



General Conference

38th Session, Paris, 2015

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Draft resolution

Item 3.2 of the provisional agenda

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38 C/DR.12*
8 October 2015
Original: Chinese

Amendment to the Draft Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5)

Submitted by **CHINA**

Part II.A – Programmes:

Major Programme:	IV	Culture
Resolution No.:		04000
Main line of action:	1	Protecting, conserving, promoting and transmitting culture, heritage and history for dialogue and development
Biennial sectoral priority:	7	Protecting, promoting and transmitting heritage
Paragraph:		new (ii)
Budgetary implications indicated by the sponsor:		US \$1,000,000
Source of financing proposed by the sponsor:		China is ready to make a donation of \$500,000 for the creation of such a fund
Extrabudgetary resources:		In addition to China's voluntary contribution of \$500,000, Member States, the private sector and other partners are encouraged to make donations to the fund.

* This proposal was received by the Secretariat on 21 September 2015.

Proposed modification:

Add one paragraph after para. (i revised) as follows:

- (ii) protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, heritage in all its forms so as to promote dialogue among civilizations and foster cultural diversity, with a view to increasing awareness of the unique role of the Silk Roads as a significant common cultural heritage of humanity and as a major cultural project of UNESCO in promoting the transmission of culture, history and heritage and the awareness of the importance of promoting dialogue and exchanges among countries along the routes as well as South-South cooperation by protecting the common heritage of the Silk Roads. It is thus essential to revitalize the Silk Roads Project so as to galvanize greater attention from various parties for mutual learning among civilizations, to protect the cultural heritage and history along the Silk Roads, to promote the development of communities and to contribute to building regional peace. A Silk Road Fund will be established to this end.

Explanatory note:

The General Conference, at its 24th session in 1987, adopted a resolution regarding the Integral Study of the Silk Roads to be launched as a major project within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997). The project was designed to conduct an in-depth study of the tremendous contribution that this ancient and mystical trade route has made to the evolution of human civilizations. A number of countries have provided substantial support to the project, a notable example being a research vessel offered free of charge by the King of Oman. The expedition of the land and maritime Silk Roads has far-reaching influences. In today's conflict-ridden world, dialogue among civilizations and exchanges among cultures are increasingly important. "Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor" was inscribed in 2014 on the World Heritage List and became a new member of the large family of world heritage properties. This widely-shared heritage, the Silk Roads, interconnected the three continents of Europe, Asia and Africa as well as the Arabian Peninsula, linking major civilizations of the ancient world and thus constituting the most important channel for cultural, economic and political exchanges before the Age of Discovery. This system of cultural exchanges, which dates back to ancient times, is still important for increasing cultural and economic ties in today's world and for strengthening South-South and South-North-South cooperation. We therefore propose that UNESCO, proceeding from the new situation, redesign and revitalize the Silk Roads Project within the flagship programme of world heritage and that a fund be established with a view to reinforcing the capacity-building of the relevant Member States in the area of heritage and enhancing the protection and management of cultural heritage along the Silk Roads. In light of the current financial situation of the Organization, it is proposed that extrabudgetary resources be mobilized. China stands ready to make a donation of \$500,000 for the creation of such a fund.