders also supported the efforts of developing countries to implement the EFA initiative, "including with enhanced resources of all types through the Education for All Fast-Track Initiative in support of country-led national education plans".

5.6 Mr Chairman, this latter formulation appears to be stated in positive language. Thus, the affirmation in paragraph 10 of the Dakar Framework for Action may now be properly construed to read that "every country seriously committed to EFA will be assisted with the resources reasonably necessary to the achievement of this goal". UNESCO members, individually and collectively, must seek to ensure that these statements of affirmation are implemented with the greatest dispatch and well within the time-frame set. We must hold ourselves accountable for these commitments.

5.7 Mr Chairman, at our last session, the Executive Board requested that the Director-General work within a budget ceiling of \$610 million, and that he identify additional financial resources not exceeding \$25 million for strengthened delivery of the principal priorities. In the papers before us, the Board is presented with a new supplementary programme package focusing on critical priorities in four main areas, namely: (i) promoting quality education for all pursuant to EFA goals, (ii) preventing and mitigating natural disasters, (iii) capacity-building for tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and (iv) enhancing programme-related and country-level activities. These are all priority areas of great importance to small island developing States (SIDS).

5.8 The suggested formula for raising the \$25 million programme package is through voluntary extrabudgetary contributions from Member States using the existing scale of assessments for contribution to the Programme and Budget as the indicative minimum contribution. Such contributions are to be deposited into a special account set up in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

5.9 My delegation is of the view that this proposal provides an equitable and not unreasonable basis for the resolution of this important matter, and we urge its favourable consideration. It should not be summarily dismissed. We endorse the position of the Latin America and the Caribbean group (GRULAC) in this matter, as stated by the Brazilian representative this morning.

5.10 Mr Chairman, in the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy, SIDS undertook to develop and strengthen their natural disaster mitigation, preparedness and early warning capacities with the necessary support from the international community. In this regard, we welcome the statement in the Director-General's report that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Assembly has reached agreement on the establishment of an intersessional working group, which is mandated to establish the framework for UNESCO's proposed global tsunami warning

system. We also welcome the adoption of a resolution to establish an intergovernmental coordinating group for the Caribbean area.

5.11 Mr Chairman, it is with the greatest satisfaction that I note UNESCO's facilitation of the first meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian National Commissions Dialogue Encounter, which took place at UNESCO Headquarters two weeks ago. This event is quintessentially UNESCO. It captures and encompasses the fundamental principles and purposes of UNESCO as contained in the Constitution and enshrined in the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO. These include elimination of suspicion, and promotion of trust, mutual respect, understanding of peoples, the common welfare of mankind, and contribution to the maintenance of peace. His Excellency Ambassador Kenneth Wiltshire of Australia has emphasized repeatedly in this forum the centrality of National Commissions to the execution of UNESCO's fundamental purpose. This encounter is ample manifestation of that fact. I leave this Executive Board after just 18 months, but I carry with me the determination to ensure that our own National Commission fulfils its charter and constitutional mandate.

5.12 Mr Chairman, permit me, before I end, to associate myself with the delegations which have spoken before me, and to extend in this forum, my country's heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of the United States of America for the great loss of life caused by Hurricane Katrina. As a country which was completely devastated by Hurricane David in 1979, we know very well the shock, trauma and profound pain that those who have been rendered homeless and displaced are feeling. The Government and people of the United States of America have always responded with urgency and with plenty when Commonwealth Caribbean States, and other nations as well, have succumbed to the ravages of nature. It is good, therefore, that the international community has responded in like manner to the United States of America. Indeed, while Hurricane Katrina once again demonstrated the destructive power of nature, the immediacy and universality of the international community's response has, to borrow a phrase, manifested "the regenerative power of human compassion".

5.13 In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I commend our indefatigable Director-General and his hard-working staff for the comprehensive and up-to-date reports that they have given us. The virtual unanimity of his nomination for a second term by the Executive Board needs no better testimonial to his great contribution and sterling value to UNESCO. I thank you.

6.1 Mr HEPBURN (Bahamas) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, President of the General Conference, Director-General, colleagues. It gives me great pleasure, Sir, to see you once again at the helm of our deliberations for this historic session. I thank you for your leadership, which has been very helpful in moving forward the work of this Board. Let me first of all express my gratitude to you, Mr Director-General, for your comprehensive reports contained in the relevant documents, and particularly for the information that you gave us concerning your participation at the United Nations summit.

6.2 In this regard, Mr Chairman, my delegation was particularly impressed with the reports on the UNESCO offices in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the reports contained in documents 172 EX/4 Part I and Add. The major themes contained in all of the reports concern HIV/AIDS, EFA, the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012), crime and violence in the schools, poverty and disaster preparedness. These subjects, Mr Chairman, address the core issues for which this Organization is responsible. What is needed now is to encourage the officers in the field to continue their efforts for greater improvement in these areas.

6.3 On the theme of disaster preparedness, Mr Chairman, my delegation feels that the aftermath of the devastating disaster that ravaged the Gulf states of the United States is a wake-up

call to nations globally, and particularly to coastal states, to take special measures to protect the environment. In this context, my delegation extends deep sympathy to the thousands of victims caught in the wrath of Hurricane Katrina and to the Government and people of the United States of America.

6.4 Mr Chairman, while there may be those who feel that this Organization is losing its edge in maintaining its status as lead agency in certain areas, we should remember the keen competition among international bodies. Everyone is vying for recognition as the “number one kid on the block”. Rather than promoting partnership under the banner of the United Nations, my delegation feels that while it would be desirable to have the name of UNESCO emblazoned on documents as the lead agency in education and culture, for example, it would be more significant to build an institution whose staff are confident and comfortable with their jobs in the belief that this body is concerned about their welfare. For example, the human resources programme pertaining to staff needs should be coupled with in-house training programmes that would keep staff abreast of developments in a changing society, thereby preparing them not only for promotion and advancement opportunities, but also for coping with that monster called retirement, which tends to instil fear in the minds of even the most self-assured civil servant. My delegation feels that the Director-General has endeavoured, through his reform process of decentralization, to put these measures in place. What he now needs is the full cooperation and support of Member States in implementing them. Consequently, the Bahamas Government is convinced that continuity of a sound programme is extremely important to the growth and development of this well-orchestrated plan, and strongly recommends the re-election of Mr Koïchiro Matsuura to a second term as Director-General of UNESCO.

6.5 Mr Chairman, I would now like to turn my attention briefly to the work of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR). It is no exaggeration to say that this Committee brings a more human atmosphere to UNESCO, which seems to concentrate mostly on political, social and technological considerations. Of course, these are all necessary for the complete execution of the mandate, but the fact that this Committee deals with issues in a non-judicial and humanitarian fashion by promoting a spirit of dialogue and confidentiality rather softens the rough edges of a strictly bureaucratic organization. Based on some of the communications received by the Secretariat from individuals, it is possible that the user-friendliness of CR may well be that instrument needed to make UNESCO a front-runner in international affairs.

6.6 Distinguished colleagues, the Bahamas has had the singular privilege to serve for four years on this prestigious body. As its representative, I have benefited enormously from exposure to a whole variety of personalities, beliefs and discussions. I have endeavoured to share these experiences with my government.

6.7 While it may not be a direct offshoot of my efforts, I am pleased to report that the Ministry of Education held a conference in Nassau from 3 to 7 July 2005 on the theme “Transforming Bahamas education for the twenty-first century”. A series of panel discussions took place on *inter alia* strategic planning, learning school reform, safety capacity-building and attention to children with special needs. The conference involved parents, teachers and corporations in order to get a more complete view of what needs to be done to move forward.

6.8 In the area of science and technology, a careers exposition was held from 14 to 17 March 2005 featuring Bahamian scientists and technologies from many different facets of our community. Primary, secondary and tertiary students from schools throughout the archipelago were able to see first-hand how science, mathematics and technology are integrated into the activities of various economies and social factors of our society.

6.9 It is little wonder, then, that the Bahamas will be represented by a delegation to the 33rd session of the General Conference headed by the Minister of Education, the Honourable Alfred Sears.

6.10 Miguel de Unamuno, an outstanding Spanish existential philosopher, said, “If a person never contradicts himself, it must be that he says nothing”. On the 60th anniversary of this great Organization, my delegation urges Member States, rather than adopting the ostrich method, to apply Unamuno’s philosophy to UNESCO’s plan of action, to continue to speak out against the ills that plague society, and to learn from their mistakes.

6.11 Finally, Mr Chairman, Director-General, colleagues, I conclude my term on the Executive Board, but I wish to state categorically that I will always have fond memories of the time spent in these halls, and I take this occasion to express my gratitude to everyone for the support you have given me in carrying out my responsibilities on behalf of the Bahamas Government. Thank you.

7.1 Mr AUBEELUCK (Mauritius) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, President of the General Conference, Director-General, dear colleagues. Let me at the very outset express the sincere regrets of the representative of the Republic of Mauritius, the Honourable Mr Gokhool, Minister of Education and Human Resources, for his inability to be present here today to respond to the report of the Director-General. As you are certainly aware, Mauritius has, since July 4 of this year, a new government democratically mandated by the people to preside over its destiny. The new government intends to further sustain the level of development that Mauritius is currently enjoying, always putting the people at the very heart of development. Minister Gokhool, unfortunately, has some very pressing commitments at home, but he will most certainly make it his pleasure to meet with you in an endeavour to further advance the noble mission of our prized Organization. Let me also take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Director-General following his nomination for a second term by the Executive Board yesterday. It is certain that your stewardship, Director-General, will reinstate the strong position of UNESCO in the United Nations system, and will enable the Organization to live up to its vision and mission in its different areas of competence.

7.2 Mr Chairman, allow me to say that on behalf of the Government and people of Mauritius, our thoughts go to the governments and peoples of so many Member States who have unfortunately been exposed to the natural cataclysms that have wreaked such tremendous havoc. The loss of human lives can never leave us unaffected. As a nation that is often buffeted by adverse cyclonic conditions, we feel very strongly the pain and agony of the victims. Our sympathy therefore goes to the bereaved. Coming as all of these disasters did in the wake of the tsunami of December 26 of last year, one cannot help but accept the fragility, the vulnerability of man vis-à-vis those forces which still leave him, for all his state-of-the-art technology, for all his prescience, in a state of absolute helplessness. Seeing the effect of these forces on powerful nations, we can imagine the dire repercussions that they may have for small island developing states (SIDS).

7.3 UNESCO, accordingly, deserves to be praised for attempting to find ways and means to help attenuate the vulnerability of SIDS in its programme of activities. We note with pleasure and relief that the concerns of SIDS have been taken on board, and that, significantly, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is being adequately funded to carry out its coordination role in the flagship activity, tsunami early warning systems. Of course, one would have wished that Major Programme II relating to the vulnerability of SIDS to disasters had been more strongly funded, but we do understand and appreciate the constraints under which the Director-General has to labour.

7.4 Having said that, let me also reflect the appreciation of the Mauritian Government for the Statement of Resolve adopted by Member States, multilateral agencies and development partners to make of inter-agency cooperation a *sine qua non* for aid effectiveness. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness – Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability is indeed a major step forward. But let us also hope that this Statement of Resolve will not remain solely at the level of intent. This is where UNESCO, as the lead agency in the United Nations system for education, will not simply take up the challenge, but ensure that all development partners live up to that promise. Many distinguished Members here on this very Board have often deplored the fact that let alone the coordination, the actual aid and support have taken a long time to materialize.

7.5 Accordingly, we cannot but be appreciative of the fact that a major achievement has emerged from the recent G8 Summit, which has shown a willingness to help developing nations through the provision of an extra \$50 billion of aid a year by 2010, with a particular focus on Africa. However, the very recently released *Human Development Report 2005* makes it very clear that some \$300 billion will be needed to lift the one billion people living on less than one dollar a day above the extreme poverty line threshold.

7.6 Mr Chairman, as one biennium is coming to an end and another is to start very soon now, we must face the inexorable fact that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), at least two of which are of prime concern to UNESCO, are not likely to be met by 2015. Let us hope things will change now that the United Nations members have demonstrated an unambiguous commitment to the Dakar goals. Let me also hasten to add that, while the commitment of the donor community is praiseworthy, the onus is nonetheless as much upon those that receive the aid to make sure that the conditions exist to guarantee effective utilization of that aid in order to attain stated objectives.

7.7 Mr Chairman, allow me now some comments on the Programme and Budget. Here we must congratulate the Director-General and his team for having so successfully managed to present a new budget proposal with a baseline of \$610 million. This is what this Board insisted on at its last session and what the Director-General has delivered on. We are especially pleased that some of the concerns expressed by the Board in April of this year have been taken on board. Efforts have indeed been made in to strengthen the principal priorities and commitments made to achieve a concentration of programmes; the number of Young Professionals has been retained at the previous level; the level of funding for National Commissions activities has been restated, and the Participation Programme has not suffered from the threatened cuts. But of more immediate satisfaction is the focus being placed on the allocation of more resources to field offices. We all know that in order for decentralization – one of the most important pillars of the reform programme initiated by the Director-General – to work effectively, field offices need to play a major role in ensuring capacity-building and country-level action. Of course, the situation is not 100% satisfactory. One would have loved to see the percentage of the regular programme budget for the sciences decentralized further. For we all must agree that emphasis on science and technology is one critical success criterion for sustainable development, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. But I also think this has been more than offset by the more than 70% of funds decentralized for education. It is, of course, understood that the results-based programming, management and monitoring (RBM) approach will give a fillip to the quality of monitoring and reporting that will need to accompany the process.

7.8 Mr Chairman, there are other areas that reflect UNESCO's willingness and capacity to forge ahead. Thanks to the efforts of all, there is every chance that our Organization's role as a standard-setter will be internationally applauded and reinforced with the adoption of the draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and the draft

declaration on universal norms on bioethics. No doubt there are some areas of contention, but there is no difficulty that cannot be ironed out through the process of dialogue and discussions.

7.9 Finally, Mr Chairman, let me reiterate the strong commitment of the Government of Mauritius to work towards the eradication of extreme poverty. This has been fully stressed by the Prime Minister, the Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, in his statements at the United Nations. We know that this can be a reality with the stress being placed on EFA, especially since this is the instrument that can foster human development. Thank you, Chairman.

8.1 Mr AGAPITUS (Namibia) *in extenso*:

Chairman of the Executive Board, President of General Conference, Director-General, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, may I, on behalf of the Namibian delegation, congratulate the Director-General on his endorsement as sole candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO for a second term. We wish him renewed strength and good health as he leads this Organization during the next four years.

8.2 The Namibian delegation would first like to endorse the statement made by the distinguished delegate of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the Africa group.

8.3 Mr Chairman, my delegation thanks the Director-General for his clear presentation yesterday, and congratulates him and his staff for the well-prepared draft document 33 C/5. We have taken note, with satisfaction, that the principal and other priorities as outlined in document 33 C/5 are in line with many of the priorities contained in our national programmes and policies. We are encouraged by the Director-General's determination to move towards greater concentration and focus of resources in order to ensure the results and impact of the actions and activities of UNESCO in Member States. While acknowledging the importance of meetings and conferences, there is an absolute need to couple these with concrete action that culminates in visible results which in turn make a difference in people's lives. To achieve this, inclusive and timely consultation with all relevant national stakeholders should be an integral part of our effort to improve programme delivery.

8.4 In the field of education, achieving the six EFA goals in a holistic manner, by not restricting EFA activities to primary education only, remains the priority of UNESCO. Namibia therefore supports the principal priorities for education as encapsulated in document 33 C/5, namely basic education for all (EFA), the Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Education (EDUCAIDS) and teacher training in sub-Saharan Africa. We further urge the Director-General to continue to vigorously maintain the momentum of EFA, and to mobilize the international community in order to receive its support in the realization of the EFA goals by all Member States within the agreed time-frame.

8.5 As for the Science Sector, Namibia hopes that the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) will assist in strengthening and reinforcing the capacities of Member States in the basic sciences and technology education.

8.6 On culture, our delegation encourages the Director-General to continue his efforts to provide both financial and technical support in the next biennium for the implementation of standard-setting instruments in the cultural field. Awareness-raising on the culture conventions is commendable and deserves support. Namibia also welcomes and supports the draft convention on cultural diversity. Special attention should be devoted to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) of 1972 and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. We commend the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for its support and assistance to Member States in relation to the World

Heritage Convention of 1972, and we wish to appeal to the Director-General to strengthen the Centre so that it can redouble its efforts. There is an absolute need for the Centre to come to the rescue of needy Member States to ensure that all State Parties have at least one site on the World Heritage List. As pointed out by the Vice-Chairman for the Africa group this morning, many of the African countries need capacity-building in conservation to enable them to maintain their few inscribed sites on the World Heritage List.

8.7 With regard to communication and information, the Namibian delegation applauds the priority given to access to information and knowledge for all and freedom of expression. We therefore request that UNESCO assist Member States in their efforts to develop information structures such as community multimedia centres.

8.8 In conclusion, Mr Chairman, as we continue to improve UNESCO's action and visibility in Member States, we appeal to the Director-General to spare no effort in strengthening the staff, in particular in the field. We all wish one day to join examples such as that of Rwanda, in acknowledging the visible and lasting impact of UNESCO's action in our respective countries. I thank you.

Mr Gueguinou took the Chair

9.1 El Sr. MICHELINI (Uruguay) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, Señor Director General de la UNESCO, estimados colegas. Es para Uruguay siempre un orgullo hacer uso de la palabra en el Consejo Ejecutivo, en vísperas, además, de la Conferencia General a los 60 años de la fundación de esta Organización.

9.2 Sin duda, los desafíos que enfrenta la Organización deben ser abordados desde la perspectiva del sistema de las Naciones Unidas en su conjunto. Nuestro país aspira a que el sistema multilateral se refuerce, sea más representativo y más eficiente, principalmente para garantizar la plena vigencia de los derechos humanos, y que los instrumentos de protección, promoción y difusión de los mismos sean adecuados y eficaces. Por ello, las responsabilidades de la UNESCO en esta materia son sustantivas.

9.3 Los derechos humanos son uno de los puntos clave de nuestra agenda nacional. Consideramos por lo tanto que el Subprograma sobre la "Promoción de los derechos humanos" y la lucha contra la discriminación es de suma importancia. En el marco del mismo, nuestro país apoya decididamente el eje de acción denominado "Lucha contra el racismo y la discriminación", en particular la formación de la red de municipalidades para la cual la Intendencia de Montevideo, capital del país, ha asumido un papel de liderazgo.

9.4 El proyecto de Declaración Universal sobre Bioética y Derechos Humanos que deberá someterse a la aprobación de la próxima Conferencia General es un hecho trascendente. Resaltamos el aporte de la UNESCO a la comunidad internacional en un tema significativo desde el punto de vista ético y político en el cual había un vacío jurídico que comienza a colmarse con una lógica universal.

9.5 La UNESCO brinda así un conjunto de principios y directivas comunes en esta materia en relación con los desafíos que enfrentan los pueblos, naciones y personas en este siglo. Esta Declaración permitirá encauzar el debate e inspirar la evolución de la legislación nacional e internacional. Uruguay participó activamente en este proyecto a nivel de técnicos y ha tenido el honor de haberla presidido en la persona del Delegado Permanente, Embajador Pablo Sader, y por ello asume con entusiasmo la aprobación por parte de la Conferencia General de dicha Declaración.

9.6 En nuestra condición de coordinadores del grupo de trabajo de ciencias exactas y naturales del GRULAC, destacamos la importancia de que la próxima Conferencia General otorgue su beneplácito para que se reconozca a tres centros científicos de América Latina, ubicados respectivamente en Brasil, Chile y Venezuela, la condición de centros de categoría 2 de esta Organización.

9.7 Estamos trabajando conjuntamente con la Argentina para que se pueda llevar a cabo el Foro Internacional de la UNESCO sobre el Nexo entre Ciencia Social y Política que se celebrará en febrero próximo. Sentar las bases de un diálogo fluido entre la academia y la sociedad civil es uno de sus objetivos. Uruguay, país con una profunda vocación integracionista que se expresa a través de MERCOSUR, asume con satisfacción la organización del taller denominado “Integración regional y desarrollo”.

9.8 Hemos trabajado para que el proyecto de Convención sobre la protección y la promoción de la diversidad de las expresiones culturales pueda ser considerado por parte de la Conferencia General para su aprobación.

9.9 Es la pluralidad de las culturas humanas un valor en sí mismo y constituye un atributo indispensable de la condición humana. El acceso a la cultura es un derecho humano ya reconocido.

9.10 La relación entre cultura y desarrollo humano está más allá de toda discusión; ya en 1996, en la publicación “Nuestra diversidad creativa: informe de la Comisión Mundial de Cultura y Desarrollo”, el Director General de la UNESCO decía: “el desarrollo comprende no sólo el acceso a bienes y servicios sino también la oportunidad de elegir un modo de vida colectivo que sea pleno, satisfactorio, valioso y valorado en el que florezca la existencia humana en todas sus formas y en su integridad”.

9.11 De aprobarse como aspiramos a que así suceda, este instrumento será caracterizado como histórico y las futuras generaciones podrán conocer a esta Organización por la sabiduría que tuvo de producir una base normativa específica y exclusiva sobre la protección y promoción de las expresiones culturales.

9.12 Debemos destacar el amplio apoyo que este proyecto de Convención recibe. Subrayamos la Declaración de Madrid a favor de la diversidad cultural en la Cumbre mundial de ministros de Cultura en junio pasado. En esa Declaración se destacó que: “la diversidad cultural es factor de pluralismo, de democracia, de cohesión social y de empleo, de crecimiento sostenible, de la propia identidad de las sociedades e individuos”. Asimismo se estableció que es “decisivo comprometerse con las nuevas generaciones para proteger y promover la rica diversidad cultural que existe en nuestro planeta”.

9.13 Esta Convención incorpora esta noción en el derecho positivo, dándole a todos garantías de que se mantienen naturalmente los principios del derecho internacional de interpretación de los tratados consagrados en la Convención de Viena sobre el Derecho de los Tratados.

9.14 No puede dejarse de resaltar el apoyo decidido otorgado por la sociedad civil a organizaciones de distinta naturaleza como, entre otras, el Comité Internacional de Enlace de Coaliciones para la Diversidad Cultural.

9.15 En suma, Sr. Presidente, esta Convención está inspirada en la afirmación de ciertos valores y no debe considerarse de ninguna manera que vaya en detrimento de ningún país en particular. Es una iniciativa a favor de la humanidad en su conjunto al avanzar jurídicamente para no romper aún

más el equilibrio entre culturas y frenar así la homogenización y la estandarización que nos empobrece a todos.

9.16 Reitero que Uruguay aspira a que en octubre la Conferencia General pueda dar este histórico paso aprobando el mencionado proyecto de Convención.

9.17 Mi país felicita a este Consejo Ejecutivo por haber dado los pasos constitucionales para la reelección del Director General, el Embajador Koichiro Matsuura. Uruguay apoya la renovación del mandato del Embajador Matsuura en el convencimiento de que su gestión ha sido y será beneficiosa para esta Organización.

9.18 Quiero referirme a la importancia que mi país le asigna a la UNESCO y a la Comisión Nacional para la UNESCO. Las Comisiones Nacionales son un rasgo único y distintivo de esta Organización. Son una vinculación imprescindible entre gobierno y sociedad civil, ya sea en el terreno o en su Sede.

9.19 El Gobierno que asumió funciones hace ya más de seis meses ha rejerarquizado a la Comisión Nacional. Se le ha dado una nueva integración y una fuerte participación a la sociedad civil, en particular a la comunidad de la educación, de la ciencia y de la cultura y se están adoptando medidas para dotarla de mayores capacidades en el plano institucional y financiero. La Comisión ha establecido un plan de actividades 2005 muy ambicioso en el que se propone optimizar la ejecución de algunas propuestas programáticas de la UNESCO, así como ampliar los espacios de intercambio, de propuesta gubernamental y no gubernamental.

9.20 Por último, señor Presidente, esta Organización figura entre las prioridades de mi Gobierno. Prueba de ello será la presencia del Ministro de Educación y Cultura, Ingeniero Químico Jorge Brovetto, en la Conferencia General. Asimismo tengo el placer de anunciar la visita a la UNESCO del Presidente de la República Dr. Tabaré Vázquez en el mes de octubre. Muchas gracias por su atención.

(9.1) M. MICHELINI (Uruguay) *in extenso* (traduit de l'espagnol) :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général de l'UNESCO, chers collègues, c'est toujours avec fierté que l'Uruguay prend la parole au Conseil exécutif, et en particulier aujourd'hui, à la veille de la Conférence générale et du soixantième anniversaire de l'Organisation.

(9.2) Il ne fait pas de doute que les défis auxquels l'Organisation doit faire face doivent être abordés dans la perspective de l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. Notre pays aspire à ce que le système multilatéral se renforce et devienne plus représentatif et plus efficace, afin de garantir que les droits de l'homme soient pleinement réalisés et que les instruments destinés à assurer leur protection, leur promotion et leur diffusion soient adéquats et efficaces. Les responsabilités de l'UNESCO à cet égard sont donc essentielles.

(9.3) Les droits de l'homme constituent l'un des principaux points à l'ordre du jour de notre pays. Nous estimons par conséquent que le sous-programme sur la « promotion des droits de l'homme » et la lutte contre la discrimination revêt la plus haute importance. Notre pays appuie fermement, dans le cadre de ce sous-programme, l'axe d'action intitulé « Lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination », en particulier l'établissement d'un réseau de municipalités, pour lequel l'Intendance de Montevideo, capitale du pays, a joué un rôle moteur.

(9.4) Le projet de déclaration universelle sur la bioéthique et les droits de l'homme qui doit être proposé pour adoption à la prochaine Conférence générale est d'une importance capitale. Nous souhaitons mettre en exergue la contribution de l'UNESCO à la communauté internationale dans un domaine important du point de vue éthique et politique où existait un vide juridique, auquel tend désormais à se substituer une vision universelle.

(9.5) L'UNESCO propose un ensemble de directives et de principes communs dans ce domaine, en rapport avec les défis auxquels doivent faire face les peuples, les nations et les personnes au cours de notre siècle. La Déclaration permettra d'orienter le débat et de stimuler l'évolution de la législation nationale et internationale. L'Uruguay ayant participé activement à ce projet à travers ses experts et ayant eu l'honneur d'en présider le déroulement en la personne de son Délégué permanent, M. Pablo Sader, il formule l'espoir enthousiaste que la Déclaration sera adoptée par la Conférence générale.

(9.6) En tant que coordonnateur du groupe de travail sur les sciences exactes et naturelles du GRULAC, l'Uruguay juge particulièrement important que la prochaine Conférence générale reconnaisse à trois centres scientifiques d'Amérique latine situés respectivement au Brésil, au Chili et au Venezuela le statut de centre UNESCO de la catégorie 2.

(9.7) Nous œuvrons conjointement avec l'Argentine au succès du Forum international de l'UNESCO sur les interfaces entre politiques et sciences sociales qui doit se tenir au mois de février prochain. Asseoir les bases d'un dialogue libre entre les universitaires et la société civile constitue l'un des objectifs du Forum. L'Uruguay, dont la profonde vocation intégrationniste trouve à s'exprimer dans le MERCOSUR, accueille avec satisfaction l'organisation d'un atelier sur le thème « Intégration régionale et développement ».

(9.8) Nous nous sommes attachés à faire en sorte que le projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles puisse être examiné par la Conférence générale en vue de son adoption.

(9.9) La pluralité des cultures humaines constitue une valeur en soi en même temps qu'un attribut indispensable de la condition humaine. L'accès à la culture est un droit humain reconnu.

(9.10) Les liens entre culture et développement humain sont indiscutables ; déjà, en 1996, dans la publication « Notre diversité créatrice : rapport de la Commission mondiale de la culture et du développement », le Directeur général de l'UNESCO déclarait : « ... le développement suppose non seulement l'accès aux biens et aux services, mais aussi la possibilité de choisir comment vivre sa propre vie avec les autres, de manière pleine et satisfaisante pour tous, l'épanouissement de l'existence humaine sous toutes ses formes et dans toute sa plénitude ».

(9.11) Si, comme nous le souhaitons, cet instrument est adopté, il aura une portée historique et les générations futures sauront que l'UNESCO est l'organisation qui aura eu la sagesse d'élaborer une base normative spécifique unique sur la protection et la promotion des expressions culturelles.

(9.12) Nous nous devons de souligner l'appui massif que suscite le projet de convention. Il y a lieu d'évoquer à cet égard la Déclaration de Madrid en faveur de la diversité culturelle sur laquelle a débouché le Sommet mondial des Ministres de la culture tenu au mois de juin dernier. Il y est souligné que la diversité culturelle est un facteur de

pluralisme, de démocratie, de cohésion sociale et d'emploi, de croissance durable, ainsi que d'identité des sociétés et des personnes. Il y est de même estimé qu'il est primordial de s'engager vis-à-vis des nouvelles générations pour protéger et promouvoir la richesse de la diversité culturelle existant sur notre planète.

(9.13) La Convention intègre la notion de diversité culturelle dans le droit positif, en garantissant à chacun le maintien évident des principes du droit international d'interprétation des traités consacrés dans la Convention de Vienne sur le droit des traités.

(9.14) Il y a lieu d'attirer l'attention sur le soutien convaincu de la société civile à des organismes à caractère particulier tels que, entre autres, le Comité international de liaison des Coalitions pour la diversité culturelle.

(9.15) En bref, Monsieur le Président, cette Convention est motivée par l'affirmation de certaines valeurs et il n'y a nulle raison de penser qu'elle puisse porter préjudice à un pays quelconque. Il s'agit d'une initiative qui sera bénéfique pour l'humanité tout entière et s'inscrit dans une évolution juridique tendant à restaurer l'équilibre entre les cultures et à mettre un frein à l'uniformisation et à la normalisation qui nous appauvrissent tous.

(9.16) Je réaffirme le souhait de l'Uruguay de voir qu'au mois d'octobre, la Conférence générale puisse franchir un pas historique en adoptant le projet de convention.

(9.17) Mon pays félicite les membres du Conseil exécutif pour avoir pris les mesures prévues dans l'Acte constitutif en vue de la réélection du Directeur général, M. Koïchiro Matsuura. L'Uruguay appuie le renouvellement du mandat de M. Matsuura, convaincu que sa gestion a été et sera bénéfique à l'Organisation.

(9.18) Je souhaite évoquer l'importance que mon pays attribue à l'UNESCO ainsi qu'à la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO. Les commissions nationales représentent une composante originale et sans équivalent de l'Organisation. Elles sont un lien indispensable entre celle-ci, sur le terrain ou au Siège, le gouvernement et la société civile.

(9.19) Le gouvernement qui a pris ses fonctions il y a plus de six mois a réorganisé la Commission nationale. Celle-ci est désormais mieux intégrée et elle fait une large place à la société civile, en particulier aux milieux de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture. Des mesures visant à la doter de moyens institutionnels et financiers plus importants sont par ailleurs en cours d'adoption. La Commission a adopté pour 2005 un plan d'activité très ambitieux dans lequel elle se propose d'optimiser la mise en œuvre de certaines propositions figurant dans les programmes de l'UNESCO et de développer les espaces d'échange et de propositions à caractère gouvernemental et non gouvernemental.

(9.20) Enfin, Monsieur le Président, l'action de l'Organisation est un thème prioritaire pour mon gouvernement, comme en témoignera la présence du Ministre de l'éducation et de la culture, M. Químico Jorge Brovetto, à la Conférence générale. J'ai en outre le plaisir d'annoncer la visite à l'UNESCO du Président de la République, M. Tabaré Vázquez, au mois d'octobre. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

10.1 Mr PIGOT (Suriname) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, congratulations to you all on the celebration of our 60th anniversary. Congratulations also to our Director-General elect and the President elect of the General Conference. On the other hand, my sincere condolences to all who

suffered from natural and human induced disasters. I have in mind the United States of America, Great Britain and others.

10.2 As usual, in preparation of this meeting, I started to read the documents sent to me, discussed issues with relevant persons at home and with colleagues and friends here and made some notes about what might be worth mentioning in my intervention. But on my way to Paris this time I was fortunate to read a short reflection of Albert Einstein on relativity in which he said that everyone has a different perception of space-time, and that we all have a different perception of urgency when we hear the same request. Due to this reflection, I had mixed feelings about what I should really stress during my intervention. I became convinced that we all have a different perception of what UNESCO means, and about what is or should be of urgency for UNESCO. Based on this mind-set, I decided to share some of my views with you.

10.3 Mr Chairman, my first reflection is on the leadership of UNESCO. It is my perception that UNESCO is blessed with excellent leadership, be it the Executive Board, the Director-General or the staff. I think this is one of the reasons why Member States are prepared to nourish this Organization for the benefit of one and all.

(The speaker continued in French)

10.4 Monsieur le Président, ma seconde réflexion porte sur le fonctionnement de la Direction et du Secrétariat. Depuis toujours, le Secrétariat nous fournit une information et une documentation d'une excellente qualité, nous permettant ainsi de nous faire une bonne idée de la position de l'UNESCO et des événements en cours. Et mon opinion est une fois encore confirmée pour la présente session du Conseil exécutif. Je pense qu'il est d'une importance primordiale de donner au personnel les moyens d'être aussi performant et efficace qu'il l'est actuellement. Or, nous avons tous entendu parler des plans de compression des coûts qui pourraient nuire à l'efficacité du travail du personnel. Et quand je parle du personnel, je ne pense pas seulement aux personnes des différents secteurs et du Secrétariat du Conseil exécutif avec qui nous sommes en contact normalement. Je pense aussi à ceux que nous ne voyons pas, comme l'équipe du standard téléphonique qui est toujours d'une grande aide quand j'appelle, par exemple, du Suriname, à la recherche d'une personne ou d'un service de l'UNESCO. Ce premier visage de l'UNESCO est celui d'un accueil très compétent et efficace. Il serait bon que le personnel garde la possibilité de continuer à travailler dans des conditions satisfaisantes.

10.5 Monsieur le Président, ma troisième réflexion porte sur nos objectifs et nos résultats. Je pense que l'UNESCO sera jugée d'abord et avant tout sur sa capacité d'atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement qui sont devenus des points de référence pour la communauté internationale. Si nous-mêmes, à l'UNESCO, nous doutons sérieusement de notre capacité d'atteindre certains de ces objectifs, il serait sage de dresser un bilan à mi-parcours pour les ajuster. En procédant ainsi, nous serons en mesure de garder chacun impliqué de façon réaliste et motivée. Je crains que certains participants ne se découragent en voyant que nous perdons du terrain et que nous n'ajustons pas nos objectifs de façon réaliste. Cette mise au point pourrait aussi se traduire par une plus forte concentration sur certains éléments des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

10.6 Mr Chairman, my fourth reflection is on the geographical distribution of staff. It is my perception that this issue will need some new creative impulses, in the sense that the Director-General and his staff should make a joint and palpable effort to redress this imbalance; otherwise it will slip to an unacceptable level for the majority of the Member States.

10.7 Mr Chairman, the Director-General elect spoke about mobilization of the UNESCO family. In my fifth reflection, I would like to make some remarks on a part of this family, and by this I mean on the past representatives of the Executive Board. I know that this does not concern everyone, as some representatives have come to stay as permanent representatives on this Board.

10.8 Mr Chairman, UNESCO is continuously investing a great deal in informing its Board Members. How will UNESCO nourish this investment? Will UNESCO keep them on its mailing list, as some of them are not members of their respective National Commissions? Will UNESCO inform them about core activities and invite them to attend some of these activities? They themselves and sometimes their governments will be willing to cover the costs of their participation in important UNESCO activities. I am convinced that former Board Members can play a role in further shaping UNESCO's future. We should not let them leave and stay away until a possible next term, as some countries may only come again after some 12 years.

10.9 Coming to the end of my term on the Board, let me reflect on some personal notes. It has been an honour for my country to serve for the second time on this Executive Board, and it has been a pleasure and an honour for me personally to be the representative of Suriname here in Paris. A representative not only on paper, but physically and intellectually present. It has been and still is an excellent professional and personal experience for me to have been so closely involved in the various fields of competence of UNESCO.

10.10 In this regard, I thank all Members and especially the Member States from my region and the representative from Brazil in his capacity as Vice-Chairman for their support and understanding. I know that the Board, in its new composition coming up at the end of October, will easily pick up on all the intellectual, technical and administrative issues that I did not stress today, and help the Director-General to guide the staff to excellence in performance. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to meet a lot of excellent people, many of whom have become friends. Let me, knowing that I do not have the memory or the time to say them all, mention a couple of first names: Mohamed, Hans, Abdul, Danielle, Davidson, Colin, Klaus, Melissa, Kishore, Jaime, Rukzana, Sybil, Julian, Armoogum, Beatriz, Michael, Christina, Ludovit, Harald, Andre, Lydia, Dorothy and many more.

10.11 I wish you all and UNESCO the best, because by doing so I am wishing an important part of myself the best possible. And let me rephrase Australia by saying: I am going to miss you all. Thank you.

11.1 M. MBOUI (Cameroun) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, il m'est agréable de me retrouver parmi vous à l'occasion de la 172^e session du Conseil exécutif, session particulière car elle se situe entre le Sommet mondial 2005, à New York, et le 60^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO. Cette session, qui précède celle de la Conférence générale, marque le début d'un nouvel exercice et permettra d'entériner l'élection du Directeur général pour un second mandat et d'approuver sa nouvelle feuille de route. C'est ici le lieu de féliciter M. Koïchiro Matsuura, qui a recueilli les suffrages du Conseil, et de lui réitérer le soutien du Chef de l'État camerounais pour son action novatrice à la tête de l'Organisation. Le Cameroun, qui a beaucoup bénéficié de l'apport de l'UNESCO sous son impulsion, lui en sait infiniment gré. Je profite aussi de l'occasion pour saluer le Président sortant de la Conférence générale, Son Excellence M. Michael Omolewa, et féliciter l'Ambassadeur d'Oman appelé à lui succéder. Enfin, Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de vous dire combien nous apprécions le doigté et l'entregent avec lesquels vous animez les travaux du Conseil, qualités sans lesquelles nos sessions manqueraient de rigueur et de détente.

11.2 Je voudrais par ailleurs m'associer à la compassion et à la solidarité du peuple camerounais à l'égard des victimes de l'ouragan Katrina, qui rappelle à certains égards le récent tsunami à l'occasion duquel l'UNESCO a entrepris des efforts que je salue en vue de créer un système d'alerte rapide.

11.3 Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, un sommet mondial s'est tenu du 14 au 16 septembre dernier à New York, à l'occasion du cinquième anniversaire du Sommet du Millénaire et des soixante ans de l'ONU. Ces assises ont donné l'occasion de réaffirmer plusieurs engagements, notamment ceux qui sont contenus dans les Objectifs du Millénaire, et même d'en renforcer d'autres dans des domaines tels que les droits de l'homme, la paix, la démocratie et la lutte contre le terrorisme.

11.4 On a pu également constater, pour s'en réjouir, que l'éducation, les sciences et la culture, domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, figuraient en bonne place parmi les préoccupations de ce Sommet. L'éducation, notamment, est reconnue comme un préalable pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Il convient de souhaiter que les conclusions du Forum mondial sur l'éducation tenu à Dakar seront mises en œuvre de manière que soient atteints les objectifs fixés pour 2015, notamment en ce qui concerne l'accès, la qualité et la parité. Le Cameroun, pour sa part, se réjouit de consacrer une part importante de son budget à ce secteur. C'est dans cet esprit que mon pays soutient et adoptera le projet de convention contre le dopage dans le sport et suggère fortement l'élaboration d'un programme international pour l'éducation physique et le sport afin d'améliorer la qualité dans ce domaine.

11.5 S'agissant des sciences exactes et naturelles, nous saluons une fois de plus la création par la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale d'un système d'alerte aux tsunamis et d'atténuation de leurs effets dans l'océan Indien ainsi que le renforcement de la coopération entre l'UNESCO et le Système mondial des systèmes d'observation de la Terre (GEOSS). Nous soutenons également le projet de Déclaration universelle sur la bioéthique et les droits de l'homme qui sera soumis à l'examen de la 33^e session de la Conférence générale.

11.6 S'agissant de la culture, nous réitérons notre soutien à l'avant-projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles ; la troisième session de la Réunion intergouvernementale d'experts, qui s'est tenue du 25 mai au 3 juin 2005, a permis de mettre au point un texte à soumettre à la Conférence générale. Mon pays en appelle au sens des responsabilités des uns et des autres afin que les divergences observées soient aplanies.

11.7 Dans le domaine de la communication, le Cameroun salue le rôle joué par l'UNESCO dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action adopté à Genève en décembre 2003, lors de la première phase du Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information (SMSI). Nous nous félicitons aussi de la contribution de l'Organisation à la préparation de la seconde phase qui aura lieu à Tunis, en novembre 2005. Étant originaire d'un continent où la fracture numérique est encore patente, je ne peux qu'exprimer de façon forte notre désir de voir l'Afrique profiter largement des conclusions de ces assises. À cet égard, le Cameroun se propose d'accueillir, en mars 2006, une rencontre des pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre sur le rôle des technologies de la communication comme levier du développement.

11.8 En ce qui concerne les progrès réalisés en faveur de la reconstruction dans les situations d'après-conflit, nous appuyons l'élan de solidarité et de proactivité de l'UNESCO à l'égard des pays qui ont connu ou connaissent encore des difficultés. Nous en appelons à plus de solidarité de la part des donateurs et souhaitons une réflexion plus approfondie sur le concept de sécurité humaine et son utilité pratique, afin que tous les aspects liés aux crises, tant en amont qu'en aval, soient étudiés et que des réponses appropriées soient trouvées.

11.9 En ce qui concerne les propositions révisées du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2006-2007, nous appuyons les efforts du Directeur général qui vont dans le sens d'un renforcement significatif des domaines de programme prioritaires dans un contexte de réduction de plus en plus drastique et déplorable des ressources du budget ordinaire.

11.10 Enfin, nous ne saurions terminer notre propos sans appuyer les efforts du Secrétariat dans son processus de réforme. Nous souhaitons que ces efforts débouchent sur plus de visibilité et une présence plus forte dans un monde où, face aux incertitudes et aux incompréhensions de toutes sortes, l'UNESCO apparaît de plus en plus comme la lumière qui brille toujours. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

12.1 Г-н СЧАСТНЫЙ (Беларусь), *полный текст*:

Уважаемый Генеральный директор, уважаемый Председатель Генеральной конференции, уважаемый Председатель Исполнительного совета, уважаемые члены Исполнительного совета, вчера уважаемый представитель Австралии задал вопрос о том, заметил ли бы мир прекращение существования ЮНЕСКО. Вопрос был безусловно риторический. В наше время трудно представить международное сотрудничество в области образования, науки, культуры и информации без этой международной организации. Во многом это является результатом того, что ЮНЕСКО считает наглядность одним из главных принципов своей деятельности. Осуществление этого принципа невозможно без укрепления механизма оперативной деятельности на страновом и региональном уровнях. Это касается всех областей, в том числе и образования.

12.2 Задачи, связанные с осуществлением права на образование, и необходимые для этого меры отличаются в разных регионах мира. В одних странах – это обеспечение права на начальное образование представителям беднейших слоев населения, в других – обеспечение равных возможностей подготовки для поступления в университеты жителям отдаленных сельских районов. Важность регионального подхода была подчеркнута в рекомендациях проходившего в начале апреля в Минске международного форума «Образование для устойчивого развития: на пути к обществу знания». Одним из ключевых результатов Форума явилась резолюция совместного заседания министров образования СНГ и представителей ЮНЕСКО.

12.3 Проведение упомянутого Форума стало еще одним положительным примером децентрализации ЮНЕСКО, поскольку это мероприятие, как и многие другие, было проведено при содействии Бюро ЮНЕСКО в Москве. По инициативе Бюро была разработана региональная стратегия сотрудничества с ЮНЕСКО, в результате чего оживилось региональное сотрудничество, повысились наглядность и транспарентность деятельности самой Организации в каждой из стран кластера. По инициативе Бюро в Беларуси были инициированы новые направления деятельности, в частности использование информационных технологий для создания электронной библиотеки белорусской литературы XI – середины XX веков. В настоящее время продолжается работа над созданием электронной библиотеки школьника, в том числе для незрячих детей.

12.4 Г-н Председатель, стихийные бедствия во многих районах мира и, прежде всего, ужасные последствия урагана в штатах Луизиана и Алабама в США, по поводу которых мы хотели бы высказать сочувствие американскому народу, указывают на необходимость трансдисциплинарного подхода к предотвращению и ликвидации их последствий – от создания глобальной системы предупреждения о цунами до выработки конкретных мер по восстановлению образования в посткризисных ситуациях.

12.5 У ЮНЕСКО есть опыт такой деятельности. Эта международная организация была одной из первых, подключившихся к деятельности по минимизации последствий аварии на Чернобыльской АЭС. Подпись ее представителя стоит и под Декларацией программы CORE (Cooperation for Rehabilitation), участниками которой являются ряд международных организаций и стран – членов Европейского союза. В связи с этим наша делегация поддерживает мнение представителя Украины о необходимости активизации участия ЮНЕСКО, накануне двадцатой годовщины аварии, в проведении фундаментальных научных исследований, в частности по изучению воздействия малых доз радиации на организм человека. Полученные результаты будут, несомненно, представлять интерес с точки зрения предотвращения негативных последствий использования ядерной энергии в других частях мира с учетом реально существующей опасности террористических актов. Результаты проходившего 6-7 сентября в Вене Международного научного форума ООН по Чернобылю с участием МАГАТЭ, ВОЗ, ФАО, ПРООН, ЮНЕП и Всемирного банка свидетельствуют о необходимости сотрудничества в этой области специализированных учреждений ООН. Значительную роль в этой связи может сыграть ЮНЕСКО, прежде всего путем поддержки фундаментальных исследований в этой области.

12.6 ЮНЕСКО должна и в будущем выполнять роль катализатора деятельности, относящейся к ее компетенции, в сотрудничестве с правительствами и внешними донорами. В рамках объявленного ЮНЕСКО приоритета «Вода и экологические системы» осуществляется сотрудничество Беларуси, Польши и Украины по рациональному использованию водных ресурсов и сохранению биоразнообразия в Полесье. Есть основания полагать, что при эффективном содействии Отдела экологических наук Сектора естественных наук это направление деятельности будет должным образом отражено в Программе и бюджете и на двухлетний период на 2006-2007 гг. Проведенные в марте этого года в Минске Региональные консультации экспертов по развитию сотрудничества в области этики и биоэтики дали толчок к оживлению деятельности в этой области на национальном уровне и еще раз убедили в необходимости принятия декларации о всеобщих нормах в области биоэтики. Конвенция об охране нематериального культурного наследия внесла серьезные изменения в отношении к нему. Этому способствовала и проведенная в этом году в Минске Международная конференция по нематериальному наследию. В Беларуси, вошедшей в первую десятку стран, ратифицировавших Конвенцию, сейчас принимаются активные меры по включению ее основных положений в национальное законодательство. Поэтому наша страна с оптимизмом относится к нормотворческой деятельности ЮНЕСКО. Ярким результатом этой деятельности является Конвенция об охране культурного наследия, принятие которой не только способствовало сохранению культурного и природного наследия, но и содействовало разумному использованию его в целях образования, а также социального и экономического развития местных общин и даже целых регионов. Наша делегация поддерживает идею принятия конвенции об охране разнообразия культурного содержания и форм художественного самовыражения и выступает за достижение консенсуса по ее проекту. Присоединение к этой конвенции как можно большего числа стран явится одним из главных условий ее эффективного осуществления.

12.7 Видение нашей страной перспектив повышения эффективности деятельности ЮНЕСКО в полной мере совпадает с главными направлениями деятельности ЮНЕСКО, изложенными Генеральным директором Коитиро Мацуурой при выдвижении его кандидатуры для переизбрания на второй срок. Именно поэтому наша делегация присоединилась к мнению членов Исполнительного совета поддержать эту кандидатуру.

12.8 Участие нашей делегации в работе Исполнительного совета, которое завершается на этой сессии, убедило нас в том, что в результате еще более активного сотрудничества

государств-членов с Секретариатом ЮНЕСКО и Генеральным директором наша Организация сохранит свой высокий статус и авторитет во всем мире, выполняя доверенный ей глобальный мандат. Благодарю за внимание.

(12.1) M. SHCHASNY (Biélarus) *in extenso* (traduit du russe):

Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, hier, le représentant de l'Australie s'est demandé si le monde s'apercevrait d'une éventuelle disparition de l'UNESCO. C'était évidemment une question rhétorique. De nos jours, il est difficile de se représenter la coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'éducation, de la science, de la culture et de l'information sans cette organisation internationale. Nous le devons en grande partie au fait que l'UNESCO considère la visibilité comme un des principes fondamentaux de son activité. Ce principe ne peut être appliqué si l'on ne renforce pas le mécanisme qui permet de mener des activités opérationnelles au niveau des pays et des régions. Cela vaut dans tous les domaines, notamment dans celui de l'éducation.

(12.2) Les problèmes que pose la réalisation du droit à l'éducation, ainsi que les mesures à prendre à cet effet, sont différents d'une région du monde à l'autre. Dans certains pays, il s'agit de garantir aux couches les plus pauvres de la population le droit à l'éducation de base ; dans d'autres, il s'agit de garantir aux habitants des zones rurales les plus éloignées la possibilité d'accéder, sur un pied d'égalité avec les autres, à l'enseignement supérieur. L'importance de l'approche régionale a été soulignée dans les recommandations du Forum international qui s'est tenu à Minsk en avril dernier sur le thème « L'éducation pour le développement durable : vers une société du savoir ». Un des principaux résultats de ce Forum a été une résolution adoptée en séance commune par les ministres de l'éducation des pays de la CEI et des représentants de l'UNESCO.

(12.3) L'organisation de ce Forum offre un nouvel exemple réussi de décentralisation de l'UNESCO dans la mesure où cette initiative, comme bien d'autres, a été menée à bien avec l'appui du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Moscou. À l'initiative de ce Bureau, une stratégie régionale de collaboration avec l'UNESCO a été élaborée, qui a abouti à relancer la coopération régionale et à accroître la visibilité et la transparence des activités de l'Organisation dans chacun des pays du groupe. Sur proposition du Bureau, de nouveaux axes d'action ont été mis en place au Biélarus, notamment en ce qui concerne l'utilisation des technologies de l'information pour créer une bibliothèque électronique de littérature biélorusse (XI^e siècle - milieu du XX^e siècle). À l'heure actuelle, la constitution d'une bibliothèque électronique de l'écolier se poursuit ; elle sera notamment destinée aux enfants malvoyants.

(12.4) Monsieur le Président, les catastrophes naturelles qui frappent de nombreux points du monde, et notamment les séquences terribles du cyclone qui a ravagé la Louisiane et l'Alabama - drame à l'occasion duquel nous tenons à assurer le peuple américain de toute notre sympathie - montrent bien qu'il faut adopter une approche transdisciplinaire de la prévention de ces catastrophes et de l'atténuation de leurs conséquences, qu'il s'agisse de mettre en place un système mondial de prévention des tsunamis ou d'élaborer des mesures concrètes pour rétablir les systèmes éducatifs dans les situations d'après-crise.

(12.5) L'UNESCO a l'expérience de ce type d'activité. Cette organisation internationale a été l'une des premières à se joindre aux efforts pour atténuer les conséquences de l'accident de Tchernobyl. La signature de son représentant figure aussi au bas de la Déclaration du programme CORE (Coopération pour la réhabilitation), auquel participent

plusieurs organisations internationales et pays membres de l'Union européenne. À cet égard, notre délégation partage l'opinion du représentant de l'Ukraine quant à la nécessité de renforcer la participation de l'UNESCO - à la veille du vingtième anniversaire de l'accident - aux recherches scientifiques de base, notamment en ce qui concerne les effets des faibles doses de radiation sur l'organisme humain. Les résultats obtenus présenteront certainement de l'intérêt du point de vue de la prévention des effets négatifs de l'utilisation de l'énergie nucléaire dans d'autres parties du monde compte tenu du danger réel d'attentats terroristes. Les conclusions de la Conférence scientifique internationale sur Tchernobyl qui s'est tenue les 6 et 7 septembre à Vienne avec la participation de l'AIEA, de l'OMS, de la FAO, du PNUD, du PNUE et de la Banque mondiale témoignent de la nécessité pour les institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies de coopérer sur ce terrain. À cet égard, l'UNESCO peut jouer un rôle important, notamment en appuyant des recherches fondamentales.

(12.6) L'UNESCO doit demeurer un catalyseur des activités relevant de ses compétences, en coopération avec les gouvernements et donateurs extérieurs. Dans le cadre de la priorité que l'UNESCO accorde aux actions concernant « l'eau et les écosystèmes associés », le Bélarus, la Pologne et l'Ukraine coopèrent en vue d'une utilisation rationnelle des ressources en eau et de conservation de la biodiversité dans le Polésié. Il y a de bonnes raisons d'espérer qu'avec le concours effectif de la Division des sciences écologiques du Secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles, cet axe d'action trouvera la place qui lui revient dans le Programme et budget 2006-2007. Les consultations régionales d'experts qui se sont tenues en mars de cette année à Minsk sur le développement de la coopération en matière d'éthique et de bioéthique ont permis de relancer les activités dans ce domaine au niveau national et ont convaincu une fois de plus les esprits de la nécessité d'adopter une déclaration relative à des normes universelles en matière de bioéthique. La Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel a considérablement modifié l'approche de ce patrimoine. La Conférence internationale sur le patrimoine immatériel organisée cette année à Minsk y a elle aussi contribué. Le Bélarus, qui compte parmi les dix premiers pays à avoir ratifié cette Convention, s'emploie déjà activement à en introduire les principales dispositions dans sa législation nationale. Pour cette raison, notre pays considère avec optimisme l'activité normative de l'UNESCO. La Convention du patrimoine mondial, dont l'adoption a non seulement contribué à la préservation du patrimoine culturel et naturel mais à l'utilisation rationnelle de ce patrimoine à des fins éducatives ainsi que pour le développement social et économique des communautés locales et de régions entières est un résultat marquant de cette activité. Notre délégation appuie le projet d'adoption d'une convention sur la protection de la diversité des contenus culturels et des expressions artistiques et se prononce pour la recherche d'un consensus sur ce projet. Pour que cette convention puisse être effectivement mise en œuvre, il est essentiel que le plus grand nombre possible d'États y adhèrent.

(12.7) La conception que notre pays se fait des perspectives d'amélioration de l'efficacité de l'UNESCO correspond exactement aux grandes orientations des activités de l'Organisation telles que le Directeur général, M. Koïchiro Matsuura, les a exposées lorsqu'il a présenté sa candidature pour un deuxième mandat. C'est pourquoi notre délégation s'est associée aux autres membres du Conseil exécutif pour soutenir cette candidature.

(12.8) La participation de notre délégation aux travaux du Conseil exécutif s'achèvera à la fin de la session en cours ; elle nous a permis de nous convaincre que moyennant une

coopération plus active des États membres avec le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et avec le Directeur général, notre Organisation pourra conserver tout son prestige et toute son autorité dans le monde entier tandis qu'elle s'acquittera du mandat d'ensemble qui lui a été confié. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

13.1 Ms CARRIÈRE MOMPLETE (Mozambique) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to join my voice to that of the African delegates who have intervened in this plenary, particularly the distinguished representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. In the first place, my delegation wishes to congratulate the Director-General and the UNESCO Secretariat on the preparation of the documents submitted for our consideration. We received most of them in due time.

13.2 We are delighted to note that UNESCO continues to consider education as a priority sector in its cooperation with Mozambique. Better skills are vital to enable people to move within national labour markets and between countries. If we want to eradicate poverty, we must deal with the scourge of illiteracy, and it is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the government of my country, I want to thank UNESCO for the International Reading Association Literacy Prize 2005 awarded to the Associação Progresso from Mozambique. This Mozambican association has been producing literacy materials, especially books, in various mother tongues and Portuguese, and has also been promoting an "environment of reading" in order to avoid what we call "returned illiteracy". We would like UNESCO to continue providing its valuable support with regard to illiteracy, teacher training, technical and national education, distance learning education, HIV prevention education and, of course, art education, because we do not want to educate robots, but creative human beings.

13.3 With regard to Major Programme II, Mozambique thanks UNESCO for its support in developing its science and technology policy and in pursuing its efforts to make science accessible to all sectors of society, including children. Among other activities, every year we organize several events to celebrate the 10th of November, World Science Day for Peace and Development. We would like UNESCO's support for the participation of Mozambique in the World Solar Programme, which is so important for the sustainable development of our country. We are also pleased to remind you that Mozambique will host the twenty-first colloquium of the Geological Society of Africa (GSA) in July 2006. The items of the Colloquium are related to poverty alleviation.

13.4 Concerning the rehabilitation of St Sebastian Fortress, I would like to inform you that a meeting on the restoration project took place on Mozambique Island from 25 to 28 July. The main objectives of the meeting were to redefine the strategy for implementation of the project and to produce an outline of the binding procedure. Most of the participants of the meeting were specialists of the area who were joined by a representative of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the donors and members of the local community. The meeting led to the production of binding documents and the transition to the physical phase of the implementation of this important project which, we are sure, will bring much more visibility to UNESCO in Mozambique.

13.5 As for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, Mozambique has proposed the *Chopi timbila* as a candidate for the Third Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The *Chopi timbila* is a musical expression of the Chopi ethnic group, whose characteristics make it unique not only in Africa, but also in the world.

13.6 Mr Chairman, this year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of UNESCO, but allow me to share with you my deepest preoccupation concerning the future of the new generations in this globalized society where to have is much more important than to be. We sincerely hope that, with UNESCO's support, this situation can be reversed.

13.7 Finally, we would like to congratulate Mr Matsuura on his nomination for a second term as Director-General of UNESCO, and Ambassador Musa bin Jafaar bin Hassan for his nomination as President of the 33rd session of the General Conference. Thank you.

Mr Wrede resumed the Chair

14.1 El Sr. POZO MALO (Ecuador) *in extenso*:

Gracias, Señor Presidente. Deseo expresar la solidaridad de mi país con los Estados Unidos, por las pérdidas de vidas humanas y los destrozos causados por el huracán que azotó ese país en semanas pasadas.

14.2 Apoyamos lo manifestado esta mañana por el representante del Brasil, en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

14.3 El Ecuador viene observando, con mucha atención, el proceso de reformas emprendido por la UNESCO, que comporta la descentralización e incremento consecuente de su efectividad. Entendemos ese proceso como un esfuerzo para simplificar los procedimientos administrativos y multiplicar la ejecución de los programas. Ese objetivo es compartido por muchos países y constituye una de las prioridades en el funcionamiento de los organismos internacionales. El proceso debe ser evaluado luego de transcurrido un periodo razonable, que no debería ser menor, por ejemplo, a un quinquenio. Por ello, observamos con preocupación alguna idea para modificar las estructuras de los entes establecidos dentro de este proceso, sin que para ello se haya llevado adelante una evaluación técnica en profundidad. Si se determinan fallas en el funcionamiento de alguna oficina, es preciso superarlas y corregirlas dotándola de los medios e instrumentos necesarios, pero de ninguna manera disponiendo su desagregación o la reducción de sus funciones y jurisdicción. Mi país espera que cualquier eventual propuesta de cambio en esta materia sea sometido en primer lugar a los países interesados, para poder establecer de manera conjunta su viabilidad y pertinencia.

14.4 La UNESCO ha contribuido en el pasado al desarrollo del derecho internacional con numerosos instrumentos jurídicos. Ese papel irrenunciable de nuestra Organización debe ser enfrentado con toda seriedad y llevado adelante con el uso de todos los medios necesarios, para que en los procesos de negociación puedan intervenir los países de manera eficiente y contribuir de manera efectiva a su elaboración. Entre dichos medios subrayamos como indispensable contar con todo el tiempo que sea necesario, el número de reuniones que se juzgue adecuadas y, de manera fundamental, los servicios de interpretación y traducción en las lenguas oficiales. Estimamos, además, que esos procesos deben estar enteramente a cargo del Presupuesto Ordinario de la UNESCO y no depender de financiamientos voluntarios, que agradecemos, pero entendemos que no son el mejor camino.

14.5 Mi país apoya decididamente lo expresado por otras delegaciones latinoamericanas de habla hispana de que es fundamental que se apliquen los reglamentos y normas vigentes en esta casa, en cuanto al uso de los idiomas en todos los trabajos de la Organización. Confiamos en que, a partir de la Conferencia, los países cuya lengua es el español, dispongamos de los servicios de traducción e interpretación y de los documentos en nuestra lengua.

14.6 La UNESCO nació como una de las organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas dedicadas a los temas trascendentales en el orden social. Nos oponemos, por ello, a cualquier iniciativa que pretenda reducir el campo de acción de la UNESCO en materias humanas y sociales, bien sea a través de su eliminación o bien de la integración de esos asuntos al área de las ciencias exactas. Una muestra de la importancia de estos temas es la necesaria vinculación que está

desarrollando la UNESCO con los programas educativos y de otro orden para enfrentar el peligroso fenómeno de la violencia y de las pandillas juveniles.

14.7 El Ecuador otorga una especial importancia al área de la comunicación e información. En abril pasado el país fue electo Presidente del INFOLAC y para atender esa importante distinción ha establecido los elementos y un equipo que viene trabajando en la materia. Es imperativo para el desarrollo de los países contar para los procesos de educación, capacitación de maestros y enseñanzas a distancia con las herramientas modernas como las nuevas tecnologías de la comunicación e información. El Ecuador confía en poder cooperar durante el bienio entrante en el área de la Información para Todos.

14.8 Consideramos que la Secretaría ha hecho un loable esfuerzo para presentarnos un presupuesto que respete el tope de 610 millones de dólares. Creemos, igualmente, que la fórmula de autorizar al Director General a buscar financiamiento extrapresupuestario para los 25 millones restantes es aceptable y permitirá atender otros programas. El tope presupuestario no debe implicar, en todo caso, la reducción de los recursos destinados a los programas y prioridades de la UNESCO.

14.9 Es importante el esfuerzo que viene haciendo la Secretaría para ir equilibrando la representatividad geográfica en las áreas de alta gestión de la UNESCO. Aplaudimos los logros en materia de incorporación de mayor número de mujeres en las áreas profesionales y saludamos la reinstauración del programa de jóvenes profesionales.

14.10 El IESALC debe jugar un muy importante papel en materia de educación superior en nuestra región, por lo que esperamos que las reformas que se van a emprender luego de los estudios que se vienen realizando permitirán su mejor desempeño. Confiamos en que los temas vinculados al PREALC, que han sido asignados a la Oficina Regional en Santiago, tengan un desarrollo en el más breve plazo y que con ello la UNESCO cumpla con los requerimientos de los Ministros, dentro del marco de la Educación para Todos.

14.11 La Cumbre Mundial 2005 que acaba de concluir en Nueva York reafirmó la Declaración y el Programa Mundial para el Diálogo entre Civilizaciones. Acogió, además, con satisfacción, la iniciativa de la alianza de las civilizaciones. El primero de esos temas nació, como no podía ser de otra manera, en la UNESCO y fue llevado a la práctica en aplicación del primer postulado de la Constitución. El segundo constituye una muy importante iniciativa que puede contribuir a la búsqueda del entendimiento entre todos y, consecuentemente, a la ansiada paz. Consideramos que esas decisiones de la Cumbre le competen de manera especial a nuestra Organización, a la cual, sin embargo, no se le ha otorgado papel alguno para su ejecución y puesta en práctica. Creemos que se impone un esfuerzo de coordinación con Naciones Unidas para que esos dos temas fundamentales sean asignados a la UNESCO y pensamos que la materia debe ser considerada en la 33ª reunión de la Conferencia General.

14.12 El número de sitios inscritos en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial es de tal magnitud que en poco tiempo se volverá inmanejable. Notamos además que la mayoría de esos sitios están localizados en pocos países. El Centro del Patrimonio Mundial va a encontrar crecientes dificultades para responder de manera eficaz a los mandatos de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial de 1972. Debemos considerar de manera seria y urgente la situación, dotar al Centro de los medios y recursos que le permitan atender debidamente su cometido, y seguir examinando las medidas para afrontar este fenómeno. Las adoptadas en Cairns fueron válidas y es posible que se requiera ahondarlas.

14.13 Concluyo, señor Presidente, expresando los votos de mi país porque en el nuevo periodo de funciones del Director General, se concreten y materialicen todos los programas, iniciativas,

proyectos y objetivos que han sido trazados por las pasadas Conferencias Generales y Consejos, y de manera particular las que resultarán de la 33ª Conferencia General.

(14.1) M. POZO MALO (Équateur) *in extenso* (traduit de l'espagnol) :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je tiens à exprimer la solidarité de mon pays avec les États-Unis devant les pertes de vies humaines et les dégâts causés par l'ouragan qui s'est abattu sur ce pays il y a quelques semaines.

(14.2) Nous appuyons les propos tenus ce matin par le représentant du Brésil au nom du Groupe de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes.

(14.3) L'Équateur suit avec beaucoup d'attention le processus de réforme entrepris par l'UNESCO, qui porte sur la décentralisation et l'amélioration significative de l'efficacité de l'Organisation. Nous comprenons ce processus comme un effort en vue de simplifier les procédures administratives et de développer l'exécution des programmes. C'est un objectif que partagent de nombreux pays et qui constitue une priorité pour le fonctionnement des organismes internationaux. Ce processus doit être évalué dans un délai raisonnable, qui ne devrait pas être inférieur à cinq ans, par exemple. C'est pourquoi nous considérons avec inquiétude tout ce qui tendrait à modifier les structures des entités établies dans le cadre de ce processus sans qu'une évaluation technique approfondie ait été réalisée à cet effet. Si des dysfonctionnements sont repérés dans tel ou tel bureau, il convient de les résoudre et de les corriger en accordant audit bureau les moyens et les instruments nécessaires, mais en aucun cas en décidant sa suppression ou la limitation de ses activités et de ses domaines de compétence. Mon pays espère que toute éventuelle proposition de changement dans ce domaine sera soumise en premier lieu aux pays intéressés afin que sa viabilité et sa pertinence puissent être établies d'un commun accord.

(14.4) L'UNESCO a contribué dans le passé au développement du droit international avec de nombreux instruments juridiques. Ce rôle auquel notre Organisation ne saurait renoncer doit être assumé avec le plus grand sérieux et en recourant à tous les moyens nécessaires afin que les pays puissent intervenir de façon efficace dans les négociations et contribuer véritablement au travail d'élaboration. Ces moyens incluent la nécessité impérative de disposer de tout le temps qu'il faudra, du nombre de réunions qui sera jugé approprié et, surtout, des services d'interprétation et de traduction dans les langues officielles. Nous estimons en outre que ces moyens doivent être entièrement pris en charge par le budget ordinaire de l'UNESCO et ne pas dépendre de financements volontaires, que nous apprécions mais qui ne sont pas pour nous la meilleure solution.

(14.5) Mon pays appuie résolument les propos d'autres représentants latino-américains hispanophones selon lesquels il est essentiel que les règlements et normes concernant l'utilisation des langues dans l'ensemble des travaux de l'Organisation soient appliqués. Nous espérons qu'à partir de la prochaine session de la Conférence générale, les pays de langue espagnole disposeront des services de traduction et d'interprétation ainsi que des documents dans leur langue.

(14.6) L'UNESCO est une organisation du système des Nations Unies dont la mission fondatrice est de se consacrer à des questions fondamentales dans le domaine social. C'est pourquoi nous rejetons toute initiative qui tendrait à limiter le champ d'action de l'UNESCO dans le domaine des sciences humaines et sociales, que ce soit en supprimant ce domaine d'activité ou en l'intégrant à celui des sciences exactes. L'articulation nécessaire que l'UNESCO assure notamment avec les programmes en matière d'éducation,

pour faire face au phénomène dangereux de la violence et des bandes chez les jeunes illustre bien l'importance de ces questions.

(14.7) L'Équateur accorde une importance particulière au domaine de la communication et de l'information. En avril dernier, il a assuré la présidence de l'INFOLAC et, dans le cadre de cette mission importante, il a pris des mesures et créé un groupe de travail spécifiques. Pour se développer, il est impératif que les pays disposent dans leurs systèmes d'éducation, de formation des maîtres et d'enseignement à distance des outils modernes que sont les nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication. Pendant le prochain exercice biennal, l'Équateur espère pouvoir coopérer aux activités du programme Information pour tous.

(14.8) Nous pensons que le Secrétariat a fait un effort louable pour nous présenter un budget qui respecte le plafond de 610 millions de dollars. Nous pensons également que la formule consistant à autoriser le Directeur général à rechercher un financement extrabudgétaire pour les 25 millions restants est satisfaisante et permettra de financer d'autres programmes. En tout état de cause, ce plafond budgétaire ne doit pas se traduire par une diminution des ressources allouées aux programmes et priorités de l'UNESCO.

(14.9) Le Secrétariat fournit un effort important pour assurer une bonne répartition géographique aux postes de direction de l'Organisation. Nous nous félicitons des résultats obtenus en ce qui concerne le recrutement d'un plus grand nombre de femmes dans le cadre organique et nous apprécions le renforcement du Programme des jeunes cadres.

(14.10) L'IESALC doit jouer un rôle très important dans le domaine de l'enseignement supérieur dans notre région et nous espérons que les réformes qui seront entreprises, une fois achevées les études en cours, permettront d'améliorer les choses. Nous souhaitons que les activités en relation avec le PRELAC qui ont été confiées au Bureau régional de Santiago soient développées sans tarder et qu'ainsi l'UNESCO réponde aux demandes des ministres, dans le cadre de l'Éducation pour tous.

(14.11) Le Sommet mondial de 2005 qui vient de s'achever à New York a réaffirmé la Déclaration et le Programme d'action en faveur d'une culture de paix, ainsi que le Programme mondial pour le dialogue entre les civilisations. En outre, il a accueilli avec satisfaction l'initiative en faveur d'une Alliance des civilisations. La première de ces deux notions a pris naissance - il ne pouvait en être autrement - à l'UNESCO et a été mise en pratique en conformité avec les premières dispositions de l'Acte constitutif. La seconde est une initiative très importante qui peut contribuer à la recherche de la compréhension entre tous les peuples et, par conséquent, de la paix ardemment désirée. Nous pensons que ces décisions du Sommet relèvent tout particulièrement de la compétence de notre Organisation à qui, pourtant, aucun rôle n'a été confié pour ce qui est de leur mise en œuvre. Un effort de coordination avec l'Organisation des Nations Unies s'impose afin que ces deux thèmes fondamentaux soient confiés à l'UNESCO, et nous pensons que la question doit être examinée à la 33^e session de la Conférence générale.

(14.12) Le nombre de sites inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial est tel que celle-ci deviendra bientôt impossible à gérer. Nous observons en outre que la majeure partie de ces sites se trouve dans un petit nombre de pays. Le Comité du patrimoine mondial aura de plus en plus de mal à s'acquitter efficacement du mandat qui est le sien en vertu de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de 1972. Nous devons examiner sérieusement et de toute urgence la situation, doter le Comité des moyens et ressources qui lui permettront de s'acquitter dûment de sa tâche et continuer d'étudier les mesures à prendre pour faire face

à ce phénomène. Celles qui ont été adoptées à Cairns ont été utiles et il est possible qu'il soit nécessaire de les approfondir.

(14.13) Monsieur le Président, je conclurai en exprimant le souhait de mon pays que durant le prochain mandat du Directeur général, tous les programmes, initiatives, projets et objectifs élaborés par les sessions antérieures du Conseil exécutif et de la Conférence générale, et en particulier ceux qui seront issus de la 33^e session, se concrétisent.

15.1 Mr ADAMIČ (Slovenia) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, I am greatly honoured to greet you as the newly appointed representative of my government, which has entrusted me with the great responsibility of representing it on the Executive Board of UNESCO. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my government's commitment to the fundamental objectives of the Organization, which are also reflected in the activities we carry out through the Slovenian National Commission, in close cooperation with civil society at national and international levels.

15.2 Mr Chairman, the demands of the times and the rapid development of the international community, and especially globalization, call for quick responses and adjustment, which can be carried out only by organizational reforms which enable UNESCO's quick and effective response, backed with the broad solidarity and support of the international intellectual community. Therefore, with such a grand coalition, reforms should go on. I would like to underscore the importance of efforts aimed at reconstruction and elimination of the consequences of conflicts. It is not to be forgotten that in recent years, UNESCO's Member States have supported a range of resolutions concerning post-conflict situations, and it would be unjust to neglect our obligations regarding resolutions adopted previously, for example, those regarding South-East Europe. Efforts to defend peace in the minds of people should be at the forefront of programme activities, as should strengthening Member States' capacities to overcome the difficulties of the past as well as their ability to become involved in the international community and mutual cooperation.

15.3 Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, I am convinced that you are well acquainted with the activities of Slovenia in South-East Europe. The meeting of Secretaries-General of the National Commissions of South-East European countries organized by the Slovenian Commission with the excellent cooperation of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Europe (ROSTE) in Venice is one of the concrete actions taken to build the capacity of these National Commissions and to promote their mutual cooperation founded on their own interests. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General for the participation of Ms Roudil in the seventeenth International Conference of Peace Messenger Cities (1-4 September 2005) held in Slovenj Gradec, a Slovenian city known for its active support of peace.

15.4 Natural disasters are again at the forefront of the daily news. Almost all of the speakers have underscored this, and I convey again our condolences to the United States delegation. A special task of UNESCO is to encourage the incorporation of preventive education into curricula, to promote the strengthening of university programmes in order to train high-quality experts, and to promote and raise public awareness, cooperation in science and protection of the cultural heritage in such situations. Slovenian experts have a fair amount of experience with natural disasters, and at the international level, such experience should be widely pooled together in order to focus on preventive action and awareness, rather than underestimating nature. Therefore, Mr Chairman, we suggest that UNESCO promote the establishment of a network of UNESCO Chairs on natural disasters. And I am happy to say that the youngest Slovenian University in Koper is ready to open such a chair.

15.5 Please allow me, at the very end, to quote Rachel Carson from her book published in 1963 entitled *Silent Spring*. That was some 42 years ago, at the very beginning when I started my studies. And I still remember her words, her message: “You must learn to live with nature, not against it.” So, Director-General, I wish to say thank you for all that you have done, and I congratulate you on your nomination for a second term. I will use words which I have most often heard travelling all over Japan: *Domo arigato gozaimashita. Dozo. Hai.* (Thank you very much. Please accept my thanks.)

16.1 M. DOUCOURÉ (Mali) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, merci de donner la parole au Mali dans le débat qui suit le rapport du Directeur général sur les points 3, 4 et 21 de l'ordre du jour de la présente session du Conseil exécutif. Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, qu'il me soit permis de féliciter le Directeur général pour la décision du Conseil concernant le renouvellement de son mandat, ainsi que le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents soumis à notre examen. La présentation des rapports sur l'exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale et sur le suivi des décisions et résolutions reflète l'ampleur de la mission de notre Organisation. Nous estimons cependant que les résultats obtenus gagneraient à être mieux mis en valeur, témoignant ainsi de la pertinence de l'agenda tout à fait original de l'UNESCO dans le système des Nations Unies.

16.2 Monsieur le Président, comme dans la plupart des pays en développement, l'EPT cristallise nos préoccupations, ce qui justifie tout l'intérêt que le Mali porte aux trois initiatives phares : l'Initiative mondiale sur le VIH/sida et l'éducation (EDUSIDA), l'Initiative pour l'alphabétisation : savoir pour pouvoir (LIFE) et l'Initiative pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne. Si l'approche axée sur l'« efficacité de l'aide » du Forum de haut niveau OCDE/CAD organisé à Paris mérite l'attention, nous estimons qu'elle doit entraîner un accroissement beaucoup plus significatif des ressources mobilisées en faveur des différentes composantes de l'éducation. Dans mon pays, en coopération avec l'UNESCO, l'élaboration de matériels de soutien pour les écoles intégratrices, la formulation d'une stratégie nationale pour la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation, et l'utilisation des TIC et de plans nationaux intégrés, sont autant de mesures qui vont manifestement dans le sens de l'EPT et de la réalisation de certains des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. À cet égard, mon pays juge le Projet de programme et de budget pour 2006-2007, tel qu'il est soumis à la présente session, pertinent et tout à fait en phase avec les orientations des assises précédentes.

16.3 S'agissant du grand programme II, le Mali apprécie notamment le projet sous-régional du MAB financé par le Fonds mondial pour l'environnement (FME) du PNUE, relatif au développement durable dans les réserves de biosphère, ainsi que les bourses du MAB, le Programme international relatif aux sciences fondamentales (PISF) et les activités du CIPT, la promotion des énergies durables et renouvelables et la création d'un village solaire pilote.

16.4 Dans le domaine des sciences sociales et humaines, la préparation du projet de Déclaration universelle sur la bioéthique et les droits de l'homme et les réunions du Forum des ministres du développement social ont suscité un intérêt certain au Mali.

16.5 Le Secteur de la culture a assuré un suivi efficace de la question de la protection de la diversité culturelle en menant une action normative. L'avant-projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles qui sera soumis à la Conférence générale à sa 33^e session en est la parfaite illustration. L'inscription du Tombeau des Askia sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et les études de cas sur le thème « Culture, tourisme et développement : le cas de l'Afrique de l'Ouest » sont autant de motifs de satisfaction. En tant que pays pilote pour la création de centres communautaires multimédias (CCM) à l'issue du Sommet mondial sur la société

de l'information (SMSI) de Genève, le Mali a accueilli une des quatre réunions thématiques dans la perspective de Tunis. Une réunion sur le thème « Le multilinguisme pour la diversité culturelle et la participation de tous dans le cyberspace », organisée les 6 et 7 mai derniers, a été coprésidée par le Directeur général.

16.6 Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, je conclus en disant que mon pays réitère son vif intérêt pour les thèmes transversaux relatifs à l'élimination de la pauvreté, en particulier l'extrême pauvreté, ainsi qu'à la contribution des TIC au développement de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture et à la construction d'une société du savoir. Je vous remercie.

17.1 Mr NATUMAN (Vanuatu) *in extenso*:

Chairman, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for allowing me to speak at this late hour of this long day to make this brief intervention. I make this statement on behalf of the Pacific islands Member States of UNESCO concerning the outcome of our National Commissions consultation held last month in Nadi, Fiji. At the outset, we would like to thank the Director-General for having appointed, on merit, a Pacific Islander, Dr Visiesio Pongi as Director of the Apia cluster office for the Pacific. This appointment is significant in that in terms of geographical balance the Pacific islands are under-represented in the composition of the staff of our Organization. In this respect, I join Australia in thanking the Director-General for re-establishing the Young Professionals Programme, and in doing so, we note the staff policy as outlined by the Director-General, which we hope will attempt to address the current imbalance while at the same time maintaining the effectiveness and the efficiency of the Organization. Furthermore, Chairman, we would also like to thank the Director-General for strengthening the UNESCO Apia Office in that now we have a full complement of staff to discharge their duties in accordance with the mandate of UNESCO.

17.2 In the area of education, we continue to subscribe to the global priorities of basic education, secondary education, technical and vocational education and higher education, and the core initiatives of literacy, HIV/AIDS and teacher training, with an emphasis on in-country workshops, common themes, intersectorality and partnership. The Pacific Member States felt that perhaps we need to define clearly, for future project purposes, what we meant by the term "inclusive education", and also the need for vernacular language support, support for HIV/AIDS projects, teacher training needs, ethics for teachers, increased interdisciplinarity, promoting indigenous culture and home language in school curricula, greater support for the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), and statistics capacity-building. Most of our countries in the Pacific have now drawn up their education for all (EFA) action plans, but we will need the resources to be able to implement them. Furthermore, we will need to consider how to link EFA to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). At our Nadi meeting we were fortunate to be presented with a full account of the situational analysis of the Decade in the Pacific.

17.3 In the area of natural sciences, we endorsed water as the principal priority, and noted that intersectorality was a useful modality.

17.4 Insofar as social and human sciences are concerned, there are two regional projects planned for 2006-2007, relating to sustainable development for small island developing States and the ethics of science and technology. We also consider that in document 33 C/4, we should maintain an emphasis on research appropriate for developing States.

17.5 In the area of culture, we in the Pacific feel that we are under-represented in the World Heritage List. We would therefore like to request that a person be appointed to the Apia Office for intangible heritage work and to help the Pacific countries to gain UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) listings.

17.6 During our Pacific consultations, we also decided to support Fiji and Palau to take over from Vanuatu and Australia as Members of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

17.7 Finally, Chairman, we would like to thank the Director-General for being the first head of our Organization to have visited the Pacific islands about three times during his time in office, and with our support, we hope that during his second term he will visit the remaining countries in our subregion. Thank you very much for your attention.

18.1 Ms GASIBIREGE-GASAKURE (Rwanda) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to again congratulate our Director-General, Mr Matsuura.

(The speaker continued in French)

18.2 Permettez-moi une fois encore, Monsieur le Président, de féliciter les éminents représentants des États membres de l'UNESCO pour leur compétence et la qualité de leurs travaux. Je voudrais évoquer la contribution de mon pays à la grande œuvre de l'UNESCO et, tout d'abord, souscrire aux propos tenus par le représentant du groupe Afrique au nom de tous les membres du groupe.

18.3 Monsieur le Président, je disais hier que le Rwanda était un pays reconnaissant. En effet, sachant qu'il n'y a pas de meilleur moyen de développer durablement et intégralement une société, le Rwanda a fondé sa politique sur l'éducation. Je vais donc reprendre les conclusions de l'Assemblée générale de la Commission nationale rwandaise pour l'UNESCO réunie le 6 septembre dernier sous les auspices de son ministère de tutelle, le Ministère de l'éducation. Le soutien du Rwanda à la promotion de l'Éducation pour tous s'exprime dans ce que nous appelons la « Vision 2020 ». Cette initiative est en application depuis deux ans, et je peux dire que sa première phase est plutôt un succès puisque l'école primaire est gratuite pour tous les enfants. La deuxième phase sera plus difficile à mettre en œuvre et nous aurons probablement besoin de l'appui de l'UNESCO. Je dirai également que pour être effective, cette politique devra renforcer l'éducation de la petite enfance. On a en effet remarqué que les enfants apprenaient et étudiaient mieux quand ils étaient scolarisés dès la maternelle. L'éducation spéciale devra elle aussi être renforcée car nous comptons beaucoup d'enfants qui souffrent de handicaps, aussi bien physiques que mentaux. Nous aurons besoin de l'appui d'experts de l'UNESCO dans ce domaine, mais aussi dans celui de la réinsertion des enfants de la rue, qui sont nombreux dans notre pays. Or nous pensons que, pour construire un pays, il faut compter sur toutes ses forces vives.

18.4 S'agissant des programmes de l'UNESCO tels qu'ils sont présentés dans tous les documents, j'appuie les intervenants qui m'ont précédée, en ce qui concerne la culture notamment. Le Rwanda soutient vivement l'avant-projet de convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles. À la session prochaine de la Conférence générale, nous comptons inviter les membres de la délégation rwandaise à l'appuyer fortement. Toutefois, nous lançons un cri d'alarme pour la protection du patrimoine culturel et en particulier des documents de nos bibliothèques, qui sont très endommagés. Les archives nationales n'ont pas de structure appropriée. Nous souhaiterions aussi que les industries culturelles soient appuyées, ce qui, je pense, relève de la mission de l'UNESCO. Pour ce qui est des trésors humains vivants, il nous en reste encore et nous souhaiterions les soutenir et les accompagner pour pouvoir, comme le disait tout à

l'heure un intervenant, former non pas seulement des robots, mais aussi des êtres humains qui soient le produit d'une longue histoire et d'une culture.

18.5 Nous avons déjà souscrit au programme relatif aux sciences exactes et naturelles, mais nous souhaiterions bénéficier d'un appui accru de l'UNESCO pour les nouvelles technologies, déjà intégrées dans la formation de tous les enfants et à tous les niveaux. Actuellement, il n'y a plus d'âge pour étudier au Rwanda et je pense qu'une aide de l'UNESCO sera de plus en plus nécessaire pour que toutes les personnes qui n'ont pas eu la chance d'être scolarisées puissent un jour accéder aux universités et aux instituts.

18.6 Je voudrais terminer en appuyant les propos qui ont été tenus hier et tout au long de cette matinée, et plus particulièrement ceux de Mme la Vice-Présidente, représentante du Pakistan. Toutes les éminentes personnalités ici réunies le sont en raison de leur expérience ; je pense qu'il est très important de pouvoir établir un équilibre entre jeunesse et expérience. Je voudrais souligner ici que ce que nous savons, nous l'apprenons par vous, et nous n'ignorons pas que vous avez le souci d'intégrer la jeunesse dans une structure comme celle de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

19. The CHAIRMAN recalled that it had been agreed at the morning's meeting, in accordance with Rule 30, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure, to allow a representative of Peru to address the Board.

20.1 El Sr. CARRIÓN (Subsecretario de Política Cultural Exterior del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, Señor Director General, Señores Consejeros, hace unos meses, ante este mismo Consejo, tuve la ocasión de recordar la alta prioridad que el Gobierno del Perú asigna a la misión y actividades de la UNESCO, y expresé nuestra esperanza de que su presencia en nuestro país se mantenga y consolide.

20.2 Hoy tengo motivos de satisfacción al presentarles la evolución en el tiempo transcurrido. En primer lugar, el Perú ha tomado la iniciativa de establecer en la ciudad del Cusco, Patrimonio de la Humanidad, un Centro regional para la salvaguardia del patrimonio cultural inmaterial de América Latina, bajo los auspicios de la UNESCO. Consciente de la importancia y de la significación de las tareas de dicho Centro, el Perú ha garantizado financiar sus gastos de funcionamiento durante los cinco primeros años.

20.3 Hace pocos días tuvo lugar en la localidad de Yucay, Cusco, un taller internacional para el establecimiento de este centro regional, en el que participaron todos los países de América del Sur. Allí se dio un respaldo unánime a esta propuesta y se llegó a un consenso sobre el proyecto de acuerdo que deberá ser suscrito entre mi Gobierno y el Director General.

20.4 De otro lado, los provechosos contactos establecidos entre la Organización y el Gobierno de mi país durante los últimos meses han permitido sentar las bases para potenciar la presencia y labores de la Oficina de representación en Lima, cumpliendo funciones de especial importancia en los esfuerzos para alcanzar progresivamente los Objetivos del Milenio.

20.5 Es particularmente relevante, en ese sentido, el inicio del desarrollo de una eficaz colaboración entre los órganos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para hacer frente a las emergencias sociales en el Perú. Este hecho, resaltado por el Coordinador Residente del PNUD en Lima con explícita referencia a la importante labor que compete a la oficina de la UNESCO, es plenamente coherente con las líneas de acción expuestas ayer por el Director General.

20.6 Al exposer estos hechos ante esta asamblea, no respondo a una simple voluntad de aprovechar una tribuna prestigiosa para defender intereses exclusivamente nacionales. Por el contrario, en el momento en que conmemoramos el 60° aniversario de la UNESCO, he querido ilustrar, con nuestro caso, la especial naturaleza de los vínculos que establecemos todos con esta organización internacional. Somos parte de ella, y por lo tanto somos responsables de sus éxitos o culpables de sus limitaciones; sin embargo, a menudo parecemos juzgarla más bien como un socio a veces distante, a veces generoso, a veces, incluso, inútil. Rechazando esos juicios, el Perú, al lado de todos ustedes, desea hoy reiterar su identidad “unesquiana”. Que es, en última instancia, reconocernos como constituyentes de una comunidad de protección, promoción y difusión de los valores más altos de la humanidad.

(20.1) M. CARRIÓN (Sous-Secrétaire d'État à la politique culturelle extérieure du Ministère des relations extérieures du Pérou) *in extenso* (traduit de l'espagnol) :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, il y a quelques mois, devant ce même Conseil, j'ai eu l'occasion de rappeler la haute priorité que le Gouvernement péruvien assigne à la mission et aux activités de l'UNESCO, et j'ai également exprimé notre espoir que la présence de l'Organisation dans notre pays se maintienne et se consolide.

(20.2) Aujourd'hui, en vous présentant les évolutions intervenues depuis, j'ai plusieurs motifs de satisfaction. En premier lieu, le Pérou a pris l'initiative de créer dans la ville de Cuzco, site du patrimoine mondial, un Centre régional pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel sous l'égide de l'UNESCO. Conscient de l'importance et de la signification des tâches de ce Centre, le Pérou s'est engagé à financer ses dépenses de fonctionnement pendant les cinq premières années.

(20.3) Il y a quelques jours, dans la localité de Yucay (Cusco), a eu lieu un atelier international, auquel ont participé tous les pays d'Amérique latine, sur la création de ce centre régional. Un soutien unanime y a été apporté à cette proposition, et un consensus a été dégagé sur le projet d'accord qui devra être signé par mon Gouvernement et le Directeur général.

(20.4) Par ailleurs, les contacts fructueux établis ces derniers mois entre l'UNESCO et le gouvernement de mon pays ont permis d'asseoir les bases d'un accroissement de la présence et du travail du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Lima, qui remplit des fonctions particulièrement importantes dans la perspective de la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

(20.5) Le lancement d'une collaboration efficace entre les organismes des Nations Unies pour répondre à l'urgence sociale au Pérou est particulièrement remarquable à cet égard. Cette démarche, mise en évidence par le Coordonnateur résident du PNUD à Lima, en référence explicite au travail important qui incombe au Bureau de l'UNESCO, s'inscrit parfaitement dans les axes d'action exposés hier par le Directeur général.

(20.6) En exposant ces faits devant cette assemblée, je n'agis nullement avec le dessein de profiter d'une tribune prestigieuse pour défendre des intérêts strictement nationaux. Au contraire, au moment où nous commémorons le soixantième anniversaire de l'UNESCO, j'ai voulu illustrer, avec notre cas particulier, la spécificité des liens que nous tissons, chacun de nous, avec cette organisation internationale. Nous en faisons partie, et, par conséquent, nous sommes responsables de ses succès ou de ses insuffisances ; cependant, nous semblons souvent la juger plutôt comme un partenaire, parfois distant, parfois généreux, parfois même inutile. Rejetant ces jugements, le Pérou, aux côtés de vous tous,

désire aujourd'hui réaffirmer son identité « unesquienne ». Ce qui, en dernier ressort, revient à nous considérer comme faisant partie intégrante d'une communauté qui assure la protection, la promotion et la diffusion des valeurs les plus hautes de l'humanité.

21.1 Mr WREDE (Chairman of the Executive Board) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Sir, for your statement. I shall now have the particular pleasure, before closing our meeting, to make one short announcement which I find very important. We have the privilege and pleasure to have with us this afternoon Ms Matsuura: she is over there. And I would especially like to acknowledge her.

(Applause)

21.2 There are two reasons for this. You might recall that in the interview session yesterday, I posed quite an indiscreet question to the candidate at that time, and he responded, if I recall correctly, in summing up his response, that his good spirits, his good health and fitness were mainly, essentially due to the fact that he had been married for almost 40 years to the same woman. Correct? But that is not the only reason I mention this. The second reason is maybe more important, because I know from several months back, when the Director-General, in a very private way, had to make up his mind whether he wanted to stand again as a candidate for Director-General, I was informed by some confidential sources that it only depended on a single vote, on a single personality who, although we are not in the Security Council, had the right to exercise a veto. After long and hard negotiations in the spirit of constructive relations within a marriage, Ms Matsuura agreed to his running again. So, thanks to you, as well, for allowing us to have the Director-General for another four years. Thank you again.

21.3 And now, with your permission, I have the great privilege of giving the floor to the last speaker on our list, following a good tradition, the President of the General Conference. You have the floor, Sir.

22.1 Mr OMOLEWA (President of the General Conference) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much. Chairman of the Executive Board, Director-General, distinguished Members of the Board, Excellencies, my dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, Ms Matsuura, dear friends. With the unhappy proliferation of disasters that the world has witnessed recently, I cannot start this short intervention without first expressing my sympathy to the victims of these disasters, both natural and those brought about by acts of terrorism. I think of the many innocent lives that have been lost, and I would like to convey our condolences to the victims and their families and loved ones, in the United Kingdom, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Lebanon, and to all those who have been victims of acts of terrorism. We recall also with pain the sufferings brought about by natural disasters: the tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and the desolation, destruction and death they have left in their wake in the United States of America, in Sri Lanka, in Indonesia, in Malaysia, in Thailand, in Myanmar, in India, in Bangladesh, in Kenya, in the Seychelles, in the United Republic of Tanzania and in Somalia. As far as natural disasters are concerned, it is encouraging to know that UNESCO is intensifying its activities in the field of early-warning networks, which hopefully, in the future, may contribute to alleviating some of the terrible effects of these natural phenomena.

22.2 Dear colleagues and friends, as this is probably the last time I will have the privilege and honour of participating in the work of the Executive Board in the *ex officio* capacity of President of the General Conference, I wish to let you know what a tremendous experience it has been for me and also to communicate to you my unreserved gratitude, for the warmth of your friendship, each and every one of you; for your cooperation, for your assistance and for your understanding, as, over the last two years, we have worked together under the guidance of your able Chairman, my dear friend Ambassador Wrede, and the cooperation of our indefatigable Director-General Mr Koïchiro

Matsuura, in the search for optimum efficiency in the performance of the responsibility conferred on the Executive Board by the General Conference.

22.3 In the last two years, I have come to admire and appreciate more and more the wisdom that informed the constitutional requirement that in the period between two sessions of the General Conference, the President of the General Conference is enabled, albeit *ex officio*, to be part of the activities of the Executive Board. This twin requirement, on the one hand, gives the President of the General Conference a privileged place as the execution of the programmes unfolds under the guidance of the Executive Board. On the other hand, the President is given the opportunity, twice every year of the biennium, to inform members of the Executive Board – and through them the Member States of UNESCO – of the activities he or she has been involved in, in furtherance of spreading of the UNESCO message far and wide.

22.4 Dear friends, far and wide indeed it has been; my role has led me to all the corners of the world, for that is where most of UNESCO's actions take place. It is true that quite a healthy percentage of UNESCO's work takes place here at Headquarters, but it is out there in Member States, spread around the different corners of the world, that the real action takes place. And it has been my privilege to be called upon to support and participate in activities covering practically all the sectors and disciplines of UNESCO: in education, in science, in culture, in communication and in the social sciences, to mention but just a few recent involvements in programmes and activities in Member States. In these ways, I am glad to report that I was able to be part of the latest activities aimed at strengthening the cooperative link between UNESCO and Africa when I was invited to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to participate in the work of the UNESCO-NEPAD Committee. The cooperation between UNESCO and the African Union, as you know, covers most areas of UNESCO's interest. In the field of culture, I was the guest of the Government of Uzbekistan for their most interesting and engaging International Music Festival. Other programmes include the launching of science reform in Nigeria, the meeting of the German National Commission for UNESCO on cultural diversity, and two very important visits to South Africa for meetings for the World Heritage Committee.

22.5 Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank the many Member States that have made it possible for me to be part of their execution of UNESCO and UNESCO-related programmes during the biennium. They have contributed greatly to my enhanced knowledge of UNESCO at work in Member States.

22.6 My dear friends and colleagues, when I think of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of our Organization, I say to myself: What a golden opportunity for a reappraisal; what with the finalization of the Programme and Budget for the next two years, and the beginning of trying to put our thoughts together regarding our next Medium-Term Strategy, we will have ample excuse for vigorous action. The cry for reappraisal and reform is very much abroad; we must be deaf not to hear it. We would be irresponsible not to heed it! Fortunately, opportunities for action are there in the agenda you have approved for your work and in the agenda you are proposing to the General Conference for its work at its 33rd session, which is very much upon us.

22.7 Bear in mind as you deliberate that you are bound to millions of people around the globe. This combination of global obligation and local scope is unique. When it works well, when we manifest the power of our network and its usefulness to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people around the world, particularly by promoting the unique features of our Organization, it enables that uniqueness to reflect its effectiveness worldwide. I know that the Board recognizes this.

22.8 Only those who cannot understand what it means to believe strongly in something would hesitate to support or only critically challenge the role of UNESCO in the United Nations family,

especially at this crucial moment, when the very existence and *raison d'être* of the United Nations system is often called into question. I believe that it is more necessary than ever to share a proactive vision and to strengthen the ties between the United Nations and its specialized agencies through greater collaboration and exchange of views and experience at all levels.

22.9 As we plan our programmes and projects for the future, I happily note that we have wisely decided to retain those priorities that we have identified for our action. The priority of priorities in UNESCO remains education for all (EFA). But should we not be asking ourselves, especially here on the Executive Board, why the promise of mass literacy has not been kept in spite of decades of action; and why, even today, the attainment of the Dakar goals still seems jeopardized in many countries of the world?

22.10 I wonder, and I say to myself that perhaps if we could solve the conundrum of the cruelly intransigent scourge of illiteracy, we would find some useful pointers for those challenges that continue to defy resolution, in spite of the valiant efforts deployed to address them.

22.11 I would like to pause here and state how much I have agreed with the many suggestions that have been offered throughout this debate, on ways of improving and strengthening the programmes we are now finalizing for the coming biennium. Your insights, as revealed by your interventions, have been penetrating and positive, and I am happy to note that most of my concerns and joys have been aptly reflected in your debate.

22.12 While not neglecting the primordial importance of making sure that the Organization is adequately financed to fulfil its responsibilities, I would particularly like to draw attention to two questions which have been echoed by many members in their statements. I refer to the request by many, especially China, Australia, Guatemala and others, for adequate funding of the Social and Human Sciences Sector, and also to the plea by many for the strengthening of the higher education component of our programme, especially teacher training in Africa and in other regions where illiteracy remains a challenge.

22.13 Dear friends, the other question concerns the future of our Organization, the future of our world, and the role we must reserve for our youth in the planning of that future. It is not enough for us to make plans for the integration of our young people and their concerns into our thinking. We must endeavour to involve the young people themselves, directly, to ascertain their aspirations and try to bring a knowledge of their conception of that future to bear on our proposals and ideas for progress and well-being. For the world of the future is their world, and they must essentially contribute, in most meaningful ways, to its planning. The continuation and reinforcement of the Youth Forum during the General Conference must be seen as a positive and sensible contribution to this idea.

22.14 Dear colleagues, as one of the three organs of UNESCO, the role of the Secretariat is to coordinate, facilitate and promote the activities of the Organization. Mr Matsuura has left no stone unturned to ensure that this is happening. It is my duty and pleasure to congratulate him again on his nomination yesterday by the Executive Board, and on his excellent statement on the activities of the Organization. In a most genial way, he covered, objectively and professionally, all areas of the Organization's ambitions and expectations. I wish to agree with him in stressing that development begins with people, and that education is the core weapon – a means of empowering people to take control of their lives and the world in which we live.

22.15 It is obvious today that UNESCO still stands and continues to defend the same admirable ambitions for which it was established 60 years ago. Its future must be based on its enhanced

capacity and capability to acquit itself efficiently in the context of the new circumstances that are emerging as challenges for success, in the times ahead.

22.16 My dear colleagues and friends, finally please allow me to thank the Executive Board for the admirable work it has done in dealing with the report of the ad hoc working group on the relations between the three organs of UNESCO, which is now on its way to the General Conference, together with by the Board's comments and recommendations. I look forward with great interest and anticipation to the deliberations on this item at the General Conference, and to the positive results which I have no doubt will follow.

22.17 And now I would like to thank my colleagues, my staff, members of the Secretariat of the General Conference, in particular the former Secretary of the General Conference, Mr Stany Kol, the present Secretary of the General Conference, Ms Birgitte Møller and her staff, and the Permanent Delegation of Nigeria to UNESCO. My thanks and gratitude also go to my friend and colleague, the Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Hans-Heinrich Wrede, and indeed all of my friends for all they have done for me in my capacity as President of the 32nd session of the General Conference. Anything I achieved, I achieved because of their hard work, their support and their understanding. The things I didn't achieve were, of course, also naturally entirely their fault! I will take with me many memories of a mandate that was stimulating and challenging. I will take with me memories of people who have been cooperative and accommodating, and sometimes, believe it or not, many who actually agreed with me.

22.18 I thank you all for your kindness and your consideration, and today I have to thank you, too, for your wonderful gifts of wisdom. It will be a constant reminder to me that my time in office achieved one thing: I made many, many good friends, and in my own little way contributed to the immense task of promoting the standard-setting for which this Organization was established. I thank you very much indeed. I thank you for your kind consideration, and may God bless you.

23.1 Mr WREDE (President of the Executive Board) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, indeed, on behalf of all of us, distinguished President of the General Conference, for your statement, and much more for the tremendous contribution you have made to our work in the past two years. I am grateful to you that you did not single out any particular individual for his particular faults, that you only generalized it, so I feel a bit less alone in making mistakes. And I would like to remind you that we still expect you to give another speech at the closing of our Board next week, Thursday. So I wonder what comes next from you. There will always be something coming next from you, especially at the General Conference, when you will be presenting the results of your very very valuable working group on the relations between the three organs. So, thank you again.

23.2 Let me conclude our meeting well ahead of our scheduled time. I would like to thank especially our interpreters, who have been working indefatigably, to quote the Director-General, since late last night and all throughout the day today. We had more than 50 interventions. I believe it was a very substantial, lively and enjoyable debate. I am sure we will profit from the ideas that have been proposed today. We will profit from them in the days to come when we deal with our agenda in a more detailed way in the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) and the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA).

23.3 Before closing, let me announce that our meeting tomorrow, the plenary meeting, starts at 10 a.m. We will begin with the distinguished colleague of Senegal, who could not be with us this late afternoon, Mr Sourang, who is also, as you know, the Chairman of the PX Commission. That will be followed by the intervention of the Director-General, his reply to this very, very, very substantive general debate, and then we will again have, as a new tradition of ours, a question-and-

answer session. Now we are used to this kind of question-and-answer session, and I believe yesterday's interview session really could serve as a model for a lively, direct exchange. Thank you again for your help, your cooperation and your patience. Good evening to you. The meeting is closed.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

FIFTH MEETING

Wednesday 21 September 2005 at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede

Item 48 NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO (172 EX/PRIV.2; 172 EX/PRIV/INF.1; 172 EX/PRIV/NOM/1) (*continued*)

1. Ms MUKHERJEE (India) said that now that the working group had completed its draft report on item 48 “Nomination of a candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO”, the Board would need to examine it in a private meeting, preferably before the plenary split up the following day to work in committees and commissions.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that a number of legal issues arising from the draft report still needed to be clarified. There was no urgent reason to examine the report immediately, and in fact, he did not wish to do so. The report involved a binding legal contract, and it was his duty and responsibility to review thoroughly any outstanding legal issues, in consultation with the Legal Adviser. He asked the working group to provide him with a written report, in English and in French, indicating exactly how it had reached its conclusions.

3. Mr DAYRELL DE LIMA (Brazil), endorsing the proposal by the representative of India, said that the working group comprising the six Vice-Chairmen had reached a clear conclusion. What more, he asked, was needed?

4. M. GUEGUINOU (France) comprend les scrupules du Président qui, s’agissant d’une question aussi délicate, veut éviter de donner au Conseil l’impression que l’on agit sous la pression. Étant donné toutefois les conditions extrêmement positives dans lesquelles le groupe de travail a fonctionné, il se dit d’avis que ce point devrait pouvoir être réglé définitivement en séance privée sans qu’il soit besoin d’y revenir en séance plénière. C’est pourquoi il est pour sa part favorable à la solution proposée par le représentant du Brésil.

5. Mr SHEYA (United Republic of Tanzania) (Vice-Chairman for the Africa group) said that he agreed wholeheartedly with his colleagues. He had been an active participant in the working group, and could testify that it had done a thorough job, and had resolved any outstanding legal issues.

6. Ms INAYATULLAH (Pakistan) (Vice-Chairman for the Asia and the Pacific group; Chairman of the working group) said that the working group, whose duty it was to report to the plenary, had carefully examined all the legal and personnel issues involved. Following the conclusion of its work, the working group had submitted its draft report to the Chairman. The six Vice-Chairmen comprising the working group were therefore asking that the report, which dealt with a highly sensitive matter, be examined that afternoon, before the commissions and committees began their meetings the following day.

7. Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia) said that as a matter of principle, he would support the Chairman’s suggestion that consideration of the working group’s report be postponed until the following week. It was essential for the Chairman of the Executive Board to feel assured that all the legal issues had been resolved.

٨ أعرب السيد رفعت (مصر) (نائب الرئيس عن مجموعة الدول العربية) عن تأييده لما قالته رئيسة فريق العمل، ورأى أن هذا الفريق قد بذل جهوداً متميزة وقام بعمل ممتاز راعى فيه جميع الاستشارات

القانونية والإدارية، مما أتاح التوصل إلى نص واضح ومحدد يرضي المجتمع الدولي والدول الأعضاء في اليونسكو.

(8) Mr RIFAAT (Egypt) (Vice-Chairman for the Arab States group) expressed his support for the remarks of the Chairman of the working group, saying that the working group had exerted outstanding efforts and accomplished excellent work, taking due consideration of all legal and administrative advice. That had made it possible to arrive at a clear and well-defined text which would satisfy the international community and UNESCO's Member States.

9. Mr HEPBURN (Bahamas) said that he hoped the Chairman, who was the only one who could break the deadlock, would take into consideration the various points made by the members of the working group, in particular its Chairman, and the feeling that there was no need for further delay.

10. Mr OMOLEWA (President of the General Conference) said that the Chairman, as the leader of the Executive Board, was entitled to resolve any issues about which he had doubts. At the same time, he should not ignore the request of the six Vice-Chairmen, who represented all the regional groups. He therefore urged him to take a decision by the beginning of the afternoon's meeting.

11. The CHAIRMAN thanked the President of the General Conference for his kind advice, which he would naturally consider and respond to at the afternoon's meeting. Nevertheless, he failed to understand the urgency of concluding the matter in a private meeting that very day. He was determined not to be rushed, to take the necessary time to clarify the crucial legal questions that were pending, and to resume consideration of the matter in a private meeting to be held some time during the last two days of the session, when the plenary meetings reconvened.

12. Ms INAYATULLAH (Pakistan) (Vice-Chairman for the Asia and the Pacific group; Chairman of the working group) said that the report containing the updated draft contract was already available in English and in French. Once they had had a chance to examine it, the Members of the Board could then go through it point by point.

13. Ms MUKHERJEE (India) said that the Chairman had always had the respect and support of the regional groups. It was important that he now heed their advice. Postponing to the following week the examination of that delicate issue, which had significant implications, would only make it more difficult for the person directly concerned. She proposed that the draft report be distributed immediately after the morning's meeting, and that the matter be concluded, without pressure, that afternoon. She reminded the Members that no comments should be made on the contents of the report in a public meeting.

14. The CHAIRMAN agreed that the working group's report should be distributed immediately after the meeting. The Board would examine it later that afternoon in a private meeting.

Point 3 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR L'ÉXÉCUTION DU PROGRAMME ADOPTÉ PAR LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE (172 EX/4 Parties I et Add. et II ; 172 EX/INF.5 ; 172 EX/INF.6 ; 172 EX/INF.9 ; 172 EX/INF.10) (*suite*)

Point 4 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LE SUIVI DES DÉCISIONS ET RÉOLUTIONS ADOPTÉES PAR LE CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF ET LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE À LEURS SESSIONS ANTÉRIEURES (172 EX/5 ; 172 EX/INF.5 ; 172 EX/INF.6 ; 172 EX/INF.7 (Rev. : anglais seulement)) (*suite*)

Point 21 EXAMEN DU PROJET DE PROGRAMME ET DE BUDGET POUR 2006-2007 (33 C/5) ET RECOMMANDATIONS DU CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF (33 C/5 Projet, Rev. et Add. ; 172 EX/INF.5 ; 172 EX/INF.6) (*suite*)

15.1 M. SOURANG (Sénégal) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, notre session intervient au lendemain du Sommet des Nations Unies à New York qui a renouvelé la détermination de toute la communauté internationale de lancer de nouvelles actions en faveur du développement. Auparavant, le G8 de Gleneagles avait tracé un nouveau cap qui devait, lui aussi, remobiliser le monde autour de l'Afrique pour venir en aide à cette dernière, mais surtout l'accrocher au train de la mondialisation. Le désormais célèbre Rapport Blair avait marqué les esprits par son audace et sa ferme volonté de s'attaquer de front aux problèmes du développement et de la pauvreté. Pour leur part, les initiatives de certains pays riches tendent, avec un pragmatisme et un réalisme réels, à lever des ressources supplémentaires pour compléter l'aide publique au développement. Toutes ces actions prometteuses ont malheureusement été endeuillées, voire freinées dans leur rapide mise en œuvre, par les attentats de Londres, les inondations dues à l'ouragan Katrina et les conséquences du tsunami. Nos pensées pieuses vont aux victimes de ces tragiques épreuves, notamment aux États-Unis et en Asie.

15.2 Monsieur le Directeur général, dans un tel contexte, la décision du Conseil de retenir votre candidature pour un nouveau mandat de quatre ans à la tête de notre Organisation est, de la part des États membres, un acte de confiance en votre personne et en votre action, mais surtout un acte de foi en l'avenir de notre Organisation. Je voudrais dire, pour ma part et au nom du Gouvernement sénégalais, que nous sommes naturellement très heureux de vous féliciter pour ce succès, et surtout pour ce que vous avez fait pour l'Organisation mais aussi pour l'Afrique, compte tenu aussi des relations excellentes que le Sénégal entretient avec l'Organisation et avec vous-même. Je vous présente donc les félicitations du chef de l'État du Sénégal.

15.3 La majorité des États membres sont conscients des efforts et des progrès accomplis par l'UNESCO durant les six dernières années. Dans un contexte de ressources financières limitées, vous avez su mener à bien des réformes difficiles, poursuivre le travail indispensable de coordination des partenaires de l'EPT, engager presque simultanément plusieurs négociations ayant pour objet des conventions internationales importantes. Certes il y a quelques points noirs mais nous sommes optimistes quant à la possibilité, voire la certitude, de parvenir à des résultats d'ici à 2015. C'est pourquoi, dans la perspective de votre prochain mandat, le Sénégal voudrait inviter les États gros contributeurs à maintenir leur niveau d'engagement financier et, peut-être, à aller plus loin, en envisageant de sortir du corset de la croissance nominale zéro pour renouer avec la croissance réelle zéro.

15.4 La nécessité d'intensifier les actions pour la promotion de l'éducation universelle de base, condition *sine qua non* de la réalisation des objectifs de l'éducation pour tous à l'horizon 2015, la mise en œuvre d'une stratégie de renforcement du rôle et de l'influence de l'UNESCO, les actions de visibilité au Siège et hors Siège, la finalisation du processus de réforme et de modernisation des

méthodes de gestion de l'UNESCO - tout cela justifie que les États membres reconsidèrent leur position en faveur de la croissance nominale zéro.

15.5 Nous autres Africains sommes satisfaits de l'attention accrue que nous porte l'Organisation, même s'il reste beaucoup à faire. Pour autant, nous savons que d'autres pays ont leurs attentes propres vis-à-vis de l'UNESCO. Face à cette pluralité de préoccupations et d'attentes, nous pensons, Monsieur le Directeur général, qu'il vous faut développer des approches plurielles, l'UNESCO étant tout à la fois une organisation de coopération intellectuelle, une organisation normative et pourquoi pas parfois, notamment dans les situations d'urgence ou de postconflit, une organisation opérationnelle sachant investir sur le terrain.

15.6 Monsieur le Président, la célébration du soixantième anniversaire de l'UNESCO va au-delà d'une simple commémoration. Elle nous offre également l'occasion de faire un bilan à mi-parcours et de mener une réflexion approfondie sur les insuffisances à pallier et les défis à relever, à la lumière des mutations en cours sur la scène internationale.

15.7 Loin de moi l'idée de dresser un tableau des réalisations de notre Organisation, mais je ne peux m'empêcher de saluer l'immense entreprise normative de l'UNESCO dans des domaines aussi vastes et complexes que le sont, notamment, la bioéthique, le dopage dans le sport et la diversité culturelle. S'agissant tout particulièrement du projet de Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, le Sénégal partage la ferme conviction que la Conférence générale, à sa session d'octobre prochain, approuvera le texte adopté en juin dernier.

15.8 Me fondant sur ces importants acquis, je puis affirmer que l'efficacité de l'UNESCO pourrait être renforcée grâce à la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action conjoint pour l'EPT, que viendront enrichir les délibérations de la Table ronde ministérielle qui lui sera consacrée en octobre. C'est dans cette perspective que je voudrais inviter à une préparation minutieuse de cette rencontre cruciale qui, j'en suis convaincu, jettera les bases d'une éducation au service du développement humain, dans l'esprit des objectifs de Dakar 2000.

15.9 Il me plaît, à cet égard, de rappeler qu'en allouant à l'éducation 40 % de son budget annuel, soit 500 millions de dollars des États-Unis, le Sénégal a résolument opté pour cette politique volontariste qui consiste à investir qualitativement dans les ressources humaines, conformément aux Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

15.10 L'UNESCO, pour sa part, devra pleinement assumer ses responsabilités de chef de file, en vertu de sa mission fondamentale en matière d'éducation, telle que définie par son Acte constitutif, qui garde toute sa pertinence en ces temps d'incertitudes et de menaces multiformes pesant sur la paix et la sécurité internationales.

15.11 Monsieur le Président, c'est sous ce chapitre que je voudrais inscrire la distinction bien méritée du Chef de l'État du Sénégal, S. E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, lauréat 2004 du Prix Félix Houphouët-Boigny pour la paix de l'UNESCO. Cette distinction consacre sa détermination sans faille et ses efforts inlassables en faveur de la paix, de la stabilité et du règlement pacifique des conflits en Afrique et dans le monde. Ainsi, à travers sa personne, sont honorés le Sénégal et l'Afrique tout entière.

15.12 Monsieur le Président, la seconde phase du Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information se tiendra en terre africaine, à Tunis, en novembre 2005. Permettez-moi de saluer la contribution remarquable de l'UNESCO à la préparation scientifique de ce Sommet auquel l'Afrique prête la plus grande attention. En effet, comme vous le savez, le continent africain est encore très faiblement connecté au réseau mondial et l'idée, si chère au Président Wade, de créer un fonds de solidarité

numérique répond au besoin urgent de combler le fossé numérique en dotant l'Afrique, notamment, d'équipements informatiques grâce à des contributions volontaires. En un mot, il s'agit de bâtir une société de l'information pour tous.

15.13 Pour finir, je voudrais remercier tous mes collègues, le Secrétariat ainsi que l'équipe de la Commission PX pour leur assistance et leur professionnalisme, pour leur disponibilité et pour les chaleureuses marques d'attention dont j'ai été l'objet tout au long du mandat du Sénégal au Conseil exécutif.

16.1 Le DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, je ne tenterai pas ce matin de résumer le riche débat qui a eu lieu au cours de ces deux jours, ni de répondre dans le détail à certaines des questions précises qui m'ont été posées. J'y reviendrai plus tard au cours de l'échange que nous aurons aujourd'hui. Je souhaiterais limiter mon intervention à quatre aspects auxquels j'attache une importance toute particulière : la réforme de l'UNESCO et son intégration au sein du système des Nations Unies ; la contribution de l'Organisation au dialogue interculturel ; notre mobilisation en faveur de l'EPT ; et enfin les propositions de C/5.

16.2 Je veux tout d'abord remercier tous les représentants qui ont pris la parole pour soutenir les réformes que j'ai engagées depuis six ans, et pour m'encourager à les poursuivre avec une vigueur et une détermination renforcées. Vous savez combien je suis attaché à ces réformes, profondément convaincu de leur nécessité et de leur importance pour l'avenir de l'Organisation ; aussi est-ce avec une confiance intacte que je les poursuivrai.

16.3 J'ai noté en particulier avec satisfaction que nombre de pays en développement soulignaient une nette amélioration de la coopération avec nos bureaux hors Siège et se félicitaient des résultats obtenus par ces bureaux. Cela confirme ce que j'ai pu constater moi-même au cours de mes visites dans le monde en développement et en transition. Je suis heureux que les efforts que j'ai consentis pour renforcer la décentralisation et augmenter les ressources financières et humaines sur le terrain commencent à porter leurs fruits, et contribuent à une plus grande visibilité de l'Organisation dans ces pays et à une interaction plus fructueuse au sein des équipes locales des Nations Unies. Je note d'ailleurs que cela est vrai non seulement pour les pays hôtes des bureaux multipays, mais aussi pour ceux qui bénéficient du travail de ces bureaux sans pouvoir cependant compter sur la présence permanente de l'UNESCO dans leur pays. C'est dire combien l'approche définie dans la stratégie de décentralisation était la bonne.

16.4 Une question qui m'est souvent posée a trait à ce qui serait, selon moi, le ratio idéal entre les effectifs au Siège et hors Siège pour l'UNESCO. À l'inverse de certains fonds ou programmes comme l'UNICEF ou le PNUD, où le ratio est de cinq sixièmes hors Siège et un sixième pour le Siège, j'estime que le ratio que nous aurons atteint dans le document 33 C/5, à savoir un tiers hors Siège et deux tiers au Siège, est approprié pour nous acquitter de nos missions.

16.5 Car nos fonctions peuvent se résumer schématiquement en termes de laboratoire d'idées et de plaidoyer, d'action normative, de formulation et de conseil en matière de politiques, de développement des capacités et bien sûr, un rôle plus opérationnel de mise en oeuvre des projets de coopération pour le développement.

16.6 Elles sont de nature à la fois globale et locale et nécessitent de fait une constante interaction entre le Siège et le hors Siège et même, au-delà de nos unités hors Siège et de nos instituts, entre toutes les composantes de ce que j'ai appelé la « famille UNESCO » : commissions nationales, chaires UNESCO, centres de catégorie 2, clubs et associations, comités nationaux des programmes intergouvernementaux, etc. J'ai le sentiment que l'expansion des centres de catégorie 2

à laquelle nous assistons est très illustrative d'un nouveau mode de présence de l'UNESCO dans les États membres, et constitue une forme inédite de décentralisation qui contribue pleinement au rayonnement de l'UNESCO.

16.7 À cet égard, je souscris bien entendu aux remarques formulées par le Royaume-Uni, s'exprimant au nom de l'Union européenne, quant à la nature de notre intervention sur le terrain : une intervention qui doit être soigneusement coordonnée avec l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies, qui doit travailler à une plus grande synergie et se garder de tout double emploi. Je crois par ailleurs qu'il y a place, pour l'UNESCO, pour une intervention à la fois de conseil en matière de politiques et de mise en œuvre de projets concrets dans les pays, bien que l'UNESCO ne soit pas une institution de financement. Pour ne prendre que le simple exemple du patrimoine mondial, il est évident que notre avantage comparatif et notre expertise ne se limitent pas à l'élaboration des instruments normatifs ni à la mise en œuvre de ceux-ci à travers l'élaboration de politiques nationales. Les pays en développement, tout comme les pays en situation d'après-conflit, ont un réel besoin de l'UNESCO pour la formation des capacités, l'élaboration des plans de gestion et la restauration des sites. Ils sollicitent l'Organisation de manière continue à cet effet, et il est dans notre mission d'y répondre.

16.8 Certes, comme beaucoup d'entre vous l'ont souligné, il nous faut arriver à une meilleure définition des tâches respectives des uns et des autres, tant au niveau global qu'à l'échelle des pays. Mais j'ai le sentiment que le rôle des institutions spécialisées ira en grandissant dans les prochaines décennies. En effet, elles sont en mesure d'apporter des contributions concrètes au développement dans les États membres qui ne peuvent être fournies par les fonds et programmes des Nations Unies. Elles seront donc de plus en plus consultées pour l'analyse et le suivi des tendances dans leur domaine de compétence, point de départ indispensable pour la formulation des politiques et le développement des capacités.

16.9 À l'échelle globale, l'efficacité des organisations du système des Nations Unies se mesurera de plus en plus à leur capacité de contribuer à la formulation de l'agenda international et des objectifs de développement. Cela entraînera des responsabilités accrues pour l'UNESCO dans ses tâches de chef de file pour des initiatives complexes, de long terme, et nécessitant l'intervention de partenaires multiples, telles que l'EPT ou diverses décennies internationales comme celle pour l'éducation au service du développement durable. Ce sont quelques-uns des avantages comparatifs dont dispose l'UNESCO tant au niveau global qu'au niveau local, et qu'il nous faudra savoir développer et mettre en valeur dans les années à venir.

16.10 S'agissant des instruments normatifs, j'ai bien noté, en le partageant pleinement, le sentiment de nombre d'entre vous que le temps était désormais venu, après cette intense période d'élaboration, de marquer une pause et de concentrer nos efforts sur la ratification et la mise en œuvre de ces instruments, comme je l'ai d'ailleurs souligné dans ma vision pour mon second mandat. Je constate que les gros efforts consentis par le Secrétariat durant ce biennium ont porté leurs fruits. Deux instruments, la Convention internationale contre le dopage dans le sport et la Déclaration relative à des normes universelles en matière de bioéthique, semblent emporter une adhésion d'ensemble, ce dont je me réjouis.

16.11 La Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles reste à l'évidence un sujet sensible. Elle a fait l'objet de très nombreuses interventions, à la mesure des attentes et des réactions qu'elle suscite. J'ai fait de mon mieux pour répondre à la demande de la Conférence générale, et je vous ai déjà fait part de mes commentaires à cet égard. Il appartient désormais aux États membres de prendre la responsabilité qui est la leur. J'espère qu'une issue sera trouvée qui serve au mieux les intérêts de notre Organisation.

16.12 Permettez-moi à présent d'aborder une question décisive soulevée par nombre d'entre vous, plus que jamais placée au cœur du mandat de l'UNESCO : celle des liens entre lutte contre le terrorisme, dialogue des civilisations et liens avec la jeunesse.

16.13 Je sais que le dialogue interculturel est un processus complexe et évolutif, qui ne se décrète pas dans les enceintes des organisations internationales. Néanmoins, alors que le monde connaît des problèmes considérables de sécurité et que les États sont déstabilisés par le terrorisme, l'extrémisme et toutes les formes d'intolérance, l'UNESCO trouve là un terrain d'action adapté à son mandat qu'il nous faut continuer de mettre en perspective afin de formuler des propositions d'action concrètes et durables.

16.14 À cet égard, je vois dans la récente initiative des Nations Unies en faveur d'une « Alliance des civilisations » un signal fort d'encouragement de la part de la communauté internationale. En effet, voir cette question placée au cœur des préoccupations des États membres à New York ne peut que nous renforcer dans notre conviction que tous les acteurs politiques sont aujourd'hui activement engagés et mobilisés autour de ce défi commun. L'UNESCO, comme je l'ai écrit au Secrétaire général, M. Kofi Annan, ne manquera naturellement pas de suivre avec intérêt les conclusions du Groupe de haut niveau constitué à cette occasion et de lui apporter le soutien qu'il conviendra, bien que l'UNESCO n'ait pas été consultée dans le processus de constitution de ce groupe.

16.15 Dans ce contexte, je tiens à souligner à nouveau que la pertinence de notre action se jugera à l'aune de notre capacité de répondre de façon adaptée, sur le terrain, aux nouvelles formes émergentes d'ignorance et d'insécurité. D'ores et déjà, le projet de 33 C/5 contient un certain nombre d'orientations et de propositions précises, et je veillerai à ce que nombre des propositions concrètes issues de la Conférence internationale sur le dialogue entre les civilisations, tenue à Rabat en juin dernier, soient intégrées dans les plans de travail du prochain exercice biennal.

16.16 À travers l'élaboration de manuels scolaires et la formation pédagogique, l'éthique des sciences et des technologies, l'éducation aux droits de l'homme, la formation des médias et la promotion de la diversité culturelle, je sais que nous pouvons apporter utilement notre pierre à l'édifice. De même, je souscris entièrement à l'idée soulevée par plusieurs délégations de la nécessité d'établir de façon durable un programme intersectoriel sur les langues, conçu comme instrument de renforcement du dialogue et de meilleure compréhension du monde, ouvert sur la pluralité des sociétés et des identités. Conformément à l'engagement que j'avais pris lors du dernier Conseil exécutif, j'ai mis en place un Groupe intersectoriel qui a identifié, dans les différents secteurs, les activités ayant trait aux langues de manière à les mettre en oeuvre de façon coordonnée. Le budget total alloué à ces activités s'élèvera dans le 33 C/5 à près d'un million de dollars.

16.17 Ces actions, comme nombre d'entre vous l'ont souligné, devront tout particulièrement s'adresser à la jeunesse. La culture du dialogue, comme la lutte contre le terrorisme, sont en effet des processus qu'il faut accompagner par une pédagogie constante assurant à tous, dès le plus jeune âge, une véritable conscience interculturelle.

16.18 De façon très opportune, le Forum des jeunes de cette année portera ainsi sur le thème du dialogue des civilisations, des cultures et des peuples. Plus de 200 délégués issus de 136 pays participeront à ce forum, sans compter les représentants des organisations des Nations Unies, des organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales. Je ne doute pas que de nombreuses idées et propositions sauront émerger de ces rencontres.

16.19 Plus encore, j'ai accueilli avec intérêt la proposition qui a été faite de créer une sorte de plate-forme ou observatoire au sein du Secrétariat, qui permettrait à l'UNESCO de nourrir un

dialogue constant et fructueux avec la jeunesse autour de thèmes d'intérêts communs et selon des modes de communication adaptés. Sans me prononcer sur les modalités effectives de cette proposition, je crois pouvoir dire très sincèrement qu'ouvrir plus distinctement nos portes sur les associations et groupes de jeunesse permettra d'apporter à nos activités sur le terrain un plus ample écho et rayonnement. Comme cela a été souligné, notre action doit en effet s'adresser, au-delà du cercle des convaincus, à ceux qui ne sont pas les adeptes et les interlocuteurs habituels, notamment les jeunes.

16.20 Pour terminer sur ce sujet, je dirais que nous avons une responsabilité toute particulière dans la mise en œuvre du Programme mondial pour le dialogue entre les civilisations, adopté par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en novembre 2001. Ainsi que cela a déjà été souligné dans plusieurs rapports au Conseil ou à la Conférence générale, l'UNESCO s'est d'ores et déjà engagée dans une série d'actions concrètes centrées sur des approches régionales et sous-régionales et qui font appel à une grande variété de partenaires.

16.21 Permettez-moi donc de renouveler ici mon engagement à faire en sorte que la promotion du dialogue interculturel et interreligieux et la lutte contre toutes les formes d'intolérance, scellées dans l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO, continuent de définir notre contribution à l'émergence d'un monde de paix et de prospérité.

(The Director-General continued in English)

16.22 Mr Chairman, now I would like to turn to education issues, especially education for all (EFA), because, as has been said, education is the red thread running throughout our work.

16.23 First of all, I would like to thank Member States for the support and encouragement they offer to UNESCO to play a more proactive coordinating role at this significant juncture when the EFA movement demands stronger leadership.

16.24 Many representatives have highlighted the importance of the preparation of the Joint Action Plan, and efforts to coordinate work among the different actors and fora in EFA. The Joint Action Plan, which is being developed as a result of the EFA Strategic Review called for by the Executive Board, seeks to address the concerns you have expressed regarding the sharing of responsibilities among multilateral agencies in EFA. We need to be more coherent, consistent and focused in our collaborative efforts to accelerate progress towards the EFA goals and the education-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

16.25 The Education Sector has discussed the development of a Joint Action Plan for EFA with our major international partners – UNICEF, the World Bank, UNDP, UNFPA, the Millennium Project and others. The well-attended EFA Working Group meeting here in July, along with the Fast Track Initiative (FTI) Steering Committee and the Sherpas Group, provided useful advice and orientation. The Plan should provide a clearer understanding of the roles of the key EFA stakeholders, as well as a strategy for how they can work together more effectively, both globally and at the national level.

16.26 One thing I would like to stress is how imperative it is that we discuss these proposals not only with international partners but also with Member States. This is because the key work must be done by countries themselves. The sequence of elaborating the Joint Action Plan has been designed with this in mind. Thus, our objective is to discuss the Plan at the Ministerial Round Table being held during the General Conference next month; to have it affirmed in concept at the High-Level Group (HLG) meeting in Beijing in November 2005; to have it considered at the E-9 meeting in

Mexico in February 2006; and then to bring it to the Executive Board at its 174th session in spring 2006.

16.27 The agenda of the Ministerial Round Table is full and rich; it will be one of the undoubted high points of the whole General Conference. The Round Table, whose main participants will be Ministers of Education from around the world, will look at four items: the EFA challenge five years after Dakar, resource mobilization and aid effectiveness for EFA, strengthening EFA partnerships at country level, and UNESCO's role and future strategy in EFA.

16.28 The conclusions and recommendations of the Round Table will be carried forward to the Beijing meeting of the High-Level Group. I fully agree with those of you who are concerned for crisper and more concrete outcomes from the High-Level Group and can assure you that the Secretariat is working with our EFA partners towards a more results-oriented meeting in Beijing in November. This will build on the other significant events of 2005, notably the Gleneagles G8 Summit and the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly.

16.29 At the Round Table and the High-Level Group Meeting in Beijing, UNESCO will advocate for the allocation of more resources, especially from the promised additional official development assistance (ODA), to education and EFA, particularly through FTI. UNESCO is very much aware of the implications of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, whose implementation affects development cooperation relationships and the design and detail of country-level programming. We believe that FTI serves as a good sectoral example of how the principles of country-led donor harmonization can be put into practice.

16.30 Meanwhile, the E-9 meeting in Mexico next February will provide an important opportunity for further consideration of the EFA challenge by the world's most highly populated countries. In particular, the Mexico meeting's views on the Joint Action Plan will carry real weight going into the meeting of the Executive Board next spring. By the way, the recommendations of the Executive Board that there be a separate line for the E-9 initiative will be implemented when preparing the final version of the 33 C/5.

16.31 Throughout the process I have just outlined, UNESCO will seek to strengthen its global role to become the true leader of EFA that several of you have called for. UNESCO is prepared to assume the lead role, but to execute it effectively we need the support of our partners – countries, sister United Nations agencies, donors and civil society.

16.32 In regard to its action at the country level, UNESCO faces two main challenges: first, to promote the integration of EFA into United Nations common country programming processes in accordance with national priorities, sectoral plans and aid harmonization and alignment arrangements; and second, to integrate the Organization's three initiatives, along with policy advice to governments, into those national level processes and arrangements as the main programmatic thrust of UNESCO's action aimed at assisting developing countries, especially but not only in sub-Saharan Africa.

16.33 Please note that ADG/ED is going to set up, as part of the proposed reorganization of the Sector, field support teams which will boost the capacities and outreach of the field offices through close cooperation and coordination between the field, institutes and Headquarters within the concept of "one country, one plan".

16.34 UNESCO is particularly keen to ensure that such country-level coordination and coherence are linked to its global role. This is already becoming evident in relation to EDUCAIDS, the global initiative on education and AIDS. In this case, the kind of collaboration we have been able to

generate at international level with our UNAIDS cosponsors is now being translated into practice in countries. Some of the first countries to benefit are to be found in sub-Saharan Africa, where the HIV and AIDS epidemic is having a devastating impact. In Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, EDUCAIDS has been introduced to the respective governments and to the United Nations country teams. While progress is at different stages, EDUCAIDS has been welcomed by the governments and existing national coordination mechanisms have been identified to move the initiative forward in the context of governments' sectoral plans.

16.35 As has been agreed by all Member States, UNESCO is giving special priority to the pressing educational needs of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically through the teacher training initiative but also in regard to literacy and EDUCAIDS, as well as through targeted support to countries emerging from conflict and crisis.

16.36 I acknowledge that this prioritization of Africa has led to a decline in the allocation of education spending in regard to other regions, including the Arab States. Be assured, however, that I will see to it that the work plans of UNESCO's education institutes and the Education Sector will reflect in practical ways the needs expressed in Arab countries' educational plans and programmes. Please note, in this regard, that I am gratified by the expressions of satisfaction made by Arab countries concerning UNESCO's assistance to educational institutions and programmes of benefit to the Palestinian people. I hope that in the period ahead – and if the present spirit of cooperation continues to prevail – we will be able to extend our educational assistance also to the population in Golan.

16.37 Ladies and gentlemen, this year is special for UNESCO as it is the first year of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) (2005-2014). The comments that you have made reveal how much value you place on this Decade. I am pleased that the revision and consolidation of the International Implementation Scheme has gone well because we really do need to move forward with the task of coordinated implementation.

16.38 Several Board Members referred to the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) (2003-2012) as well as DESD. They stressed that UNESCO-led decades should have clear results and impacts. We recognize that UNESCO's own role must be much clearer. Therefore, the Education Sector is examining how best to strengthen UNESCO's overall coordination of UNLD and how its own programmatic contributions, especially through the Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment (LIFE), fit within the overall framework.

16.39 In addition, as a publication distributed to Executive Board Members indicates, we have identified a number of ways in which the EFA, UNLD and DESD processes intersect and mutually support each other. But more needs to be done to operationalize these linkages, especially at the country level in collaboration with governments and partners.

16.40 Ladies and gentlemen, I am indeed gratified by the broad-based support which my revised proposal for the 33 C/5 has enjoyed in the debate. It is my hope that we can find common ground around a draft resolution which will allow the General Conference to adopt by consensus this important document for the future of the Organization.

16.41 However, at the same time some delegations raised questions as to the extrabudgetary package proposal I also submitted. Let me say that clearly I would have preferred a budget ceiling of \$635 million. This would have been ideal and I stated exactly this in the original 33 C/5. However, at the 171st session, the Executive Board requested me to keep exploring possibilities to reinforce principal priority programmes of the 33 C/5 within the baseline of \$610 million.

16.42 I was therefore left with three choices: (1) to present a budget ceiling of \$610 million with an extremely limited possibility to further strengthen concentration in all programme priorities; (2) to present a budget ceiling of \$610 million supplemented by classical extrabudgetary voluntary funds corresponding to donors' priorities; (3) to present a budget ceiling of \$610 million supplemented by a programme package of \$25 million voluntary extrabudgetary funds corresponding to priorities approved by the General Conference.

16.43 In my view, the third option was the only one that would guarantee a focused set of activities to support the delivery of programme priorities. The proposed supplementary programme package, I repeat, represents a programme priority-centred package.

16.44 To avoid the appearance that this opens the door for a "UNESCO à la carte", it might be desirable to delete the provision I have included in the document, namely, to create four sub-accounts for the extrabudgetary component. If countries find it more acceptable to pool all contributions in one single account, we would be sure to rally around a common programmatic proposal. On the other hand, I will maintain the sub-accounts if that allows more countries to make voluntary contributions.

16.45 I am pleased to note that several Member States have already pledged to contribute to this extrabudgetary package. I am confident they will be followed by a great number of donors.

16.46 Nevertheless, please be assured that the concerns raised by some of you regarding the establishment of a precedent relating to the dependence on voluntary contributions for the implementation of the Organization's core activities have not gone unheard. In fact, I share this view whole-heartedly. However, unusual circumstances call for innovative approaches. I sincerely hope that this will be a one-time-only measure. It is my intention to present, for document 34 C/5, a regular budget allowing for an element of increase, if I am to be appointed for a second term at the General Conference.

16.47 I should like to address here a concern which was reiterated by some Board Members in this session. It is no small concern, because it involves "visibility". In this age, visibility is not just a question of newspaper articles or television interviews. We talk a great deal about ICTs, and we seem to forget that much visibility is hidden, in classic terms. The UNESCO website has enjoyed phenomenal growth – 70% in the last year alone. Moreover, every month it has one million visitors, which makes it one of the most visited sites in the United Nations system. On 3 October, information will be available in the six official languages of the Organization, thus meeting some of the justifiable concerns of the Member States. Moreover, to enhance the visibility – and the transparency – of the whole range of UNESCO's events and activities, we are also putting online the Integrated Calendar of UNESCO Events. For years this has been asked for, and tomorrow it will happen.

16.48 Finally, I should underline that many Member States have stressed how important it is to lay the foundations for the next General Conference here, building on the conclusions of the meetings proposed by the Asia and the Pacific group, on "The UNESCO of the Future". I look forward to these discussions, which will also help the Organization to chart out the next Medium-Term Strategy.

16.49 To conclude, I wish to reiterate my satisfaction with the consensus that has grown around our efforts, and the fruitfulness of the debate that has characterized the recent Executive Board sessions.

16.50 I would like to stop here in order to give time for the questions and answers session. There I will take up concrete questions already raised to which I have not responded. Thank you.

17. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Director-General for his succinct statement containing a wealth of information and observations. Drawing the attention of the Members to the list before them indicating the order of the topics for the question-and-answer session, he asked them to respect the three-minute time limit.

18.1 Ms OLIVER (United States of America) said that her government was pleased with the Director-General's efforts to reform the Organization, and strongly supported his intention to continue work in that area.

18.2 UNESCO's standard-setting instruments would have little impact if they were only ratified by a small number of countries. While she understood that the Organization wished to play a leading role in encouraging countries to ratify instruments that it had adopted, her government would not wish to see the Organization's funds used for that purpose, at the expense of programme activities.

18.3 Since the United States had returned to UNESCO in 1999, it had been paying \$134 million in assessed contributions. As a result, some countries had seen their assessed contributions reduced, in some cases substantially. Perhaps the countries that had so benefited might consider responding to the Director-General's appeal for voluntary contributions, which would help alleviate some of the Organization's financial difficulties. In that connection, she welcomed France's contribution to the renovation of UNESCO Headquarters. Lastly, she was very glad to learn that the Organization would be producing an integrated calendar of UNESCO events.

19. Mr KUSI-ACHAMPONG (Ghana) said that he had recently learned that a team had been sent to Ghana to conduct an evaluation of the Participation Programme. Yet, upon requesting more information from the Participation Programme Unit, he had been unable even to obtain the terms of reference of the mission. He welcomed the Director-General's innovative efforts to help developing countries get a comparatively fair share of Participation Programme funding, thereby strengthening National Commissions and making them more visible. He would like to know more about the reasons for evaluating that important programme.

20. Mr CRADDOCK (United Kingdom), responding to the appeal of the representative of the United States, said that his government was considering a recommendation to make a further voluntary contribution to UNESCO, to go to the \$25 million supplementary budget. He wished to comment on a much wider issue. While welcoming the Director-General's remarks in relation to the Volcker report on the Oil-for-Food Programme, his government was concerned about the effect the report might have on the image of the United Nations. UNESCO might consider turning the situation to its advantage: the Director-General could take the offensive and defend the Organization against the accusations made by offering a transparent account of the matter and holding an information meeting on it. Such action should be taken sooner rather than later, before the next session of the Executive Board.

21.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL welcomed the news that the United Kingdom was thinking of making a voluntary contribution. He also appreciated the fact that the United States was encouraging Member States whose assessed contributions had decreased as a result of its return to respond to his appeal for voluntary contributions.

21.2 He planned to hold an information meeting on the Oil-for-Food Programme after the General Conference. Transparency would be the guiding principle: UNESCO had nothing to hide

from its Member States on that score, and the more information they had the better. The Volcker report had criticized UNESCO for taking too long to conduct audits of its activities under the Oil-for-Food Programme, an assessment that was not unfair. Indeed, before he had taken office, UNESCO had had no oversight mechanism at all. He had then set up the Internal Oversight Service (IOS), notably to monitor UNESCO's activities relating to the Oil-for-Food Programme. He had also reviewed the structure of UNESCO's contribution to the Programme, and finding it lacking, had established a new structure, as outlined in a Blue Note of February 2000. The Blue Note had been favourably cited in the Volcker report.

21.3 As a way of improving the management of the Participation Programme, he had introduced a new, more transparent, democratic and collegial structure for it, together with an appeal to developed countries to refrain from submitting requests under the Participation Programme. That included closer relations between field offices and National Commissions, the large-scale provision of training to National Commission staff, and the dispatching of IOS teams to ensure that National Commissions were handling Participation Programme funding properly, in response to the regrettable discovery that irregularities had sometimes been found. In the specific case of Ghana, however, the IOS mission had been dispatched to evaluate the UNESCO Office in Accra; neither the Participation Programme nor the National Commission had fallen within its mandate.

21.4 With regard to the concerns of the United States, he indicated that the Organization was simply not involved in campaigning for ratification of standard-setting instruments. Countries, especially developing countries which lacked the technical capacities, sometimes asked the Organization to assist them with the ratification procedure and with implementation.

22. Mr AZIZ (Afghanistan) welcomed the Director-General's pledge to improve the Secretariat's ability to meet deadlines. On the subject of recruitment, he suggested that the recruitment of staff for posts in field offices should be done in consultation with the Permanent Delegates, who were aware of the country's needs and could provide practical advice and information to the recruiting officer.

23.1 La Sra. LUX de COTÍ (Guatemala), refiriéndose a la reunión del Grupo de Alto Nivel sobre la Educación para Todos prevista para noviembre de 2005 en Beijing, dice que debería servir para evaluar el camino recorrido hacia los objetivos enunciados en Dakar. Entiende, por lo demás, que la UNESCO debe trabajar de manera unificada sobre los objetivos de Dakar, los del Milenio y, según espera, también los del Segundo Decenio Internacional de las Poblaciones Indígenas del Mundo. Pregunta pues al Director General en qué medida se está implantando una educación de calidad para los pueblos indígenas y sugiere que este punto sea tratado en la reunión de Beijing, recordando que no sólo la UNESCO sino también el Foro Permanente para las Cuestiones Indígenas de las Naciones Unidas preconizan incansablemente la incorporación de las cosmologías en las políticas y programas educativos y de las lenguas y los conocimientos tradicionales en los planes de estudio.

23.2 Por otro lado, cree entender que el Foro de la Juventud que va a dedicarse al diálogo entre culturas y civilizaciones tendrá también una dimensión regional. Recordando que Guatemala es un país poblado mayoritariamente por indígenas, pregunta al Director General si en dicho Foro estarán invitados a participar jóvenes indígenas y si habrá en él una adecuada representación femenina. Concluye recordando el deber fundamental de todos los Estados Miembros de abonar puntualmente sus contribuciones a la Organización, que necesita de esos recursos para afrontar con éxito los muchos y difíciles retos que tiene planteados.

(23.1) Ms LUX DE COTÍ (Guatemala), referring to the meeting of the High-Level Group on Education for All to be held in Beijing in November 2005, said that it should

serve to assess the progress made in achieving the Dakar goals. She also expected UNESCO to work in a unified way on the Dakar goals, the Millennium Development Goals and, she hoped, those of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People as well. She then asked the Director-General about the extent to which quality education for the indigenous people was being introduced and suggested that the matter be considered at the Beijing meeting, recalling that not only UNESCO but also the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had been calling tirelessly for the inclusion of indigenous cosmologies in educational policies and programmes and of their languages and traditional knowledge in the curricula.

(23.2) Furthermore, she had understood that the Youth Forum, which would focus on the dialogue among cultures and civilizations, would also have a regional outreach. Pointing out that Guatemala was a country with a majority indigenous population, she asked the Director-General whether young indigenous people would be invited to participate in the Forum and whether women would be adequately represented among its participants. She concluded by pointing to the fundamental duty of all Member States to pay their contributions on time to the Organization, which needed such resources so that it could take up the many difficult challenges that it faced.

24.1 Mr SHEYA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he welcomed the Director-General's proposal for a \$610 million regular budget and his decision to create 13 posts to strengthen the EFA programme in the field, nine of which would benefit Africa. But in order to finance those posts, the Director-General had had to cut 4% from the budget for education, which would naturally affect programme delivery. Could the Director-General find other means of cutting costs, for example by reducing administrative costs?

24.2 The UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) was facing several challenges, among them the absence of a director, insufficient resources, an inadequate infrastructure, and poorly-equipped facilities. He asked what the Director-General was planning to do in the next biennium to ensure that the Institute functioned properly? The Director-General had referred to an ideal staff ratio of two-thirds at Headquarters and one-third in the field. Yet, with regard to staff members from the Africa group, a comparatively large number were in the field, and those at Headquarters were mainly in central services and support services. How could that imbalance be corrected?

25.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that he had instituted a new recruitment measure some time previously: before appointing the head of a field office, the Organization consulted the country concerned and obtained its approval. He was not prepared to revamp what was now a very democratic recruitment process. So, while appreciating the interest of the Permanent Delegates in the Organization's work, he did not see a place for them in the official recruitment process. When it came to recruiting senior management staff, the candidates' country of origin, while taken into account, weighed less heavily than their professional experience and competence, for without highly competent leadership UNESCO could not serve its Member States effectively. Greater attention was paid to geographical distribution in the selection of staff for Professional posts. The African group was in fact well-represented in all the programme sectors. As to senior-level posts, he encouraged the African countries to present their strongest candidates.

25.2 The staff ratio of two thirds to one third between Headquarters and the field, which he regarded as a proper balance, would be maintained in the next biennium. As to the International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa, it had been decided to recruit the new director at the D-1 level, which meant relaunching the recruitment process. The Institute's budget had been increased by \$1 million in the 2004-2005 biennium, and would be maintained in the next biennium despite a

cut of 5% in the education budget. Aware that the Institute could use more resources, he urged the Education Sector to mobilize extrabudgetary funds to that end.

25.3 With a view to streamlining the Organization, a cut of more than 10% in administrative costs was proposed in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007. But there was a limit to how far that budget could be reduced. The minor cuts in programme activities were unfortunate, but inevitable. Any funds mobilized in response to the appeal for \$25 million in voluntary contributions would help to offset those cuts. He added that new posts, including those of National Programme Officers, must be financed from the regular budget.

25.4 Turning to the field of education, he stressed that the education of indigenous people was an important dimension of education for all. UNESCO would be launching a new intersectoral programme for languages in which particular attention would be paid to preserving indigenous languages. Furthermore, once it came into force, the convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions would also protect indigenous languages. With regard to EFA in general, UNESCO would be taking stock and planning for the future at the fifth meeting of the High-Level Group on Education for All, to be held in Beijing in November 2005. According to the forthcoming *EFA Global Monitoring Report*, 94 countries had failed to achieve Millennium Development Goal 3, which called for equal access of boys and girls to primary and secondary education by 2005. That unfortunate development only strengthened his conviction that more needed to be done to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

25.5 Finally, he indicated that UNESCO was keen to cooperate with local, national and regional initiatives relating to the dialogue among civilizations.

26.1 Mr CLARKE (Jamaica) said that education for all was the red thread in the tapestry of human development. But in the field, there was confusion arising from the excessive number of goals and decades relating to education. It was reaching the point where some people were simply switching off. Was it possible for UNESCO to identify one or two very specific objectives that it hoped to achieve during the next biennium? Specialist staff needed to be selected carefully. Qualifications on paper were not enough; candidates needed to have hands-on experience in the field in their area of expertise in order to win the respect of their co-workers and the government concerned.

26.2 There was also an urgent need to integrate an ethical dimension into basic education, including literacy programmes. The fact was that many of those engaging in violence and terrorism were educated. Research was needed on the roots of youth violence and terrorism so that such findings could be used to develop effective programmes.

26.3 HIV/AIDS was symptomatic of a deeper human problem. Naturally, it was important to deal with AIDS from the material, medical and educational standpoints. Nevertheless in developing programmes for the next biennium, UNESCO needed to place more emphasis on attitudes and behavioural change.

27.1 Mr RACHMAN (Indonesia) wondered how much flexibility UNESCO had in critical situations. The Organization was, he suspected, perceived as somewhat slow to respond. It lacked a rapid response mechanism and had no funds to support initiatives of that kind. What part did UNESCO, which certainly had the intellectual capacity for it, play in natural disaster relief, HIV/AIDS programmes in Africa, or relief work in the Middle East?

27.2 He agreed with the representative of Jamaica about the need for an ethical and moral dimension in education. The forthcoming meeting of the High-Level Group on Education for All

would be discussing the challenges, resources and effectiveness of EFA. Yet how many countries, he wondered, had actually integrated EFA into their national education policy, and taken steps to provide an appropriate blend of cognitive, affective and psychomotor skills, while promoting ethics, culture and physical education?

28. Mr SATO (Japan) said that since the Organization had decided to ask for \$25 million in voluntary extrabudgetary contributions, it ought to use those funds as effectively as possible. Japan, whose contribution would come from government sources, would make an effort to ensure that the new mechanism worked well, at the same time hoping it was a once-only measure. Perhaps UNESCO could collect even more than the anticipated \$25 million for its important projects: it was up to the Member States.

29.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that there were indeed a large number of goals and decades in the field of education, and he would be asking the Education Sector to develop an integrated strategy embracing all of them. The basis for UNESCO's EFA actions remained the six Dakar goals defined at the World Education Forum, which encompassed Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3 as well as other education initiatives and decades. For example, the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) corresponded to the Dakar goal of improving adult literacy. The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) corresponded to Dakar goal 6 of improving the quality of education.

29.2 Ethical and moral education was a very important aspect of quality education, especially in relation to combating terrorism. Terrorists were indeed often educated, but wrongly. It was vital to educate young people properly, in particular through ethics education. Quality education was also the aim of UNESCO's new initiative on preventing HIV/AIDS through education, which would be using a holistic approach that would include a focus on changing behaviour, especially in young people.

29.3 Following the World Education Forum in 2000, UNESCO had concentrated on helping its Member States, in particular the developing countries, draw up national EFA plans and on setting up an EFA forum to include all the stakeholders concerned. More than 100 countries now had national EFA plans which would be integrated into their overall development strategies and into the United Nations common country programming process.

29.4 He agreed with the representative of Indonesia that rapid response to crises was crucial. UNESCO, for its part, was involved in reconstruction rather than immediate humanitarian assistance. Nevertheless, the two phases often overlapped, and it would be useful for the Organization to be on the ground during the initial phase so that it could step in immediately when reconstruction began.

30.1 Г-н КАЛАМАНОВ (Российская Федерация) настаивает на том, что prerogatives выдвижения кандидатов и принятия на работу должны быть исключительно в руках Генерального директора в соответствии с Уставом ЮНЕСКО. Выступающий выражает мнение, что существование не использованных в конце года средств является ошибкой менеджмента, и призывает уделить этому вопросу больше внимания. Члены Исполнительного совета, а также Генеральная конференция могли бы поддержать меры, позволяющие избежать ту ситуацию, которая возникает в конце каждого года. Выступающий поддерживает идею проведения аудита использования денег в рамках Программы участия и проверки использования средств национальными комиссиями и их секретариатами. Что касается доли накладных расходов в программах, то выступающий задает вопрос, существует ли положительная динамика, ведущая к понижению процента средств, идущих не на программы, а на их обслуживание. Выступающий спрашивает, существует ли критерий

эффективности деятельности кластерных бюро. Желательно создание системы, способной представлять отчеты как минимум раз в два года. Только таким образом можно увеличить отдачу от работы на местах.

(30.1) Mr KALAMANOV (Russian Federation) insisted that the prerogative of nominating candidates and of recruitment should remain entirely in the hands of the Director-General, in accordance with the Constitution of UNESCO. In his opinion the existence of unused funds at the end of the year represented an error of management, and he called for more attention to be given to that matter. The Members of the Executive Board and the General Conference could support measures that would make it possible to avoid that situation which occurred at the end of each year. The speaker expressed support for the idea of conducting an audit of the use of funds under the Participation Programme and of checking the use of funds by National Commissions and their secretariats. Regarding the share of overhead expenses in the programmes, he wondered whether there was a positive dynamic leading to a reduction in the percentage of resources allocated to programme-related services rather than to the programmes themselves. He further asked whether there were criteria for the efficient operation of the cluster offices. It would be desirable to establish a system capable of presenting accounts at least once every two years. That was the only way to increase the productiveness of work in the field.

31. Mr LAKATOS (Hungary) welcomed the Director-General's remarks on the intersectoral programme on languages, and the link with indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge. The proposal for the programme, which should be the subject of a separate budget line, had been put forward by Iceland and Hungary and co-sponsored by 40 other countries. The programme, for which he understood that a total of \$1 million was available, and which should naturally be staffed by competent personnel, was intended to pool and integrate the various sectors' actions in that field in order to make them more effective.

32. Ms VATSYAYAN (India) said that several conferences had been held on the subject of the dialogue among civilizations, clearly in response to the claim that a "clash of civilizations" was inevitable. In particular, the Conference on Fostering Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Concrete and Sustained Initiatives, held in Rabat, Morocco, in June 2005, had launched several initiatives that were directly linked to the EFA programme. How, she asked, was the Director-General planning to use those initiatives to further efforts relating to languages, religions and interfaith relations, and above all, to correct the imbalance created by a refusal to recognize the knowledge systems and oral traditions of indigenous peoples and the devaluation of their perceptions of and attitudes towards nature?

33.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that he appreciated the comments on recruitment by the representative of the Russian Federation. The Organization sometimes lacked competent managers, and needed to correct that situation. To that end, when recruiting senior-level staff, he looked not only for professional competences, but also good managerial skills. Moreover, the Organization was providing management training for its staff. Indeed, the overall allocation for training had gone from \$0.3 million to \$6 million, and in spite of the budget difficulties, that level would be maintained throughout the next biennium.

33.2 The relative proportion of administrative costs was on the decline at UNESCO. When he had taken office, they had represented more than 60% of total costs, but had since gone down to 57%, an extremely good rate among international organizations. The trend could not be continued in the next biennium, however, since there was very little room left for cuts. Nevertheless, he would continue to make efforts in that direction.

33.3 The Organization had a set of criteria for assigning countries to cluster offices. Yet, countries often expressed their own preferences, sometimes based on political reasons. UNESCO would be developing those criteria further while bearing in mind that account needed to be taken of regional conditions.

33.4 Five programme sectors would be involved in the new intersectoral language programme, with the Culture Sector serving as the focal point and playing a key role. He would also be setting up a working group on the intersectoral language initiative. It was his understanding that there would be considerable structural difficulties involved in creating a separate budget line for the programme, which he was confident could nevertheless achieve good results.

33.5 He fully agreed with the representative of India regarding the dialogue among civilizations. Religion was indeed a crucial area in that context, and the promotion of interfaith dialogue was receiving increasing attention. To take just one example, in the final declaration of the recent informal meeting of leaders on interfaith dialogue and cooperation for peace, which he had been invited to address, the assembled leaders had urged the authorities of their respective countries to meet once a year to monitor the progress of interfaith dialogue. At the country level, UNESCO had co-sponsored an Albanian initiative to promote interfaith dialogue in South-Eastern Europe, and it hoped to support other country-led initiatives of that kind.

34. Mr MOSCATO (Italy) said that the European Union would like to see an increase in UNESCO's visibility through a more systematic and proactive relationship with the media. He would welcome the Director-General's comments in that regard.

35. M. NGUIE (Congo) constate que la plupart de ses préoccupations ont déjà été exprimées par les représentants de la République-Unie de la Tanzanie et du Ghana, aussi limiterait-il son intervention à la question de l'éducation, qui est l'un des piliers de l'action de l'UNESCO. En matière d'EPT, comme l'ont reconnu plusieurs délégations, beaucoup reste à faire si l'on veut que les objectifs de Dakar soient atteints d'ici à 2015. L'une des raisons pour lesquelles on est encore loin du compte est que les promesses et les engagements pris à Dakar ne sont pas respectés par les partenaires internationaux. Le Congo voudrait donc savoir quelles initiatives l'UNESCO envisage au cours du prochain exercice biennal pour intensifier la mobilisation en faveur de l'EPT et faire en sorte que les engagements pris soient concrétisés sur le terrain.

36. Mr EINARSSON (Iceland) said that for many years, Members of the Board had been calling for the type of democratic dialogue that the Board was currently engaging in, which was turning out to be a success. It was important that the Board pursue such dialogue in order to arrive at consensual solutions. Moreover, it should not be afraid of trying out new ways of organizing its work. He wished to thank the Director-General for setting up the intersectoral programme on languages, and was confident that he would find a technical solution for creating a separate budget line for it. He asked the Director-General whether he was not happy with the question-and-answer session.

37.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that he was indeed very happy with the meeting. The opportunity to engage in an open dialogue with the Members of the Board was very important for the Director-General and all senior Secretariat staff. He wished to thank the Chairman for creating the opportunity to engage in such a dialogue. He himself had been holding an increasing number of information meetings, and had also been asking his Assistant Directors-General to organize such meetings, choosing appropriate themes in consultation with him.

37.2 The question of UNESCO's image was very much on his mind, and he personally was making an effort to increase its overall visibility. For example, he would be going to London in

November to launch the latest *EFA Global Monitoring Report*, an occasion at which senior officials from the British Government would be present. And while there had been some concern over the delay in producing it, the first world report on the theme “Towards knowledge societies”, would be launched in early November, and he encouraged all the Permanent Delegates to attend. UNESCO had also received a great deal of publicity about its development of tsunami early warning systems. His visits to the Member States also helped to increase the Organization’s visibility. Lastly, he encouraged the National Commissions to continue their efforts to increase UNESCO’s visibility at the national level.

37.3 Le Directeur général, répondant ensuite en français au représentant du Congo, qui s’inquiète de ce que les engagements pris par les pays riches et les pays du Nord lors du Forum mondial sur l’éducation de Dakar en 2000 ne sont pas respectés, dit comprendre parfaitement ses préoccupations. À ce sujet, il convient toutefois de prêter attention aux nouvelles tendances de l’aide publique au développement qui, après une diminution continue jusqu’en 2001, ont amorcé depuis un mouvement globalement ascendant. Ainsi, le Royaume-Uni a annoncé, au nom de l’Union européenne, que celle-ci allait renforcer de quelque 20 milliards de dollars le volume de son APD. Le Président des États-Unis a fait part d’intentions analogues, de même que le Japon et d’autres pays encore. Le Directeur général se dit convaincu que si une part importante de cette aide est allouée à l’éducation et à l’EPT, le déficit de quelque 5,6 milliards de dollars par an qui limite l’action en faveur de l’EPT pourra être comblé. Dans le cadre du nouveau Plan d’action conjoint pour l’EPT, l’UNESCO va accorder une attention particulière au suivi des promesses faites par les pays du Nord et, si celles-ci tardent à se concrétiser, elle rappellera haut et fort ces pays au respect de leurs engagements.

La séance est levée à 13 h 10

SIXTH MEETING

Wednesday 21 September 2005 at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede

- Item 3** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAMME ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (172 EX/4 Parts I and Add. and II; 172 EX/INF.5; 172 EX/INF.6; 172 EX/INF.9; 172 EX/INF.10) (*continued*)
- Item 4** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS (172 EX/5; 172 EX/INF.5; 172 EX/INF.6; 172 EX/INF.7 Rev. (English only)) (*continued*)
- Item 21** CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2006-2007 (33 C/5) AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (33 C/5 Draft Rev. and Add.; 172 EX/INF.5; 172 EX/INF.6) (*continued*)

1.1 Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia) said that he had been pleased with two initiatives referred to by the Director-General in his reply to the general policy debate, but that he had three areas of concern, so on balance the doubts outweighed the good points. On a positive note, he commended interfaith and intercultural understanding, which was effectively a new item on the Board's agenda introduced by the Director-General. The Asia and the Pacific region's international conference on the issue held in late 2004 in Australia had been important and effective, and he would encourage the inclusion in the next C/4 and C/5 documents of an intersectoral programme on education for interfaith and intercultural understanding, involving the Education, Culture and Social and Human Sciences Sectors. Furthermore, he welcomed the Director-General's emphasis on indigenous peoples, and in that regard, he commended the excellent Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) project established by the World Conference on Science. Australia would be hosting the next major event in that respect.

1.2 Turning to the areas of concern, while the Participation Programme was more transparent than it had been, it was still not fully clear how decisions and recommendations were finally made – it seemed that requests were submitted, and reviewed by the sectors, but at some unknown point after that they were capped or modified. Secondly, the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) had captured the imagination of young people in Australia as well as elsewhere, and was a wonderful opportunity to raise the Organization's profile, so he would like to know why no major display or side-event on it had been planned for the forthcoming session of the General Conference or the Youth Forum immediately preceding it. Lastly, the Director-General's instant reaction on the issue of visibility had been to talk about the Organization's website, which had indeed improved dramatically. However, there was too much emphasis on the Internet. UNESCO's whole media and public relations strategy needed to be reviewed, bearing in mind that the web was only one part of that strategy.

2.1 Ms OLIVER (United States of America) said that in her remarks on the previous day, she had expressed concern regarding the balance between programme activities and work on standard-setting in UNESCO. It was unanimously agreed that education was the Organization's top priority, and that it had a leadership role to play thereon. The November 2005 meeting of the High-Level

Group on Education for All in Beijing should be the launch pad to announce that things had changed at UNESCO, which had renewed its commitment to playing an energetic advocacy role in EFA and the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012), and which now had well-designed programmes that could be talked about in Beijing. Thanks to the Director-General, she was convinced that UNESCO had the leadership in the Education Sector that would make those hopes a reality.

2.2 The same focus and commitment were required for other programmes, such as World Heritage, the programme most publicly identified with UNESCO, which had been a victim of its own success. When discussing UNESCO's programme on endangered movable objects the previous day, concern had been expressed that International Council of Museums (ICOM) expertise was not being fully used for the conservation or preservation of objects under that programme, which was of great educative potential. As a new programme, it should be developed to demonstrate UNESCO's ability to create an effective initiative, and serve as a role model to illustrate how to move from an idea to a results-oriented programme.

2.3 It was understood that there was financial pressure on the Organization, and that its staff did not always have the technical expertise to run programmes. Where such expertise existed in other organizations it should be taken advantage of. As well as ICOM, other organizations in other sectors would be interested in helping UNESCO, for instance, the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. UNESCO had signed memoranda of understanding with various other bodies, including firms such as Microsoft and Intel. How, she asked, was UNESCO ensuring that such agreements helped the Organization to take advantage of the expertise and enthusiasm of other bodies in order to help UNESCO fulfil its mandate and, in the case of the private sector, of the financial assistance that might flow from those agreements?

3. Mr MOLNÁR (Slovakia) said that the President of the General Conference had said that, like the head of a family, if there were any problems, he was always ready to help. In an analogy, when people had problems, technology was also ready to help. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) helped education, knowledge-sharing, management and many other areas. What, he asked, was the place of information technology in the Organization's priorities? Surely the cut in the budget of Major Programme V "Communication and Information" did not reflect the importance of ICTs.

4.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said, in reply to the representative of Australia, that before he had taken up his duties, Participation Programme requests had been recommended directly to the Director-General, who then took the final decision. In the new structure he had introduced, an intersectoral group chaired by the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation (ADG/ERC) carefully considered requests based on recommendations made by the sectors concerned and, as the Executive Board had asked, they took account of UNESCO's principal priorities as set out in the C/5 document. As a result, he normally accepted the intersectoral group's recommendations almost automatically, and he rarely made personal interventions. If there were any specific complaints on a particular case, they should be addressed to ADG/ERC.

4.2 More attention should indeed be paid to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), which was a very important component of quality education in education for all (EFA). He would ask the Education Sector to see whether more consideration could be given to the Decade in the EFA exhibition planned for the General Conference. Regarding visibility, he had started his answer with the UNESCO website, but he was quite aware that the Organization must also depend on the traditional mass media, of whose importance he was keenly aware. He had focused on the website because those who did not use the Internet tended to

minimize its importance. Everybody, the National Commissions, and other stakeholders were joining the Secretariat in raising the Organization's profile in the mass media.

4.3 He agreed that the forthcoming High-Level Group meeting in Beijing was crucial. The Education Sector, under its new Assistant Director-General, was working hard to prepare for that meeting, which would provide an opportunity to stress the key role of UNESCO and indeed all the partners in the EFA process. As to World Heritage, UNESCO must take every advantage of all available expertise. ICOM was a most important partner, with which UNESCO signed a memorandum of understanding every biennium. Despite what had been said the previous day, there was no duplication; the two organizations worked well in a complementary fashion. In the same field, UNESCO also worked closely with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). That sort of expertise could not possibly be accumulated within the Secretariat; indeed he would not be in favour of such a narrow approach. Cooperation with NGOs and the private sector was increasingly important, such as that with L'Oreal, with its support for young women in science, and Microsoft, with which he would be inaugurating a new centre of excellence for training young people in North Africa on the occasion of the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis.

4.4 He agreed that a good balance needed to be struck between standard-setting action and programme activities. Looking back on the current biennium, it had been overloaded with normative action, and he was pleased to note that that would not be the case in the next biennium, where the task would be to implement the standards and to put more resources into programme activities.

4.5 The use of ICTs was a cross-cutting theme for the Organization; it therefore was useful not to look at Major Programme V alone in order to assess ICT applications throughout the Major Programmes. UNESCO was developing important ICT programmes with the private sector in various areas, which should be taken into account when evaluating ICT activities, as should the relevant extrabudgetary funding mobilized.

5.1 La Sra. LÓPEZ (Venezuela) se une a Jamaica para mostrar su preocupación por la multiplicidad de vías que se siguen en la UNESCO para lograr un mismo objetivo. Pone como ejemplo los proyectos relativos a la Educación para Todos (EPT), la educación de calidad, la educación inicial y, más recientemente, la educación para el desarrollo sostenible que persiguen metas muy similares y, por tanto, deberían ser objeto de una cooperación más estrecha.

5.2 La oradora espera que el debilitamiento del sector social no afecte a la libertad de expresión y manifiesta su deseo de que ésta se sustente en la ética de la información, que a su vez deberá guiar asimismo la construcción de la sociedad del conocimiento y la utilización de las TIC.

5.3 En relación con la reestructuración de la Organización, cuyos frutos ya empiezan a apreciarse, observa que, según el documento 33 C/5, sólo un 8% de los funcionarios de la UNESCO son originarios de su región, sin que figure la distribución por rango, y pide que se le faciliten mayores explicaciones a este respecto.

5.4 En cuanto a la visibilidad de la labor de la UNESCO, Venezuela está organizando una reunión regional de escuelas asociadas con nueve países de la región andina y caribeña, que se celebrará en octubre al término de la Conferencia General y en la que se anunciará la erradicación del analfabetismo en su país. En marzo del año siguiente tendrá lugar una reunión en la que comisiones nacionales, escuelas asociadas, clubes y centros UNESCO y parlamentarios perseguirán el objetivo común de dar a conocer y fortalecer los principios de la Organización con motivo de su

60^o aniversario y, en particular, mostrar las experiencias más relevantes en sus cinco campos de actividad.

5.5 En 2003, la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas aprobó la Resolución 58/217, por la que se proclamaba el periodo 2005-2015 Decenio Internacional para la Acción, “El Agua, fuente de vida”, con el objetivo fundamental de profundizar el conocimiento sobre las cuestiones relativas al agua y la ejecución de programas y proyectos sobre este recurso, y de ayudar a alcanzar los objetivos en la materia establecidos a nivel internacional en el Programa 21, los Objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio y el plan de aplicación de Johannesburgo. Pregunta la oradora cuál es la función de la UNESCO en la conmemoración de este Decenio, teniendo en cuenta, en particular, las actividades que realizó durante el año 2003 con motivo del Año Internacional del Agua Dulce, con las que guarda una obvia relación.

(5.1) Mme LÓPEZ (Venezuela) se fait l'écho des préoccupations exprimées par la représentante de la Jamaïque devant la multiplicité des voies empruntées par l'UNESCO pour atteindre un même objectif. Elle cite à titre d'exemple les projets concernant l'Éducation pour tous (EPT), l'éducation de qualité, l'éducation de base et, plus récemment l'éducation en vue du développement durable, dont les objectifs sont très proches et qui devraient donc faire l'objet d'une coordination plus étroite.

(5.2) L'oratrice espère que l'affaiblissement du secteur social n'aura pas d'incidence sur la liberté d'expression et souhaite que celle-ci prenne appui sur l'éthique de l'information, laquelle devrait également servir de base à l'édification de la société du savoir et à l'utilisation des technologies de l'information et de la communication (TIC).

(5.3) En ce qui concerne la restructuration de l'Organisation, qui commence à porter ses fruits, elle observe que selon le document 33 C/5, 8 % seulement des fonctionnaires de l'UNESCO sont originaires de sa région ; leur répartition par classe n'étant pas indiquée, elle demande que des informations plus complètes lui soient fournies à cet égard.

(5.4) S'agissant de la visibilité de l'action de l'UNESCO, le Venezuela prépare avec neuf pays de la région des Andes et des Caraïbes une réunion régionale des Écoles associées qui se tiendra en octobre, après la Conférence générale, et au cours de laquelle sera proclamée l'élimination de l'analphabétisme dans son pays. Au mois de mars de l'année suivante, aura lieu une réunion dans le cadre de laquelle des commissions nationales, des Écoles associées, des centres et clubs UNESCO ainsi que des parlementaires œuvreront à la réalisation d'un objectif commun : faire connaître et renforcer les principes de l'Organisation à l'occasion de son 60^e anniversaire et, en particulier, mettre en relief les actions les plus importantes menées dans ses cinq domaines d'activité.

(5.5) En 2003, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a adopté la résolution 58/217, par laquelle elle a proclamé la période 2005-2015 Décennie internationale d'action, « L'eau, source de vie », avec pour objectifs essentiels de promouvoir une meilleure connaissance des questions relatives à l'eau et d'appeler l'attention sur l'exécution de programmes et de projets relatifs à cette ressource, ainsi que de contribuer à la réalisation des objectifs en la matière convenus sur le plan international qui sont énoncés dans l'Action 21, des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et du Plan de mise en œuvre de Johannesbourg. L'oratrice demande quel rôle l'UNESCO entend jouer dans la célébration de la décennie, compte tenu notamment des activités s'y rapportant manifestement qu'elle a menées en 2003 dans le cadre de l'Année internationale de l'eau douce.

6. Mr ADAMIČ (Slovenia) said that almost every speaker in the past day or so had referred to their concerns about natural disasters. In the Director-General's reply, there had, unexpectedly, especially given the fact that Japan was so vulnerable to such disasters, been virtually no reference to the matter. What did the Director-General intend to do? Maybe the Organization could set up a network of UNESCO Chairs on natural disasters – the phenomenon should be dealt with by the Social and Human Sciences Sector as well as by the Natural Sciences Sector. UNESCO was the only organization to be able to take the matter forward, in terms of both technology and awareness.

7. M. CHARBONNEAU (Canada) souhaite intervenir sur le chapitre de l'éducation. Il remercie à ce sujet le Directeur général d'avoir appelé l'attention du Conseil sur la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de New York, dans laquelle les chefs d'État accordent une importance sans précédent au rôle de l'éducation dans le développement. Reprenant l'image heureuse par laquelle le Directeur général a résumé la nécessité de relier entre eux les grands objectifs en matière de développement, il estime que l'éducation est le « fil rouge », le fil conducteur, qui relie de même l'ensemble des principaux mandats de l'Organisation. En effet, qu'il s'agisse de la culture, des sciences, des technologies de la communication ou des systèmes d'alerte rapide, la clé du succès est toujours la capacité des populations de maîtriser la marche des choses, ce qui suppose que des progrès immenses soient faits dans le domaine de l'alphabétisation et de l'éducation. L'UNESCO l'a bien compris puisqu'elle accorde une place de plus en plus importante à l'éducation, et en particulier au programme « Éducation pour tous », par lequel passe nécessairement la réalisation de tous les autres objectifs. L'Organisation est pressée d'intervenir dans tous les domaines de l'éducation - éducation aux droits de l'homme, au développement durable, enseignement secondaire, enseignement des sciences, des arts, éducation physique, enseignement rural, disparités entre les sexes en matière d'accès à l'éducation - mais il est toutefois un aspect qui a un caractère central et qui, à ce titre, devrait être la priorité des priorités, et non un domaine d'intervention parmi d'autres comme le considèrent les documents de planification de l'UNESCO : c'est la formation des formateurs et des enseignants. En effet, les programmes, la planification et les outils technologiques ne sont pas tout, et l'existence d'un corps enseignant correctement formé, motivé et reconnu sera toujours un préalable indispensable à toute avancée dans le domaine de l'éducation. Le représentant du Canada souhaiterait que le Directeur général expose au Conseil sa vision sur ce point.

8.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that, as the Board knew, he himself had led the UNESCO delegation to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe in January 2005, which had made an important contribution. The world at that time had been focusing on the Indian Ocean tsunami, which had claimed over 200,000 lives and caused immeasurable damage. UNESCO had an important role to play in the establishment of a tsunami warning system first in the Indian Ocean and subsequently elsewhere. In his written introduction to the general debate (172 EX/INF.5), he had referred to the preparation of a global tsunami warning system, which was on schedule to become operational in July 2006 in the Indian Ocean, and to cooperation with regional bodies for regional systems. The Intergovernmental Coordinating Group for the Caribbean Sea would meet for the first time in January 2006 to consider a tsunami warning and mitigation system in that part of the world, and similar steps were being taken for the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. He appreciated the extrabudgetary contributions and bilateral assistance being provided to those countries that needed it. There was a need to mobilize the entire UNESCO family, not just the UNESCO Chairs, but also the category II institutes that were increasingly effective and valuable in the fields of fresh water and natural disaster prevention. He had written recently a lengthy article in Japanese on UNESCO's policy on disaster reduction, some of which had been translated into German. Coming, as he did, from Japan, it was a subject which was very much on his mind, and he was keenly aware of the importance of international cooperation in that respect.

8.2 To the representative of Venezuela, he replied that cooperation in the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” (2005-2015) proclaimed by the United Nations was coordinated at United Nations Headquarters. UNESCO was lead agency in the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), in which it worked with 24 other agencies. The first edition of the *World Water Development Report* had been presented two years previously, and the second edition would be launched in Mexico in March 2006.

8.3 As he had said in his vision for his second term, decentralization would be a priority area. He had already set up a good framework, which should be strengthened by building up the capacity of field offices, improving communication between Headquarters and the field, strengthening cooperation with National Commissions and other stakeholders, and, in general, acting as a member of a single United Nations system. He was pleased that the review of decentralization policy had been well received at the 171st session of the Executive Board (April 2005). It remained to rectify shortcomings within the constraints of a tight regular budget, which meant that UNESCO would not be able to take on all the important issues it should. In the Latin America and the Caribbean countries, there was a good network of field offices with which he was comfortable, with five cluster offices, five national offices and one regional office for education. Replying to a representative of Peru, who had spoken as an observer at an earlier meeting, he said that he had sent the Deputy Director-General and the head of the UNESCO Santiago Office to Lima, the Peru national office. He would be prepared to maintain that office if it could produce positive results in, for instance, education, but he would not keep it open merely in order to have a UNESCO presence in the country. It was his duty to ensure that the office had substantive functions, particularly in education. Discussions with the Government of Peru had not yet reached a satisfactory conclusion.

8.4 With regard to visibility, he was pleased to see that the Venezuelan Government and National Commission were taking the initiative and using Associated Schools Project schools to organize major events; that was indeed an example to be followed. The 60 weeks leading up to the sixtieth anniversary of the entry into force of UNESCO’s Constitution in November 2006 would provide an excellent opportunity for all the Member States to organize events to raise UNESCO’s profile, and he appealed to the Board Members and National Commissions to make every effort to do so.

8.5 Poursuivant en français, le Directeur général déclare partager pleinement le point de vue du Canada quant à l’importance de l’EPT et au rôle de l’UNESCO dans ce domaine. Il se dit d’avis que la mise en œuvre du programme de l’EPT nécessite des actions concrètes, notamment sur le terrain, aux niveaux mondial et national. De même, le Directeur général souscrit sans réserve aux propos du représentant du Canada concernant le rôle crucial de la formation des enseignants. D’elle dépend notamment en effet l’accès universel des enfants à l’éducation, en particulier en Afrique subsaharienne, où, comme l’a fait observer le représentant de la République de Tanzanie, il manque 4 millions d’enseignants. Toutefois, l’enjeu en matière de formation des éducateurs est aussi qualitatif, et non pas seulement quantitatif : il est impératif pour la réalisation des objectifs de Dakar relatifs à la qualité de l’éducation que les enseignants soient bien formés, qualifiés et motivés. C’est précisément dans cet esprit que le Directeur général a lancé une initiative visant à renforcer la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne. Toutefois, le Secrétariat ne peut à lui seul mener à bien cette tâche. Aussi le Directeur général appelle-t-il les pays concernés, les donateurs et les autres organismes compétents du système des Nations Unies à le soutenir dans ses efforts.

9. Mr AZIZ (Afghanistan) said that the present question-and-answer session was one of the Board’s most fruitful. With regard to education, he was pleased that two particular topics had been emphasized in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document adopted by the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (172 EX/INF.13). The first was education for all (EFA) and gender. Around the Board table, some colleagues had no problems with EFA, and others

had expertise and resources to deal with it. Afghanistan had neither, and it was not the only country in that position. He was looking for an innovative, pragmatic, easy-to-understand approach to solving the specific EFA problems of specific countries. For Afghanistan, it was life which needed to be brought back to that country. Secondly, many countries, led by Argentina, were considering the debt swap for education initiative, which, as everyone was aware, was a complex matter involving the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, governments, regional banks and so on. How did the proposal work from the point of view of UNESCO? Did the Director-General want the Organization to be involved? What practical work could UNESCO alone undertake in the context of the funds that might be released under such initiatives?

١٠ شكر السيد النعيمي (البحرين) المدير العام على الإجابات العديدة التي قدمها وعلى رؤيته فيما يخص دور المكاتب الميدانية في التنسيق مع الدول. وأكد على أهمية هذا الموضوع وعلى ضرورة وجود آلية للتشاور بين المكاتب الميدانية والدول التي تشملها هذه المكاتب، وفق نهج محدد يتفق عليه بين اليونسكو ودول المنطقة، لكي تكون البرامج التي تضطلع بها المكاتب الميدانية متناسبة مع الإمكانيات المتاحة، مما يؤدي إلى استغلال أمثل للموارد. وشدد على أهمية التركيز على بعض القضايا التي تهم كل العاملين في الميدان التربوي، ولا سيما قضية إعداد وتدريب المعلمين التي أشار إليها ممثل كندا، وغيرها من المسائل مثل تطوير المناهج، والبيئة المدرسية. ورأى أن البرامج التي تقترحها المكاتب الميدانية تحتاج إلى مزيد من التحديد لكي يتسنى الاستفادة من الخبرات المتاحة لدى المنظمة على أكمل وجه.

(10) M. AL-NOAIMI (Bahrein) remercie le Directeur général pour les nombreuses réponses qu'il a apportées et approuve sa vision du rôle des bureaux hors Siège dans la coordination avec les États. Il souligne l'importance de cette question et la nécessité de créer un mécanisme de consultation entre les bureaux hors Siège et les pays desservis par ces bureaux, selon des modalités précises approuvées par l'UNESCO et les États de la région concernée, afin d'assurer l'adéquation entre les programmes assignés aux bureaux hors Siège et les moyens disponibles et une utilisation plus rationnelle des ressources. Il importe d'autre part de se concentrer sur certaines questions qui concernent tous les acteurs du secteur de l'éducation, en particulier celle de la préparation et de la formation des enseignants, déjà évoquée par le représentant du Canada, et sur d'autres sujets tels que la modernisation des méthodes et l'environnement scolaire. Enfin, les programmes proposés par les bureaux hors Siège demandent à être précisés plus avant de manière à mettre pleinement à profit les compétences disponibles auprès de l'Organisation.

11. Mr PIGOT (Suriname) said that he wished to ask about the proactive dissemination of information. He was almost surprised when he received excellent UNESCO publications. The World Bank and Microsoft, to name just two examples, enabled subscriptions to specific parts of their mailing and information systems. Short e-mails were sent out to subscribers on a regular basis which could then be transmitted to the media. Could such a service, he wondered, be provided by UNESCO?

12.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that he agreed with the first point made by the representative of Afghanistan on the debt swap for education initiative. In addition to its strategic leadership role, the Organization also responded to particular requests to redesign and redevelop education systems, as it had done, for instance, in Bahrain and Azerbaijan, where the President had said that policy advice was needed, given that 10 years after gaining their independence they still had the previous education system. In some countries, more concrete help was needed in establishing free, compulsory education, while others, such as Indonesia or Kenya, needed legislative or constitutional advice.

12.2 With regard to the field offices, the cluster concept was legitimate and appropriate. He had given instructions on the cluster strategy; all directors were conscious of their cluster responsibilities, and were required to engage in regular consultation with governments and National Commissions in the cluster. He received cluster reports on how the cluster offices were helping countries in the Organization's fields of competence. In the Gulf region, for instance, the Director of the UNESCO Doha Office had a strong background in education, and if necessary he, the Director-General, would give him further instructions to pursue consultations in that cluster.

12.3 The idea of debt swap for education had first come up at the International Conference on Education in September 2004, where it had been raised by Argentina and other countries. The final message of the Conference included a provision for UNESCO to examine the question more carefully. UNESCO encouraged the countries concerned to pursue endeavours to implement this initiative. The Minister of Education of Argentina had thanked him personally in March 2005 as, with UNESCO backing, Spain had released \$80 million under such an initiative. The negotiations needed to take place between the countries concerned, possibly with World Bank, but not UNESCO, involvement; the Organization could establish a conceptual approach and provide encouragement.

12.4 He would ask the Bureau of Public Information (BPI) to examine the suggestion made by the representative of Suriname. Many publications were issued to the National Commissions; he proposed to ask BPI how a more comprehensive mailing list could be established.

13.1 M. GÜVENEN (Turquie) souligne la responsabilité qui est celle de l'UNESCO au niveau mondial en tant qu'éclaireur traçant les grandes orientations dans les domaines de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture, et de l'information et de la communication. L'interaction de l'UNESCO avec les autres organisations internationales et les instances décisionnelles est déterminante à cet égard : c'est à elle qu'il appartient de donner le ton et d'encadrer ces autres organisations qui, quelle que soit par ailleurs leur importance, ne sont par rapport à elle que des sous-ensembles. L'orateur voudrait savoir comment le Directeur général compte amener les autres organisations internationales à mieux comprendre cette interaction, ce qui, souligne-t-il, pourrait se traduire par des transferts de ressources financières et par des avancées dont bénéficierait l'humanité tout entière.

13.2 M. Güvenen met par ailleurs l'accent sur la nécessité de toujours associer la qualité à la quantité et de fonder résolument l'éducation sur une stratégie, sur une philosophie, sur une méthodologie des sciences sociales et sur la culture, faute de quoi elle perdrait tout son sens. À ce sujet, l'orateur déplore que les courants dominants des sciences sociales au XX^e siècle aient privilégié des approches axées sur les sous-ensembles et donc dépourvues de toute vision globale. Il n'est pas possible d'envisager de manière isolée les problématiques économiques et sociales sans les penser dans un ensemble plus complexe où se croisent la culture, l'économie, le social et le politique. Il importe donc d'élargir les perspectives pour en finir avec cette très grave dérive qui a donné naissance, dans le courant du XX^e siècle, à une société mécaniste. L'orateur suggère au Directeur général de constituer un groupe d'experts qui s'emploierait à réformer la méthodologie des sciences sociales en inscrivant la démarche scientifique, ainsi que la culture, dans une perspective transdisciplinaire, faute de quoi les effets néfastes de l'approche dominante risquent de se multiplier, peut-être de façon exponentielle.

14. Mr AZIZ (Bangladesh) said that enough concern had been expressed about the slow pace in reaching the EFA goals, and it was true that not all countries were making equal progress. His concern, however, was not quantity, but quality. He was grateful to the other speakers who had raised the question of teacher training. Curriculum development, to reflect social needs in the curriculum, was also vital. He asked whether all those issues were being taken into account in the

Organization's vision and strategy so that Member States could get help in ensuring quality education. Good practices could be viewed in different ways. From the point of view of UNESCO, were they intended to be followed and adapted by individual countries? Did the Organization help Member States to identify and replicate such practices?

15. M. ITEN (Suisse), évoquant les remarques du représentant des États-Unis au sujet du rôle du Conseil international des musées (ICOM) et le nouvel accent que le Directeur général entend mettre sur la promotion des musées, rappelle qu'il a insisté dans son intervention de la veille sur l'idée que l'UNESCO ne doit pas concurrencer l'ICOM et qu'une coordination efficace des initiatives est nécessaire si l'on veut améliorer le rôle et la place des musées. Il prend donc bonne note, en s'en réjouissant, de la réponse du Directeur général, qui a fait état de la complémentarité des deux institutions.

16. Mme GASIBIREGE-GASAKURE (Rwanda), évoquant à son tour la dimension éthique et morale de la mission de l'UNESCO, se dit d'avis que celle-ci pourrait à ce titre faire bénéficier l'Afrique de ses compétences sur la question cruciale pour le continent, de la recherche de solutions à la pandémie du VIH/sida, de façon que les sommes importantes allouées à la lutte contre ce fléau soient utilisées au mieux. Elle invite le Directeur général à se rendre une nouvelle fois dans son pays, en vue d'aider le Rwanda et l'Afrique en général à empêcher que les abus relevés récemment, et qui sont dus avant tout à l'inexpérience, se reproduisent à l'avenir.

17.1 Le DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL, s'adressant tout d'abord à la représentante du Rwanda, déclare partager entièrement son avis concernant la responsabilité éthique de l'UNESCO. Il la remercie pour l'accueil qui lui a été réservé lors de sa première visite au Rwanda et espère avoir une nouvelle occasion de se rendre dans ce pays pour constater l'évolution de la situation et pour débattre avec les dirigeants politiques et des représentants de la société civile de la meilleure manière d'accompagner le Rwanda dans le processus de remise en marche de son système éducatif et de reconstruction nationale.

17.2 Répondant ensuite au représentant de la Turquie, le Directeur général dit souscrire pleinement à son analyse. Le Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines doit être maintenu, mais avec une structure rationalisée et centrée sur les trois thèmes qu'il a déjà eu l'occasion de mentionner en séance privée, à savoir l'éthique des sciences et de la technologie, les droits de l'homme et les sciences sociales. Dans ce dernier domaine, l'Organisation est appelée à jouer un rôle central, en coopération avec d'autres acteurs. Le Directeur général promet de réfléchir à cette question dans le contexte de la restructuration du Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines. À ce sujet, il prend bonne note de la suggestion de la Turquie d'établir un groupe d'experts, tout en rappelant l'existence du Centre international des sciences de l'homme (CISH) de Byblos, institut de catégorie 2 doté d'un comité scientifique regroupant des experts chargés de définir des orientations à l'adresse de cet institut, mais aussi de formuler des conseils et des recommandations sur l'ensemble des questions relatives aux sciences sociales.

17.3 Le Directeur général, se tournant enfin vers le représentant de la Suisse, l'informe de son intention de renforcer encore l'action de l'Organisation dans le domaine des musées, en collaboration avec l'ICOM et avec d'autres partenaires majeurs, en évitant les chevauchements et en visant à une complémentarité accrue. Il remercie à ce propos les États-Unis, dont la contribution, d'un montant de 15 millions de dollars, au titre de leur quote-part pour le dernier trimestre 2003, est venue alimenter un compte spécial, qui a permis de lancer plusieurs initiatives destinées à intensifier l'action de l'UNESCO en faveur des musées, notamment dans des pays en développement.

17.4 Continuing in English, the Director-General said that the representative of Bangladesh was right, quality in education was crucial. UNESCO was already establishing a list of good practices in many countries and making it available to other countries so that they could benefit from it. UNESCO's action in that regard could be strengthened, bearing in mind that some countries needed very specific guidelines.

17.5 In reply to a question asked by the representative of Bangladesh at the morning's meeting, he said that thanks to generous donors, UNESCO awarded a number of fellowships. The selection process was highly competitive as the programmes were popular, and although priority was given to candidates from least developed countries, candidates had to be qualified, so the countries concerned should present suitable candidates. Eleven prizes were being abolished as being out-of-date, and he was satisfied with the new criteria for managing prizes. He welcomed the timely proposal for a UNESCO-Confucius Prize on Literacy, for which the Chinese Government had undertaken to cover all of the associated costs (communications, temporary staff, award ceremony and so on).

18.1 Mr ZHANG Xinsheng (China) said that the present meeting was most constructive and productive. Turning to substance, education for all (EFA) was the absolute priority for the Organization. Since its launch in Jomtien in 1990, it had received a warm response from both developed and developing countries, and the public and private sectors had made a tremendous contribution to it. At the same time, the timetable for implementation had unfortunately slipped several times – it seemed that the six Dakar goals would not be reached by all countries by 2015, and fellow Board Members were concerned about the target date of 2015 for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. What was needed was greater focus. What, he asked, was UNESCO's strategy for focusing resources on implementing the programme? Was there a plan for the promotion of best practices? Since Jomtien and Dakar, many countries had achieved much. It could raise morale in general if their various experiences, some of which were specific to high-population or low-population countries, mountainous countries and islands, were made available to all so that each country could take what it needed as a reference in working together towards those goals. Lastly, concerning EFA management, the most important resource was people, the right people for the right job: professionals, practitioners with first-hand experience of turning situations around in areas such as least developed countries. Was there, he asked, any action plan in that respect?

18.2 With the help of the Director-General and the Secretariat, his country was preparing to host the forthcoming meeting of the High-Level Group on EFA. There was a Chinese proverb that said "a new broom sweeps clean", and the Director-General's new term of office, if confirmed by the General Conference, would provide an important stimulus to encourage the meeting to focus on strategy. As the European Union had said in an earlier meeting, it was important to make communication a focus in action plans aimed at resolving strategic issues. He was convinced that all the stakeholders would work together to make the meeting a success at the beginning of the Director-General's new term of office.

19. Mr SATO (Japan) said that he wished to address the future of UNESCO, a topic of great interest to his region, as evidenced by the agenda item proposed for the General Conference on its behalf by the Islamic Republic of Iran, "Reflection on the future of UNESCO". The deliberations should cover a review of past activities and the Organization's 60 years of experience. That might lead to a review of the Constitution. The Member States should also contemplate the future in a rapidly-changing society and prepare for it by reshaping programmes and reorganizing the House. Lastly, they should examine how the specialized agencies of the United Nations were being asked to improve. There were many different ideas on UNESCO's role and how to enhance its capacity as coordinator. Practical wisdom was needed, drawing on all the Secretariat and the Member States. In conclusion, he requested more information from the Director-General on UNESCO's involvement

in the High-Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations established by the United Nations Secretary-General.

20. Ms MAKHUBU (Swaziland) said that sub-Saharan Africa had had much attention paid to it in terms of EFA and teacher training, but that another area crying out for attention was university research, which had suffered greatly in the previous 10-15 years. Following the report of the Commission for Africa and the G8 intervention, hopes had been raised; UNESCO's action should be commensurate with those hopes. Programmes such as EFA and teacher training might be running slowly because the institutions at the top were not working properly.

٢١ أعرب السيد الحمادي (البحرين) عن ارتياحه لسماع المدير العام يتحدث عن جائزة الصين، وذكره بأن البحرين قد اقترحت إنشاء جائزة لمكافأة أفضل عمل في مجال استخدام تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال في التعليم. وأكد أن البحرين تتكفل بجميع المصروفات الإدارية والأعباء المالية المترتبة على هذه الجائزة.

(21) M. AL HAMMADI (Bahreïn) approuvant les propos du Directeur général au sujet du prix créé par la Chine, rappelle que Bahreïn a récemment proposé la création d'un prix destiné à récompenser la meilleure activité en matière d'utilisation des technologies de l'information et de la télécommunication dans le domaine de l'éducation. Il réaffirme l'engagement du Bahreïn de prendre en charge l'ensemble des dépenses administratives et connexes afférentes à ce prix.

22.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said the representative of China had raised a number of important points. The budget for the Education Sector accounted for one-third of the Organization's budget, and about 80% of that went to EFA, so it was indeed a top priority. Within the principal priorities, action was concentrated on providing global leadership, and he would like extrabudgetary funds to go to three initiatives. First, best practices should be dealt with more carefully and listed according to type of country. Second, experienced practitioners were indeed required, and UNESCO used them as, for instance, consultants. Lastly, the Beijing meeting of the High-Level Group on EFA was crucial, and he welcomed the cooperation of the Chinese Government and other stakeholders (governments, civil society, and so on), which promised to make that meeting a success.

22.2 He was looking forward to the debate on the future of UNESCO, in which, if appropriate, the Secretariat would very much like to participate – that would be useful for the preparation of the new Medium-Term Strategy. With regard to the High-Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations, UNESCO had not been consulted prior to its establishment, but he had asked the Secretary-General whether the Organization could be involved, as it had considerable expertise in that area, which the United Nations in New York did not have.

22.3 He could not agree more with the representative of Swaziland that good quality teacher training required active universities. With regard to the new prize proposed by Bahrain, he had already indicated that it was welcome; the arrangements for it should now be finalized.

23.1 The CHAIRMAN thanked the Director-General, who had covered a great deal of ground in the previous three days, in what had been an impressive *tour de force* such as he had rarely witnessed. The debate had included 32 contributions, more than six of them by the Director-General, who had delivered a clear, lengthy and yet concise presentation.

23.2 He announced that the Board would go into a private meeting to continue its discussion of agenda item **48** “Nomination of a candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO”.

The public meeting was suspended at 5.20 p.m. and resumed at 8 p.m.

24. The CHAIRMAN said that in its private meeting, the Board had considered agenda item **48** “Nomination of a candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO”. The working group on the draft contract of the Director-General, set up by the Board in the plenary meeting on Monday 19 September, had submitted its report, which had been discussed by the Board. The Board would continue consideration of that item at its next private meeting.

The meeting rose at 8.05 p.m.

SEVENTH MEETING

Wednesday 28 September 2005 at 10.25 a.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede

ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE PRIVATE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2005

1. At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure, the SECRETARY read out the following announcement:

“At the private meeting held today, the Executive Board considered item **24** of its agenda ‘Examination of the communications transmitted to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations in pursuance of 104 EX/Decision 3.3, and report of the Committee thereon’.

1. The Executive Board examined the report of its Committee on Conventions and Recommendations concerning the communications received by the Organization on the subject of cases and questions of alleged violations of human rights in UNESCO’s fields of competence.
2. The Executive Board, having taken note of the Committee’s report, endorsed the wishes expressed therein.”

2. Ms MOSEROVÁ (Czech Republic), speaking as the oldest member of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, expressed her deep appreciation of the brilliant leadership of its Chairman. Thanks to the work of the Committee the ongoing dialogue with the countries concerned had greatly improved, with extremely fruitful results.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that he trusted that all Board Members endorsed her sentiments.

COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CR):
ORAL REPORT AND DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
(172 EX/58)

Item **25** PROTOCOL INSTITUTING A CONCILIATION AND GOOD OFFICES
COMMISSION TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEEKING THE SETTLEMENT
OF ANY DISPUTES WHICH MAY ARISE BETWEEN STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION:
NOMINATIONS AND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON (172 EX/24 and Add. & Corr.)

Draft decision in paragraph 3 of document 172 EX/58

4.1 El Sr. HEPBURN (Bahamas) (Presidente del Comité de Convenciones y Recomendaciones)
in extenso:

Señor Presidente, por lo que se refiere al punto **25**, relativo a las candidaturas para la Comisión de Conciliación y Buenos Oficios, el Comité tomó nota de que dos Estados Parte en el

Protocolo de 1962 por el que se instituía esa Comisión, Egipto y Jordania, habían presentado candidaturas para cubrir los cinco escaños que quedarán vacantes en 2005.

4.2 El Comité recomendó al Consejo Ejecutivo que transmitiera a la Conferencia General la lista de personas presentadas y pidiera al Director General que a dicha lista agregara las candidaturas que pudiera recibir antes de la apertura de la 33ª reunión de la Conferencia General. La decisión propuesta figura en el tercer párrafo del informe. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

(4.1) Mr HEPBURN (Bahamas) (Chairperson of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations) *in extenso* (translation from the Spanish):

Mr Chairman, with regard to item 25, on nominations for the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission, the Committee took note of the fact that two States Parties to the 1962 Protocol instituting the Commission, Egypt and Jordan, had submitted candidatures for the five seats on the Commission that would fall vacant in 2005.

(4.2) The Committee recommended to the Executive Board that it transmit to the General Conference the list of persons nominated, and request the Director-General to add to the list any candidatures he might receive before the opening of the 33rd session of the General Conference. The proposed decision is to be found in paragraph 3 of the report. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

5. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 3 of document 172 EX/58.

6. It was so decided.

Item 26 REPORT ON THE THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT EXPERT GROUP UNESCO (CR)/ECOSOC (CESCR) ON THE MONITORING OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION (2005) (172 EX/25)

Draft decision in paragraph 13 of document 172 EX/58

7.1 Mr HEPBURN (Bahamas) (Chairman of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. The Committee considered item 26 “Report on the Third Meeting of the Joint Expert Group UNESCO(CR)/ECOSOC(CESCR) on the Monitoring of the Right to Education (2005)”. The Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) examined the report, which was focused on the thematic issue of the foundation of the right to education in national legal systems. This constitutes follow-up to the recommendations of the High-Level Group on Education for All, and is of high importance in the context of UNESCO’s activities for modernizing/developing national legislation in the field of the right to education, with a focus on education for all (EFA).

7.2 Mr Chairman, the members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for activities being carried out by the Secretariat for promoting the right to education. After a stimulating and constructive discussion, the Committee’s members concluded that the Joint Expert Group deserved to be encouraged to continue its work on issues of key importance in the realization of the right to education and requested the Joint Expert Group to report to the Executive Board at its 175th session. Mr Chairman, the decision proposed by the Committee is in paragraph 13 of the report.

7.3 Mr Chairman, I think I haven't used up all of the minutes allotted to me, so I will take this time, on behalf of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, to compliment you, Sir, for the skilful manner in which you conducted the work of the Board. I think your particular idiosyncrasies helped you to keep your head when all about you were losing theirs and blaming it on you, to quote Kipling. Special commendations must go to the Secretary of the Board, Mr Parsuramen, and his hard-working staff for the exemplary fashion in which they carried out their responsibilities. Mr Director-General, the Committee congratulates you and your team for the yeoman service to the Board through presentations and reports. Your constant, silent, and strong presence was greatly appreciated. Let me thank all of my colleagues, most with great appreciation, in the Committee, whose understanding and cooperation helped us to accomplish our tasks amicably and professionally. I wish to express sincere gratitude on behalf of the Committee to Ambassador Dayrell de Lima, the Temporary Chairman, for his assistance. Special compliments go to the individuals who made my role much easier in accomplishing the tasks entrusted to the Committee: Mr Yusuf, the Legal Adviser and representative of the Director-General, whose clarifications were always spot-on, as we say in the Bahamas; Mrs Beatrice Dupuy, the able secretary, assisted by Mr Guillermo Trasancos, Ms Lucia Cavicchioli, Ms Riham Hazboun and Mr Olivier da Silva – went above and beyond the call of duty to help to make the work of the Committee a success. Finally, Mr Chairman, I wish to express my thanks to Mr Kishore Singh and his team from the Education Sector, for his selfless help and his comprehensive report to the Committee. Mr Chairman, there are really no words that I can find which are adequate enough to express my gratitude to the interpreters, the translators and the other support staff for their invaluable service. Let me say simply, were it not for your patience, experience and *savoir-faire*, we would not have completed our work in such a timely manner. Thank you, Sir.

8. The CHAIRMAN, seeing no objections, took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 13 of document 172 EX/58.

9. It was so decided.

10. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Chairman and members of the Committee for their excellent work and also the members of the Secretariat concerned for their invaluable assistance.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO):
ORAL REPORT AND DRAFT DECISION RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
(172 EX/60)

Item **43** RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS,
FOUNDATIONS AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS (172 EX/40 and Add.)

Draft decision in paragraph 12 of document 172 EX/60

11.1 Mr LAKATOS (Hungary) (Temporary Chairman of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour and the great privilege to present this oral report on the deliberations of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) that held one meeting on Friday 16 September 2005. I am doing this on behalf of our Chairman, Mr Milan Orožen Adamič, who unfortunately is unable to be with us today due to urgent commitments in his country, Slovenia. In the absence of Mr Darko Štrajn, who had masterly conducted the work of our Committee during its last three sessions and has in the meantime assumed other functions, we had the privilege and

benefit of having with us Mr Hans-Heinrich Wrede, the Chairman of the Executive Board, who, in opening the meeting, paid tribute to the excellent work done by Mr Štrajn and invited the Committee to elect a new Chairman in accordance with Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board. Mr Milan Orožen Adamič (Slovenia) was then unanimously elected as the Chairman of the NGO Committee. In that context, I should perhaps also say that I had the honour and privilege to be elected by the Committee for the fourth time as Temporary Chairman.

11.2 The only item on the agenda was the item **43** “Relations with international non-governmental organizations, foundations and similar institutions” (172 EX/40 and Add.). In his introductory remarks, Mr Ahmed Sayyad, the representative of the Director-General and Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation, eloquently presented an overview of that item, and underscored the fact that UNESCO was celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, which in effect is not only a celebration of 60 years of building peace, democracy and dialogue between nations, but also 60 years of constructive cooperation with the NGO community.

11.3 After the adoption of the agenda, the Committee – with 22 of its 24 distinguished members present – began its deliberations. Also with us were the esteemed Chairman of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and representatives from 13 international non-governmental organizations in statutory relations with UNESCO. Eleven Committee members and two NGO representatives took the floor during our lively and productive debate.

11.4 Mr Chairman, distinguished colleagues, the deliberations focused first on the decision of the Director-General to admit five new international NGOs to operational relations with UNESCO, which was brought to the attention of our Committee. In that context, several Committee Members made comments on the admission process. One member, supported by others, called for comprehensive information on the criteria for the selection of NGOs that are admitted to statutory relations. A number of other colleagues underlined the importance of NGOs’ concrete contribution to the work of UNESCO, which they deemed as essential for meaningful cooperation with the NGO community. With regard to NGO action at the national and local levels, the majority of the members emphasized the importance of interaction between National Commissions and NGOs. In that connection, one member advocated drawing up a list of local representatives of NGOs to facilitate contacts and the exchange of information with National Commissions with a view to enhancing, as far as possible, the visibility of UNESCO and strengthening partnerships at the local level. In the same vein, the preparation by National Commissions of a registry of NGOs in their respective countries was considered as contributing to a more proactive approach towards the mobilization of NGOs in promoting the goal and ideals of UNESCO at the national level. In a related context, another member stated that at the present time of globalization, NGOs played an important role at the national level for building up civil society, and referred to the indispensable reconstruction efforts of the latter in the aftermath of the tsunami catastrophe in his country.

11.5 In response to the above comments, the representative of the Director-General drew the attention of the Committee members to the Directives concerning UNESCO’s relations with non-governmental organizations, which, approved by the General Conference in 1995 and amended in 2001, contained a set of criteria that were applied when the Secretariat examined issues relating to the admission of NGOs to statutory relations. He also underlined the full convergence of UNESCO’s view with the Members of the Committee concerning the importance of interaction at the local level between NGOs and National Commissions, and stated that these efforts would be strengthened in future, in close cooperation with both of these two important UNESCO constituencies.

11.6 With regard to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA), the majority of the Committee members expressed appreciation for the Director-

General's efforts to consolidate the Federation, and generally supported the resumption of formal associate relations with WFUCA. In that connection, several members stressed the acute relevance of the Federation's work, and emphasized that its role was paramount and vital in promoting UNESCO's ideals in the field. That being said, two members expressed certain reservations on the lack of sufficient information about the outcome of the recent meeting of WFUCA; one felt that it was perhaps too early to resume relations with that NGO so quickly after their suspension. Another member of the Committee underlined the important work carried out in developing countries by the UNESCO Clubs and wholeheartedly supported the decision to re-establish relations with WFUCA. A representative of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee also took the floor to express his support for the Director-General's decision to resume relations with WFUCA since the Federation also participated actively in the work of that Committee.

11.7 The representative of the Director-General, in response to the concerns expressed, underlined the important role of WFUCA, and explained that the decision to suspend relations had been based primarily on an internal conflict in the Federation, which had since been resolved in a very satisfactory manner. In that connection, he paid tribute to the efforts of the ad hoc committee and the constructive spirit which the 300 delegates participating in the recent World Conference for UNESCO Clubs Movement and in the extraordinary session of the World Congress had demonstrated. This positive attitude had considerably facilitated the consolidation of UNESCO Clubs Movement.

11.8 Mr Chairman, distinguished colleagues, with regard to the preparation of the International Conference of NGOs in statutory relations with UNESCO that is to take place in Paris from 14 to 16 December this year, the Chairperson of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and President of the International Conference of NGOs indicated that one of the round tables of the conference would be devoted to the future prospects for NGO-UNESCO cooperation in the light of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of UNESCO.

11.9 Concerning the World Summit on the Information Society, the second phase of which will be held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, the NGO focal point from the Communication and Information Sector provided some new elements with regard to the efforts of UNESCO to mobilize the NGO community for the Summit.

11.10 Mr Chairman, at this juncture, I should take this opportunity to emphasize that the presence of the NGO focal points from the programme sectors greatly facilitated our deliberations, and I therefore wish to thank them for their very valuable contribution to our discussion and the quality of their replies to the questions raised.

11.11 Mr Chairman, the Committee then approved, paragraph by paragraph, the draft decision contained in paragraph 21 of document 172 EX/40 as well as in paragraph 7 of document 172 EX/40 Add. In this context a member of the Committee, supported by four others, tabled an amendment to the draft decision. This amendment was adopted by the Committee and is reflected in paragraph 7 of the draft decision before you. We then proceeded with the overall approval of the entire draft decision as amended. Mr Chairman, the Committee now recommends to the Executive Board that it adopt the amended draft decision as contained in document 172 EX/60 before you. I thank you.

12. Mr EINARSSON (Iceland) commended the report of the NGO Committee. Though not a member of the Committee, he had attended most of its meetings, and had been particularly gratified by the increasing amount of reflection on the mandate of the Committee, which many felt should be used for more than just discussing categories of relations with UNESCO in the strict sense. Being himself a member of two non-governmental organizations that cooperated with UNESCO, he had

formed the opinion that NGOs would like to be more involved in UNESCO's activities. One way might be through National Commissions – it would be a matter for National Commissions to instigate such cooperation at the national level. Another way was through international NGOs, which tended to refer more to UNESCO Headquarters. The NGO Committee provided an excellent opportunity to build a forum to discuss the possible contribution of NGOs in UNESCO's fields of competence. Many of them had much to give. He regretted that only eight persons representing NGOs had attended the meeting of the Committee, and that the meeting had finished by noon. UNESCO should use its resources much better. He referred to proposals by the ad hoc working group on relations between the three organs of UNESCO about changing the mandate of the Committee, whose current duties could be carried out by its Chairman and the secretariat of the Liaison Committee. He hoped that Board Members would pay due attention to that topic and to the recommendations of the ad hoc working group.

13. Ms KLEMEN-KREK (Slovenia) expressed full agreement with the statement by the representative of Iceland. Members of the Executive Board should take more interest in the work of the NGO Committee. When Slovenia had joined the Committee it had had the impression that it was simply a bureaucratic institution dealing with the admission of NGOs. There was a huge lack of meaningful discussion on relations between UNESCO and NGOs, and also on the role of NGOs in the Member States. Generally speaking, Member States did not know which organizations, apart from the well-known ones, were members of international associations. They lacked knowledge at national level, and National Commissions were often unable to help. International NGOs enjoying relations with UNESCO needed to demonstrate the special nature of those relations as they implied a quite different contribution to UNESCO's visibility at the national level.

14. The CHAIRMAN, seeing no objections, took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 12 of document 172 EX/60.

15. It was so decided.

16. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Temporary Chairman of the Committee, its current and former Chairman and all its members for their efforts.

17. Mr LAKATOS (Hungary) (Temporary Chairman of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations), also speaking on behalf of Mr Adamič, Chairman of the Committee, thanked the representatives of non-governmental organizations, the Secretariat and all who had helped the Committee to perform its tasks.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE (SP): ORAL REPORT AND DRAFT DECISION RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (172 EX/59)

Item 32 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON ITS ACTIVITIES IN 2004-2005, INCLUDING ITS METHODS OF WORK (172 EX/30 and Rev.)

Draft decision in paragraph 3 of document 172 EX/59

18.1 Ms VATSYAYAN (India) (Chairman of the Special Committee) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chairman. President of the General Conference, Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Special Committee held two meetings on 14 and 15 September, respectively, and considered agenda item 32. In pursuance of Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the members of the Special Committee elected Mr Lê Kinh Tai, representative of Viet Nam, Temporary Chairman of the Committee. The

Committee was assisted in its work by members of the Secretariat, especially the Secretary of the Executive Board and the Legal Adviser, whose advice was of great benefit and was invaluable to the Committee's deliberations.

18.2 The Committee considered item **32** "Report by the Executive Board on its own activities in 2004-2005, including its methods of work". Following a clear and succinct presentation of the report by the Chairman of the Executive Board, the Committee members engaged in a very extensive and animated discussion. Some Committee members expressed concern over the form and the structure of the report. However, several members recognized the complexity of drafting such a report, and expressed their satisfaction with the report.

18.3 With regard to education, it was pointed out by one member that education was not a flagship but rather a priority programme. Some members, moreover, voiced the need for more attention to be devoted to the education for sustainable development (ESD) programme. The Committee recommended that there be a clear, focused plan for UNESCO's involvement in the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). One member also underlined that several other issues should have been considered in that paragraph, such as teacher training, quality education, literacy, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), standard-setting instruments, and HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Concerning natural sciences, concern was raised that fundamental issues relating to water should have been reflected upon in the report in a more focused manner. One member also emphasized the importance of taking into consideration the ethical dimension of the natural sciences. With regard to the social and human sciences, some Committee members wished to make the text clearer by slightly adjusting the drafting of the paragraph. This was duly done. Moving on to culture, one member wished to lay emphasis on the importance of setting up an intersectoral programme for languages, and of referring to art education and the promotion of cultural creativity. Concerning communication and information, one member suggested that the issue of freedom of expression should be clearly mentioned in the report.

18.4 With regard to relations with Member States, one Committee member underlined that capacity-building should also be reflected, and that it should be provided to Africa and not only to the South American countries. Moreover, while several members emphasized the need to enhance the role of National Commissions, they were also of the view that eventual restructuring should be aimed at strengthening the National Commissions. It was furthermore stressed that UNESCO's visibility at both the national and subregional levels continue to be increased. In relation to the Special Committee, one Committee member suggested minor, but significant amendments to the drafting of the text in order to make the report more comprehensible.

18.5 Finally, with regard to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), several Committee members, who are also members of the CR Committee, underlined that the content of the text did not correspond to the report of the CR Committee, and that they had taken the initiative to prepare a revised text for consideration by the Special Committee. After an extended debate, the Committee members decided, by consensus, to refer the matter to the Chairman of the CR Committee with the aim of verifying the appropriate terminology to be used. Subsequently, the recommendations made by some of the Committee members in consultation with the Chairman of the CR Committee were submitted to the members of the Special Committee, who agreed with the new text.

18.16 Bearing this in mind, and having duly taken into account the various options expressed by the Committee members, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the Executive Board that it adopt the draft decision contained in document 172 EX/59 and the revised text of this report contained in document 172 EX/30 Rev., which is in front of you.

18.7 I should like to conclude by thanking you, Sir, the Chairman of the Executive Board, who was pleased to attend this meeting often, the members of the Committee, the members of the Secretariat, naturally the interpreters and room staff, and finally, the very gentle but firm assistance of the secretary of the Special Committee and her colleagues, whose contribution in making this report was invaluable. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

19. Mr KUSI-ACHAMPONG (Ghana) thanked the Chairman of the Special Committee for her leadership and said that many members had gained valuable experience from working with her. He also thanked the Chairman of the Executive Board for his able leadership over the previous two years. In regard to the report, he drew attention to paragraph 44 of document 172 EX/30 Rev. concerning National Commissions, which stated that “any restructuring should aim at strengthening the National Commissions”.

20. Mr AZIZ (Afghanistan) expressed his gratitude for the wisdom and style of the Chairman of the Executive Board, and to the Chairman of the Special Committee for the tone of the Special Committee’s report. He drew attention to the title of section III.F “Events in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East”, which did not appear to him to be correct. As he recalled it, the correct title of that section should be “UNESCO’s contribution to the operational policies and activities for developing cooperation with the United Nations system”.

21. Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia) thanked the Chairman of the Special Committee and its members for their very comprehensive, but succinct report. He wished to make two suggestions which might be considered by the Chairman of the Board for his report to the General Conference. Firstly, the lack of statistics in the document, in particular regarding the number of agenda items dealt with at each session, which some Members considered excessive, meant that the document did not convey the substantial nature of the work done by the Board. Some data on that matter should be presented to the General Conference. On the other hand, the fact that some items could be decided without discussion was a positive advance. He commended the Chairman of the PX Commission in that respect. Nothing was lost by taking decisions without discussion, and the importance of the items concerned was not diminished. There needed to be more balance in the Board’s workload, though some progress had been made in streamlining its business. He suggested the inclusion of a table, possibly as an annex to the document, showing the number of agenda items considered. Secondly, he expressed his satisfaction with paragraphs 15 and 21 of the report, which were almost identical, referring to discussions with the Director-General. There had been a dramatic improvement thanks to the Director-General’s willingness to engage in significantly more interaction with the Board, especially on staffing and resources. He hoped that the Chairman of the Board would emphasize the spirit of dialogue with the Director-General in his report to the General Conference. That had in fact been one of the recommendations of the ad hoc working group on relations between the three organs of UNESCO. Lastly, he recalled that the previous Chairman of the Board, in his report to the General Conference, had used a Powerpoint presentation to illustrate graphically the work of the Board, and he hoped that the current Chairman would use the same approach. He concluded by commending the excellent work done by the Special Committee over the previous two years.

22. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take the suggestions made into consideration.

23. Mr SHEYA (United Republic of Tanzania) drew attention to paragraph 62 of document 172 EX/30 Rev., which mentioned the various dignitaries that had visited UNESCO. He recalled that three Heads of State from Africa and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission had visited the Organization, but had not been mentioned.

24. The CHAIRMAN said that he fully agreed. One reason for their omission was that the report had been completed before their visits. He would take care in his report to the General Conference to provide a complete list.

25. Mr EINARSSON (Iceland) commended the report. The discussions in the Special Committee had been one of the most enjoyable aspects of his time as representative in the Executive Board, thanks to the atmosphere of genuine dialogue, and to the fact that its work treated matters at the core of UNESCO's activity. He hoped that there would be no reluctance to make use of the Special Committee, which was not an ad hoc committee set up to solve particular problems. It represented the memory of UNESCO for the benefit of the future. More use should be made of it. He particularly commended its Chairman for her skill in directing its work. As the representative of Ghana had said, all had learned a lot from her.

26. Mr RACHMAN (Indonesia) joined the other speakers in expressing his appreciation for the wisdom of the Chairman of the Special Committee, whose report was of great value to all Members of the Board. In regard to the content of that report, it was clearly not possible to include everything, but it might be useful in the introduction to begin with the functions of the Board. Regarding the format of the report, he agreed with Australia: the use of tables, etc., would make it easier to read and provide useful information for the General Conference.

27. Ms VATSYAYAN (India) (Chairman of the Special Committee) thanked everyone for their kind words about her efforts. It was not for her to comment on the observations made since the report would be presented by the Chairman of the Executive Board.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that an effort had been made to keep the report succinct and yet incorporate the main activities and decisions of the Board over the previous two years. He reminded members of the need to finish the report in early July and to keep it within an agreed maximum of 10 pages. That explained the number of omissions. He would take the matters raised in the discussion into account in the short presentation he would make to the General Conference on behalf of the Board. Seeing no objection, he took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 3 of document 172 EX/59.

29. It was so decided.

Item 27 REVISED PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 33rd SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (172 EX/26)

Draft decision in paragraph 6 of document 172 EX/26

30. Ms MØLLER (Secretary of the General Conference), introducing the item, said that document 172 EX/26 concerned requests for the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda of the General Conference received up to 21 August 2005. There were six such items. It was also proposed to withdraw item **10.4** "Modernization of UNESCO: approach to recording expenditures" since the corresponding studies concerning the United Nations system had not yet been carried out. It would also be necessary subsequently to examine the decisions of the Board's current session to see if any of them needed to be included in the provisional agenda of the General Conference, a revised version of which would be made ready for the opening of the General Conference on 3 October.

31. Ms MUKHERJEE (India) stressed the importance of item **5.21** "Reflection on the future of UNESCO" proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The item had been the result of an initiative by the Asia and the Pacific group, which had unanimously endorsed it. It had been carefully

considered by a small group including Japan, China, Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and India, which had also consulted the Director-General. A detailed draft resolution of the subject would be tabled at the General Conference in consultation with the Director-General.

32. Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia) expressed full support for the statement made by India: the item was a valuable contribution. The coming General Conference would take place during the 60th anniversary of the Organization, and would also debate the next C/4 document as well as the excellent item submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the future of UNESCO. The General Conference would thus become an effective vehicle for reflecting on the past and the future of the Organization. He commended Ms Møller and her team for their efforts to make the General Conference more user-friendly. The Asia and the Pacific region included 15 Member States with no Permanent Delegations at all and the efforts made to reach out to such Member States by making the process as simple as possible were greatly appreciated, especially in the Pacific subregion.

33. The CHAIRMAN endorsed the remarks of the representative of Australia concerning the sterling efforts of the Secretary of the General Conference.

34. Ms CARSON (United States of America) joined Australia in expressing her appreciation of the efforts to make the General Conference and its documents more user-friendly. She also commended the inclusion of an item on the Medium-Term Strategy, which she hoped would enable Member States to participate more fully in its development. Concerning the items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda, she asked whether an analysis of their financial implications, as required by the relatively new Executive Board rule, had been undertaken. Some of those items did indeed appear to have financial consequences.

35. The CHAIRMAN said that the new rule had been based on an old one, which had served as a model for the text in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

36. The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that it was the duty of the Secretariat to assess the financial implications of new proposals. He assured Members that assessments of their financial implications would be made available to Member States.

37. Mr AZIZ (Afghanistan) thanked the representative of India for presenting so well the usefulness and importance of the item submitted on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific group. He also thanked the Director-General for his efforts in that regard. The General Conference, at the start of a further 60 years for the Organization, would provide an opportunity to reflect seriously on the type of UNESCO required in the future in order to respond to the needs of Member States and contribute to peace and development.

38. M. CHARBONNEAU (Canada) fait part au Conseil de son émotion après l'assassinat de sang-froid de cinq enseignants deux jours auparavant en Iraq. Eu égard au rôle de l'UNESCO dans le pays et de son mandat en matière de promotion de l'éducation et de défense des enseignants, il demande si le Conseil ne pourrait pas recommander à la Conférence générale de marquer sa condamnation de cet acte à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale des enseignants, qui sera célébrée pendant la session. La Conférence générale pourrait par exemple observer une minute de silence, à la suite peut-être d'une courte déclaration du Directeur général, afin de stigmatiser cette nouvelle escalade dans l'horreur et la terreur.

39. The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of Canada for his valuable observations, which the Director-General would take up in an appropriate way. He was certain that the General Conference would also react in a dignified fashion.

40. Mr RACHMAN (Indonesia) expressed support for the statement by the representative of Canada concerning World Teachers' Day. However, action should not be limited to events in Iraq, since teachers were suffering from attacks all over the world and making great sacrifices for the development of peace.

41. Ms CARSON (United States of America) shared the view that an appropriate way should be found to express UNESCO's distress at the murder of teachers. For personal and other reasons, the honouring of teachers lay close to her heart and was at the centre of UNESCO's mission and of the United States' reengagement in the Organization. On the matter she had raised a few minutes before, concerning the financial consequences of supplementary agenda items, she wondered how the Board's decision might be made to incorporate an assessment of such implications. If there were no financial implications, perhaps that fact could be included in the decision or, alternatively, a statement could be made that any implications would be analysed.

42. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the United States of America had referred to Rule 34(a) of the Board's Rules of Procedure. However, placing items on the agenda of the General Conference was not the business of the Board, but constituted the sovereign right of Member States. More important was the next step, when such items were addressed at the General Conference itself.

43. The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that a round of discussions at the General Conference did not cost much. What mattered was any follow-up action required. Though he was not familiar with the substance of the proposed items, he observed that the centre proposed in item 5.20 "Proposal for the establishment of a Regional Centre on Urban Water Management Under the auspices of UNESCO in Colombia", would, if established as a category 2 institution, be totally financed by the host government. UNESCO would provide technical advice and, if appropriate, financial assistance through its programme activities, but would not be involved in management. Item 5.22, "The South-South Cultural Forum in UNESCO" would cost money if established as a permanent body. The cost would depend on what UNESCO was asked to do. Item 14.1 "Strengthening of cooperation with the Republic of the Sudan" clearly had financial implications, but not necessarily concerning the regular budget. It was his intention to mobilize extrabudgetary funds for that purpose. At the present juncture, however, it was difficult for him to say how he intended to strengthen cooperation with that country. His colleagues would be able to provide more specific answers when the items were taken up in the various commissions.

44. The draft decision contained in paragraph 6 of document 172 EX/26 was adopted.

**Item 28 ADDENDUM TO THE DRAFT PLAN FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK
OF THE 33rd SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (172 EX/27)**

Draft decision in paragraph 3 of document 172 EX/27

45. Ms MØLLER (Secretary of the General Conference), introducing the item, said that document 172 EX/27 allocated the six items just added to the provisional agenda of the 33rd session of the General Conference to the various commissions. She pointed out that there might be further items arising from the present session of the Board or even, under Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, further items proposed during the Conference itself. A revised provisional agenda would be issued, as would an addendum to document 33 C/2 on the organization of the work of the General Conference, which would include those items and anything else that needed to be updated.

46. Ms MUKHERJEE (India) said that since many of the new items had been allocated to Commission I, which already had a heavy agenda, it might be necessary for the Secretary of the General Conference to consider whether Commission I needed more conference time and services.

47. The draft decision contained in paragraph 3 of document 172 EX/27 was adopted.

Item 29 VENUE OF THE 34th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (172 EX/28)

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 172 EX/28

48. Ms MØLLER (Secretary of the General Conference) said that all Member States were free to host the General Conference, but none had offered to do so by the deadline of 21 August. The 34th session of the General Conference would therefore be held in 2007 in Paris, and a draft resolution to that effect would be prepared.

49. The draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 172 EX/28 was adopted.

Point 31 ADMISSION À LA 33e SESSION DE LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE D'OBSERVATEURS D'ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES NON GOUVERNEMENTALES (AUTRES QUE CELLES QUI ENTRETIENNENT DES RELATIONS FORMELLES), DE FONDATIONS ET AUTRES INSTITUTIONS SIMILAIRES ENTRETENANT DES RELATIONS OFFICIELLES, AINSI QUE D'AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES (172 EX/29 et Add.)

50. M. SAYYAD (Sous-Directeur général pour les relations extérieures et la coopération), prenant la parole au nom du Directeur général à l'invitation du Président, indique que, postérieurement à l'établissement du document 172 EX/29, 12 organisations non gouvernementales et une fondation entretenant des relations respectivement opérationnelles et officielles avec l'UNESCO ; parmi lesquelles les cinq ONG dont le Conseil a approuvé le matin même l'admission aux relations opérationnelles, ont exprimé leur souhait de participer en tant qu'observateur aux travaux de la Conférence générale. Le Conseil est invité en conséquence à dire s'il autorise le Secrétariat à ajouter ces organisations aux listes figurant dans le document 172 EX/29 et Add.

SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICES OF CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF THE 33rd SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

52. The CHAIRMAN reminded Members that the Executive Board at its 171st session had decided to recommend the following nominations for the offices of Chairpersons of the commissions and committees: Commission I – Ms Mukherjee (India), Commission II – Ms Andersson (Sweden), Commission III – Mr Oszlanyi (Slovakia), Commission IV – Mr Nualart (Mexico), Commission V – Mr Sheya (United Republic of Tanzania), Administrative Commission – Mr Bedjaoui (Algeria), Nominations Committee – Ms Campbell (Jamaica), Legal Committee – Mr Eisemann (France), Credentials Committee – Mr Najman (Serbia and Montenegro). Furthermore, in pursuance of 156 EX/Decision 5.5 C(b) and (c), the Bureau had proposed that the Board recommend Mr Hepburn (Bahamas) to represent it in Commission II and Mr Einarsson (Iceland) to represent it in Commission IV. Seeing no objection, he took it that those two candidates would be recommended to the General Conference to represent the Executive Board in the respective Commissions.

53. It was so decided.

Item **47** REQUEST FOR THE ADMISSION OF PALESTINE TO UNESCO (172 EX/44)

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 172 EX/44

54. The CHAIRMAN said that the matter under consideration had been considered at each session of the Board immediately preceding a session of the General Conference since 1989.

55. The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that he did not have much to add to the document submitted, which succinctly described UNESCO actions to promote cooperation with the Palestinian people through various programme activities. UNESCO had actively promoted the Joint UNESCO/Palestinian Authority Committee, and was engaged in promoting dialogue and reconciliation between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

56. The draft decision contained in paragraph 4 of document 172 EX/44 was adopted.

Item **64** RECOMMENDATION FOR THE GRANTING OF OBSERVER FACILITIES
TO SINGAPORE (172 EX/56)

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 172 EX/56

57. The CHAIRMAN expressed his pleasure that Singapore was seeking observer status, allowing UNESCO to achieve almost perfect universality. He looked forward to the time when Singapore would become a full Member.

58. The DIRECTOR-GENERAL endorsed the Chairman's remarks concerning the request by Singapore. UNESCO had had a number of contacts with its government in recent years concerning the usefulness of UNESCO's work and the potential advantages to Singapore when that country rejoined the Organization. In early 2005, he had been informed that Singapore would rejoin UNESCO within two years. The decision had been taken, and Singapore had requested UNESCO to provide facilities to enable it to attend meetings in Paris and elsewhere, especially in the Asia and the Pacific region. Singapore had therefore been invited to various meetings on an ad hoc basis, including meetings held in the Jakarta cluster office at the regional or subregional level. It had sometimes attended as an observer, but had come to feel that it would prefer an official observer status so that it could participate more fully. He welcomed that positive development, and hoped that it would be accepted by the Board and the General Conference.

59. Mr SATO (Japan) thanked the Director-General for his precise explanation concerning those recent developments. He reiterated that the Japanese Government welcomed Singapore, and hoped that it would soon return officially to UNESCO. His government considered the return of Singapore an extremely significant contribution to the universality of the Organization. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had worked with Singapore to promote its early return, and would continue to do so.

60. Mr RACHMAN (Indonesia) said that Indonesia welcomed Singapore's request for official observer status in UNESCO. The cluster meeting held in Jakarta had benefited from Singapore's presence and all countries in the region realized that they had a lot to learn from that country's achievements.

61. Ms MUKHERJEE (India) joined Japan and Indonesia in welcoming Singapore's request for official observer status and congratulated the Director-General on his efforts to bring Singapore back to UNESCO. India strongly supported the draft decision and welcomed the progress towards the goal of making UNESCO a truly universal Organization.

62. Mr AZIZ (Afghanistan) endorsed the sentiments expressed by previous speakers in a more elegant language than he was capable of.

63. 王女士（中国）表示，中国欢迎总干事为新加坡成为教科文组织常驻观察员所作的努力。新加坡的回归，意味着教科文组织朝着普遍性的方向又进了一步。中国也欢迎新加坡参加教科文组织各个领域的活动，与各国共享发展的经验。

(63) Ms WANG (China) said that China welcomed the Director-General's efforts to enable Singapore to become a Permanent Observer of the Organization. The return of Singapore represented yet another step by UNESCO towards universality. China also looked forward to Singapore's full participation in the work of the Organization and the sharing of its development experience with other countries.

64. Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia) welcomed the return of Singapore to UNESCO and joined his Asia and the Pacific colleagues in looking forward to its presence in the UNESCO family. As in the case of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, Singapore's potential contribution to the Organization's activities should be acknowledged and he supported the sentiments expressed by the Director-General who was already trying to involve Singapore in programme activities. Singapore would make a welcome addition to UNESCO's capacity to carry out its mandate.

65. The CHAIRMAN said that the Board unanimously welcomed the admission of Singapore to observer status and the fact that it intended to resume full membership of UNESCO within two years. That was indeed good news. He took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 172 EX/64.

66. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

EIGHTH MEETING

Wednesday 28 September 2005 at 5.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede

ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE PRIVATE MEETINGS HELD ON
19, 21 AND 28 SEPTEMBER 2005

1. At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, the SECRETARY read out the following announcement:

“At the private meetings held on 19, 21 and 28 September 2005, the Executive Board considered item **48** “Nomination of a candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO”. The Board received only one candidate, who made a presentation and answered questions put to him by the six regional groups and other Members of the Board. The interview session was relayed by video-transmission to another room in order to allow delegations of Member States which are non-Members of the Board to follow the proceedings. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and of the Rules of Procedure, the Board decided by secret ballot to nominate to the General Conference at its 33rd session, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura (Japan), Director-General of UNESCO, for a term of office of four years. Out of 58 Board members voting, 56 valid votes were cast: 55 in favour and one against. The Executive Board, at its private meeting on 19 September 2005, established a working group among its Members to consider the draft contract between the Organization and the Director-General. At its private meetings held on 21 and 28 September 2005, the Executive Board finalized the provisions of the draft contract between the Organization and the Director-General as well as the Statute relating to the Director-General with a view to submitting it to the General Conference at its 33rd session. It further decided to recommend to the General Conference to entrust to the Executive Board the examination of modalities for reflecting, in future, on matters relating to the Director-General, while taking into account Article V.6 (b) and Article VI of the Constitution, parameters in respect of improving management performance and transparency in the Secretariat.”

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

NINTH MEETING

Thursday 29 September 2005 at 10.10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION (FA): ORAL REPORT AND DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (172 EX/62)

Item 3 REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAMME ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (*Budget adjustments authorized within the Appropriation Resolution for 2004-2005 and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2004-2005 (32 C/5 Approved) Status as at 30 June 2005 (non-audited)*), (172 EX/4 Part II, 172 EX/INF.5, 172 EX/INF.6, 172 EX/INF.9 and 172 EX/INF.14)

Draft decision in paragraph 2 of document 172 EX/62

Item 4 REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS (172 EX/5, 172 EX/INF.5, 172 EX/INF.6 and 172 EX/INF.14) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)

Item 6 PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE DESIRABILITY AND SCOPE OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHARTER ON TRADITIONAL GAMES AND SPORTS (172 EX/7) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)

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 (172 EX/8) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)

Item 10 REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION SCHEME AND UNESCO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECADE (172 EX/11) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)

Item 11 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNESCO CONFUCIUS PRIZE FOR LITERACY FUNDED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (172 EX/12 and Corr.) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)

Item 12 REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL BASIC SCIENCES PROGRAMME (IBSP) AND STRATEGY OF ACTION PROPOSED FOR 2006-2007 (172 EX/13) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)

- Item 13** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN VENEZUELA, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (172 EX/14) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item 14** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL IHP-HELP CENTRE FOR WATER LAW, POLICY AND SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE, SCOTLAND, UK, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (172 EX/15 and Corr. (English only)) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item 15** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR GRANTING THE STATUS OF A REGIONAL INSTITUTE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO TO THE INSTITUTO DE MATÉMATICA PURA E APLICADA (IMPA) IN BRAZIL (172 EX/16) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item 16** PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ECOHYDROLOGY IN ŁÓDŹ, POLAND, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (172 EX/17) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item 21** CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2006-2007 (33 C/5) AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (33 C/5 Draft Rev. and Add., 172 EX/INF.5, 172 EX/INF.6 and 172 EX/INF.14) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item 33** FINANCIAL REPORT AND INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS RELATING TO THE ACCOUNTS OF UNESCO AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004 FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2005 (172 EX/31 and Corr.)

Draft decision in paragraph 14 of document 172 EX/62

- Item 34** SPECIAL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 6.7 OF UNESCO'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (172 EX/32)

Draft decision in paragraph 15 of document 172 EX/62

- Item 35** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES AND OF PAYMENT PLANS (172 EX/33 and Add.)

Draft decision in paragraph 16 of document 172 EX/62

- Item 37** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND GENDER BALANCE OF THE STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT (172 EX/35)

Draft decision in paragraph 17 of document 172 EX/62

- Item 38** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON A GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE UNESCO MEDICAL BENEFITS FUND TOGETHER WITH A TIMETABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR (172 EX/36)

Draft decision in paragraph 18 of document 172 EX/62

- Item **39** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR ON AUDITS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN (172 EX/37 and Corr. (English, French and Chinese only)) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item **40** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE, ON MANAGING THE UNESCO COMPLEX (172 EX/38 and Add.)

Draft decision in paragraph 20 of document 172 EX/62

- Item **41** REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (172 EX/39)
- Item **49** PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ISSYK-KUL CENTRE OF THE DIALOGUE AMONG CULTURES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (172 EX/45 and 172 EX/INF.11) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item **50** PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARTEK INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (172 EX/46 and 172 EX/INF.11) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item **53** STATUS REPORT ON UNESCO'S CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM THROUGH EDUCATION, THE SCIENCES, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION (172 EX/49) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item **56** ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNESCO KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFE PRIZE FOR THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION FUNDED BY THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN (172 EX/34 and 172 EX/INF.11) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item **57** PROCLAMATION OF 2009 AS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY (172 EX/51 and 172 EX/INF.11) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item **59** ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR TO COMMEMORATE THE STRUGGLE AGAINST SLAVERY AND ITS ABOLITION AND DRAFT STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR THE SLAVE ROUTE PROJECT (172 EX/23) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)
- Item **60** PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (CUSCO, REPUBLIC OF PERU), UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (172 EX/53 and Add.) (*Administrative and financial aspects*)

Item 61 PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL WATER CENTRE FOR ARID AND SEMI-ARID ZONES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (CAZALAC) UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO, IN LA SERENA, CHILE (172 EX/54) (Administrative and financial aspects)

1.1 Mr GHARAIBEH (Jordan) (Temporary Chairman of the Finance and Administrative Commission) *in extenso*:

Thank you Mr Chairman. After listening to this nice music, who's interested in listening to lengthy reports on financial matters? I have indeed a lengthy report, so I beg you to bear with me. Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, it is with great pleasure that I report to this plenary meeting of the 172nd session of the Executive Board on the work of the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission.

1.2 In accordance with the agenda approved by the Executive Board at its first plenary meeting, 28 items were examined by the FA Commission, which held six meetings from 22 September to 27 September. Of the 28 items discussed by our Commission, 21 were also examined separately by the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission. As there was no joint meeting of the two Commissions, it was agreed that the FA Commission, after examining these items, would transmit its recommendations to the PX Commission for consideration.

1.3 Mr Chairman, I would like to report to this assembly that the Commission worked in a climate of cooperation, mutual respect and understanding which enabled us to complete our work, and led to the adoption by consensus of all the draft decisions. The debates of the FA Commission were facilitated by the work of the Group of Experts on Financial and Administrative Matters, which had previously examined from a technical standpoint all the items on our agenda. I would like, therefore, to express my gratitude to the members of the Group of Experts, and particularly to its Chairman, Mr Hosoya, for their very useful recommendations contained in document 172 EX/FA/EG.

1.4 Mr Chairman, I would also like to inform you that the FA Commission decided to transmit five items to the PX Commission without debate, having determined that they had no financial or administrative implications or that these implications did not call for a discussion. To save time, I am just going to enumerate the items without the titles because they appear in the table of contents of the report: items **4**, **12**, **34**, **41** and **53**. Furthermore, the Commission decided to divide the items relating to proposals for category 2 centres into two discussion units. The first unit comprised items **13**, **14**, **15**, **16** and **61**, all of which concern the establishment of centres in the field of science. The second unit comprised items **7**, **50** and **60** concerning the establishment of centres in the other fields of competence of UNESCO.

1.5 Mr Chairman, my report will start with the presentation of the items examined solely by the FA Commission, the decisions of which are contained in document 172 EX/62. I will then turn to the items relating to the C/5 document and the recommendations of the External Auditor, and finally I will consider the items dealing with programme aspects. In accordance with Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Board may wish to adopt, at the end of this presentation, the entire set of draft decisions contained in document 172 EX/62 as a whole.

1.6 With your agreement, Mr Chairman, I will now begin my presentation with item **3** "Report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference". The Commission requested clarification on the evolution of expenditure in the programme and non-programme areas of the budget, and expressed concern about the possibility that at the end of the biennium there would be unspent balances in the five Major Programmes, and over-spending in non-programme areas of the budget. The Commission was informed that programme and

administrative expenditure did not necessarily evolve at the same pace, and that a simple linear projection of end-of-biennium expenditure might not be appropriate. In that context, it was noted that updated figures showed an increase in expenditure rates for major programme activities. It was recalled that appropriations for support and administrative services had been continuously cut over the years, and that they were now at a level that did not allow the Organization much flexibility with regard to these support functions, which are essential for the successful implementation of programme activities. The Commission recommended for adoption by the Executive Board the draft decision contained in paragraph 2 of document 172 EX/62.

1.7 The Commission then examined item **33** “Financial report and interim financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO as at 31 December 2004 for the financial period ending 31 December 2005”. This issue gave rise to a debate on the interpretation and application of Article 4.3 of the Financial Regulations relating to appropriation issues, which was clarified by the Legal Adviser. While acknowledging that this had been done in the past, the Commission expressed concern about the use of the unspent balance of unliquidated obligations, which should be used to liquidate outstanding debts of the past. In this context the Commission questioned the use of the unspent balance to cover overspending due to under-budgeted expenditure, particularly in the field offices. The Commission considered that the unspent balance of unliquidated obligations should be used more efficiently in the future, and decided to amend the draft decision accordingly. The Commission recommended for adoption by the Executive Board the draft decision contained in paragraph 14 of document 172 EX/62.

1.8 We then examined item **35** “Report by the Director-General on the status of contributions of Member States and of payment plans”. The debate on this item focused on the issue of borrowing. Some members were against the principle of short-term external borrowing. Others took the view that this facility should be maintained in the forthcoming biennium as Member States might, in certain cases, encounter some difficulties, to put it diplomatically, in paying their contribution, thereby causing serious cash flow problems for the Organization. Several members were also of the opinion that the cost of borrowing should not be borne by Member States who pay their contribution on time. The Commission concluded its debate by requesting the Secretariat to prepare, for review by the General Conference, options for the payment of interest on loans that would not penalize Member States who pay their contribution on time and in full. The Commission recommended for adoption by the Executive Board the draft decision contained in paragraph 16 of document 172 EX/62.

1.9 We come now to item **37** “Report by the Director-General on the geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat”. The Commission emphasized the encouraging and positive trends observed over the past five years, which had resulted in a significant improvement of the geographical distribution of the staff, and invited the Secretariat to pursue the efforts already undertaken to this effect. The Commission also welcomed the statistics provided in the report on gender balance, which have been presented for the first time to the Executive Board, and noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in this respect in the Professional category. While still noting an imbalance at the level of Director and above, the Commission was informed that the high percentage of women at the junior and intermediate levels combined with the high number of retirements foreseen over the next five years would provide an opportunity for the Organization to improve the situation.

1.10 On the question of career development and gender at the P-1 to P-3 level, the Commission was informed of the plan to develop a competency framework for P-1 to P-3 staff, which would serve as a basis for designing career paths and succession planning mechanisms for this group of staff. The Commission recommended for adoption by the Executive Board the draft decision contained in paragraph 17 of document 172 EX/62.

1.11 The Commission then examined item **38** “Report by the Director-General on a global plan of action for the UNESCO Medical Benefits Fund (MBF) together with a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor”. Members of the Commission expressed appreciation regarding the report submitted by the Director-General and welcomed the set of proposed measures and actions designed to rationalize and modernize the management of the Fund. However, members of the Commission raised a number of issues, relating, in particular, to the financial and budget implications of the implementation of the proposed measures; the source of financing, for example, the cost of subcontracting the processing of medical claims; and the change in the MBF contribution formula, from 50/50 to 60/40, to be implemented in three biennia starting in January 2008.

1.12 The importance of subcontracting claim reimbursements, as most United Nations agencies were already doing, was emphasized by the representative of the Director-General, who confirmed that the total cost of \$2.5 million for the 2006-2007 biennium was comparable to other similar United Nations medical schemes. This global cost is far below the investments – estimated at between \$3.5 to \$4.5 million – in terms of the computer equipment, software and human resources that would be necessary to adapt and update the Fund’s claims processing unit. Moreover, it was stressed that subcontracting fees are part of administrative costs in general. Concerning the change in the contribution formula, the representative of the Director-General recalled that in most United Nations organizations, the share between employee and employer contributions is 40/60 or even 33/67, in the case of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund; the global MBF contribution is reaching a point where the staff and retiree contributions should now be alleviated to the extent possible.

1.13 On the question of financing the cost of subcontracting MBF claims processing, estimated at \$2.5 million for the 2006-2007 biennium, the Commission agreed to recommend to the General Conference that it suspend Financial Regulation 4.4, and authorize the Director-General to use for that purpose, the balance of unliquidated obligations from the 2002-2003 biennium, it being understood that this must be considered as an exceptional measure. Finally, the representative of the Director-General underlined that this set of measures, with a reasonable timetable for their implementation, was aimed at ensuring the financial equilibrium of the Fund and its long-term viability in an evolving international medical environment. The Commission recommended for adoption by the Executive Board the draft decision contained in paragraph 18 of document 172 EX/62.

1.14 I will now turn to item **40** “Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex”. The Commission welcomed H.E. Mr Hector Villaroel, Chairperson of the Headquarters Committee. The representative of the Director-General provided information on the progress achieved in managing the UNESCO complex and in the implementation of phase 2 of the Belmont Plan. With regard to the revenue-generating activities related to UNESCO premises, the Commission voiced its concern about the long-standing office rental arrears of Permanent Delegations, and invited the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, to revise current rental scales in order to ensure full maintenance and conservation cost recovery.

1.15 The main focus of the Commission’s debate was on the UNESCO-Starck restaurant decoration project and its financing. The Commission took note that the Headquarters Committee at its next session, later this year, would examine the status of the campaign to collect funds for this project, and recommended that the Headquarters Committee also explore alternative solutions for the restaurant decoration. Some members took the view that the periodicity of the reporting by the Headquarters Committee to the governing bodies should be reviewed, and suggested that this issue

be discussed further. The Commission recommended for adoption by the Executive Board the draft decision in paragraph 20 of document 172 EX/62.

1.16 I will now turn to item **21** “Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5) and recommendations of the Executive Board”. The Commission had an extensive discussion on this important item. The discussion focused mainly on the prioritization of UNESCO’s programmes and the nature of the Special Account for the \$25 million in voluntary extrabudgetary funds. Some Members reiterated their view that the revised 33 C/5 proposal was still composed of fragmented activities and that further prioritization and programme concentration with tangible results was desirable. It was also felt that the Member States as a whole needed to take a strong lead in reorienting UNESCO towards new priorities. In addition, Members appreciated the great efforts made by the Secretariat to absorb, within the required ceiling, all the statutory and technical cost increases, including the security costs and the loan repayment for the renovation of Headquarters.

1.17 With regard to the Special Account mechanism, several members stressed that, ideally, all the principal priorities in UNESCO’s budget should be financed within the regular budget and that, in this context, it was inappropriate to fund core objectives through reliance on extrabudgetary financing. While some expressed concern about the appropriateness of the Special Account, the majority of the members appreciated the zero-nominal-growth budget associated with this mechanism as a compromise based on all the previous discussions. In reply to several questions about the Special Account mechanism, the Commission was informed that reports on the specific allocation by theme within the Special Account would be presented to the Executive Board at future sessions. The Commission was also informed that a detailed report on the implementation of the programmes financed by the Special Account would be presented at each session of the Executive Board, in a manner similar to the regular budget reporting. At the conclusion of the debate, some Members underlined the risk of depending on extrabudgetary contributions for programme implementation. Finally, the Members expressed their willingness to accept the Director-General’s revised 33 C/5 proposal. The Commission recommended that the General Conference approve it, taking into account document 33 C/6. The draft decision on item **21** was transmitted to the PX Commission for its consideration.

1.18 I will now turn to item **39** “Report by the Director-General on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor on audits already undertaken”. The Commission commended the work of the External Auditor, and expressed its appreciation of the quality of the information contained in document 172 EX/37. While there was some concern over the long delays in implementing certain recommendations, the Commission also expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far. In order to improve monitoring, the Commission requested the Director-General to provide a timetable and a benchmark to measure progress for each recommendation in all future status reports. The Commission was informed that the review undertaken by the External Auditor had been nominal, and had only focused on five recommendations in relation to which “slow progress” had been reported earlier. As a result, the status of two of these five recommendations was now considered “satisfactory progress” while the remaining three recommendations were still “slow progress”. A comprehensive review by the External Auditor would be undertaken before the end of the year and the results would be presented to the Executive Board at its 174th session. Explanations were provided to the Commission on some specific issues raised by the External Auditor, such as cost savings arising from improved travel management, the need to establish a consultant-roster database for all sectors including the field offices and not just for the Natural Sciences Sector, the importance of a physical inventory of non-expendable property, the need to ensure cost-effective management of UNESCO’s facilities around the world, and the need to improve the management of extrabudgetary resources. The

Commission was assured that the Secretariat took all the recommendations seriously, and that concerted efforts were being made to implement them. The draft decision recommended by our Commission on item **39** was transmitted to the PX Commission for its consideration.

1.19 I turn now to item **6** “Preliminary report on the desirability and scope of an international charter on traditional games and sports”. Divergent points of view were expressed by the members regarding the desirability of an international charter on traditional games and sports. Some members expressed concern with regard to the financial implications of drawing up this normative instrument and the risk of overlap with existing instruments such as the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Other members felt that the results and recommendations of MINEPS III and IV regarding the importance of the charter should be taken into account and reflected in the draft decision. Finally, the Commission agreed that the programmatic aspects of the draft decision and the question of the desirability of the charter were not within its scope, and that the final decision on this issue should be taken by the General Conference. Some members expressed in this regard the wish to be provided with all pertinent information. The draft decision on this item was transmitted to the PX Commission for consideration.

1.20 I shall now take up the items relating to the establishment of category 2 centres, which were considered in our Commission under two discussion units. The first unit comprised item **13** “Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for the establishment of an international centre of excellence in Venezuela, under the auspices of UNESCO”, item 14 “Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for the establishment of an international IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee, Scotland, United Kingdom, under the auspices of UNESCO”, item **15** “Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for granting the status of a regional institute under the auspices of UNESCO to the Instituto de Matemática Pura e Aplicada (IMPA) in Brazil”, item **16** “Proposed establishment of the European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology in Łódź, Poland, under the auspices of UNESCO”, and item **61** “Proposed establishment of the Regional Water Centre for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC) under the auspices of UNESCO, in La Serena, Chile”. The second unit comprised 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”, item **50** “Proposal for the establishment of the Artek International Youth and Children’s Centre under the auspices of UNESCO” and, strangely enough, this is the only centre for which no specific location was mentioned in the title; I assume that it was suggested by Ukraine, but I don’t know where it’s going to be established; finally, and item **60** “Proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage (Cusco, Republic of Peru), under the auspices of UNESCO”.

1.21 Mr Chairman, the debate on these items focused on the Organization’s capacity to manage the increasing number of centres and the need to establish an overall strategy with respect to category 2 centres, including the programmatic, budgetary and legal implications for the Organization when establishing them. In this context, the Commission stressed the need for coherence in the proposed draft decisions. The members also questioned the centres’ ability to mobilize partners in their fields of competence at the regional and international levels and their capacity to foster the sharing of knowledge through networking. Furthermore, the Commission underlined the need to identify clearly the connection between the centres’ programmatic activities and UNESCO’s main priorities and programmes, as well as the added-value of the anticipated cooperation. The Commission also stressed that a “sunset clause” should generally be included in the agreement with the host country. It further considered that periodic reviews of the cooperation between the Organization and the centres should be carried out, and that the feasibility studies

already undertaken be made available on UNESCO's website. The draft decisions on these items were transmitted to the PX Commission for consideration.

1.22 I will turn now to item **10** "Report by the Director-General on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development: international implementation scheme and UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Decade". After a short debate, the Commission decided to amend the draft decision in order to ensure that all activities related to the Decade would be financed within existing budgetary resources. The draft decision on this item was transmitted to the PX Commission for consideration.

1.23 The Commission then turned its attention to item **11** "Establishment of the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy funded by the People's Republic of China". The representative of China took the floor to thank the Secretariat for helping with the preparation of this proposal. She indicated that the prize would support both the United Nations Literacy Decade and the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) by focusing on education for women and girls in rural areas. Several members expressed their support for the prize and thanked China for its initiative, which would promote literacy and enhance UNESCO's visibility in this priority area. The draft decision on this item was transmitted to the PX Commission for consideration.

1.24 I will turn now to item **49** "Proposal for the establishment of the International Issyk-Kul Centre of the Dialogue among Cultures under the auspices of UNESCO". The Commission examined the Director-General's comments on the Issyk-Kul Centre, which are contained in document 172 EX/INF.11. The Commission requested the Director-General to prepare a feasibility study on the establishment of the centre, to be submitted to the Executive Board at its 174th session and subsequently to the General Conference at its 34th session. The draft decision on this item was transmitted to the PX Commission for consideration.

1.25 We have come now to item **56** "Establishment of the UNESCO King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain". The Minister of Education of Bahrain introduced the item and made a presentation on the purpose of the Prize, and the statutes and financial regulations governing its operation. The representatives of several Member States took the floor in order to thank and express their support to the Government of Bahrain for its initiative. The draft decision on this item was transmitted to the PX Commission for consideration.

1.26 I turn now to item **57** "Proclamation of 2009 as international year of astronomy". The Commission was informed that Italy, which proposed this item, would be making a financial contribution for the activities marking the proposed international year of astronomy in 2009. The decision was amended to take account of the commitment made by Italy and others. The draft decision recommended by our Commission on item **57** was transmitted to the PX Commission for its consideration.

1.27 I come now to the last item of my presentation, item **59** "Assessment of the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition and draft statutes of the International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route Project". The Commission welcomed the success of the activities organized during the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition, and expressed their support for the Slave Route Project, which increases the visibility of our Organization. Certain members nevertheless expressed reservations about the draft statutes of the International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route Project, in particular, with regard to the number and mandate of its members and the duration and evaluation of the Committee's work, in view of their possible financial implications. The Commission decided that the Committee should have a four-year mandate which could only be renewed by a decision of

the Executive Board, on the basis of an evaluation. The ensuing debate focused on the size of the Committee. While some members felt that the Scientific Committee should be composed of 20 members, others preferred that this number be reduced. Finally, the Commission decided that the Scientific Committee should be composed of no more than 20 members. The draft decision recommended by our Commission on item **59** was transmitted to the PX Commission for its consideration.

1.28 Mr Chairman, my lengthy presentation has now come to an end. At this point, I would be failing in my duty if I did not express my most sincere thanks to all of those who contributed to the Commission's successful achievements and debate. Particular thanks are due to the members of the Commission, their deputies, and especially the Group of Experts chaired by the distinguished representative of Japan, Mr Ryukei Hosoya, whose technical expertise was of the highest order. Thanks also to the Chairman of the Headquarters Committee, H.E. Mr Hector Villarroel, Ambassador of the Philippines to UNESCO. Thanks also to the representative of the Director-General, Mr Márcio Barbosa, and to all his colleagues, who were tortured by the questions and the debates of the members of the Commission. Thanks are also due to the interpreters and the translation section for their services which accompanied us in our debates. Thanks are also due to the room clerks, and last but not least, thanks are due to the secretariat of the Finance and Administrative Commission, particularly Ms Gossa, Mr Dragan, Mr Minchenberg, Ms Boulmer and Ms Michet, who diligently contributed to the work of the Commission.

1.29 Mr Chairman, dear Colleagues, thank you for your patience.

2. The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr Gharaibeh, Temporary Chairman of the Finance and Administrative Commission, for his thorough yet succinct report. He commended the excellent work accomplished by the Members of the Commission, their supporting staff and members of the Secretariat. After recalling Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure requiring the Board to adopt the entire set of draft decisions recommended by a plenary commission as a whole, unless a Member State requested that a specific decision be adopted separately, and noting that no Member had expressed the wish for a draft decision to be adopted separately, he proposed that if there were no objections, all the draft decisions contained in document 172 EX/62 be adopted.

3. It was so decided.

4. Mr CRADDOCK (United Kingdom) said that there had been a strong feeling within the Finance and Administrative Commission that further discussion regarding the UNESCO centres was necessary, and wondered whether the Commission's recommendation, as contained in the decision, sufficed to ensure inclusion in the Executive Board's next agenda of an item concerning the establishment of UNESCO centres all over the world. With regard to unpaid contributions, opining that the process had not been well handled at the beginning of the last session of the General Conference, he wondered how, when and in which body that matter should be addressed in order to ensure that it was handled in a sensible and efficient manner.

5. Mr RACHMAN (Indonesia) expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Chairman of the FA Commission. In regard to the payment of financial contributions, his delegation was of the view that there should be closure, and due consideration should be given to Member States that could not pay owing to national financial problems. Such situations could be addressed by improving the quality of all UNESCO programmes in those countries, since they were the ones that really needed assistance in the field of education. It would also be helpful if the FA Commission could provide an overall picture of the financial programme as it related to UNESCO's strategic plan as a whole.

6.1 Mr GHARAIBEH (Jordan) (Temporary Chairman of the Finance and Administrative Commission) said that there had been a lengthy debate on the financial contributions of Member States. He had sensed that States which paid their dues on time and in full felt that if so many countries were in arrears, then the Organization would need to borrow from outside sources, which would entail payment of interest. The countries that paid their dues would feel penalized by having to make such interest payments on account of other countries' failure to pay. No such views had been stated clearly, and the point had been made obliquely that there should be incentives or disincentives, such as charging such interest to defaulting countries in proportion to their arrears, or the suspension of voting rights or membership, to ensure that Member States paid their dues in full and on time.

6.2 It had also been felt that the number of category 2 centres had been mushrooming and might get out of hand. The Group of Experts had therefore called for the requisite feasibility studies to be conducted in the accounting, rather than intellectual, sense, showing costs and benefits. The Members of the Commission wished such Centres to deliver results in accordance with the purposes for which they had been established, rather than merely serve as decoration. Finally, he said that he was not in a position to provide an overview of the financial programme in relation to the Organization's strategic plan, as requested by the representative of Indonesia.

7.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL recalling the review of UNESCO institutes conducted earlier and endorsed by the Board at the spring session, stated that as there had been no clear-cut categorization of the large number of UNESCO institutes in the past, he had decided to establish two categories, namely category 1 institutes, which were part of the UNESCO structure, and category 2 institutes, which were placed and operated under the auspices of UNESCO, but which effectively remained under the control of their establishing bodies and merely received programmatic, but not institutional, support from UNESCO. They were to be distinguished from other institutes with which UNESCO merely cooperated. He had established clear guidelines for category 1 and 2 institutes, and had set up a working group chaired by the Deputy Director-General to review category 1 institutes in the Education Sector, and to seek ways and means of integrating them more fully into UNESCO's programme activities. Despite the efforts over the last six years, he was still not fully satisfied with their level of integration, and hoped to report on the matter to the Executive Board at the spring 2006 session and to secure the Board's approval on a number of points.

7.2 In regard to the concerns expressed regarding to the number of category 2 institutes, of which there were currently 15, mostly in the field of water resources, he said that following the proposals made at the spring and autumn 2005 sessions, the total number, after consideration and approval by the General Conference, would be no more than 23 or 24. Stressing the importance of compliance with the newly established guidelines, he assured the Board that he would ensure that the criteria were strictly observed. He considered that the number of institutes was not unmanageable; indeed, he would welcome more category 2 institutes in priority areas for UNESCO.

COMMISSION DU PROGRAMME ET DES RELATIONS EXTÉRIEURES (PX) : RAPPORT ORAL ET PROJETS DE DÉCISION RECOMMANDÉS AU CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF (172 EX/61 Parties I et II et Add.)

Point 3 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR L'EXÉCUTION DU PROGRAMME ADOPTÉ PAR LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE (172 EX/4, Partie I et Add., 172 EX/INF.5, 172 EX/INF.6, 172 EX/INF.9, 172 EX/INF.10, 172 EX/INF.12, 172 EX/INF.13 et 172 EX/INF.14)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 2 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point 4 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LE SUIVI DES DÉCISIONS ET RÉOLUTIONS ADOPTÉES PAR LE CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF ET LA CONFÉRENCE GÉNÉRALE À LEURS SESSIONS ANTÉRIEURES (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/5, 172 EX/INF.5, 172 EX/INF.6, 172 EX/INF.7, 172 EX/INF.13 et 172 EX/INF.14)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 3 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point 12 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DU PROGRAMME INTERNATIONAL RELATIF AUX SCIENCES FONDAMENTALES (PISF) ET LA STRATÉGIE D'ACTION PROPOSÉE POUR 2006-2007 (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/13)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 4 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point 13 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR L'ÉTUDE DE FAISABILITÉ CONCERNANT L'ÉTABLISSEMENT D'UN CENTRE INTERNATIONAL D'EXCELLENCE AU VENEZUELA SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'UNESCO (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/14)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 5 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point 14 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR L'ÉTUDE DE FAISABILITÉ CONCERNANT LA CRÉATION SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'UNESCO, À L'UNIVERSITÉ DE DUNDEE, ÉCOSSE (ROYAUME-UNI), D'UN CENTRE PHI-HELP SUR LA LÉGISLATION, LES POLITIQUES ET LES SCIENCES RELATIVES À L'EAU (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/15)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 6 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point 15 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR L'ÉTUDE DE FAISABILITÉ CONCERNANT L'OCTROI DU STATUT D'INSTITUT RÉGIONAL, PLACÉ SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'UNESCO, À L'INSTITUT DE MATHÉMATIQUES PURES ET APPLIQUÉES (IMPA) AU BRÉSIL (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/16)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 7 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point 16 PROPOSITION CONCERNANT LA CRÉATION, SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'UNESCO, DU CENTRE RÉGIONAL EUROPÉEN D'ÉCOHYDROLOGIE À LODZ (POLOGNE) (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/17)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 8 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point 17 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR L'OPPORTUNITÉ D'ÉLABORER UNE DÉCLARATION INTERNATIONALE SUR L'ÉTHIQUE SCIENTIFIQUE DEVANT SERVIR DE BASE À UN CODE DE CONDUITE ÉTHIQUE À L'INTENTION DES SCIENTIFIQUES (172 EX/18)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 9 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point 19 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LES PROGRÈS ACCOMPLIS AU COURS DE LA TROISIÈME SESSION DE LA RÉUNION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE D'EXPERTS CONCERNANT L'AVANT-PROJET DE

CONVENTION SUR LA PROTECTION DE LA DIVERSITÉ DES CONTENUS
CULTURELS ET DES EXPRESSIONS ARTISTIQUES (172 EX/20)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 10 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point **20** RAPPORT SUR LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DU PROGRAMME INFORMATION POUR TOUS (172 EX/21)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 11 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point **22** OBSERVATIONS DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LES RAPPORTS D'ÉVALUATION EXTERNE PRÉSENTÉS AU COURS DE L'EXERCICE BIENNAL 2004-2005 (172 EX/22)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 12 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point **39** RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LES PROGRÈS RÉALISÉS DANS LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DES RECOMMANDATIONS DE LA COMMISSAIRE AUX COMPTES SUR LES AUDITS DÉJÀ EFFECTUÉS (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/37 et Corr., en anglais, chinois et français seulement)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 13 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point **44** RECOURS PRÉSENTÉS PAR LES ÉTATS MEMBRES AU SUJET DE LEURS PROPOSITIONS RELATIVES À LA CÉLÉBRATION DES ANNIVERSAIRES AUXQUELS L'UNESCO POURRAIT ÊTRE ASSOCIÉE EN 2006-2007 (172 EX/41)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 14 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point **54** RAPPORT DU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'INSTITUT DE STATISTIQUE DE L'UNESCO (ISU) SUR LES ACTIVITÉS DE L'INSTITUT (172 EX/50)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 15 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point **55** PROJET D'ACCORD-CADRE CONCERNANT LE FORUM UNIVERSEL DES CULTURES - 2007, À MONTERREY (MEXIQUE) (172 EX/9)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 16 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point **57** PROCLAMATION DE 2009 ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ASTRONOMIE (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/51 et 172 EX/INF.11)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 17 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point **61** PROPOSITION CONCERNANT L'ÉTABLISSEMENT DU CENTRE RÉGIONAL DE L'EAU POUR LES ZONES ARIDES ET SEMI-ARIDES D'AMÉRIQUE LATINE ET DES CARAÏBES (CAZALAC) SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'UNESCO, À LA SERENA (CHILI) (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/54)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 18 du document 172 EX/61 Partie I

Point 5 RAPPORT DU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DE L'UNESCO POUR LE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITÉS EN AFRIQUE SUR LES ACTIVITÉS DE L'INSTITUT EN 2004-2005 (172 EX/6)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 2 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point 6 RAPPORT PRÉLIMINAIRE SUR L'OPPORTUNITÉ ET LA PORTÉE D'UNE CHARTE INTERNATIONALE DES JEUX ET SPORTS TRADITIONNELS (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/7)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 3 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point 7 PROPOSITION CONCERNANT LA CREATION, SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'UNESCO, DU CENTRE INTERNATIONAL POUR L'ÉDUCATION DES FILLES ET DES FEMMES EN AFRIQUE (CIEFFA), A OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO) (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/8)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 4 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point 9 DÉCENNIE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALPHABÉTISATION : RAPPORT INTERIMAIRE POUR 2004-2005 (172 EX/10)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 5 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point 10 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LA DÉCENNIE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU SERVICE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE : PLAN INTERNATIONAL DE MISE EN ŒUVRE ET CONTRIBUTION DE L'UNESCO A LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE LA DÉCENNIE (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/11 et 172 EX/INF.4)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 6 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point 11 CRÉATION DU PRIX CONFUCIUS UNESCO POUR L'ALPHABÉTISATION FINANCÉ PAR LA REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DE CHINE (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/12 et Corr.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 7 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point 21 EXAMEN DU PROJET DE PROGRAMME ET DE BUDGET POUR 2006-2007 (33 C/5) ET RECOMMANDATIONS DU CONSEIL EXECUTIF (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (33 C/5 Prov. Rev. et Add., 172 EX/INF.5, 172 EX/INF.6 et 172 EX/INF.14)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 8 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point 45 RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LA PROTECTION DU NOM ET DE L'EMBLÈME DE L'UNESCO DANS LES ÉTATS MEMBRES (172 EX/42)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 9 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point 49 PROPOSITION DE CRÉATION DU CENTRE INTERNATIONAL D'ISSYK-KUL POUR LE DIALOGUE ENTRE LES CULTURES SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'UNESCO (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/45 et 172 EX/INF.11)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 10 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point **50** PROPOSITION CONCERNANT L'ÉTABLISSEMENT DU CENTRE INTERNATIONAL ARTEK POUR L'ENFANCE ET LA JEUNESSE, SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'UNESCO (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/46 et 172 EX/INF.11)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 11 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point **52** RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL SUR LES INSTITUTIONS CULTURELLES ET ÉDUCATIVES EN IRAQ (172 EX/48)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 12 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point **53** RAPPORT D'ÉTAPE SUR LA CONTRIBUTION DE L'UNESCO A L'ACTION INTERNATIONALE CONTRE LE TERRORISME GRACE À L'ÉDUCATION, AUX SCIENCES, À LA CULTURE ET À LA COMMUNICATION ET L'INFORMATION (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/49)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 13 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point **56** CRÉATION DU PRIX UNESCO-ROI HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA POUR L'UTILISATION DES TECHNOLOGIES DE L'INFORMATION ET DE LA COMMUNICATION DANS L'ÉDUCATION, FINANCÉ PAR LE ROYAUME DE BAHREÏN (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/34 et 172 EX/INF.11)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 14 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point **59** BILAN DE L'ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE COMMÉMORATION DE LA LUTTE CONTRE L'ESCLAVAGE ET DE SON ABOLITION ET PROJET DE STATUTS DU COMITÉ SCIENTIFIQUE INTERNATIONAL DU PROJET « LA ROUTE DE L'ESCLAVE » (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/23)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 15 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point **60** PROPOSITION DE CRÉATION D'UN CENTRE REGIONAL POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DU PATRIMOINE CULTUREL IMMATÉRIEL SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'UNESCO, À CUSCO (REPUBLIQUE DU PEROU) (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (172 EX/53 et Add.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 16 du document 172 EX/61 Partie II

Point **18** JÉRUSALEM ET LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE LA RÉOLUTION 32 C/39 ET DE LA DÉCISION 171 EX/18 (172 EX/19)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 2 du document 172 EX/61 Add.

Point **51** APPLICATION DE LA RÉOLUTION 32 C/54 ET DE LA DÉCISION 171 EX/53 CONCERNANT LES INSTITUTIONS ÉDUCATIVES ET CULTURELLES DANS LES TERRITOIRES ARABES OCCUPÉS (172 EX/47)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 3 du document 172 EX/61 Add.

8.1 M. SOURANG (Sénégal) (Président de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un grand honneur pour moi de m'adresser pour la dernière fois à cette honorable assemblée afin de lui faire rapport sur les travaux de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures à cette 172^e session du Conseil exécutif.

8.2 À sa séance d'ouverture, la Commission a adopté son calendrier et élu Président temporaire le distingué Représentant de la Namibie, M. Ambrosius Agapitus, que je tiens à remercier pour m'avoir remplacé dans l'exercice de mes fonctions quand cela a été nécessaire.

8.3 Chers collègues, cette dernière session du Conseil exécutif pour l'exercice biennal en cours est traditionnellement considérée comme une session de préparation à la Conférence générale. Cela n'a pas empêché - croyez-moi - la Commission d'avoir des débats riches et approfondis, dont témoigne le nombre d'intervenants sur chaque point, que ce soit pour faire le bilan des activités menées par l'Organisation ou pour examiner des points peut-être plus « sensibles », ou en tout cas très significatifs pour notre Organisation et ses États membres. La Commission a donc examiné, au cours de neuf séances, 34 des 35 points à son ordre du jour, le point **62** ayant été retiré par l'État membre qui en avait demandé l'inscription.

8.4 Je vais m'efforcer de vous rendre compte de la teneur de nos débats en traitant en premier des points relatifs aux activités menées en 2004-2005, qui nous ont permis de faire, en quelque sorte, un bilan de l'exercice biennal en cours. J'aborderai ensuite les points « ouvrant sur l'avenir », en commençant par l'examen du projet de 33 C/5 révisé. J'espère que cette présentation ne vous empêchera pas de vous référer au fur et à mesure aux projets de décision pertinents figurant dans le rapport écrit de la Commission PX (documents 172 EX/61 Parties I et II et 172 EX/61 Add.).

8.5 Chers collègues, la Commission a en effet entamé ses travaux avec un aperçu de l'exercice biennal qui s'achève, en examinant les points **3** et **4** au sein d'une même unité de discussion et en prenant note avec appréciation des documents présentés. Dix-huit États membres ont pris la parole sur ces points et plusieurs d'entre eux se sont félicités de la qualité du rapport sur l'exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale. Ils ont apprécié la clarté accrue de la présentation des activités et de leurs résultats. Certains représentants ont toutefois jugé le rapport encore trop narratif et parfois trop centré sur des micro-projets ou des événements mineurs. Une analyse des succès et des échecs et une véritable estimation des résultats qualitatifs pourraient y être incluses, ainsi qu'une mise en parallèle de l'action de l'UNESCO, du rôle de celle-ci sur le plan mondial et des enjeux internationaux.

8.6 La nécessité de rendre compte des problèmes et des événements régionaux, en particulier dans les situations de postconflit, ainsi que de faire clairement ressortir l'implication de l'UNESCO dans les activités des groupes de pays des Nations Unies, a été aussi mentionnée. De plus, il a été suggéré que tous les bureaux hors Siège soient tenus de contribuer à cet exercice de façon à présenter au Conseil exécutif une vision globale de l'action de l'UNESCO.

8.7 Le représentant du Directeur général a tenu à souligner que l'établissement du rapport est un processus permanent qui est continuellement redéfini, s'agissant notamment des améliorations relatives à la formulation des résultats en ce qui concerne la recherche d'un équilibre entre les dimensions quantitatives et qualitatives. Il a ajouté qu'à l'avenir, chaque programme ferait l'objet d'une analyse stratégique de son exécution, accompagnée d'exemples de réussites et d'échecs et d'une auto-évaluation. Au sujet de l'importance de l'intersectorialité, le représentant du Directeur général a rappelé la nature transversale de certaines initiatives, déjà mentionnées dans le projet de

33 C/5 : le dialogue entre les cultures, l'éducation et les technologies de l'information et de la communication, l'éducation et les sciences et technologies, pour n'en citer que quelques-unes.

8.8 Concernant l'éducation, plusieurs États membres ont souhaité une collaboration accrue entre secteurs, notamment en ce qui concerne les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT). De plus, il a été proposé que l'EPT se réfère à l'éducation de qualité pour tous, y compris l'égalité d'accès. Des progrès ont été revendiqués pour les activités relatives à l'enseignement et à la formation techniques et professionnels, qui constitue un aspect important des efforts pour améliorer la qualité et la pertinence de l'éducation, surtout auprès des jeunes. L'importance du travail de l'UNESCO en faveur de l'éducation pour la paix, le dialogue et la compréhension interculturelle, notamment dans le cadre du Programme mondial d'éducation dans le domaine des droits de l'homme, a aussi été soulignée.

8.9 En ce qui concerne les sciences exactes et naturelles, l'UNESCO a été félicitée pour sa réponse à la catastrophe provoquée par le tsunami dans l'océan Indien. Les orateurs ont souhaité une meilleure visibilité de la relation entre l'UNESCO et la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale. Le représentant de ce Secteur a indiqué que si l'Organisation avait été en mesure de réagir efficacement, c'était grâce au soutien des États membres, et il a exprimé le souhait que celui-ci soit accru pour permettre la mise en place d'un système mondial d'alerte aux tsunamis.

8.10 Dans le domaine de la culture, on a insisté sur l'importance du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel pour la visibilité de l'UNESCO et sur l'avantage comparatif de cette dernière dans le domaine de l'action normative. L'accent a été également mis sur les arts et la créativité comme support de la diversité culturelle, de même que sur la relation entre celle-ci et les langues en danger. Mention a enfin été faite de la nécessité de développer les activités d'éducation pour la compréhension interculturelle.

8.11 Dans le domaine de la communication et de l'information, la force de l'UNESCO en tant que forum international, notamment dans le contexte du Sommet mondial de Genève sur la société de l'information, a été soulignée, en ce qui concerne en particulier la promotion du concept de « société du savoir ». Le programme Information pour tous, ainsi que la question du patrimoine numérique et des activités favorisant la liberté de la presse ont été évoqués.

8.12 Le point 20, sur la mise en œuvre du programme Information pour tous (IFAP), a suscité un intérêt considérable de la part des États membres, même si aucune décision n'était requise de la part de la Commission, qui s'est contentée de prendre note des documents présentés. Un grand nombre d'orateurs ont félicité le Conseil intergouvernemental du programme IFAP pour avoir guidé et assisté le Secrétariat dans ses domaines de compétence et ont salué l'importance accordée aux trois domaines prioritaires suivants : l'initiation à l'information par le renforcement des capacités, la préservation de l'information de tous types et la promotion d'une meilleure compréhension des incidences éthiques, juridiques et sociétales des TIC.

8.13 Reconnaisant le rôle de plus en plus important que l'UNESCO a joué dans le processus engagé avec la première phase du Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information à Genève, certains représentants ont demandé un suivi approfondi du Sommet. D'autres orateurs ont estimé qu'un accroissement des ressources au titre du Fonds spécial de l'IFAP permettrait de répondre à la demande accrue d'aides financières destinées aux projets opérationnels ayant un réel impact. Le représentant du Directeur général a expliqué que les projets sélectionnés répondaient aux trois priorités de l'IFAP et que les fonds étaient alloués en conséquence. Le programme devrait aussi assurer un équilibre entre l'utilisation de moyens traditionnels - tels que les bibliothèques et les fonds d'archives - et celle des technologies de pointe, de même qu'il devrait répondre aux besoins réels des pays en développement, en particulier des pays africains.

8.14 En réponse à la proposition tendant à réorienter le programme pour l'axer sur les infrastructures plutôt que sur les domaines prioritaires, le Secrétariat a indiqué qu'il ne serait pas en mesure d'assurer le financement requis et que cela relevait du mandat d'autres institutions du système des Nations Unies.

8.15 La Commission a examiné le rapport du Conseil d'administration de l'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO (ISU), au titre du point **54**. Le représentant du Directeur général a souligné l'excellent bilan de la Directrice sortante et les efforts accomplis par elle, ce dont sont convenus un grand nombre de représentants, qui ont tenu à la remercier et à la féliciter.

8.16 Au-delà des questions spécifiques et des remerciements adressés au pays hôte, ainsi qu'au Gouvernement du Japon pour sa contribution aux projets sur les statistiques relatives au Pacifique - que je me dois de vous rapporter, les 13 intervenants ont traité des sujets suivants : la satisfaction de voir l'Institut atteindre un certain degré de maturité après une période de croissance rapide ; le rôle stratégique de la statistique et de l'Institut dans la mise en œuvre des programmes de l'UNESCO et la nécessité concomitante de veiller à ce que l'ISU dispose de ressources humaines et financières adéquates ; l'importance du rôle du renforcement des capacités pour répondre aux besoins des États membres en matière de statistique ; et la nécessité cruciale de renforcer la coopération avec les secteurs du programme. À l'issue de l'examen de ce point, la Commission a donc approuvé le texte du projet de décision qui figure au paragraphe 15 de la partie I du rapport.

8.17 La Commission a pris note sans difficulté du document relatif au rapport d'activités du Conseil d'administration de l'Institut international de l'UNESCO pour le renforcement des capacités en Afrique, présenté au titre du point **5**. Les neuf orateurs qui ont pris la parole sur ce point ont souligné l'importance du mandat de l'Institut et ont déclaré que ce dernier devait être au centre de toutes les initiatives de l'UNESCO en Afrique. Rejoignant le représentant du Directeur général, plusieurs d'entre eux se sont félicités des activités nombreuses et de grande qualité que l'Institut avait menées avec des ressources limitées, et ont encouragé l'UNESCO à lui apporter un soutien accru à la fois humain et financier. Les orateurs ont noté aussi qu'il importait de pourvoir d'urgence le poste de directeur, vacant depuis plus d'un an. Le représentant du Directeur général a convenu de la nécessité de soutenir l'IIRCA et a rappelé que, malgré les contraintes financières de l'Organisation, le budget de l'IIRCA avait été augmenté pour l'exercice en cours et serait maintenu à ce niveau pour l'exercice suivant.

8.18 Mesdames, Messieurs, je ne puis conclure ce premier volet de ma présentation - consacré au « bilan » des activités - sans parler de l'évaluation. Lors du débat relatif aux observations du Directeur général sur les rapports d'évaluation externe présentés au cours de cet exercice biennal, les huit orateurs se sont dits satisfaits de l'évaluation des programmes et ont réaffirmé la nécessité de mener d'autres évaluations afin de contribuer à améliorer la gestion des programmes ainsi que la gouvernance de l'Organisation. Plusieurs membres se sont interrogés sur l'application effective des recommandations du Service d'évaluation et d'audit (IOS) et sur les progrès accomplis dans ce domaine. Le représentant du Directeur général a, pour sa part, réitéré l'engagement de l'IOS à faire rapport au Conseil exécutif, à sa 174^e session, sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations. Le projet de décision recommandé par la Commission au titre de ce point **22** figure au paragraphe 12 de la partie I du rapport.

8.19 En ce qui concerne le point **39**, sur les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations sur les audits déjà effectués, le représentant du Directeur général a rappelé que les observations concernant l'état de la mise en œuvre des recommandations avaient été incluses à la demande même du Conseil exécutif. Il a souligné que le Secrétariat tenait scrupuleusement compte des recommandations émises et avait fait de gros efforts pour les appliquer. Plusieurs membres de la Commission se sont félicités de la qualité du travail de la Commissaire aux comptes et de l'utilité

de ses recommandations, et ont exprimé le souhait que son successeur puisse continuer à apporter des contributions de haute qualité. Le représentant du Directeur général a expliqué que, même si le mandat de la Commissaire aux comptes expirait fin 2005, celle-ci présenterait encore des rapports au Conseil exécutif à ses deux prochaines sessions, au printemps et à l'automne. À l'issue du débat, la Commission a décidé de recommander à la plénière le projet de décision qui figure au paragraphe 13 de la partie I du rapport.

8.20 Mesdames, Messieurs, au cours de ses débats, la Commission PX revient souvent sur la question de la visibilité de l'Organisation. C'est en effet un aspect essentiel lorsque l'on fait état des activités menées et de la notoriété de l'action de l'UNESCO. Il est tout aussi important lorsque l'on parle de l'avenir et des modalités selon lesquelles cette visibilité doit être améliorée. Voilà qui m'amène à vous présenter l'essentiel de nos travaux sur le point **45**, concernant les directives sur l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et du nom de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO.

8.21 Dans sa présentation initiale, la représentante du Directeur général a souligné que la révision du projet de directives avait été menée avec le souci de tenir compte des deux grands impératifs mentionnés lors des consultations avec les États membres : mise en valeur du rôle important des États membres et des commissions nationales, et nécessité d'une plus grande souplesse dans l'application des directives au niveau national.

8.22 Au cours du débat, les États ont constaté une nette amélioration du projet de directives par rapport au texte présenté à la 171^e session du Conseil. Ils ont été nombreux à approuver les objectifs et la démarche qui avaient présidé à l'établissement des directives et à reconnaître l'urgence d'adopter un dispositif cohérent. Le sujet est assurément très complexe, le projet de directives touchant à des aspects politiques, juridiques et techniques.

8.23 À la lumière de ce débat, la Commission a décidé de charger un groupe informel, présidé par la Représentante de la Slovaquie, d'examiner les directives, puis de lui présenter un texte pouvant recueillir un consensus, qui serait soumis à la Conférence générale à sa session prochaine. Grâce aux travaux de ce groupe informel, que je remercie une fois de plus au nom de la Commission, celle-ci a pu approuver le projet de décision et les principes généraux dont le texte figure au paragraphe 9 de la partie II du rapport.

8.24 Comme indiqué dans le projet de décision qui vous est soumis, la Commission a approuvé les principes énoncés dans les parties I à III et V du projet de directives. Toutefois, en ce qui concerne la partie IV des directives, portant sur le rôle des États membres et de leurs commissions nationales, elle a conclu que des consultations approfondies étaient encore nécessaires, y compris pour déterminer les mesures de mise en œuvre des directives et prendre en compte les capacités réelles des commissions nationales en la matière. La préparation d'un guide pratique serait d'ailleurs la bienvenue.

8.25 J'en viens maintenant au deuxième volet de ma présentation, qui traite plus particulièrement de points ouvrant une perspective sur l'avenir de l'Organisation, en commençant par le Projet de 33 C/5 révisé. Le projet de décision relatif à ce point figure au paragraphe 8 de la partie II du rapport.

8.26 Les documents portant sur le point **21** ont été établis conformément aux décisions du Conseil exécutif à sa dernière session, comme le représentant du Directeur général nous l'a rappelé dans sa présentation initiale. Il nous a également fait observer que le 33 C/6 adopté resterait pertinent et que les recommandations qui y figuraient seraient mises en œuvre et incorporées dans le 33 C/5 approuvé par la Conférence générale. Les dix-huit États membres qui ont pris part au débat ont salué unanimement la qualité du texte proposé.

8.27 En ce qui concerne l'éducation, les participants ont exprimé leur soutien pour la priorité accordée à l'Éducation pour tous dans le 33 C/5 révisé, et se sont déclarés satisfaits du maintien des grandes priorités de l'éducation, malgré de fortes contraintes budgétaires. Les investissements dans l'éducation devraient s'accompagner des ajustements nécessaires et d'une restructuration, ainsi que d'une gestion adéquate axée sur les résultats. Plusieurs orateurs ont aussi souligné l'action de plus en plus importante de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de l'enseignement secondaire, de l'enseignement technique et de la formation des enseignants comme constituant une assise solide pour une éducation de qualité.

8.28 Le représentant du Directeur général a fait remarquer que, si les résultats du Sommet mondial de 2005 confirmaient le rôle de coordination de l'UNESCO, ils encourageaient aussi la poursuite des objectifs de l'EPT, aussi bien par le Secrétariat et par les États membres que par d'autres institutions et forums. Concernant la diminution du budget alloué aux activités de la région arabe dans ce domaine, il a été signalé que les instituts d'éducation seraient invités à leur accorder une plus grande attention.

8.29 S'agissant des sciences exactes et naturelles, des études sur l'atténuation des conséquences des catastrophes technologiques devraient être incluses dans les activités du Programme international relatif aux sciences fondamentales, notamment lors de l'élaboration d'une stratégie d'action et de sélection des projets prioritaires pour 2006-2007.

8.30 Il a été demandé de confirmer que le programme relatif à la culture s'étendrait aux défis culturels du monde contemporain comme indiqué dans le 33 C/6. L'attention a aussi été appelée sur les contenus culturels et les expressions artistiques comme représentant un défi à relever et un moteur pour l'action de l'Organisation. D'autres questions ont été soulevées, parmi lesquelles le besoin de renforcer le budget du Programme de participation. En ce qui concerne la violence des jeunes, évoquée par certains intervenants, le Directeur général a établi un groupe de travail sur les bandes de jeunes violents en Amérique centrale afin de proposer des programmes appropriés qui seront mis en œuvre par le Bureau de San José. Plusieurs orateurs ont enfin jugé nécessaire que l'UNESCO prenne des mesures appropriées contre le terrorisme, en mettant par exemple en place un sous-programme intersectoriel axé, notamment, sur la transmission des valeurs humaines.

8.31 Cela nous a amené au débat qui a suivi au titre du point 53 sur la contribution de l'UNESCO à l'action internationale contre le terrorisme. Le représentant du Directeur général a rappelé à ce sujet que les efforts de l'Organisation en la matière sont complémentaires des actions en faveur du dialogue entre les civilisations, les cultures et les peuples.

8.32 Monsieur le Directeur général, la Commission a souhaité votre présence lors de son débat sur ce point - afin de vous féliciter personnellement de la qualité du document présenté et de l'action menée par l'UNESCO. En rejetant unanimement le terrorisme sous toutes ses formes, les vingt-trois orateurs ont confirmé que l'UNESCO avait une contribution particulière à apporter dans ses différents domaines de compétence, notamment en matière d'éducation et en direction de la jeunesse - principal groupe cible des efforts de dissuasion et de prévention. Le thème choisi pour le Forum des jeunes pendant la 33^e session de la Conférence générale - « les jeunes et le dialogue entre les civilisations, les cultures et les peuples » - est donc apparu des plus pertinents.

8.33 La pauvreté et l'adversité sociale ont, certes, un impact, mais il faut montrer une certaine prudence lorsque l'on évoque les causes du terrorisme, ces explications s'avérant souvent peu concluantes et ne devant en aucun cas être utilisées comme des excuses. En la matière, l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO est un excellent guide, puisqu'il prône la lutte contre l'ignorance. Les commissions nationales ont elles aussi un rôle important à jouer dans la lutte contre le terrorisme comme elles l'ont fait par exemple dans la région Asie-Pacifique avec la tenue de conférences et la

planification de plusieurs activités de suivi. En mettant l'accent sur l'impact considérable que les médias pouvaient avoir sur les perceptions au sein de la société, plusieurs orateurs ont demandé qu'une attention particulière leur soit accordée : cet aspect a été inclus dans le projet de décision que la Commission propose à la plénière et qui figure au paragraphe 13 de la partie II du rapport.

8.34 Mesdames, Messieurs, comme elle l'avait fait lors des sessions précédentes, la Commission a accordé une attention particulière aux points relevant du programme relatif à l'éducation, qui nous ont été présentés cette fois-ci par le nouveau Sous-Directeur général responsable de ce Secteur.

8.35 Au titre du point 9, concernant la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation, plusieurs orateurs ont demandé une articulation plus claire entre la coordination de la Décennie et les moyens mis en œuvre pour réaliser les objectifs de l'EPT. Nombreux ont été ceux qui auraient souhaité que le rapport de la Décennie soit centré davantage sur les résultats, au lieu de présenter une série de réunions n'ayant pas toujours mené à des actions concrètes ou produit un impact réel. À cet égard, toutes les activités devraient être orientées vers un objectif commun, être évaluées pas à pas et comporter un suivi. Sur cette question, le représentant du Directeur général a précisé qu'il s'agissait d'un défi à relever dans le cadre de la réforme du Secteur de l'éducation pour que les pays soient à même de fournir des possibilités concrètes d'apprentissage. Le Secteur a reconnu les efforts qu'il devrait faire pour utiliser au mieux ses ressources humaines et financières existantes, ce qui optimiserait ses chances d'obtenir des ressources extrabudgétaires.

8.36 L'expérience de longue date de l'UNESCO en matière de promotion de l'alphabétisation devrait l'aider à jouer son rôle de chef de file dans la Décennie et la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire. Quelques orateurs ont souligné la relation stratégique de l'Initiative LIFE et des activités de formation des enseignants avec la Décennie. Le projet de décision relatif à ce point figure au paragraphe 5 de la partie II du rapport.

8.37 Mesdames, Messieurs, dix-huit États sont intervenus au titre du point 10 « Plan international de mise en œuvre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable ». Cette Décennie compte certainement parmi les défis de demain et l'UNESCO doit continuer à la « modeler », pour ainsi dire, en jouant pleinement son rôle. La Commission a noté la qualité des documents soumis, ainsi que les progrès accomplis par le Secrétariat.

8.38 Diverses mesures visant à faciliter et améliorer les actions liées à la Décennie ont été proposées : mettre l'accent sur les dimensions culturelles, sociales et spirituelles du développement durable et renforcer la coopération entre les secteurs ; associer davantage le secteur privé, car la Décennie présente un réel potentiel en matière de mobilisation de ressources extrabudgétaires supplémentaires ; inclure dans le Plan de mise en œuvre les objectifs, les résultats escomptés, le calendrier et les indicateurs de performance.

8.39 Plusieurs orateurs ont exprimé leur satisfaction concernant le Plan international de mise en œuvre, et ont souhaité qu'il soit adopté par les États membres et largement diffusé. Il a été par ailleurs souhaité que le document expose clairement la vision globale proposée par la Décennie. Certains États ont fait part de leur expérience en matière de lancement de la Décennie et d'établissement de mécanismes nationaux de mise en œuvre. Le rôle des commissions nationales étant essentiel dans ce contexte, le projet de décision, figurant au paragraphe 6 de la partie II du rapport, en fait état.

8.40 Chers collègues, c'est un véritable esprit de coopération et de compromis et la volonté de parvenir à un consensus qui nous ont permis de mener à bien l'examen du point 6 et de présenter, à

l'issue de nos travaux, le projet de décision qui figure au paragraphe 3 de la partie II du rapport, relatif à l'opportunité et à la portée d'une charte internationale des jeux et sports traditionnels. Ce point a donné lieu à des débats nourris et très divisés, les uns saluant et appuyant cette initiative, d'autres manifestant leur crainte d'une prolifération des instruments normatifs, et d'autres encore exprimant des réserves devant ce qui leur apparaissait comme une dispersion en termes de priorités programmatiques et de ressources financières. La Commission a pris note avec intérêt des travaux de la Conférence internationale des ministres et hauts fonctionnaires responsables de l'éducation physique et du sport (MINEPS III) et du Comité intergouvernemental pour l'éducation physique et le sport (CIGEPS) et plusieurs États membres ont fait part d'expériences menées avec succès en matière de programmes d'enseignement et de promotion des jeux et sports traditionnels. Tout en reconnaissant l'importance d'une telle promotion, la Commission a néanmoins jugé approprié de laisser à la Conférence générale le soin de se prononcer sur l'opportunité et la portée d'une charte internationale en la matière, sur la base d'un rapport détaillé du Directeur général.

8.41 Toujours dans le domaine de l'éducation, les points **11** et **56** ont été examinés conjointement après avoir fait l'objet de présentations par le Ministre de l'éducation de Bahreïn, le Représentant de la Chine et le représentant du Directeur général. Les projets de décision que la Commission recommande à la plénière d'adopter figurent au paragraphe 7 de la partie II du rapport, pour le Prix UNESCO Confucius pour l'alphabétisation, et au paragraphe 14 de cette même partie pour le Prix UNESCO-Roi Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa pour l'utilisation des technologies de l'information et de la communication dans l'éducation.

8.42 Comme mes collègues de la Commission l'ont souligné, notre débat a marié l'ancien et le moderne : d'une part, la philosophie de Confucius, ses valeurs et son approche égalitaire de l'éducation, qui correspondent aux objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous ; de l'autre, l'utilisation créative des technologies de l'information et de la communication. Les dix-neuf orateurs ont souligné l'importance de ces prix et ont remercié les deux gouvernements pour leurs excellentes initiatives et leurs offres généreuses. Le représentant du Directeur général a, pour sa part, précisé que, si pour des raisons budgétaires, les délibérations du jury se feraient en anglais, une assistance serait néanmoins fournie aux membres francophones.

8.43 Mesdames, Messieurs, je poursuivrai mon rapport en abordant deux points qui relèvent des sciences exactes et naturelles et en premier lieu le point **12**. Les quatorze orateurs ont exprimé leur appui au Programme international relatif aux sciences fondamentales (PISF) et fait part de leur satisfaction devant son lancement effectif, en souhaitant que ce programme, présenté comme un projet phare de l'Organisation dans le 33 C/5, prenne de l'ampleur à l'avenir et redonne tout son sens au « S » qui figure dans le sigle de l'UNESCO.

8.44 La plupart des intervenants ont approuvé les éléments de la stratégie d'action et de financement du PISF proposée par le Directeur général. Ils ont mis l'accent sur le rôle du PISF dans le renforcement des capacités scientifiques nationales et dans le resserrement de la coopération régionale et internationale Nord/Sud mais aussi Sud/Sud. Tous ont souligné le rôle moteur du PISF pour les pays en transition et les pays en développement, priorité étant donnée à l'Afrique, notamment en ce qui concerne la formation des enseignants de disciplines scientifiques.

8.45 La spécificité du PISF pourrait être mieux définie et la stratégie devrait déboucher sur la mise en place effective de centres d'excellence. Une plus grande synergie pourrait être établie entre le PISF et les autres programmes scientifiques de l'UNESCO. Le succès du PISF dépendra de la participation des États membres aux projets menés dans ce cadre, ainsi que de son financement - par le budget ordinaire, mais aussi par des ressources extrabudgétaires, provenant notamment du secteur privé. Le projet de décision que la Commission propose au Conseil exécutif d'adopter figure au paragraphe 4 de la partie I du rapport.

(The speaker continued in English)

8.46 Ladies and gentlemen, the representative of Italy introduced item **57** “Proclamation of 2009 as international year of astronomy”. The year is symbolic as it marks 400 years since the first use of the telescope for astronomical observation by Galileo Galilei. Fourteen speakers thanked and congratulated Italy on this initiative and expressed support for the proposal, which already has the backing of the Secretariat. The international year of astronomy would certainly be a timely occasion to popularize science and attract young people in this field. It will also give new momentum to the community of astronomers. All sectors of UNESCO should be mobilized for the celebration of the year, as astronomy is a perfect way to demonstrate links between the sciences, both natural and social, education, culture and traditional knowledge. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the United Nations Committee for the Peaceful Use of Outer Space should also significantly contribute, in substance, as well as by participating in a joint steering committee.

(L’orateur poursuit en français)

8.47 C’est donc tout naturellement que la Commission, après avoir examiné la recommandation de la Commission FA, a approuvé le projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 17 de la partie I du rapport.

8.48 J’en viens maintenant au point **17**, relatif à l’opportunité d’élaborer une déclaration internationale sur l’éthique scientifique, au sujet duquel vingt-quatre membres de la Commission ont pris la parole. Dans leur grande majorité, les membres ont reconnu le besoin d’harmoniser le cadre éthique international concernant la responsabilité des scientifiques vis-à-vis de la société et face aux avancées de la science. Ils ont exprimé leur soutien à la proposition de mener une étude de faisabilité sur l’élaboration d’une déclaration internationale sur ce sujet, dans le droit fil des déclarations déjà élaborées dans le domaine de la bioéthique. Des commentaires spécifiques ont été formulés au sujet de l’éventuelle future déclaration : celle-ci devrait être de portée générale, affirmer les principes fondamentaux en matière d’éthique des sciences, englober aussi les sciences sociales, comporter des dispositions sur l’accès et le transfert des connaissances et des technologies, et enfin s’adresser aussi aux enseignants et aux étudiants en sciences.

8.49 Mesdames et Messieurs, si, au titre de ce point, la Commission vous propose aujourd’hui le projet de décision qui figure au paragraphe 9 de la partie I du rapport, je dois néanmoins signaler que quelques orateurs ont aussi, au cours du débat, exprimé des réserves : certains estimant qu’il était prématuré de discuter de la nature de l’instrument qui serait le plus approprié, d’autres se demandant s’il était pertinent pour l’Organisation de se lancer de nouveau dans un exercice normatif au moment où ses efforts devraient se concentrer sur la mise en œuvre des instruments déjà adoptés. Les États-Unis d’Amérique ont, pour leur part, fait formellement objection à son adoption. Convaincus que l’élaboration d’instruments normatifs représente un coût élevé pour l’Organisation, les États-Unis ont estimé que la nécessité de la déclaration sur l’éthique pour les sciences proposée n’était pas démontrée et que sa portée allait au-delà des compétences de l’Organisation, laquelle devrait concentrer plutôt ses efforts sur des programmes comme l’EPT, l’alphabétisation, le renforcement des capacités, l’eau.

8.50 En conclusion, le représentant du Directeur général a assuré la Commission que tous les points de vue, sur le fond et la forme, exprimés au cours du débat sur la portée et le contenu de l’étude de faisabilité seraient pris en compte et portés à la connaissance de la COMEST. Il a, par ailleurs, rejoint ceux des orateurs qui avaient mis l’accent sur la nécessité de procéder avec beaucoup de précaution et avec transparence de façon à permettre une consultation la plus large possible, en associant tous les acteurs concernés et en veillant à la prise en compte des points de vue issus de traditions culturelles différentes, et d’éviter tout double emploi.

8.51 Chers collègues, j'en viens maintenant aux points relevant du domaine de la culture. De nombreux membres de la Commission - vingt-quatre pour être précis - se sont prononcés sur le point **19** en manifestant un attachement unanime à la diversité culturelle et à sa promotion par des moyens appropriés. Cependant, l'examen de ce point et le débat autour des progrès concernant l'avant-projet de Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles ont, pour la première fois au cours de cet exercice, confronté la Commission au besoin de procéder à un vote pour adopter un projet de décision.

8.52 Le représentant du Directeur général a d'abord retracé l'historique du processus. Puis, la grande majorité des orateurs - certains s'exprimant au nom de groupes régionaux - ont salué le travail très dense des experts et les progrès décisifs accomplis par eux, avec l'aide du Secrétariat depuis l'adoption en 2001 de la Déclaration universelle de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle et du plan d'action pour sa mise en œuvre. Ces intervenants ont souligné que l'avant-projet, respectueux des droits de l'homme et de la liberté d'expression, visait à travers ce nouvel instrument normatif à inscrire la culture dans le concert des autres traités internationaux ; ils ont jugé ce texte, fruit d'une longue concertation et d'un compromis délicat, équilibré et raisonnable. Tous ont souhaité que l'avant-projet soit adopté par la Conférence générale à sa 33^e session.

8.53 Tout en soutenant l'avant-projet de convention, certains États membres ont néanmoins exprimé une position plus nuancée, estimant que, malgré les progrès accomplis, des améliorations pouvaient encore être apportées au texte et souhaitant que le laps de temps entre la présente session du Conseil exécutif et la Conférence générale soit mis à profit pour épuiser toutes les possibilités de négociation en vue de parfaire le texte. Enfin, un État membre - les États-Unis d'Amérique - a exprimé un réel désaccord face au texte (trop hâtivement préparé à son sens) et a demandé, en vertu de l'article 53 du Règlement intérieur du Conseil exécutif, un « vote par appel nominal » sur le projet de décision qui était présenté par de nombreux États au titre de ce point, et notamment sur la proposition d'ajouter un nouveau paragraphe tendant à considérer l'avant-projet de convention comme un projet de convention pouvant être soumis pour adoption à la Conférence générale à sa 33^e session.

8.54 En conséquence, la Commission a adopté par consensus les cinq premiers paragraphes du projet de décision qui figure au paragraphe 10 de la partie I du rapport et a procédé à un vote par appel nominal pour l'approbation du nouveau paragraphe 6 et à un deuxième vote par appel nominal pour l'ensemble du projet de décision. Les États membres ont été appelés dans l'ordre alphabétique de leur nom et le vote de chaque membre prenant part au scrutin a été consigné au procès-verbal de la séance. À l'issue du scrutin, au cours duquel cinquante-trois États membres ont voté pour et un État membre (les États-Unis) contre, un autre État membre s'étant abstenu, la Commission a approuvé le texte du projet de décision que vous avez devant vous.

8.55 Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, vingt-deux États membres sont intervenus sur le point **59**, pour féliciter l'UNESCO des activités réalisées à l'occasion de la proclamation de 2004 Année internationale de commémoration de la lutte contre l'esclavage et de son abolition. Ils ont considéré que cette commémoration était une excellente plate-forme qui avait contribué non seulement à mobiliser l'attention autour de la tragédie de l'esclavage mais aussi à accroître la visibilité de l'UNESCO, garante du sérieux avec lequel le devoir de mémoire avait été honoré. Plusieurs orateurs ont rappelé les actions entreprises par leur gouvernement pour « briser le silence » qui entoure cette tragédie, tandis que d'autres ont remercié l'UNESCO d'avoir organisé des manifestations importantes dans le cadre de cette Année.

8.56 D'autres États ont rappelé la dimension universelle et le caractère intersectoriel de la question de l'esclavage et ont souhaité que le projet soit étendu à d'autres régions, et porte aussi sur les problématiques de l'esclavage moderne. Ils ont souligné le manque de matériels pédagogiques

adéquats, qui permettraient à tous les enseignants et aux professionnels des médias d'aborder la question de la traite négrière et de l'esclavage de manière à créer les conditions d'un véritable dialogue et d'une compréhension mutuelle entre les cultures. La plupart des intervenants ont salué la proposition de restructurer le Comité scientifique international pour le rendre plus opérationnel. Après avoir considéré les préoccupations exprimées par certains concernant le nombre des membres du Comité, la Commission a approuvé le projet de statuts du Comité scientifique tel qu'il lui était transmis par la Commission FA. Enfin, la question de l'avenir du projet *La route de l'esclave* a été soulevée ainsi que celle des nouvelles orientations à lui donner, à la lumière des conclusions de l'évaluation externe et de ses acquis. Le projet de décision est présenté au paragraphe 15 de la partie II du rapport.

8.57 Lors de l'examen du projet d'accord-cadre concernant le Forum universel des cultures 2007, à Monterrey (Mexique), la représentante du Directeur général a rappelé que cette manifestation s'inscrivait dans la continuité du Forum universel des cultures - Barcelone 2004, qui avait pour thèmes la diversité culturelle, le développement durable et les conditions pour la paix, auxquels celui de Monterrey propose d'ajouter « le savoir ». Les douze pays intervenus dans ce débat ont unanimement salué ce projet et remercié les autorités du Mexique. De l'avis de tous, le Forum de Monterrey, qui se tiendra du 19 septembre au 19 décembre 2007, sera une occasion d'approfondir le dialogue entre les cultures et les civilisations, tout en offrant à l'UNESCO une importante tribune publique. L'accord-cadre sur lequel s'est prononcée la Commission était basé sur celui que l'UNESCO avait conclu en son temps avec le Consortium de Barcelone 2004, étant entendu que l'Organisation apporterait un concours de caractère intellectuel et technique, sans incidence budgétaire. À l'issue du débat, la Commission a décidé de recommander le projet de décision relatif au point **55**, figurant au paragraphe 16 de la partie I du rapport.

8.58 Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, comme elle l'avait fait à la dernière session du Conseil, la Commission a identifié, dès le début de ses travaux, les points ne nécessitant pas de débat. Elle a estimé pouvoir examiner ainsi toutes les études de faisabilité en vue de l'établissement de centres de catégorie 2 sous l'égide de l'UNESCO, dans tous les domaines de compétence de l'Organisation, qui étaient présentées au titre des points **7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 50, 60 et 61**. La Commission a néanmoins tenu à féliciter les pays concernés pour ces initiatives. Elle a souligné l'importance de la contribution que les centres de catégorie 2 pouvaient apporter à la mise en œuvre du programme, mais elle a aussi rappelé la nécessité de définir une stratégie globale et cohérente en la matière, comme il était prévu que la Conférence générale le fasse à sa prochaine session, afin d'éviter une dispersion des efforts et des ressources. Les projets de décision proposés, concernant les cinq centres ayant des activités dans le domaine des sciences exactes et naturelles au Brésil, au Chili, en Pologne, au Venezuela et au Royaume-Uni, figurent respectivement aux paragraphes 7, 18, 16, 5 et 6 de la partie I du rapport. Ceux qui concernent le Centre pour l'éducation au Burkina Faso, le Centre en Ukraine pour l'enfance et la jeunesse et le Centre au Pérou pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel figurent respectivement aux paragraphes 4, 11 et 16 de la partie II du rapport. S'agissant du Centre du Pérou, le Secrétariat a appelé mon attention sur une correction à apporter au projet de décision relatif au point **60**, dans lequel, au paragraphe 5, il convient de lire « à signer l'Accord figurant en annexe au document 172 EX/53 et modifié par le document 172 EX/53 Add. ».

8.59 C'est aussi sans débat que la Commission a examiné les recours relatifs à la célébration des anniversaires auxquels l'UNESCO pourrait être associée en 2006-2007 et a approuvé le texte du projet de décision relatif au point **44** qui figure au paragraphe 14 de la partie I du rapport.

8.60 En ce qui concerne le point **49** et la proposition du Gouvernement du Kirghizistan de créer un centre d'Issyk-Kul pour le dialogue entre les cultures, le représentant du Directeur général a transmis à la Commission le souhait du Gouvernement kirghize de voir le centre placé sous l'égide

de l'UNESCO dès le printemps 2006. Les neuf intervenants ont été unanimes à reconnaître la pertinence de ce centre pour l'UNESCO. Bien que plusieurs d'entre eux aient souhaité qu'il soit placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO le plus rapidement possible, étant donné la contribution qu'il pourrait apporter aux programmes et priorités de l'Organisation, la Commission a néanmoins décidé de suivre la procédure recommandée par la Commission FA et mentionnée dans le projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 10 de la partie II du rapport.

8.61 Mesdames et Messieurs, j'en viens maintenant à nos derniers débats. Dans sa présentation du point **52**, la représentante du Directeur général a fait le point sur les développements les plus récents relatifs à l'assistance de l'UNESCO à l'Iraq - notamment le lancement de trois nouveaux projets dans le domaine de l'éducation - tout en soulignant les obstacles rencontrés par l'Organisation. Les huit intervenants ont unanimement remercié l'UNESCO pour les efforts déployés en faveur de la reconstruction en Iraq. Ils ont, d'une manière générale, salué l'expertise croissante de l'Organisation dans les situations de postconflit et l'efficacité de son intervention sur le terrain, malgré la détérioration actuelle de la sécurité dans le pays, dans les domaines de l'éducation et de la culture, mais aussi des sciences, où elle s'occupe notamment de la gestion pacifique des ressources en eau, et enfin dans le domaine de la communication, où elle s'attache à promouvoir la liberté d'expression et la protection des journalistes iraqiens. De plus, certains intervenants ont félicité le Directeur général d'avoir su mobiliser d'importantes ressources extrabudgétaires à cet effet.

8.62 Plusieurs orateurs ont souligné la nécessité de donner un écho majeur à l'action de l'UNESCO auprès de l'opinion publique, notamment à travers les médias, afin d'accroître la visibilité de l'Organisation et aussi de donner une image positive et constructive du processus de transition en cours en Iraq. Sur la question de la coordination, la représentante du Directeur général a considéré, qu'à bien des égards, les opérations des Nations Unies constituaient un modèle de coopération interinstitutions assez abouti, où les compétences propres de chaque agence étaient mises en valeur et respectées, et où l'interaction avec les autorités était, compte tenu des circonstances, relativement bien établie. L'Ambassadeur de l'Iraq auprès de l'UNESCO a pris la parole à l'issue des débats et a appelé l'UNESCO à s'engager plus activement en faveur de l'éducation à la paix et à la tolérance, en assistant les autorités iraqiennes dans les réformes éducatives touchant les programmes d'études, la révision des manuels scolaires, ainsi que la formation des enseignants et des professeurs. C'est au paragraphe 12 de la partie II du rapport que figure le projet de décision proposé.

8.63 Mesdames, Messieurs, comme vous le savez, c'est avec un sentiment « d'inaccompli » que les membres de la Commission se sont quittés mardi soir, puisque la Commission n'avait pas été encore en mesure d'examiner le résultat des négociations, encore en cours à ce moment-là, sur les points **51** et **18**, concernant respectivement les institutions éducatives et culturelles dans les territoires arabes occupés, et Jérusalem et la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel de la Vieille Ville. C'est donc pour moi un réel plaisir d'être en mesure de vous annoncer aujourd'hui qu'un consensus a pu, encore une fois, être trouvé, conformément à la tradition qui a toujours caractérisé les travaux de notre Commission, et que j'ai eu l'honneur, hier, de présenter en mon nom à la Commission deux projets de décision qui étaient le fruit des échanges et des négociations menés ces derniers jours. Ces textes de consensus ont permis à la Commission de s'accorder sans débat sur les deux projets de décision qui figurent dans l'Addendum au rapport.

8.64 Je souhaite réitérer publiquement devant la plénière les remerciements que j'ai adressés hier à tous les représentants qui ont contribué à ce résultat, en particulier aux médiateurs, Mme Louise Oliver, ambassadeur des États-Unis d'Amérique, M. Harald Wiesner, ambassadeur de l'Autriche, et M. Timothy Craddock, ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni, qui assure la présidence de l'Union européenne, pour la manière dont ils ont facilité les travaux de la Commission.

8.65 Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, j'arrive ainsi au terme de mon mandat en tant que Président de la Commission PX et je m'adresse à vous pour la dernière fois à ce titre. Je souhaite exprimer mes plus sincères remerciements aux membres de la Commission pour leur soutien, leur compréhension, leur indulgence et l'amitié qu'ils ont bien voulu me témoigner tout au long des travaux de la Commission. Je sais que c'est grâce à leur esprit de dialogue, de tolérance et de coopération que la Commission a su relever les défis et mener à bien sa tâche. J'espère être toujours parvenu à rendre dûment compte de la richesse de leurs interventions durant mon mandat. Permettez-moi également de remercier le Directeur général et ses représentants à la Commission, pour leur disponibilité et leurs précieuses contributions à nos débats. Je voudrais remercier sincèrement M. Wrede, président du Conseil, pour le travail remarquable qu'il a accompli en marge de nos travaux et qui nous a permis d'avancer. Je tiens également à remercier le secrétariat du Conseil exécutif, tout particulièrement les membres du secrétariat de la Commission : la Secrétaire, Mme Sabina Colombo, ainsi que l'ensemble de ses collaborateurs, qui travaillent dans les coulisses et souvent jusqu'à des heures tardives. Je n'oublie pas bien entendu les interprètes ainsi que les commis de salle sans la collaboration desquels il nous aurait été impossible de mener à bien nos travaux.

9. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Executive Board, thanked the Chairman and members of the Programme and External Relations Commission, their supporting staff and members of the Secretariat for the excellent work that they had accomplished. After recalling Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure requiring the Board to adopt the entire set of draft decisions recommended by a plenary commission as a whole, unless a Member State requested that a specific decision be adopted separately, he requested representatives who so wished to state which decisions should be examined separately.

10. Ms OLIVER (United States of America) requested that the draft decision on item **19** be examined separately.

11. Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia) requested that the draft decision on item **45** be addressed separately.

12. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no other Member State wished to have any other draft decision discussed separately, proposed that the Board, in conformity with Rule 47, adopt the remaining draft decisions in document 172 EX/61 Parts I and II and 172 EX/61 Add.

13. It was so decided.

14. Ms OLIVER (United States of America) said that, at the end of the discussion on the two draft decisions that were to be discussed separately, she wished to speak on one decision that had just been adopted.

Item 19 REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED DURING THE THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL CONTENTS AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS (172 EX/20)

Draft decision in paragraph 10 of document 172 EX/61 Part I

15. Ms OLIVER (United States of America) said that the United States of America continued to seek a genuine opportunity for further negotiations on the preliminary draft convention, with a view to securing a consensus document. Consensus being the strength of the Organization, she had

worked hard with the representatives of the European Union to secure a consensus on the Executive Board documents on Jerusalem and on educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories, since consensus on those two decisions would enable UNESCO to continue its very valuable educational and cultural work in that very important part of the world. The same was true of the preliminary draft convention on cultural diversity, which could only achieve its important goals if it were a consensus document, which was currently not the case. She therefore urged that there be further negotiations on the subject because the United States of America believed that the draft instrument, as currently formulated, remained incomplete and unripe for action by the General Conference. It was inappropriate for the Executive Board to adopt a draft decision that sought to prejudge the General Conference's decision as to the readiness of the preliminary draft convention for formal adoption as a UNESCO convention. She therefore requested that the revised draft decision under item 19 be given further consideration, and accordingly moved that action be taken in respect of the revised draft decision pursuant to Rule 38, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, under which States may move that no decision be taken on an item.

16. The CHAIRMAN proposed to open the floor for comments on the proposal made by the representative of the United States of America and, pursuant to Rule 38, paragraph 2, to hold a vote after the debate.

17. Mr CRADDOCK (United Kingdom) proposed that the Board move quickly to a vote on the issue, since the matter had already been thoroughly discussed at a very full PX Commission meeting. From the point of view of the European Union, the draft was a good text, and any recommendation made by the Executive Board, an advisory body to the General Conference, merely signified that the Members of the Board considered the draft to be a good text which was ready for adoption by the General Conference.

18. Mr SATO (Japan) expressed his appreciation to the Chairman of the PX Commission for having brought the issue, which had been discussed thoroughly by the Commission, to a conclusion. His delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision in the Commission's meeting, and had not changed its position in that regard. He drew attention, however, to the fact that it had pointed to the need for clarification on specific points regarding ratification procedures. It was his delegation's view that the preliminary draft convention related to the field of culture, and that its objectives were to promote cultural diversity and not to abuse any rights and obligations under international law. It considered that the concerns expressed by some countries should be addressed through the provision of clarification and assurance on matters which had been repeatedly raised at the last intergovernmental meeting. It believed that the draft decision did not preclude further discussion of the preliminary draft convention during the General Conference.

19. Mr DAYRELL DE LIMA (Brazil) agreed with the representative of the United Kingdom speaking on behalf of the European Union, and said that the moment was not appropriate for reopening the debate. Furthermore, a motion under Rule 38, paragraph 2, required immediate consideration and had priority over any other amendment. As the draft decision was not under substantive consideration and as the discussion would not give rise to amendments to the draft convention, he proposed that action be taken on the proposal made by the representative of the United States of America.

20. Ms MUKHERJEE (India) said that India regretted that it was necessary to vote on an issue relating to cultural diversity, cultural diversity being a matter that should unite rather than divide. In her view, reopening discussion on the convention would unravel its delicate internal balance, open up a procedure over which the Board would have no control, and ultimately lead to a document that would be very difficult to ratify. India was therefore against reopening the debate, and would vote against the no-action motion. Furthermore, in her view, Rule 38, paragraph 2, did not apply to the

current situation since it referred to discussions involving two or more proposals, with a no-action motion being moved to secure clarity on one proposal.

21. La Sra. LUX DE COTÍ (Guatemala) se muestra de acuerdo con otros oradores que la han precedido y afirma que, a su entender, habiéndose ya debatido a fondo la cuestión en la Comisión PX, no procede reabrir el debate en sesión plenaria.

(21) Ms LUX DE COTÍ (Guatemala), expressing agreement with previous speakers, said that in her view, given that the matter had already been discussed in depth in the PX Commission, the debate should not be reopened in plenary.

22. Mr SHEYA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation believed that the preliminary draft convention was important, and wished it to be adopted. To his mind, the Executive Board's recommendation that the General Conference consider the preliminary draft convention was no more than a recommendation, and did not intimate that the draft, as it currently stood, would necessarily prevail in the General Conference. It was for the General Conference to consider the recommendation, and so there was no cause for disquiet in that regard.

23. Mr HAZAR (Turkey) considered that there was no need to reopen the debate, for the text of the preliminary draft had been drawn up after painstaking efforts and, as clearly indicated by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, it was for the General Conference to decide whether to adopt the convention.

24. M. DUARTE (Cap-Vert) regrette, comme certains des orateurs qui l'ont précédé, que le projet de décision relatif à l'avant-projet de convention puisse faire l'objet d'une nouvelle mise aux voix. Sa délégation, absente lors du vote sur cette question à la Commission PX, aurait voté en faveur du projet de décision si elle avait été présente. Le Cap-Vert votera contre la proposition de la représentante des États-Unis.

25. The CHAIRMAN read out the text of Rule 38, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure, and, in accordance therewith, put to the vote the proposal to take no action moved by the representative of the United States of America.

26. The proposal was rejected by 55 votes to 1, two Member States being absent when the vote was taken.

27. Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that during the PX Commission meeting, Australia had expressed reservations about the draft instrument and had abstained during the roll-call vote. His delegation considered the vote in the plenary meeting to be a procedural matter, inasmuch as the PX Commission had made a decision on a matter that had been discussed, and the appropriate procedure was that the matter should be forwarded to the General Conference for debate.

28. Ms OLIVER (United States of America) said that in view of the preceding comments, and in order to reflect a spirit of congeniality, she wished to propose a minor amendment to paragraph 6 of the draft decision so that the last phrase would read, "... and consider adopting it as a UNESCO convention".

29. Mr DAYRELL DE LIMA (Brazil) said that he wished to hear the proposal in French, hoping for some clarification as to the difference between "adopt" and "consider adopting".

30. Ms MUKHERJEE (India) explained that the change from "adopt" to "consider adopting" signified a weakening of the text: instead of adopting it one would merely consider adopting it. She

asked the representative of the United States of America whether, should Members agree to ask the General Conference merely to “consider adopting” the preliminary draft, she would consider changing her vote in the General Conference and at least abstain.

31. Mr CRADDOCK (United Kingdom) said that he regretted the lack of consensus on the draft decision, but believed that the duty for finding a consensus rested largely on the one party out of the 58 Board Members that had not joined the consensus. The European Union did not consider a debate on amendments to the draft decision to be worthwhile at that juncture, nor was it in favour of any amendments to the draft decision as it currently stood. The draft decision was a recommendation of the Executive Board, an advisory body to the General Conference, and the General Conference could take action on that recommendation as it wished.

32. The CHAIRMAN said that the Executive Board was a governing body, and that the provision of advice to the General Conference was but one of its many functions.

33. M. CHARBONNEAU (Canada) salue l'ingéniosité dont fait preuve la Représentante des États-Unis en revenant à la charge avec l'amendement proposé, lequel vise en fait à affaiblir, pour ne pas dire annuler, le message du Conseil exécutif. Le Conseil a en effet adopté le projet de décision considéré non pas dans le but d'inscrire cette question à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence générale pour examen, ce qui était déjà fait dans le rapport du Directeur général, mais bien pour adresser une recommandation à la Conférence générale. Le Conseil est parfaitement fondé à agir ainsi puisque, comme vient de le rappeler son Président, c'est un organe directeur. En l'occurrence, il a une responsabilité politique car c'est lui qui, concrètement, a suivi pas à pas l'évolution de ce dossier au cours des deux années écoulées et, en particulier, toutes les étapes de la négociation pendant la dernière année. Il a donc été en mesure d'apprécier les difficultés et les progrès liés à ce processus, ce qui l'autorise à formuler un jugement sur l'ensemble de l'exercice et à le communiquer à la Conférence générale, laquelle demeure souveraine et peut, en dernière instance, y souscrire ou non.

34. Mr RACHMAN (Indonesia) welcomed the amendment proposed by the representative of the United States of America inasmuch as the words “consider adopting it as a UNESCO convention” opened a window for further discussion. He felt, however, that in view of the prevailing spirit of collegiality, the insertion of the word “consider” was unnecessary since adoption perforce entailed consideration. While he appreciated the amendment, he would prefer to leave the text unchanged.

35. Mr AZIZ (Afghanistan) said that Afghanistan had been in favour of the convention from the outset. He had voted for the recommendation, and would vote for the adoption of the convention at the General Conference. He was grateful that, given the great importance of the draft convention to all Member States of UNESCO, the representative of the United States of America would give serious consideration to the matter in the period leading up to the General Conference. He therefore expressed great appreciation for her move, but would, nonetheless, vote for the adoption of the draft convention at the General Conference. He would abstain in a vote on the amendment currently being proposed by the representative of the United States of America.

36. Г-н КАЛАМАНОВ (Российская Федерация) поддерживает сложившийся консенсус, сохраняя при этом особое мнение по поводу Конвенции. Выступающий выражает поддержку не документу, а представлению документа на Генеральной конференции, и призывает представителя Соединенных Штатов Америки не настаивать на своей поправке, поскольку данные вопросы будут в любом случае рассматриваться Генеральной конференцией. Предложенная поправка является возвращением к начальной фазе обсуждения документа.

(36) Mr KALAMANOV (Russian Federation) supported the consensus that had emerged, while maintaining his particular opinion regarding the Convention. He expressed his support not for the document, but for the submission of the document to the General Conference, and called upon the representative of the United States of America not to insist on her amendment, given that the issues in question would in any case be examined at the General Conference. The proposed amendment represented a return to the initial phase of discussion of the document.

37. Mr SATO (Japan) agreed that the term “adopt” also implied active consideration of the matter in hand, and to his mind, the amendment did not rule out such consideration. The aim was to ensure that a convention of such great importance would be as universal as possible. He would therefore be pleased if the United States of America could join the consensus through its amendment, which he supported.

38. Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia), addressing the procedural aspects of the matter only, said that the General Conference was UNESCO’s parliament, whose functions included consideration and discussion of issues and, ultimately, a decision thereon. In his opinion, the use of “consider adopting” in the amendment was fully in line with the role of the General Conference. His delegation therefore had no difficulty in supporting the amendment proposed by the representative of the United States of America.

39. Ms OLIVER (United States of America) had not intended to be ingenious, but rather to attempt to reflect, in unison with several representatives, an understanding that the General Conference was the appropriate body to support the preliminary draft convention, and that it should therefore consider the draft seriously. She was somewhat concerned to hear that the Executive Board was promoting a political statement, and opined that a political statement, if there be one, should indicate that the topic was a very difficult one, that much work had been done on the subject, and that it required further consideration because of the need to produce a consensus text. In proposing the new wording she had not intended to cancel out what had been suggested, but rather to convey a different message, signalling that the door was still open for further negotiations and discussions before the General Conference.

40. Г-н КАЛАМАНОВ (Российская Федерация) уточняет, что уже имело место голосование по поводу прекращения дискуссии на данную тему, и желает получить разъяснения по этому вопросу. Дальнейшее возобновление дискуссии нежелательно и способно только затянуть сам процесс.

(40) Mr KALAMANOV (Russian Federation) indicated that a vote had already taken place to end discussion on the topic in hand, and requested clarification of that issue. Further continuation of the discussion was not desirable, as it would merely draw out the process itself.

41. The CHAIRMAN stressed that the Executive Board was a sovereign body in which all representatives took the floor when an amendment was under discussion until such time as a vote was taken, should such a vote be desirable after thorough debate. He then asked the interpreters, in response to the earlier request of the representative of Brazil, to translate very slowly into French the amendment proposed to the last phrase in paragraph 6 of the draft decision under item 19.

42. Ms OLIVER (United States of America), agreeing with those representatives who had said that the matter had been sufficiently discussed, requested that the vote be taken so that the Board could address other matters.

43. The CHAIRMAN proposed to put to the vote the amendment moved by the representative of the United States of America to paragraph 6 of the draft decision under item 19 recommended by the PX Commission.

44. M. BOUGHABA (Algérie), soulevant une motion d'ordre, demande si la mise aux voix signifie que le débat sur la question a été rouvert.

45. The CHAIRMAN said that according to the Rules of Procedure, amendments proposed on which votes were requested should be voted upon. He was pleased to note that the Legal Adviser confirmed that view.

46. Mr CRADDOCK (United Kingdom), rising to a point of order, wondered on what basis the vote would be held, pointing out that the motion had not been seconded, and that Members did not seem to support a vote on the issue.

47. The CHAIRMAN ruled that several delegations had expressed support for the amendment.

48. Mr DAYRELL DE LIMA (Brazil), rising to a point of order, called for a motion requiring that no decision be taken on the present proposal, which had priority over the other proposals and that the Board vote for no action to be taken on the proposal made by the United States of America.

49. The CHAIRMAN ruled that Rule 37 applied since the representative of the United States of America had not made a proposal, but had proposed an amendment; it was therefore necessary to vote on that amendment.

50. Ms MUKHERJEE (India), rising to a point of order, requested that the Legal Adviser advise the Members of the Board in regard to the point of order raised by the representative of Brazil.

51. Mr YUSUF (Legal Adviser) *in extenso*:

Thank you Mr Chairman. As far as the point of order is concerned, you know that it is the Chairman who rules on points of order, so I am not going to address the point of order. That is a clarification that the representative of Brazil is requesting from the Chair. But I will address the issue of proposals and amendments. Proposals and amendments are totally different things in the Rules of Procedure of the Board. We already have a proposal before us. That proposal is the draft decision from the PX Commission. If an amendment is moved to that proposal, then we have to either vote on that amendment or adopt it by consensus. So if it cannot be adopted by consensus, a vote will have to be taken. Now the amendment is to a single proposal, which is before us, and that proposal is the PX Commission's draft decision. Thank you Mr Chairman.

52. Mr KALAMANOV (Russian Federation), rising to a point of order, stressed that in his view the Board had already voted for the draft decision recommended by the PX Commission. If that impression was mistaken, he requested an explanation of what the Board Members had actually voted for.

53. The CHAIRMAN said that the Board was considering the draft decision recommended by the PX Commission in respect of item 19, which had not yet been adopted; an amendment to that draft decision had been proposed by the representative of the United States of America, and the Board was required to vote on that amendment after it had been discussed thoroughly.

54. Ms MUKHERJEE (India), recalling that the Legal Adviser could not rule on motions, which came under the purview of the Chairman, said that the representative of Brazil had moved not to take action on an amendment proposed by the representative of the United States of America.

He had moved it correctly under Rule 38, paragraph 2, which had not been invoked correctly earlier. Insisting that the motion by the representative of Brazil under Rule 38, paragraph 2, had been correct and in order, she formally supported the motion by the representative of Brazil.

55. The CHAIRMAN read out Rule 37, paragraph 1, and Rule 38, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, and accordingly ruled that the Board proceed with voting on the amendment proposed by the representative of the United States of America.

56. Ms MUKHERJEE (India) regretted that she could not agree with the ruling because the amendment proposed by the representative of the United States of America was a substantive amendment in that, as stated by the representative of the United States of America, it opened the door to further negotiations, and thus constituted an amendment to a proposal. Furthermore, the representative of Brazil had the right to move that no decision be taken on the amendment proposed by the United States of America under Rule 38, paragraph 2.

57. Ms OLIVER (United States of America), regretting that the perfectly non-controversial and non-substantive words of the amendment, reflecting the spirit of what had been under discussion, had led to an extraordinary and to some degree inappropriate debate on matters previously discussed at length, withdrew her amendment.

(Applause)

58. The CHAIRMAN proposed, there being no other amendment to any other paragraph of the draft decision recommended by the PX Commission under item 19, that the Board vote to adopt the draft decision in its entirety.

59. The draft decision under item 19 was adopted by 53 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions, two Member States being absent when the vote was taken.

60. Ms OLIVER (United States of America) regretted that the Executive Board had taken such action. Her government had worked very hard on the preliminary draft convention, and had important suggestions to make on the draft convention, which it hoped to discuss with other delegations in the coming weeks and after the General Conference. It was extremely important to try to resolve together some of the crucial outstanding issues. The United States of America could not support the preliminary draft convention as currently formulated. It had been said that it was the duty of the United States of America, since it had concerns, to engage in the process. She submitted, however, that it was the duty of all to engage in the process because it would be to the benefit of every Member State of UNESCO and the Organization itself if an understanding could be reached which allowed the convention to move forward in a productive atmosphere.

61. Mr AZIZ (Afghanistan) was puzzled and saddened by what had just occurred. He had understood that under the Rules of Procedure, any Member State could submit an amendment on any issue once the matter was before the Executive Board in plenary meeting. Members had been free to vote for or against the draft decision, and he had voted in favour of it in the PX Commission. The fact that the Executive Board had not yet considered the draft decision in plenary meant that any Member State could have submitted amendments. He supported the ruling by the Chairman and commended the comments by the representative of the United States of America in regard to her amendment. He hoped, however, that the General Conference would unanimously adopt the draft convention, for which he intended to vote. Nonetheless, he stressed that it was necessary to understand, accept and respect the right of all States who wished to make amendments to do so, even at the General Conference, and to uphold the Rules of Procedure in that regard.

62. Mr HEPBURN (Bahamas) said that everyone in the room had known from the outset that the die had been cast. It had been clear to him that in proposing the amendment to the draft decision, the representative of the United States of America had been opening a door, which, indeed, should have been opened a little more to allow others to enter, since it appeared that her government was minded to join the consensus. He urged Members to concentrate as much on substance as on procedure in order to avoid similar experiences in the future. Recalling that great minds thought alike, he then thanked the representative of the United States of America for withdrawing her amendment.

63. The discussion on the draft decision under item **19** having come to an end, the CHAIRMAN made to each Member of the Board a gift of a German football similar to the one that would be used in the World Cup Championship in Germany in 2006.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

TENTH MEETING

Thursday 29 September 2005 at 3.15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr Wrede

PROGRAMME AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (PX): ORAL REPORT AND DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (172 EX/61 Parts I and II and Add.) (*continued*)

Item 45 REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE NAME AND LOGO OF UNESCO IN THE MEMBER STATES (172 EX/42)

Draft decision in paragraph 9 of document 172 EX/61 Part II

1.1 Mr WILTSHIRE (Australia) wished the Director-General a happy birthday, and thanked the Chairman of the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission, who was a scholar and a gentleman, an enlightened lawyer with a human face. He had most impressed by the highly efficient debates in the Commission.

1.2 When the Board had considered the draft decisions recommended to it by the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission, he had been disturbed by the discussion on category 2 centres, which had focused on how to control the proliferation of such centres. From the programme point of view, the centres were very much to be encouraged; they constituted a true partnership which exemplified Member State involvement in UNESCO; that was particularly evident in relation to the water-related centres. He agreed with the Director-General that there was not an excessive number of centres. The challenge, as the Assistant Director-General for Education had said in the PX Commission, was to ensure that they participated fully in the Organization's goals and ideals while remaining at an arm's length to preserve independence. Governments and universities were familiar with the concept of independent centres. The emphasis should be more on how to empower and energize UNESCO's category 2 centres.

1.3 With regard to item 45, which he had asked to be discussed separately, his concern, and he was certain, that of the National Commissions, was section IV "Role of the Member States and their National Commissions" of the draft directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO. It had been left blank for the moment, with the words "[to be completed]" in square brackets. He appealed to the Secretariat to proceed with great care in drafting that section as the terminology to be used was extremely sensitive. He had been made uneasy by the discussion in the PX Commission on the matter, as references had been made to National Commissions being "outside bodies", "not part of the family", and so on, which was very much to be regretted. He was grateful to the Assistant Director-General for the Office of the Director-General for her sympathetic stance in the Commission. Legally correct language needed to be used in what was a legal text, but care must be taken with terminology. Every National Commission understood that it needed to be careful in the use of the logo; everyone agreed that strict guidelines were needed in that respect.

2. Ms MOSEROVÁ (Czech Republic), Mr EINARSSON (Iceland) and Ms MUKHERJEE (India) expressed their appreciation to the Chairman of the PX Commission, and endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Australia regarding the use of UNESCO's name and logo.

3. The draft decision contained in paragraph 9 of document 172 EX/61 Part I was adopted.

4. All the draft decisions contained in documents 172 EX/61 Parts I and II and Add., as amended, were adopted.

Decision adopted on item 17 “Report by the Director-General on the advisability of elaborating an international declaration on science ethics to serve as a basis for an ethical code of conduct for scientists”

5. Ms OLIVER (United States of America) agreed that the Chairman of the PX Commission had done an extraordinary job. However, in his oral presentation of the Commission’s report, he had said, in reference to item 17 regarding an ethical code of conduct for scientists, that the United States felt that UNESCO was going beyond the competence of the Organization. Her country had not questioned the fact that ethics was part of UNESCO’s mandate. What it had questioned was the haste; there had not been enough time for a proper discussion of a possible feasibility study. More time was needed for reflection in the National Commissions and for consideration of the numerous codes of ethics that already existed. If there could be a national conversation at various levels over the coming two years, more information would become available for a worthwhile feasibility study.

6. M. SOURANG (Sénégal) (Président de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures), répondant aux observations de la représentante des États-Unis, explique qu’une erreur s’est glissée dans le texte du rapport oral qu’il a présenté à la séance du matin et que son intention, lorsqu’il a rendu compte de la position de ce pays sur le point 17, était de dire que les États-Unis avaient estimé que la portée de la déclaration « pourrait aller », au conditionnel, au-delà des compétences de l’Organisation.

7. The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said with regard to item 17 that the Secretariat greatly appreciated the work of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST); he had the duty to convey its recommendations to the Board. He was, however, reluctant to embark upon a feasibility study on an issue on which the Member States were divided. Some countries had expressed their reservations in the PX Commission, but the decision had been adopted by consensus. Naturally, if the General Conference asked him to go ahead with the study, he would do so, but as he had said in his interview with the Board the previous week, the Organization had worked hard on standard-setting action over the past six years, and the time had come to pause. The proposed feasibility study was not the same as the elaboration of a declaration, but it would nevertheless demand much care and considerable time and energy from the Secretariat; it would be infinitely preferable to have a consensus among Member States from the outset of what would be a complex exercise.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that he was pleased to hear that the Director-General would implement a Board decision adopted by consensus assuming, naturally, that the General Conference also endorsed it. In fact, a feasibility study might contribute to resolving some of the difficulties the Director-General had described.

9. Ms TOVORNIK (Slovenia) congratulated the Chairman of the PX Commission on the excellent manner in which he had conducted the debates. As he had said, there had been a lengthy discussion on item 17. Like the United States, her country considered that more time was needed for further reflection. It would be appropriate to have a much broader discussion within the national scientific committees and communities of all Member States and the social and human sciences should also be included in that process. She therefore suggested that the Executive Board recommend that the General Conference invite Member States to have their National Commissions organize a broad discussion as described above on the advisability of an ethical code of conduct for the natural, social and human sciences. Her delegation, in cooperation with the Slovene scientific

community, was working on an initiative for the proclamation of an international day of ethics in sciences, and it hoped that other countries might join that initiative.

10. Mr SATO (Japan) said that in the discussion on item 17 in the PX Commission, his country had expressed its appreciation of UNESCO's work in the field of science ethics, and in particular bioethics. Efforts should continue, but the ways and means of so doing should be left open, so as to take into account the diverse relations between scientists and societies. He had appreciated the remarks made by the representatives of the United States and Slovenia, and also the Director-General's response. Further deliberations should involve people from different fields so as to find an appropriate solution.

11. Mr EINARSSON (Iceland) said, with regard to the remarks made by the representative of Slovenia, that for many years his delegation had considered that COMEST and its work was extremely important. However, it was essential to be cautious, and to proceed step by step, consulting National Commissions and the scientific community.

Decision adopted on item 19 "Report by the Director-General on the progress achieved during the third session of the intergovernmental meeting of experts on the preliminary draft convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions"

12. Ms QURESHI (Pakistan) said that Pakistan had been absent during the discussion of item 19, but that it wished nevertheless to express its full support for the preliminary draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.

13. Mr SHEYA (United Republic of Tanzania) (Vice-Chairman for the Africa group) said that he would have failed in his duty if he had not expressed the appreciation of his delegation and indeed the Africa group for the work of the Chairperson of the Programme and External Relations Commission. As it was for both of them the last Board meeting of their term of office, he wished him the best of luck in his future endeavours.

14. M. DAYRELL DE LIMA (Brésil) (Vice-Président pour le Groupe de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes) tient à féliciter M. Sourang au nom de tous les membres de son groupe régional, et du Brésil en particulier, pour l'efficacité et la sagesse avec lesquelles il a su conduire, dans un climat très amical, les travaux de la Commission PX.

Decisions adopted on item 18 "Jerusalem and the implementation of 32 C/Resolution 39 and 171 EX/Decision 18" and item 51 "Implementation of 32 C/Resolution 54 and 171 EX/Decision 53 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories"

15. The CHAIRMAN said that if he saw no objection, he proposed, pursuant to Rule 30, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure, to give the floor to the Permanent Delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic to UNESCO, the Permanent Delegate of Israel to UNESCO and the Permanent Observer for Palestine.

١٦ أشار السيد نصير (المندوب الدائم للجمهورية العربية السورية لدى اليونسكو) إلى القرار الخاص بالمؤسسات التعليمية والثقافية في الأراضي العربية المحتلة، أي فلسطين والجولان السوري المحتل، فرأى أنه قرار لا يرقى إلى ما ينتظره طلاب وسكان الجولان لقاء القمع والترهيب والمعاناة اليومية جراء ممارسات سلطات الاحتلال الإسرائيلية. وأعرب عن أمله في أن لا يكون قرارا يضاف إلى سجل العديد من القرارات الشرعية الدولية التي لم تطبق إسرائيل أيا منها وبقي المجتمع الدولي صامتا إزاءها. ورأى أن ذلك من شأنه أن يزيد الإحباط واليأس عند الشعوب العربية ويجعل السلام العادل والشامل الذي تطالب به هذه

الشعوب بعيد المنال بسبب الغطرسة الإسرائيلية. وخلص إلى أن هذا القرار يبقى مع ذلك الأمل الذي ترسله اليونسكو إلى الطلاب والسكان الذين يتعرضون إلى القمع والتعذيب والإهانة اليومية من سلطات الاحتلال الإسرائيلية في الجولان السوري المحتل، لتقول لهم إنه، على الرغم من الهيمنة الأحادية الجانب في هذه المرحلة من التاريخ، ما زال في هذه المنظمة الدولية ضمير إنساني لا يصمت، بل يسعى إلى تخفيف معاناتهم وتقديم المساعدة لهم، ويطالب بحقوقهم المشروعة وبإنهاء الاحتلال. وشكر في الختام كل الذين ساهموا في التوصل إلى الإجماع على هذا القرار، ولا سيما سفيرى المملكة المتحدة والنمسا.

(16) M. NSEIR (Ambassadeur, délégué permanent de la République arabe syrienne auprès de l'UNESCO), se référant à la décision relative aux institutions éducatives et culturelles dans les territoires arabes occupés, à savoir la Palestine et le Golan syrien occupé, estime que le texte ne répond guère aux attentes des étudiants et du reste de la population du Golan victimes de la répression, de la terreur et des souffrances qu'ils subissent quotidiennement du fait des pratiques des autorités d'occupation israéliennes. Il espère que cette décision ne viendra pas s'ajouter à la longue liste des décisions constitutives de la légalité internationale dont Israël n'a tenu aucun compte, dans le silence de la communauté internationale. Cet état de chose, dû à l'arrogance israélienne, accroît la déception et le désespoir des peuples arabes et éloigne la perspective de la paix juste et globale à laquelle ils aspirent. Ce texte adresse néanmoins un message d'espoir de l'UNESCO aux étudiants et au reste de la population qui subissent la répression, les sévices et les vexations quotidiennes de la part des autorités d'occupation israéliennes dans le Golan syrien occupé, un message qui dit qu'en dépit de l'hégémonie unilatérale dont ils sont les victimes en cette phase de l'histoire, il subsiste dans cette organisation internationale une conscience humaine qui ne peut se taire et qui s'efforce d'alléger leurs souffrances, de leur apporter une assistance et d'exiger que leurs droits légitimes soient respectés et qu'il soit mis fin à l'occupation. L'orateur remercie pour finir toutes les parties qui ont contribué à ce qu'un consensus se réalise sur cette décision, en particulier le Royaume-Uni et l'Autriche.

17. Mr KORNBLUTH (Permanent Delegate of Israel to UNESCO) thanked all those involved in reaching the consensus reflected in the two decisions adopted on the recommendation of the PX Commission. He was deeply aware of being indebted, in particular, to the representative of the United States, the European Union group of Austria, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, and the effective and professional support of the Secretariat led by the Director-General. He hoped that the sort of operation they had just completed would not be necessary again in UNESCO. The Director-General had spoken about new trends in UNESCO with regard to the situation in the Middle East. Israel continued to welcome the Director-General's initiative in that respect. The consensus, however, was due first and foremost to the goodwill of the two parties directly involved. He had been present at the joint meeting of the Israel National Commission for UNESCO and the Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, which had been a most positive beginning. The consensus had preserved peace in UNESCO, and that would hopefully aid consensual peace in the Middle East.

١٨ قال السيد عبد الرازق (المراقب الدائم عن فلسطين لدى اليونسكو) إن البعض يعتقد بأن عدم ذكر الأشياء على الورق يمكن أن يطمس الحقائق الأليمة على أرض الواقع. وأشار إلى أن المنظمة توصلت بعد أسبوع من الصراع اللغوي والجهود المضنية إلى تقديم لعبة الكلمات المتقاطعة لكي تحيط الدول الأعضاء علما بأن هناك شيئاً يمنع التلاميذ والطلاب والأساتذة الفلسطينيين من الوصول إلى مؤسساتهم التعليمية ويمزق نسيجهم العائلي، ولا سيما في مدينة القدس المحتلة. ودعا من يتعذر عليه استخلاص الكلمة الصحيحة

من قراءة القرار الخاص بالمؤسسات التعليمية والثقافية في الأراضي العربية المحتلة إلى زيارة عين المكان وإلى القيام بجولة سياحية لاكتشاف العوائق التي لا يراد تسميتها كما هي، أي "جدار"، لأن هذه الكلمة تجرح مشاعر المحتل. وأكد أنه، رغم المآسي التي تعيشها عشرات الآلاف من العائلات الفلسطينية التي مزقتها جدار الفصل العنصري الذي بنته سلطات الاحتلال الإسرائيلي، وحفاظا على الخط الذي ارتسمه المجلس منذ عدة سنوات بضرورة تبني قرار بتوافق الآراء، فإنه قبل بهذا القرار الذي يحاول أن يقول شيئا ما. وتساءل عما إذا كان عدم ذكر المشكلة يساعد في التخفيف من معاناة الفلسطينيين. ورأى أن تحقيق الهدف الأول لليونسكو، وهو بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر، يتطلب منها الحفاظ على مصداقيتها، بأن تساعد الفلسطينيين على العيش حياة طبيعية، لأن العكس يعني دفع الأجيال الناشئة إلى اليأس وغرس روح الانتقام والعنف في نفوسهم. وأعرب في الختام عن ثقته بأن المدير العام، بمساندة المجلس التنفيذي، سيتخطى العوائق لمساعدة الأطفال الفلسطينيين على ممارسة حقوقهم الإنساني في التعليم والحرية. وخص بالشكر ممثلة الولايات المتحدة وممثل المملكة المتحدة ومندوب النمسا الدائم ومساعد المندوب الدائم لهولندا وأعضاء الأمانة على ما بذلوه من جهود في هذا الصدد. وهنأ المدير العام بعيد ميلاده وأضاء له شمعة وقدمها إليه.

(18) M. ABDELRAZEK (Observateur permanent de la Palestine auprès de l'UNESCO) dit que d'aucuns semblent penser que le fait de ne pas appeler les choses par leur nom suffit pour masquer la triste réalité sur le terrain. Après une semaine de bataille linguistique et d'efforts épuisants, l'Organisation est parvenue, par une sorte de jeu de mots croisés, à porter à l'attention des Etats membres le fait que quelque chose empêche les élèves, étudiants et enseignants palestiniens de se rendre dans les institutions éducatives et déchire les liens qui constituent leur tissu familial, en particulier dans la ville de Jérusalem occupée. Il invite quiconque ne parvient pas à déterminer la vérité qu'il faut tirer de la décision relative aux institutions éducatives et culturelles dans les territoires arabes occupés à aller sur place, en touriste, pour se rendre compte des obstacles auxquels on ne veut pas donner leur vrai nom - celui de « mur » - parce que ce terme blesserait la sensibilité de l'occupant. En dépit des souffrances que vivent des dizaines de milliers de familles palestiniennes disloquées par le mur de l'apartheid édifié par les autorités d'occupation israéliennes, et afin de s'en tenir à la ligne suivie par le Conseil depuis plusieurs années quant à la nécessité d'adopter une décision par consensus, il a accepté ce texte qui tente de dire quelque chose. Il se demande toutefois si le fait de ne pas nommer le problème est de nature à contribuer à alléger les souffrances des Palestiniens et estime que la réalisation de l'objectif premier de l'UNESCO, à savoir élever les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes, impose à l'Organisation, si elle veut préserver sa crédibilité, d'aider les Palestiniens à mener une vie normale pour ne pas pousser les générations montantes au désespoir et semer en elles l'esprit de vengeance et de violence. En conclusion, il se dit confiant que le Directeur général, avec le soutien du Conseil exécutif, saura surmonter les obstacles pour aider les Palestiniens à exercer leurs droits fondamentaux à l'éducation et à la liberté. Il remercie tout particulièrement les représentants des États-Unis et du Royaume-Uni, ainsi que le délégué permanent de l'Autriche, le délégué permanent adjoint des Pays-Bas et les membres du Secrétariat pour les efforts qu'ils ont déployés à ce sujet. Il souhaite ensuite bon anniversaire au Directeur général et allume en son honneur une bougie qu'il lui présente.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

19.1 Mr OMOLEWA (President of the General Conference) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Director-General, my dear friends and colleagues, in my statement last Tuesday to the Executive Board, I highlighted the major events of my two-year cooperation with the Board as President of the General Conference, and also expressed my profound appreciation of the assistance I have received from the Chairman of the Board, from its Members, and from the Secretariat. I had thought that was to be my last intervention to the Board, but I can obviously not refrain from responding to the kind invitation from my very good friend and colleague, Ambassador Hans-Heinrich Wrede, the Chairman of the Board, to make a final statement at the closure of this session of the Board.

19.2 Let me first of all say that I believe that you can all be proud of your achievements during this session. It has been conducted in a very swift and businesslike manner, and it has been characterized by two of the most important values of UNESCO: dialogue, and consensus-seeking. The general policy debate last week, following the Director-General's very inspiring opening statement, was very useful as usual in allowing the Members of the Executive Board to pass general policy messages, and highlight issues of particular concern to each of them. However, the very constructive and interactive session on Wednesday, comprising numerous questions from you, and very comprehensive and pertinent answers from the Director-General, was even more useful, and fully in line with our endeavours to put dialogue at the centre of our deliberations. I commend all of you for your interesting questions – and the Director-General for his impressive command of the many issues, whether purely political, or substantive, that permeated that session. I also believe that you, the Members of the Board, should be congratulated on the manner in which the Draft Programme and Budget – as reflected in particular in the revised version of document 33 C/5 – was handled. Your thorough deliberations and observations will, without any doubt, render the discussions at the forthcoming session of the General Conference even smoother and more fruitful, and will pave the way for decisions acceptable to all.

19.3 The consensus spirit, so important to all of us, has prevailed on a number of major – and very difficult – issues which were before the Board, especially the ever-recurrent issue of the situation of Palestine. I had personally hoped that the spirit would influence your judgement on the preliminary draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. This has not yet happened, but I have noted that you have left the door open for a possible consensus on the subject. The willingness of all parties to listen to each other and seek solutions that all may subscribe to certainly augurs well for the forthcoming General Conference, and for progress in general towards lasting and fully acceptable results. Let me also reiterate my major satisfaction at the prospects of further progress towards the full universality of UNESCO. Singapore's decision to seek permanent observer facilities with UNESCO – and the Board's unanimous positive response to this request – gives rise to the hope that the next General Conference, in 2007, may see the membership of all 192 countries in UNESCO.

19.4 Ladies and gentlemen, last week, I already had the occasion to express my personal satisfaction and happiness at the Board's decisions to nominate our Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, for a second term – and to nominate my good friend and colleague, Ambassador Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan, as President of the 33rd session of the General Conference. I wish to reiterate my best wishes to both of them for success and personal gratification in the formidable tasks they have in front of them. At this juncture, I should join previous speakers in wishing the Director-General a happy birthday. Although I have not lit a candle to mark the celebration of his birthday, I am sure that he knows that my spirit is lit in warmth and affection for him.

19.5 Dear colleagues, for several of you, this session marks the end of your four-year term. I am sure that you feel pride in your achievements, and a certain relief that all this hard work is now over. But I am also convinced that most of you will miss the Board and miss the sense of friendship and mutual purpose that is driving most of us. Some of you will remain in Paris as Permanent Delegates; others will pursue your professional careers, or personal endeavours, elsewhere. May God bless you in the further pursuit of your goals.

19.6 Let me finally recall that, in my statement last week, I extended my warm personal thanks to the Chairman of the Executive Board for our constructive cooperation, and for the kindness and support he has always offered me. Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to close this brief statement by yet another expression of my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Ambassador Wrede, who has made my task as President of the 32nd session of the General Conference an even more pleasant and rewarding one. I thank you all for your attention, and pray that God will continue to bless you. Thank you.

20.1 The DIRECTOR-GENERAL *in extenso*:

I would like to join the President of the General Conference in paying tribute to you, Mr Chairman, but before I do, I would like to thank him for his kind and generous words about me. Mr Chairman, you are now completing your two-year term as Chairman of the Executive Board. I am sure we will all agree that Mr Wrede has been fully engaged with the duties and responsibilities entrusted to him, and we have all been impressed by the energy, enthusiasm and diligence he has brought to the task.

20.2 Different Chairpersons leave their mark upon the Executive Board in different ways, and Mr Wrede is leaving a positive legacy of his term in office. He has been demanding, but with a purpose, which has been to make UNESCO a better organization – more efficient, more punctual, more responsive, and more accountable. By setting high standards, he has required us to improve our performance. And I believe we have, whether in terms of the timeliness of the preparation and distribution of documents or the more businesslike manner in which the Board itself moves through its agenda.

20.3 He has been a hard taskmaster at times, but this has been balanced by his ready wit and humour, which have helped to lighten the moment. In paying tribute to Mr Wrede, I would like to thank him for his steadfast support for the main thrusts of UNESCO's reforms and the Organization's programme priorities. This has been very important and is much appreciated. It is a sign of his commitment to UNESCO and especially to a UNESCO that is better equipped to address the needs of its Member States.

20.4 The past two years have been momentous for the Organization, which has been called upon to innovate and prove itself in its fields of competence. I believe that Mr Wrede's vigour and rigour have been a stimulus to improved performance. He has kept the pressure on and this has elicited a positive response. Mr Chairman, I hope you will allow me to say a few words in a non-official language of the Organization.

(The Director-General continued in German)

20.5 Herr Vorsitzender, es ist mein aufrichtiger Wunsch, daß wir Sie auch in Zukunft um Ihren Rat bitten können. Sie dürfen versichert sein, daß wir diese Möglichkeit nutzen werden – immer im vollen Bewusstsein, daß Sie nur die besten Interessen der Organisation im Auge – und im Herzen – haben.

(20.5) Mr Chairperson, it is my sincere wish that we may also seek your advice in the future. Rest assured that we will avail ourselves of this possibility – being always fully aware that you have only the best interests of the Organization in mind – and at heart.

21.1 The CHAIRMAN *in extenso*:

President of the General Conference, Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, this is the close of the 172nd Executive Board session and of this biennium as well. It has been an honour to work together with you. Today, we can confidently say: this Executive Board has done its duty to prepare the General Conference. All of us wholly support this Organization and what it represents. Against a backdrop of surging violence, of disasters and uncertainty, UNESCO stands out for what it is, and for what it can be in the future.

21.2 The United Nations Millennium Declaration states: “We have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level.” We do share common fundamental values. The international community needs to face the challenges that lie ahead together. It is a promising sign for me that UNESCO is coming so close to its goal of universality. In 2003, the United States of America and Timor Leste joined; recently, the Sultanate of Brunei became the 191st Member State. Now, we welcome Singapore’s request for observer status.

21.3 Distinguished colleagues, together, we have to tackle the increasing threat of terrorism. UNESCO can contribute to the fight against terrorism and its causes, especially so on a long-term basis by shaping the minds of our youth to respect others and to live by a culture of peace. In the words of the philosopher Spinoza: “Peace is not just the absence of war, it is a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice.”

21.4 Dear colleagues, over the course of the biennium, the Board has dealt with a great number of highly important and urgent issues: most notably, cultural diversity, bioethics, the dialogue among civilizations, a basic science programme, water issues, the reform process, reconstruction efforts in conflict and post-conflict areas, capacity-building, teacher-training, and above all, the indisputably principal priority of our work, education for all (EFA).

21.5 Dear colleagues, this session, the Board was required to consider some important items in view of the imminent General Conference. The Board has done its job well: it nominated the incumbent Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, for another term. The open interview session with the candidate, followed by secret ballot, provides an exemplary model of transparency for elections in other United Nations organizations. The Board furthermore recommended Ambassador Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan, Permanent Delegate of Oman, as nominee for President of the General Conference. Finally, the Board recommended to the General Conference, by an overwhelming majority, the adoption of a convention on cultural diversity, with one vote against and one abstention. I am gratified to acknowledge the responsible decisions taken on safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and on educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories.

21.6 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO’s 60th birthday approaches, and, again, the Organization’s long-term orientation is being debated. Rightly so! I believe we agree that education should be the culmination of *all* our activities. Sadly, still too many countries are seriously lagging behind the EFA objectives. Yet we know: this is the one and only effective strategy to loosen poverty’s grip. The magnitude of the task of EFA is most impressively demonstrated in my view in China: “Education for 1.3 billion” – that is what we are dealing with, as former Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing has written on 10 years of educational reform in his country.

21.7 UNESCO must have the ability to reform itself. I am gratified by the Director-General's resolve to continue reforms. He stated: progress appears slow, but it is sure and steady. Against all serious setbacks, let us persist, in the spirit of Martin Luther's dictum: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would today still plant my apple tree." We are moving in the right direction, but we certainly cannot rest.

21.8 The direction that staff policy takes is encouraging, for instance, with the expansion of the Young Professionals programme. Even more important, with 50.6% of staff in the Organization women, UNESCO now tops all other United Nations agencies. However, women hold only 22.1% of higher positions. So, we must continue to strive for gender equality. As to recruitment, the number one criterion should be professional qualification. However, the current process is still complicated, slow and not always transparent. At the end of the day, new staff will shape the Organization's future. But they can only do a better job if they receive the tools to do so – by capacity-building, with clear career development and continuous training.

21.9 Dear colleagues and good friends, when I look back, many good memories come to mind. My missions allowed me first-hand experience and a more concrete appreciation of the Organization's functions. These "on-site inspections", permitting direct contact with the people in regional and cluster offices, provided me with invaluable insight into UNESCO's activities in the field. I could observe that decentralization has very positive repercussions. I am persuaded there needs to be an even higher number of Professional staff in our field offices.

21.10 We need to channel our energy wisely. Certainly, UNESCO must cultivate fruitful relationships with the other United Nations organizations. Yes, let us learn from each other, but let us also scrutinize the rules coming from New York, as they are not always tailored to UNESCO's special requirements. There should not be an automatic "one-size-fits-all" solution. The worldwide division of labour among United Nations institutions must be better organized, and this Organization must assert its lead role in the fields of its competence, as laid down in our Constitution of 1945.

21.11 The Executive Board, too, should be clear about its responsibilities and limitations. The indispensable interaction between the General Conference, Secretariat and the Board can and should become more effective. But the separation of powers between the two governing bodies and the Secretariat must be clarified as well. Two years of personal experience chairing the Board made me discover some – and I shall use diplomatic language here – structural disparities. The Board's secretariat is not at all sufficiently equipped in my opinion to fully exercise its constitutional functions, both in terms of administrative and of personnel resources. And, how, for example, can the Board exercise effective supervision according to the Constitution, with the necessary independent authority, if it is not even in the position to select its own staff? I believe a comprehensive review of the rules is due, in order to get the "checks and balances" right.

21.12 Dear colleagues, we have agreed on a zero nominal growth budget recommendation to the General Conference, and endorsed a \$25 million programme package to reinforce principal priorities "funded on an exceptional basis by voluntary extrabudgetary contributions". It would be a mammoth task for UNESCO to maintain the ambitious level of its activities with a ceiling of merely \$610 million per biennium. On the other hand, there is the understandable fear of depending too heavily on extrabudgetary resources – with perhaps grave unintended consequences. Cost-consciousness remains a must in day-to-day management and in future planning as well. The new Rule 34A in the Board's Rules of Procedure calls for strict budgetary vigilance. Please, take this rule seriously. I urgently appeal to Member States to settle expeditiously their outstanding balances. Is it credible to ask UNESCO to cut costs, to spend less, and, at the same time, not to pay one's own dues?

21.13 Ladies and gentlemen, our tasks are enormous and our resources limited, but we can have an impact. It is a matter of strong resolve and focused action. For this, I am convinced, we have the leadership. Let us heed Saint Mark's pronouncement: "Whoever wants to become great among you, shall be your servant." Our role is to serve our peoples, to "spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty" (Millennium Declaration). UNESCO's engagement in the realization of the education-related Millennium Development Goals – the achievement of universal primary education and the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, especially in Africa, is vital for the credibility of our Organization. If we do not deliver, we will have failed our responsibility.

21.14 Distinguished colleagues, let me express my profound appreciation for the excellent teamwork that has prevailed throughout our sessions. May I convey my sincere gratitude to you, distinguished colleagues, to the Members of the Bureau – in particular to the Chairpersons of the commissions and committees and their secretariats –, to the President of the General Conference and his predecessor, to the Director-General and his collaborators, all of them, to the Legal Adviser especially, to the Deputy Director-General and all the Assistant Directors-General, to my predecessor, Ms Bennani who helped me to get the hang of this job, and others who had occupied the post who gave me advice that I did not always follow. I thank all those dedicated colleagues and friends without whom nothing would be possible in this room: the interpreters, the translators, the minute-writers, the room clerks, the technicians, the receptionists, the telephone operators, and everyone else who has ensured, through often invisible, yet essential work, our smooth proceedings, including, of course, the excellent chef and the extremely efficient and impeccably courteous staff in the seventh-floor restaurant and the cafeterias.

21.15 I am proud to have been, together with you, part of this process. You have worked hard and passionately, you can be proud of what you have accomplished in the Board. Looking back, be assured: "The reward of a thing well done is to have done it" (Ralph Waldo Emerson). I do hope that, at least in a modest way, our joint legacy will be to have clearly decided the priorities in fulfilling UNESCO's objectives, and to have increased the effectiveness of this governing body.

21.16 Dear good friends, I hope you will allow me one more minute to name a few colleagues, because without them it would not have been possible to do the job. First of all, in the Secretariat, the Secretary, Mr Parsuramen, and I would especially like to thank Mr Mohamed Al Shaabi, who preceded him for something like 20 years, and who was most instrumental in introducing me to the Board's secrets. There are still some secrets that I have not discovered, but we have made some progress. I would like to thank the other colleagues of the Secretariat, Ms Karima Bekri-Lisner, Ms Claudette Delorme, Ms Patricia Johnston, Ms Milena Pounkin, Mr Michee Detinho, Mr Anselmo Dos Reis, my driver who was always available. Two names to mention at the end from the Secretariat, my private assistant Ms Gabrielle Hickey, and first and foremost Ms Mercedes Torcat.

21.17 As to the German delegation, I have grossly neglected the German delegation in the past two years, I forgot my nationality. I would like to thank my deputy, Mr Peter Platte, his predecessor Stefan Weckbach, the colleagues in the delegation, some of whom have left us, Mr Michael Lauber, his successor Mr Günther Kössler, my friend Mr Stefan Kordasch, our two fantastic drivers, Patrice Pastezeur and Michel Veuillot, and finally, Ms Roswetha Schmidt who after 30 years in the UNESCO delegation is retiring tomorrow. She could not stay any longer when we had finished this job, I suppose. And finally, Mr Udo Harder who is the UNESCO encyclopaedia in our delegation, without whom I would not really have had an idea what UNESCO was about. Thank you to all of them.

21.18 Let me conclude. Dear and good friends, I have spoken before of our common values. In the past months, we have experienced across the world, again and again, catastrophes with unspeakable suffering and terrible losses of human lives. In the face of these immense disasters, international solidarity has proven again, as our good friend, Ambassador Oliver, told us last week: “the bond of our shared humanity is far stronger than the disagreements that may divide us.”

21.19 After being with UNESCO and with you for more than three years, I am convinced: together we can make a difference. What unites us, is much, much stronger than what may divide us. Let me conclude with the words of John F. Kennedy: “In the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet, we all breathe the same air, we all cherish our children’s futures, and we are all mortal.” Thank you. I now declare closed the 172nd session of the Executive Board.

(Sustained applause)

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.