



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
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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

Executive Board
Conseil exécutif
执行局

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Quels que soient les termes utilisés dans les textes du présent recueil pour désigner les personnes exerçant des charges, mandats ou fonctions, il va de soi que les titulaires de tous les postes ou sièges correspondants peuvent être indifféremment des femmes ou des hommes.

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PREMIÈRE SÉANCE

Lundi 1^{er} octobre 2007 à 10 h 20

Président : M. Zhang

OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1.1 The Chairperson *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, good morning, and welcome to the 177th session of the Executive Board. It is so nice to see all of you again as we gather for our final session together for the 2006-2007 biennium. This session is the last, but it is certainly not the least! In fact, I would say that this is probably the most important session of the biennium because we still have so much to accomplish as we steadily plough through solid ground, moving towards the 34th session of the General Conference.

1.2 I firmly believe you will all remember the goal we set for ourselves in the beginning, which was to make this Board more responsible to the General Conference and more helpful to the Secretariat, while celebrating our own diversity in unity. Let me recall what I have continuously set as my overwhelming priority over the past two years: the elaboration of the next Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) – which mostly coincides with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – and the new Programme and Budget (34 C/5). I have always done whatever I could to ensure that we stay on track, as a Board, in accomplishing these goals. Together, along with the Director-General, Mr Matsuura, and his core team in the Secretariat, we have forged ahead and have given meticulous attention to this task while being continuously supported by the President of the General Conference, Mr Musa Hassan. In this regard, I could say that the Board does not act alone; rather, it acts as one with the three organs in harmony.

1.3 In the days ahead we shall be completing our constitutional mission and the tasks that have been assigned to us by the General Conference. We will also be following up on work we gave ourselves during the previous three sessions. We have already made our recommendations concerning the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, effectively ensuring UNESCO's relevance globally and within the United Nations system. Guided by the work we have accomplished in making recommendations on the C/4 document, during this session we shall be finalizing our recommendations for the next Programme and Budget, based on the proposals of the Director-General and the work undertaken on our behalf by the Drafting Group.

1.4 Dear colleagues, let us consider that this session of the Board is the culmination of the collective work we have undertaken since we began our "journey of a thousand miles", when we took our first step together as a team in November 2005. It is perhaps not a coincidence that the cycle of four Board sessions in two years begins in the spring. Spring is the time when life begins to stir after the winter. It is a time to sow the seeds that will bear their fruits later in the year. The end of the biennial cycle is in the autumn, during harvest time when labours of the past come to bear fruit. But we all know that bumper crops do not come without attentive tending of the field. Our own labour ensures that the crop yield is as we had expected. So that is why we called it a golden autumn.

1.5 Six months have passed since the last time we sat formally as the Executive Board. It seems like only just

yesterday. While time seems to go by even faster than ever, much has happened since April. The Director-General will shortly provide an overview of what the Secretariat has done, so let me share with you a few comments on what has happened since we last met. As you are aware, the Board's Drafting Group met exceptionally in several intensive meetings over the summer so as to finalize its work on the examination and completion of the C/5 document. It needed to do so thus ensuring that the Board's recommendations on draft document 34 C/4, as contained in document 34 C/11, were taken fully into consideration. The Drafting Group's final meeting was held just last week in order for it to finalize this extremely important work. It has now paved the way for our own in-depth examination of item 25. We are indeed truly grateful to the co-Chairs, Ambassador Mukherjee and Ambassador Omolewa.

1.6 I will speak in more detail in a moment on the Programme and Budget for 2008-2009. Before doing so, I should like to comment on the work of the Chairman's informal working group on the elaboration of document 177 EX/46 Part II. Because it was the first time that this exercise of our constitutional function was to be undertaken in such depth, and after extensive consultations with all of you, I felt it necessary to set up this informal working group so that it could meet throughout the summer to work out the details of this innovative report. Allow me to salute not only the coordinator of this group, Ms Hanna-El-Daher, who deftly guided her team, but also the co-Chairs of the Drafting Group, the Chairpersons of PX and FA Commissions, along with all other members of this informal drafting group, as well, of course, as the members of the Permanent Delegations, as observers, who actively participated in the drafting of this document. The fact that our colleagues sacrificed their summer months in these two working groups is testimony to the commitment we all have made to ensure the successful conclusion of our work for the General Conference. Indeed all members should be commended for their valiant efforts and the outcomes of their very difficult tasks.

1.7 Another accomplishment during the intersessional period is the consensus reached for the nominations of the Chairpersons of the commissions and the committees of the General Conference. This very delicate task was done with admirable patience and with the greatest willingness on everyone's part, and I really appreciate all the Board Members and the Member States, their willingness to serve and to contribute for this Organization to the forthcoming session of the General Conference. Participation in the initiative has been so high that we really have more candidates than before. And the reason I say that is that I really admire the patience and the great willingness of everyone, because it appeared that even at a very late stage it might again be impossible to achieve consensus. In that case, the beginning of the General Conference would have done nothing but vote. But finally, the magic happened because of the open dialogue, consultation and willingness to contribute and give to others. So finally, every regional group has come with great efforts to "wipe the slate clean", and finally, Board Members should endeavour to have consensus recommendations to bring to this Board, which, hopefully, it can bring to the General Conference.

1.8 I should indeed like to thank you all, especially the Vice-Chairpersons of the Board, the six Vice-Chairpersons and the Chairpersons of the six regional groups, and in fact the whole Bureau and some Member States directly concerned, for the active role you played in

reaching a mutual conclusion on this item so that our Board and our Organization can really exemplify and demonstrate to the world that we can reach a consensus. We not only advocate and are building peace in the minds of men, but at our level, we can also build this kind of harmony and reach into convergence and finally consensus.

1.9 Dear colleagues, finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention the work of the CR, SP and NGO Committees and the Group of Experts on Financial and Administrative Matters, which have already met and began their work for this Board session. Equally, the Bureau has already met twice before today, and has proved, once again, its value in providing advice on the organization of our work.

1.10 Throughout the past 18 months, every single one of you has taken your responsibilities to heart. Not thinking only of your own concerns, but always mindful of the needs of this Organization and all of its 192 Member States. I have said in the past that our job is like that of an orchestra. Each with his or her own roles and tasks, but through collective action, all working in symphony. A conductor is only as good as his orchestra; and I must say that I could not have asked for a better team! I have continually relied on all of you, as well as the Vice-Chairpersons of the Board and the Chairpersons of each of the regional groups, too, for their advice, and also to act as a two-way communication system.

1.11 As the adage goes, "Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself", so allow me also to inform you of some of the activities I have undertaken on the Board's behalf, which I felt were of great importance even despite the constraints imposed on me because of my domestic responsibilities. I want to attend so many of your activities, not only as a representative of you, the Board, but also for my own benefit. I always find it is a great learning opportunity for me, enabling me to deepen my understanding of you.

1.12 There were many UNESCO events that occurred during the intersessional period, and I would like to touch on just a few. Firstly, I participated in the G8-UNESCO World Forum on Education, Research and Innovation: New Partnership for Sustainable Development, which was held in Trieste, Italy. This was an excellent opportunity to bring education, science and technology together to further spur innovation and the promotion of knowledge societies through greater South-South-North cooperation, and that is a new partnership we hope to see in this innovative society as a core of the knowledge society.

1.13 I also attended the first extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage that was organized in Chengdu, China. This successful meeting further pursued the preparatory work launched in November 2006 in Algeria. It was followed by a second meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

1.14 Thirdly, it was very important that I attend the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee that was held in Christchurch, New Zealand. I was able to inform the Committee's Chairperson, Chief Tumu te Heuheu, of our decision concerning the Old City of Jerusalem taken during last session's special plenary meeting. Our debate, including the follow-up action by the Director-General and the implementation of all the decisions, remains important. We do need to recognize the collective efforts of all concerned who worked so constructively together. The people there felt and said that a warm summer's breeze from Paris blew through Christchurch at that time.

1.15 We all met here informally for the tenth information meeting of the Executive Board with the Director-General, which was an excellent opportunity to be informed of the follow-up action taken by the Secretariat since our previous session and also to prepare for this critical session of the Board. That session, I am sure you will all agree, served to reinforce the communication mechanism between the Board, the Secretariat and the General Conference, which is so instrumental for the quality of work of the three organs.

1.16 And finally, I opened the second UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy in Beijing. This conference was initiated by the White House Conference on Global Literacy. The Beijing meeting addressed the topic of "Literacy Challenges in East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches", and was attended by the First Ladies of Indonesia and Mongolia as well as all ministers from the region. The first regional conference was held in Doha, Qatar. Others include the regional meeting held in Bamako, Mali and those to be held in Delhi, India, later this year and in San José, Costa Rica, and Baku, Azerbaijan, next year.

1.17 Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, current events still remind us of the continued need for an Organization like UNESCO to exist, and for us, as a Board, to continue to ensure that its impact is relevant to Member States' needs. It is also our duty to strengthen our Organization's global relevance given the important and broad remit handed down to us by our founding fathers – the broadest remit of all the specialized agencies within the United Nations system.

1.18 Tomorrow we will hold the second thematic debate of the biennium, as we decided at our 175th session. It will focus on United Nations reform and view it in the specific context of the two top policy areas, highlighting concretely where UNESCO has been making specific contributions over the years, and indeed has taken a leadership role among United Nations organizations at the global, regional and country levels, and where these priorities are more important than ever as we look to the future. I am certain that these issues will become components of joint United Nations action at the national level, and that United Nations country teams – among them UNESCO – will be called upon to support governments in their own efforts to achieve coherence of action, effectiveness and commitment to quality delivery without duplication.

1.19 When we come to discuss our agenda and the timetable of work, I will provide further details on the organization of tomorrow's meeting, including on those high-level guest speakers who have readily agreed to address the Board. They will inform us of current trends in the areas of climate change and knowledge societies, through the prism of UNESCO's mission and its multidisciplinary approach, and placing it in the larger frame of action within the ongoing United Nations reform. As with our previous debate, I know I can count on your active participation in the debate. I am hopeful that the outcomes of our discussions can chart an action-oriented approach, namely how best to tackle these challenges throughout all of our programmes and achieve tangible results, together with other United Nations organizations.

1.20 Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, harvest time has come, and I hope this will be a golden autumn, as this session is a decisive moment in the life of this Board. We shall be required to tie up loose ends, and to provide our final recommendations to the General Conference on

many items of importance. We have 67 items on our agenda. That means one more than at our previous session, which was already a record-breaking session in that regard. Therefore we have our work cut out for us!

1.21 Before concluding, I would just like to touch upon one or two items on this session's agenda. Let me turn firstly to the usual practice concerning the report to the General Conference on the Board's activities and its methods of work during the biennium as is outlined in 30 C/Resolution 81. This is the first time that the Board will send its report in two parts, and 33 C/Resolution 78 and 33 C/Resolution 92 also ask us to report on the implementation of the current Programme and Budget (33 C/5) together with the results achieved in the previous biennium (34 C/3). The Special Committee dealt with Part I, and later this week you will discuss Part II in the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions. I am sure you will all understand the great amount of work that has gone into this new style of reporting in such meticulous detail, and recognize that since this is the first time this method has been used, there will always be room for improvement in the future.

1.22 A second point I would like to make is in regard to the follow-up to 33 C/Resolution 92, concerning relations between the three organs of UNESCO (item 31 on our agenda). You all know how much importance I place on the synergies between the President of the General Conference, Ambassador Musa Hassan, and the Director-General, Mr Matsuura, and myself. Suffice it to say that I trust that we shall be able to finalize this joint report, so that all three of us may present it to the General Conference in unison.

1.23 And finally, I would like to say a few words about the Draft Programme and Budget, document 34 C/5 2nd version Corr., especially as regards the question of the budget ceiling. It may be considered a sensitive issue, but I am confident that with a little understanding from us all, we may come to realize that giving up a little individually may mean gaining a lot in the long run for our common good.

1.24 At the close of our 176th session, I said that our Organization needed the credible support necessary if it was to succeed in fulfilling all its challenging functions that we have assigned to it: a laboratory of ideas, a clearing house, a standard-setter, a capacity-builder in Member States and a catalyst for intergovernmental cooperation. Despite the financial – and of course the political – reinforcement linked to the return of the United States, the reality is that the Organization's budget has over the years declined steadily in real terms. How could a large organization like UNESCO, with the many challenges we have asked it to address, operate under such conditions? I am confident there is an opportunity for all of us to work towards the achievement of consensus on this issue – thus laying the ground for a prosperous and meaningful future for UNESCO. I believe we are at a turning point in our Organization's history. The proposal put forth by the Director-General in the corrigendum to the second version of the C/5 document represents a new direction: moving away from zero nominal growth budgets on the path towards zero real growth for the first time in almost a decade. Accepting this proposal will mean that we ensure UNESCO's abiding relevance.

1.25 With this new budget proposal, we know that more funds will be allocated to programme implementation in line with the Organization's priorities. We encourage the Director-General to continue streamlining the Secretariat, making it better and ensuring

more efficient use of our funds. Certainly, still more can be done to make improvements, bring more effectiveness and efficiency of delivery of our programmes and make the Organization even more results-oriented. But as with any dynamic organization, I know that our Director-General will continue to strive to do this, with our guidance, through our own oversight function. In this regard, I am hopeful that we can reach a mutual agreement on these subjects.

1.26 This year's experience may have set an example for future C/5 exercises: working together in transparency, mutual trust and full commitment to the noble ideals of our Organization in order to reach a consensus and a common ground for providing the requisite resources for UNESCO in a globalizing world and in a reforming United Nations system.

1.27 Now ladies and gentlemen, I should like to give one final word of advice. Throughout the coming weeks, we will finalize the preparations for the 34th session of the General Conference. This also means that we will have to pace ourselves, as we brace for it. During the coming days, your deliberations, in plenary or in the commissions and committees, will be decisive. We must sustain the excellent manner in which we have efficiently moved to completion of our tasks in the past sessions as we prepare for the future. I should like to wish you the best of luck and thank you for your attention. With these words, I am pleased to declare open the 177th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO!

Item 1: Agenda and timetable of work (177 EX/1 Prov. Rev.2; 177 EX/INF.1 Prov. Rev.2)

2.1 **The Chairperson** said that in accordance with Rule 5, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the provisional agenda (177 EX/1 Prov.) and the provisional timetable of work (177 EX/INF.1 Prov.) had been sent to the Members of the Board on 23 August 2007, together with the letter of convocation to the session.

2.2 In accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, a revised provisional agenda (175 EX/1 Prov. Rev.) had been prepared to take into account the withdrawal of item 18 and the inclusion of items, 71, 72 and 73. The revised provisional agenda, the revised provisional timetable of work, and the revised provisional agendas of the Programme and External Relations Commission and the Finance and Administrative Commission had been issued following the second meeting of the Bureau on 28 September 2007.

3. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) wished to know whether documents 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 and 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 Add. would be considered in the Finance and Administrative Commission together with draft document 34 C/5.

4. **The Secretary** said that those documents would be considered when the two co-Chairpersons of the Drafting Group on item 25 presented their report in plenary, while item 25 would be examined by the Finance and Administrative Commission.

5. **The Chairperson** said that if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the revised provisional agenda contained in document 177 EX/1 Prov. Rev.2.

6. *It was so decided.*

AGENDAS OF THE COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Agenda of the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission (177 EX/PX/1 Prov. Rev.)

7. The Chairperson noted that the programme aspects of shared items **4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 46, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71** and **73** would be examined by the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission. Seeing no objections, he took it that the Board wished to approve the revised provisional agenda contained in document 177 EX/PX/1 Prov. Rev.

8. *It was so decided.*

Agenda of the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA) (177 EX/FA/1 Prov. Rev.)

9. **The Chairperson** noted that the administrative and financial aspects of shared items **4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 46, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71** and **73** would be examined by the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA). Seeing no objections, he took it that the Board wished to approve the revised provisional agenda contained in document 177 EX/FA/1 Prov. Rev.

10. *It was so decided.*

Joint meeting of the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission and the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission

11. **The Chairperson** said that pursuant to 175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 8, and following consultations with the Chairpersons of the two Commissions and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Board, certain items whose programme aspects and administrative and financial aspects were intertwined had been identified to be examined by the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions, namely items **26, 27, 28** and **46** (Part II). The meeting would be held on Saturday 6 October 2007 and co-chaired by the Chairpersons of the PX and FA Commissions, and a report would be submitted to the Board for adoption in plenary meeting. Seeing no objections, he took it that the Board agreed that the above-mentioned items should be considered by the joint meeting.

12. *It was so decided.*

Statements by the UNESCO staff associations

13. **The Chairperson** informed the Board that the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) had asked to take the floor during the debate on item **6** (Part I), and the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) had asked to take the floor during the debate on items **6** (Part I) and **25**, both of which items were on the agenda of the Finance and Administrative Commission. In the past, the Executive Board had always authorized representatives of the staff associations to take the floor during debates by the FA Commission on items concerning the staff. Having examined their requests, the Bureau proposed that the Board authorize the representatives of those staff associations 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.

Revised provisional timetable

(177 EX/INF.1 Prov. Rev.2)

14. **The Chairperson** noted that the revised provisional timetable of work took into account the changes made to the provisional agenda that had just been adopted and the request made by the Chairperson of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations at the first meeting of the Bureau that an additional half-working day be granted to the Committee, in the morning of Friday 5 October 2007. Seeing no objections, he took it that the Board wished to approve the revised provisional timetable of work, as contained in document 177 EX/INF.1 Prov. Rev. 2.

15. *It was so decided.*

16. **Mr Macedo Soares** (Brazil) (Chairperson of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations) noted that not only item **38**, but also the remaining proposed draft decisions under item **32**, would be addressed at the additional meeting of the Committee.

17. **The Chairperson** thanked the Chairperson of the CR Committee for that explanation.

Organization of the debates in plenary

18.1 **The Chairperson** said that the debate on items **4, 5, 6** and **25** would be introduced by the Director-General. Each Member State would be allowed a speaking time of eight minutes during the debate, which would take place in the mornings of Tuesday 2 October 2007 and Wednesday 3 October 2007. As had been the case at the previous session, the Bureau proposed that a musical signal be played one minute before the end of the time allocated to each speaker.

18.2 The Director-General's reply to the statements by the Members of the Board during the general debate and the question-and-answer session would be held in the afternoon of Wednesday 3 October and continue, if necessary, in the morning of Thursday 4 October 2007.

Member States were invited to avoid lengthy statements, ensure that their questions were clear and concise, and limit their questions to three at a time and to a length of three minutes.

18.3 The second debate would be the thematic debate under item **61**, on the subject of "Facing the multidisciplinary challenges of knowledge societies and global change: UNESCO's contributions to United Nations reform at the regional and country levels", which would take place in the afternoon of Tuesday 2 October 2007. It would focus on United Nations reform, in continuation of the thematic debate held during the 175th session of the Board, and placing it in the concrete context of two emerging priority policy areas for UNESCO. The Organization had played a very important, sometimes hidden role in those areas for many years, with contributions at the global, regional and country levels. The challenge was now to place the issue in the context of the new global priorities and the joint activities of the United Nations system agencies. The opening statement would be made by H.E. Mr Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister of State for Ecology, Sustainable Planning and Development of France. Mr Borloo attached significant importance to concrete action in favour of sustainable development and environment by working towards a new global ecological deal, as advocated a week earlier by President Sarkozy before the United Nations General Assembly. Statements would then be made by three eminent personalities: Dr José Mariano Gago, Minister of Science, Technology

and Higher Education of Portugal; Dr Hamadou Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union; and Professor Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairperson of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Their contributions would no doubt stimulate a genuine debate among Members of the Board, and have a tangible impact on the Organization's programmatic direction and activities.

Item 2: Approval of the summary records of the 176th session (176 EX/SR.1-10 & 176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting/SR)

19. **The Chairperson** recalled that the summary records of the 176th session had been sent to Member States on 27 July 2007. If there were no objections, he would take it that in accordance with Rule 23, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure, the Board wished to approve the summary records contained in document 176 EX/SR.1-10 & 176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting/SR.

20. *It was so decided.*

Tributes to the memory of representatives of Member States of the Executive Board deceased since the previous session

21.1 The Chairperson in extenso:

Dear colleagues, now, let us turn to the tribute to the memory of representatives of Member States of the Executive Board deceased since the last session. Sadly, I would like to pay tribute to our colleague, Mr Lamine Traoré of Mali, who passed away on 22 July 2007. He had been a former Minister of Education and the representative of Mali on the Board since 2003.

21.2 Also, I would like to pay tribute to Mr Torben Krogh of Denmark, who suddenly passed away this year on 26 June. He was a representative on the Executive Board from 1991 to 1995 and President of the General Conference from 1995 to 1997. He was also Chairperson of the Working Group on the Structure and Function of the General Conference, which undertook pioneering work from 1995 to 1997.

٢٢،١ السيد موسى حسن (رئيس المؤتمر العام) النص الكامل:
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم. معالي رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، معالي المدير العام، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، إن السيد تورين كروغ رئيس المؤتمر العام في دورته السابعة والعشرين لم يكن فقط ناجحاً في إدارة أعمال المؤتمر العام في العيد الخمسين لليونسكو، فكان صديقاً حميماً لليونسكو ملتصقاً بها مدافعاً عن مثلها العليا. كنت ألتقي به عند زيارته لليونسكو للتشاور معه في اجتماع كان يضمنا مع الرؤساء السابقين للمؤتمر العام. كان إعلامياً نزيهاً مدافعاً عن حرية التعبير وفي نفس الوقت محترماً لمشاعر الآخرين، وقد عبر عن موقفه هذا عندما حصلت مشكلة الرسوم. وفي رئاسته للمجلس الدولي الحكومي لتنمية الاتصال أظهر جديته في الدفاع عن الدول النامية والتجول من بلد إلى آخر لجمع الأموال لدعم البرامج لتنمية الاتصال والإعلام في هذه الدول. رحمه الله وأسكنه فسيح جناته وألهم ذويهم وأصدقائه الصبر والسلوان.

٢٢،٢ أما المرحوم الأستاذ لامين تراوري، وزير التربية السابق في مالي وعضو المجلس التنفيذي للمنظمة، فقد عرفناه عن قرب... وعرفنا منه الأخلاق العالية الرفيعة. أتقدم باسم المؤتمر العام بالتعازي الحارة إلى أهله وذويه وأصدقائه وإلى بلده مالي وأعضاء الوفد الدائم في اليونسكو... كان المرحوم مؤمناً بعمل هذه المنظمة ومتضامناً مع زملائه من أهل أفريقيا. عمل الكثير من أجل التعليم في بلده ودافع بقوة عن التعليم للجميع في أفريقيا وعمل من أجل أن تنال المرأة الأفريقية

حقوقها الشرعية. رحمه الله وأسكنه فسيح جناته وألهم ذويهم وأصدقائه وجميع من أحبوه الصبر والسلوان.

(22.1) **M. Musa Hassan** (Président de la Conférence générale) *in extenso* (traduit de l'arabe) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, M. Torben Krogh, qui a présidé la 28^e session de la Conférence générale, n'a pas seulement dirigé avec succès les travaux de la Conférence générale à l'occasion du cinquantenaire de l'UNESCO. Il était également un proche ami de l'Organisation, à laquelle il était attaché et dont il a défendu les nobles idéaux. Lorsqu'il était de passage à l'UNESCO, je discutais avec lui dans le cadre de réunions rassemblant les anciens présidents de la Conférence générale. Il était un homme de médias honnête et défendait la liberté d'expression tout en respectant les sentiments d'autrui, comme il l'a démontré lors de l'affaire des caricatures. En tant que Président du Programme international pour le développement de la communication, il a défendu avec sérieux les pays en développement et a voyagé d'un pays à l'autre en vue de recueillir des fonds pour appuyer les programmes de développement de la communication et des médias dans ces pays. Que Dieu lui accorde sa miséricorde et l'accueille en son vaste paradis, et donne patience et réconfort à ses proches et à ses amis.

(22.2) Quant à feu M. Lamine Traoré, ancien ministre malien de l'éducation et membre du Conseil exécutif de l'Organisation, nous l'avons côtoyé et avons eu l'occasion d'apprécier son noble caractère. Au nom de la Conférence générale, je tiens à présenter mes sincères condoléances à sa famille, à ses proches et à ses amis, ainsi qu'à son pays, le Mali, et aux membres de la délégation permanente du Mali auprès de l'UNESCO. M. Lamine Traoré croyait en l'action de l'Organisation et était solidaire avec ses collègues africains. Il a beaucoup fait pour l'éducation dans son pays, a défendu avec vigueur l'Éducation pour tous en Afrique et a œuvré en faveur de l'exercice par la femme africaine de ses droits légitimes. Que Dieu lui accorde sa miséricorde et l'accueille en son vaste paradis, et donne patience et réconfort à ses proches, à ses amis et à tous ceux qui l'aimaient.

23.1 The Director-General in extenso:

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. I would like to join you, Mr Chair, and also the President of the General Conference, in paying my tribute to our former colleagues, Mr Lamine Traoré and Mr Torben Krogh. I was in Bamako, Mali, in early September to participate in the African Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy. I then had the occasion to express my tribute to Mr Lamine Traoré, but wish to reiterate my sincere condolences to the President of Mali and to the people of Mali for the passing away of Mr Lamine Traoré.

23.2 I would also like to pay tribute to Mr Torben Krogh. He was the President the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), and he was instrumental in re-energizing IPDC; in fact I had an appointment to meet with him just a few days after his passing away. He was coming to see me in Paris to discuss further how to continue the re-energization process of IPDC. Therefore I was indeed very shocked to learn of his sudden death, so I would like to join you,

Mr Chair, and also the President of the General Conference, in paying sincere tribute to Mr Torben Krogh.

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

EXÉCUTION DU PROGRAMME

Point 4 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale (177 EX/4 Parties I et II et Corr. ; 177 EX/INF.7 ; 177 EX/INF.10 ; 177 EX/INF.12 ; 177 EX/INF.15)

Point 5 : Rapport du Directeur général sur le suivi des décisions et résolutions adoptées par le Conseil exécutif et la Conférence générale à leurs sessions antérieures (177 EX/5 et Add. ; 177 EX/INF.12)

Point 6 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre du processus de réforme (177 EX/6 Parties I et II ; 177 EX/INF.12)

Projet de programme et de budget pour 2008-2009 (34 C/5)

Point 25 : Examen du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2008-2009 (34 C/5) et recommandations du Conseil exécutif (34 C/5 2^e version Volumes 1 et 2 et Corr.-Corr.2 ; 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 et Add. ; 177 EX/INF.12 ; 177 EX/INF.18)

Débat général : introduction du Directeur général

24.1 **Le Directeur général in extenso :**

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, je suis heureux de me retrouver parmi vous aujourd'hui pour cette importante session du Conseil exécutif, après une pause estivale qui, j'espère, aura été bonne pour chacun d'entre vous. Comme vous avez pu le constater à la lecture de mon introduction écrite, le Secrétariat a quant à lui accompli des progrès substantiels dans nombre de domaines, y compris depuis notre dernière réunion d'information en juillet dernier. Je suis certain que nous aurons, dans les jours qui viennent et pendant la séance de questions-réponses, l'occasion de revenir sur certains d'entre eux, voire de compléter ou clarifier l'information fournie.

24.2 Dans cette introduction ce matin, je souhaiterais me concentrer sur deux aspects qui me semblent être au cœur de la présente session, à savoir mes propositions de Programme et budget pour 2008-2009, formulées à la lumière des recommandations du Conseil sur la Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2008-2013 (34 C/4 et 34 C/11), ainsi que les enjeux principaux de la Conférence générale qui s'ouvrira dans quelques jours. Ce faisant, j'aborderai également les derniers développements de la réforme des Nations Unies et notre participation à ce processus. Comme vous le savez sans doute, je reviens de New York où j'ai eu d'importantes rencontres à cet égard.

24.3 Pour ce qui est de la Stratégie à moyen terme, je crois que nous avons abouti à un texte consensuel qui a offert une base solide pour la préparation du Programme et budget pour 2008-2009, le 34 C/5. Les propositions que je vous soumetts dans la deuxième version du 34 C/5, et en particulier son corrigendum, ont suivi un cheminement particulièrement complexe, j'en conviens. Je sais qu'il a suscité des interrogations. Permettez-moi d'en clarifier les principales étapes.

24.4 Vous vous souviendrez que pour votre session d'avril, j'avais proposé, comme vous me l'aviez demandé, quatre options de plafond budgétaire, allant de la croissance nominale zéro à une croissance réelle modeste, avec deux options intermédiaires, dont une

appelée « croissance réelle zéro », c'est-à-dire présentant une croissance nominale permettant de maintenir le pouvoir d'achat de l'Organisation. Il s'agissait du plafond de 648,3 millions de dollars, que j'ai choisi comme scénario de base (« *core scenario* »). J'avais alors insisté sur la nécessité de briser le cycle infernal de la croissance nominale zéro, qui avait été imposée à l'Organisation durant trois bienniums.

24.5 J'avais exprimé mon sentiment qu'un scénario qui aurait octroyé une croissance modeste à notre Organisation aurait été bienvenu. Mais je comprenais également les contraintes budgétaires rencontrées par nombre d'États, et je m'étais donc rallié à l'option de la croissance réelle zéro comme scénario de base. Un grand nombre d'États membres avaient soutenu ce scénario au cours des consultations informelles menées à l'approche du Conseil ainsi que pendant sa session d'avril. Il restait néanmoins quelques États réticents, dont certains gros contributeurs.

24.6 Ce scénario de 648,3 millions nous permettait, selon moi, de répondre adéquatement aux nombreux défis, tant internes qu'externes, auxquels nous devons faire face. J'avais également souligné qu'il ne m'était plus possible d'effectuer des économies dans les ressources humaines, et que toute diminution supplémentaire de ces ressources affecterait directement nos programmes. Les débats du Conseil du printemps, s'ils m'ont donné des indications précieuses tant sur le plan programmatique que sur le plafond budgétaire, n'ont cependant pas été conclusifs. Le Conseil m'a alors demandé de présenter un seul et unique scénario pour la présente session.

24.7 Le Groupe de rédaction s'est réuni en juin, puis en juillet, et enfin la semaine dernière, pour achever son examen du 34 C/5. Il a pris soin pendant ses travaux d'assurer la cohérence du projet de C/5 avec le C/4. Je tiens dans ce contexte à remercier les membres du Groupe de rédaction pour leur travail remarquable, et tout particulièrement ses deux coprésidents, l'Ambassadrice de l'Inde et l'Ambassadeur du Nigéria, qui ont œuvré sans relâche pour une formulation de qualité des commentaires du Conseil exécutif.

24.8 J'ai par la suite publié à la mi-juillet - de façon à respecter les délais statutaires de trois mois avant le début de la Conférence générale - un texte révisé du 34 C/5 qui figure dans la deuxième version de mes propositions budgétaires, en deux volumes (rouge bordeaux), avec un seul scénario budgétaire : la croissance réelle zéro, soit 648,3 millions de dollars. Cette version révisée, bien qu'affichant un plafond budgétaire de 648,3 millions, différait de celle présentée en avril, car elle tenait compte des débats du Conseil et des réaménagements souhaités. Ce scénario tenait en particulier pleinement compte des modifications proposées par le Conseil sur la Stratégie à moyen terme, en veillant à assurer la cohérence entre les deux visions, le 34 C/5 constituant la première tranche d'exécution de la nouvelle Stratégie à moyen terme.

24.9 À la lumière de l'opinion des quelques États réticents concernant l'option de 648,3 millions, j'ai poursuivi des consultations informelles immédiatement après le Conseil pour tenter d'obtenir un consensus. À la mi-juillet, date butoir à laquelle je devais formuler mes propositions révisées, je n'avais pas obtenu ce consensus, et j'ai formulé la proposition de 648,3 millions en sachant que je serais probablement appelé à la reformuler.

24.10 J'ai poursuivi les consultations pendant tout l'été afin de rallier ces quelques États encore réticents. À

l'approche de la présente session, qui devra présenter ses recommandations à la Conférence générale concernant le plafond budgétaire, ayant acquis la conviction que mes précédentes propositions ne recueilleraient jamais le consensus nécessaire, j'ai décidé de présenter un nouveau scénario, qui vous a été proposé sous la forme d'un corrigendum à la 2^e version du 34 C/5, et qui a été établi sur la base d'une enveloppe budgétaire de 631 millions de dollars. Ce faisant, j'ai veillé tout à la fois à renforcer l'approche intersectorielle et interdisciplinaire, à accorder à l'Afrique et à l'égalité des sexes une place prioritaire, tout en élaborant un cadre adapté aux nouveaux défis pour les programmes relatifs aux sciences, en accentuant la décentralisation et en facilitant à tous les niveaux le suivi systématique des programmes et l'établissement de rapports sur leur exécution.

24.11 Je suis bien conscient que cette nouvelle proposition a surpris nombre d'entre vous, et n'a pas facilité votre examen préalable des documents. J'ai beaucoup hésité avant de me résoudre à la formuler. Je m'y suis finalement résolu car j'ai estimé essentiel pour notre Organisation d'aborder ce nouveau cycle biennal avec l'adhésion pleine et entière de l'ensemble de ses États membres. Cela m'a donc conduit à vous soumettre un nouveau projet de plafond budgétaire, fondé sur les besoins minimums de notre Organisation, et en mesure de recueillir le nécessaire consensus au sein du Conseil, puis de la Conférence générale. Pour parvenir à ce nouveau scénario, j'ai dû réaliser des coupes - inévitables - dans les programmes et dans les postes, ainsi que des réajustements stratégiques, en tenant compte des discussions du Conseil à sa session de printemps, à sa réunion d'information de juillet, ainsi que des délibérations du Groupe de rédaction, de même que des derniers développements intervenus dans le contexte de la réforme des Nations Unies.

24.12 Dans le passé, les diverses économies que j'ai été conduit à réaliser l'ont toujours été principalement par la suppression de postes, essentiellement au Siège. Je me permets de rappeler qu'entre le 30 C/5 et le 33 C/5, j'ai aboli 319 postes au Siège tout en créant 80 postes hors Siège, soit une abolition nette de 239 postes permanents. Dans le nouveau scénario que je vous propose, alors même que j'estime que la limite a été atteinte en matière de coupes dans les effectifs, j'ai à nouveau réduit les effectifs du Siège dans les domaines les moins prioritaires, tout en créant quelques postes pour des fonctions que j'estime essentielles au Siège, correspondant aux cinq priorités de programme ainsi qu'aux cinq domaines que j'ai identifiés comme devant être renforcés, comme le Bureau de déontologie, ou encore la décentralisation. Au total, dans ce nouveau scénario, j'ai donc poursuivi l'effort entrepris de réduction des effectifs au Siège (avec l'abolition nette de 16 postes) et de renforcement du hors Siège (avec la création de 62 postes). Je ne peux vraiment pas aller plus loin. Et c'est pour cette raison que 90 % des coupes de ce dernier projet de 631 millions de dollars, soit 15,5 millions sur les 17,3 millions de coupes totales par rapport au scénario de 648,3 millions, portent sur les crédits d'activités.

24.13 Le total des crédits alloués à chacun des cinq secteurs de programme, à ADM et ERC et aux services centraux a donc été revu à la baisse par rapport au plafond de 648,3 millions. Il en est de même de l'exécution du programme et des résultats escomptés. L'impact de ce scénario est détaillé dans le corrigendum, qui doit être examiné en parallèle à mes propositions antérieures de 648,3 millions, beaucoup plus détaillées,

contenues dans le 34 C/5 Rev. 2^e version. J'y indique pour chaque grand programme et axe d'action les incidences du passage de 648,3 à 631 millions et les coupes effectuées, y compris dans des activités qui figurent au cœur de notre mandat.

24.14 Tout en maintenant les cinq objectifs primordiaux de programme définis dans la nouvelle Stratégie à moyen terme, j'ai identifié cinq domaines dans lesquels je n'ai pas souhaité diminuer le niveau de ressources en passant du scénario de 648 millions à celui de 631 millions : la modernisation des outils de gestion, le renforcement de la politique du personnel, le renforcement du système de décentralisation, l'attention accrue apportée à l'Afrique - qui constitue l'une des deux priorités globales pour le 34 C/4 et le 34 C/11, et la collaboration plus étroite avec les organisations du système des Nations Unies. J'y reviendrai dans un instant.

24.15 Pour ce qui est de la modernisation des outils de gestion et du renforcement de la politique du personnel, le Conseil a bien insisté sur la nécessité de poursuivre la réforme. Or je vous rappelle que le processus de réforme n'a jamais bénéficié d'aucune ressource additionnelle. Il me fallait donc, dans ce contexte de diminution des ressources, atténuer l'impact de la diminution budgétaire. Mes collègues auront l'occasion, dans les commissions administratives et de programme, de vous fournir toute l'information nécessaire.

(Le Directeur général poursuit en anglais)

24.16 Mr Chairman, let me now turn to United Nations reform, which I am happy to report is progressing apace. As you know, I am fully committed to the reform process. And through our continued proactive engagement, I believe UNESCO is making a visible impact in several ways. I provided you with a comprehensive report of UNESCO's involvement in United Nations reform efforts at the July information meeting. I have also presented to you a detailed report on the subject in document 177 EX/INF.10. Let me focus now on the most significant developments since July. I will also update you on the internal adaptations we have made to respond to the exigencies of United Nations reform.

24.17 Last week, on the eve of the United Nations General Assembly, I hosted in New York an informal meeting with the heads of the four other large specialized agencies - the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). We addressed issues related to the "Delivering as One" pilots, as well as recent initiatives by the United Nations Secretary-General. These include the MDG Africa Steering Committee and the drafting of a common United Nations system strategy on climate change. I shall return to both later on. I also organized an informal dinner for the heads of specialized agencies to meet with the Executive Heads of the ExCom agencies - namely United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) - to discuss issues of common concern related to United Nations reform. It was the first time that such an informal meeting had been held. All participants considered the initiative to be very constructive.

24.18 One of the agreements reached at the meeting concerned the paramount importance of the quality and knowledge of Resident Coordinators for the success of any reform at the country level. This includes the ability to

ensure country leadership, including through the engagement of line ministries, and to achieve coherent action among United Nations agencies through an inclusive approach.

24.19 With respect to reform of the inter-agency mechanisms, there was a strong sense that the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) should be merged into the Chief Executives Board (CEB) in order to create a single framework for inter-agency cooperation and to provide the indispensable legitimacy for the Resident Coordinator system, currently managed by UNDP.

24.20 In the same spirit, I have taken the initiative to suggest the integration of the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), anchored in the United Nations Secretariat, as a distinct, but integral element, of the global inter-agency structure under CEB. As such, CEB would have four subsidiary pillars: the High-Level Panel for Programmes; the High-Level Panel for Management; the successor to UNDG; and ECHA. The forthcoming session of CEB, at the end of October, will seek to reach agreement on all these reform issues. I wish to mention in the ECHA context our successful participation in the United Nations humanitarian response to the devastating earthquake in Peru this August.

24.21 UNESCO was appointed lead agency for relief and recovery efforts in the field of education. Our office in Lima, in close consultation with the Peruvian authorities, was given the responsibility to provide overall coordination and guidance to United Nations agencies and NGOs in the reactivation of the education system in affected areas. In the weeks following the disaster, the United Nations Common Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) allocated \$500,000 to UNESCO to initiate education activities. This was the first ever earmarking of CERF resources to UNESCO. It demonstrates the critical role of education in emergencies. It is also an acknowledgment among United Nations humanitarian partners of UNESCO's relevance in post-disaster response.

24.22 In recognition of the strategic contribution we can make in post-disaster and post-conflict situations, UNESCO has already requested membership of ECHA as an observer, pending a decision on the reform of CEB. We have established a roster of staff who could provide immediate support to field offices involved in a humanitarian or transition response. Training on United Nations humanitarian mechanisms, such as the consolidated appeal process, flash appeals or the Common Emergency Relief Fund, is scheduled for December so as to further help enhance UNESCO's contribution to "Delivering as One" in humanitarian situations.

24.23 A newly emerging high-priority area of collaboration within the United Nations system lies in the field of climate change. Climate change is guaranteed to gain weight in future common country programming processes, as in regional mechanisms for cooperation. We can anticipate significant demand for country-specific components to be included by United Nations Country Teams in One Plans and/or in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). UNESCO is ready and prepared to engage fully on these crucial issues. You will hear more in the context of the Board's thematic debate tomorrow. UNESCO is making every effort to be actively present at major meetings on climate issues. Last week in New York, I participated in the High-Level Event on Climate Change organized by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. UNESCO is now preparing its participation in the 13th session of the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Bali this December.

24.24 There are two main challenges ahead. One is to develop a new international framework to address global climate change, once the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has already taken the initiative in this regard, as we saw last week in New York. The second is to cope with the negative impacts caused by climate change. The United Nations has identified four key areas for action: mitigation; adaptation; technology and finance.

24.25 We have expertise in mitigation and in particular in adaptation. In addition, UNESCO has longstanding experience in two other areas, scientific research and monitoring, which are not included, but would help to improve our knowledge base on the effects of climate change. In the framework of the CEB High-Level Committee on Programmes, UNESCO is contributing to the development of a common United Nations system strategy in response to global climate change for consideration by the CEB in late October 2007. I believe that without the inclusion of these two additional pillars – research and monitoring – this strategy would be incomplete.

24.26 To accelerate UNESCO's response and programme preparation, I established in June an Intersectoral Task Force on Global Climate Change under my direct responsibility. Its mandate is to define an integrated strategy that will enable UNESCO to provide coordinated input to United Nations-led efforts. A draft of the new strategy, which builds on UNESCO's existing strengths in climate matters, is now under preparation and will be released shortly, in advance of the Bali Climate Change meeting. I would like to have an interaction with Member States on this strategy as well.

24.27 UNESCO is also a member of the United Nations Environmental Management Group (EMG), and its special Issue Management Group on the Environmental Cluster of United Nations reform. These mechanisms are entrusted with coordinating the preparation of an authoritative compilation of all United Nations system-wide activities and governance arrangements in the field of the environment. They are also responsible for operationalizing the Secretary-General's initiative to make the United Nations carbon-neutral and for working on sustainable procurement. The Group's next step is to provide the CEB with a strategic document on these issues. UNESCO is considering how to bring to bear its views and capacities in this regard, so as to make a more visible and strategic contribution in the area of the environment.

24.28 Mr Chairman, with regard to UNESCO's involvement at the country level, the Organization has benefited from the launch in early 2007 of the UNDP/Spanish Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Achievement Fund, totalling €528 million, and representing real additional funding. UNESCO has participated within United Nations country teams (UNCTs) in the preparation of joint project proposals submitted for funding in the areas of: gender equality and empowerment; environment and climate change; and culture and development.

24.29 As I told you at the July information meeting, UNESCO is playing a key role in the area of culture and development, in developing terms of reference and, more recently, in the project selection process. I shall report on the results of the latter at the next Board session. UNESCO's involvement in United Nations country-level

action is guided by a set of principles developed and shared by all specialized agencies. The most important of these are: national ownership, inclusion, diversity, and respect for core mandates and thematic leadership.

24.30 I note with satisfaction that the inter-agency debate, both globally and in the countries concerned, is gravitating increasingly towards a broad acceptance of these principles. I also feel that the unity among the specialized agencies has managed to gradually and palpably increase our impact and visibility in the overall United Nations reform process.

24.31 One feature germane to specialized agencies are specific regional programmes carried out for the benefit of a cluster of Member States. With the present emphasis on country-level programming, it is not easy to include many of the country-specific components of such larger regional programmes into One Plans or Programmes. Yet, a breakthrough has recently been achieved when the Viet Nam country team, with the concurrence of the government, acknowledged the value of regional programmes. They agreed to include a specific section on their impact and benefits into the country's new version of an inclusive One Plan, due to be completed in December 2007. I suggest that we should reflect further on this issue, and consider with our inter-agency partners the feasibility and benefits of formulating regional or subregional UNDAFs.

24.32 In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to the new UNESCO country programming documents (UCPDs). A first set of 10 of these documents will be unveiled later this month. This innovation in our programming tools will allow UNESCO to showcase the entire range of its activities benefiting a particular country, funded from both regular and extrabudgetary resources. UCPDs will also highlight entry points for future cooperation both with the countries and with donors. They thus offer pointers for future components and outcomes of common United Nations country programmes.

24.33 Support to the participation of field offices in United Nations country-level reform processes was also one of the main tasks I entrusted to the Decentralization Review Task Force, under the Chairmanship of Marcio Barbosa. During the first phase of its work, from December 2006 to June 2007, the Task Force concentrated on immediate measures for reinforcing the Organization's decentralized system. In my report to the Board on UNESCO's engagement in United Nations reform, I explained that such support focuses on field offices involved in the 2007 UNDAF roll-out and in the eight "Delivering as One" pilots. It is funded under the budgetary modality I established for the current biennium of allocating 2% of programme resources for participation in common country programming exercises.

24.34 The Decentralization Review Task Force has also put forward proposals for enhancing field offices' programme accountability. In support of our field offices and the United Nations country teams, the Task Force set out UNESCO's key messages, priorities and comparative advantages in its fields of competence, highlighting the link between global, standard-setting and operational action. In its second phase, which will start immediately after the General Conference, the Task Force will focus on the structure of UNESCO's field network. In order to identify the adjustments needed for UNESCO to take up the challenges of United Nations reform at the country level, it is necessary to explore several cost-estimated options for the future of our field structure. The basic guideline for this process will be the sustainability and

reinforcement of the Organization's leading role in its fields of competence.

24.35 In this context, I would like to repeat that I am creating 62 new posts in the field in document 34 C/5, precisely in order to strengthen the capacity of field offices.

24.36 As I mentioned, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently launched a high-level MDG Africa Steering Committee. While membership of this group extends to the World Bank and regional development banks, no specialized agency was invited to participate – despite the strong sectoral orientation of the Committee's objectives. Part of the Committee's mission is to identify effective mechanisms for implementing commitments in African countries in various areas of development, including education and statistical systems. Given that the latter fall under UNESCO's core competences, I immediately wrote to the Secretary-General to underscore the need for any activity in these fields to be built on and fully aligned with what UNESCO has accomplished since Dakar in 2000, and to draw on the work of the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS). I also conveyed my position to UNDP Administrator, Kermal Derviş, asking for his cooperation.

24.37 Mr Chairman, all of the major topics that I have just canvassed are issues that UNESCO's General Conference will have to address, when it opens in two weeks' time. Preparations for this biennial event have been guided by 33 C/Resolution 92 "on the three organs" adopted by the General Conference two years ago. In the spirit of this resolution, every effort has been made to consult with Member States on plans for the 34th session.

24.38 I myself, and the acting Secretary of the General Conference, Michael Millward, reported to you in April on the proposed structure of the General Conference. We received many valuable comments, which we have integrated. The consultations on 33 C/Resolution 92 held by the President of the General Conference have also provided opportunities for Board Members and Permanent Delegates to express their views on how to organize the Conference. I am very grateful to Ambassador Musa Hassan for organizing these intensive consultations. The views expressed have, too, been taken into account. 33 C/Resolution 92 asked a lot from this Executive Board, the President of the General Conference, and myself. I wish to recognize the earnest efforts that have been made by all, and the cooperative manner in which the three organs have been pursuing their respective tasks.

24.39 My own major concern in preparing for the forthcoming session has been to strike a balance between a number of considerations that could sometimes appear to be opposed. I was keen to introduce innovations where these seemed feasible and useful – one example is the new interdisciplinary meeting scheduled very early in the session to reflect the increasingly cross-cutting nature of our programme work; another is the organization of a Civil Society Forum, a sign of the high premium UNESCO places on broad partnership and collaboration.

24.40 However, innovation had to be set against a number of constraints. The first was budgetary. Another was the existence of certain rules of procedure that, unless they were changed – which is not for me to decide – could hamper progress on some of the other interesting initiatives in 33 C/Resolution 92. A third, and one to which I attach considerable importance, is the need to ensure that the Conference does not overly burden small delegations. I believe – and this is the view of the heads of the three organs as set out in document 34 C/19 – that

33 C/Resolution 92 should be seen as a long-distance road map for the organization of the General Conference, to be elaborated and further studied over the coming years.

24.41 Mr Chairman, with this context in mind, let me introduce some of the highlights of the forthcoming session. In preparing for the General Conference, my primary objectives have been twofold: to enhance the Conference's policy-setting function, and to enlarge the opportunities for dialogue among participating ministers. UNESCO's General Conference should be a forum for substantive debate – a real meeting of minds, where global issues are addressed and new ideas generated. Towards this end, two ministerial round tables will be held as fora for interactive policy discussion. I consulted you in April on the structure and titles of these two events. I would like to add that several regional and subregional meetings will also be organized in order to promote interactive debate among participating Ministers. I have been invited to participate in many of these events, and am very happy that such meetings are taking place.

24.42 Coming back to the two ministerial round tables. The first – to be held on 19 and 20 October – will address "Education and economic development". The second – on 26 and 27 October – takes as its theme "Science and technology for sustainable development and the role of UNESCO". Each round table will issue a communiqué, which should serve as a reference point for good policy, greater cooperation, and stronger global consensus. UNESCO will carefully monitor the implementation of the commitments made. I have not forgotten, either, the role the world's youth can play in our discussions. This is why the subjects of the two ministerial round tables will also constitute the major themes of the Youth Forum, which immediately precedes the opening of the General Conference. The needs and aspirations of young people must inform our debates, and the Forum's conclusions will feed both into the round tables, and the plenary session and thematic commissions. The main background documents for the round tables are being distributed, and are likewise accessible online. The Secretariat is also available to answer any inquiries your ministers may have.

24.43 Let me repeat here what I said in April about the rationale behind the themes. We are halfway towards the target date of 2015 for achieving education for all (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). If these goals are to be met, we must gain a better understanding of the links between education and poverty reduction. Education has tremendous potential as a force for social equality and economic development. What we need are proven public policies and good practices for unlocking that potential. This is the aim of the Education Ministerial Round Table, the recommendations of which will be taken forward to the EFA High-Level Group meeting in Dakar in December. Nicholas Burnett, the new Assistant Director-General for Education, will be among the commentators. As Director of the EFA Global Monitoring Report, he has argued that equity, quality and aid are the keys to success. I am confident that his participation will contribute to an informed and evidence-based debate.

24.44 The second round table will provide a forum where Member States can identify their priority needs in science and technology and help formulate policy guidelines to enable UNESCO to address them effectively. These discussions will be informed by the recommendations of the Overall Review Committee for Major Programmes II and III – to which I shall return later.

24.45 Special attention will be given in the round table to the Organization's role in assisting Member States to harness science and technology for sustainable development, in particular through capacity-building and greater regional and international cooperation. The emphasis on sustainable development is significant. With global attention focused on climate change, it is important not to lose sight of the other major challenges facing humanity, from desertification and the freshwater crisis to the dramatic decline in the world's biodiversity. Climate change, however important, is just one factor of a larger environmental crisis that is threatening our hard won development gains. This is why the broader focus on sustainable development is so important.

24.46 We have sought to illustrate this in the choice of theme for the main General Conference exhibition, entitled "Planet Earth: from space to place". This exhibition, and the celebration of the 2008 International Year of Planet Earth it announces, will showcase UNESCO's work in sustainable development, including some of our long-standing earth science contributions to United Nations efforts on climate change. The exhibition will be resolutely interdisciplinary, demonstrating the breadth of the Organization's activities, from ecology and the earth sciences, through disaster mitigation and heritage preservation, to the promotion of biological and cultural diversity and education for sustainable development. It will also highlight the broad spectrum of UNESCO's partnerships in these fields, especially within the United Nations system.

24.47 Again, in the spirit of 33 C/Resolution 92, we have sought to involve all of the Organization's programme sectors and field offices. Over 35 Member States have responded to my invitation to contribute, as have the European Space Agency (ESA) and the United States National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA). I look forward to opening the exhibition alongside His Royal Highness King Carl Gustaf of Sweden, on the evening of 16 October, the first day of the General Conference. I hope that all of you will be able to join us at what promises to be a high media event.

24.48 Mr Chairman, while on the subject of UNESCO's role in sustainable development, let me briefly update you on the follow-up to the conclusions of the Overall Review on Major Programmes II and III. In June, I established an internal task force to prepare a plan for the implementation of the Review Committee's recommendations and my comments thereon. This plan is being finalized and will be shared with the General Conference. Further, in line with your decision in April, the Deputy Director-General has carried out broad consultations on the possible implementation of the Committee's recommendations. These have involved Member States, UNESCO's intergovernmental programmes, and our key scientific partners. Mr Barbosa has also made every effort to keep Member States abreast of progress through briefings to each of the electoral groups.

24.49 Finally, to allow for informed decision-making on this and other subjects relating to UNESCO's work in the sciences, the Secretariat has prepared for the General Conference an overview of natural, social and human science programmes across the United Nations system. In doing so, close attention has been paid to areas where UNESCO plays a special role, such as freshwater, oceans and the ethics of science and technology, in particular bioethics.

24.50 Mr Chairman, I will have the opportunity to return to some of these points in greater detail in the question and answer session. Such dialogue and interaction is at the heart of good governance, as 33 C/Resolution 92 reminds us. Let me sum up by saying that this Board session will set the tone for the General Conference. Now is the occasion to demonstrate a coherent and united UNESCO. A UNESCO committed to delivering as one within the United Nations system, driven by a clear and ambitious Medium-Term Strategy, supported by a focused and results-based programme, and endowed with a budget approved by all its Member States. These are the messages I would hope to see carried through to the General Conference. Thank you.

25. **The Chairperson** thanked the Director-General for his comprehensive and enlightening introduction. Note had been taken of the main activities outlined and of the progress in the implementation of United Nations reform. On the basis of the guiding principle of "Delivering as One", the Director-

General was endeavouring to coordinate UNESCO's activities with those of the other United Nations specialized agencies, with a view to better serving the needs of Member States. Also noteworthy were the ongoing efforts for internal reform, through the decentralization process, and the emphasis placed on Africa. The preparation of the draft C/5 document had required careful consideration of the various budget scenarios in the light of the Organization's priorities. He was confident that with the guidance and support of Member States, the Director-General would continue his efforts over the next biennium to improve the effectiveness of the Secretariat's work and the efficient use of resources, in line with a more results-based approach. Commending the focus on 33 C/Resolution 92, he emphasized the importance of effective communication between the three organs, in accordance with the expectations of Member States and in the best interest of UNESCO.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

DEUXIÈME SÉANCE

Mardi 2 octobre 2007 à 9 h 40

Président : M. Zhang
puis : Mme Oliver (Etats-Unis d'Amérique)
puis : M. Michelini (Uruguay)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (*continued*)

Item 1: Agenda, timetable of work and report of the Bureau (177 EX/2; 177 EX/INF.1) (*continued*)

1. **The Chairperson** invited the Board to adopt the timetable of work contained in document 177 EX/INF.1, which reflected certain changes made since the previous day when the Board had adopted the revised provisional timetable of work contained in document 177 EX/INF.1 Prov. Rev.2. Examination of items **42, 43, 39, 40, 41, 44, 60** and the adoption of the report of the Drafting Group on item **25** had been postponed to the afternoon of Wednesday, 3 October afternoon, after the general debate. The reply by the Director-General to the Board's statements and the question-and-answer session would take one half-day only, the morning of Thursday 4 October. The Programme and External Relations Commission and the Finance and Administrative Commission would then begin their work that afternoon, as previously scheduled. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Board approved the timetable of work contained in document 177 EX/INF.1.

2. *It was so decided.*

Report of the Bureau on questions that do not appear to require debate (177 EX/2)

3. **The Chairperson** said that the Board had before it document 177 EX/2, the Bureau's report on questions which, in accordance with Rule 14, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, did not appear to require debate. The document concerned item **59** "Relations with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and draft memorandum of understanding between UNESCO and that regional organization". If no Member requested a discussion of that item by 1 p.m. on Thursday 4 October, the proposal contained in the document would be considered as adopted.

4. *It was so decided.*

EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAMME (*continued*)

Item 4: Report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference (*continued*) (177 EX/4 Parts I and II and Corr.; 177 EX/INF.7; 177 EX/INF.10; 177 EX/INF.12; 177 EX/INF.13; 177 EX/INF.15)

Item 5: 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 (*continued*) (177 EX/5 and Add. 177 EX/INF.12; 177 EX/INF.13)

Item 6: Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the reform process (*continued*) (177 EX/6 Parts I and II; 177 EX/INF.12; 177 EX/INF.13)

DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2008-2009 (34 C/5) (*continued*)

Item 25: Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5) and recommendations of the Executive Board (*continued*) (34 C/5 2nd version Volumes 1 and 2 and Corr.-Corr.2; 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 and Add.; 177 EX/INF.12; 177 EX/INF.13; 177 EX/INF.18)

General debate (*continued*)

5.1 **Mr Ramalho Ortigão** (Portugal) *in extenso*:

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 27 Member States of the European Union and the candidate countries Croatia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Human dignity and rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law are at the core of UNESCO's mandate. This mandate remains crucial to building peace. Since UNESCO's creation, numerous objectives have been achieved; however, much more needs to be done. This is a moment for action and UNESCO has the capacity to play its role. The European Union attaches great importance to dialogue and cooperation with each regional group and the Secretariat, thus promoting shared joint reflection foreseeing platforms of understanding on some of the issues on UNESCO's agenda, such as intercultural dialogue, Major Programmes II and III, and North-South-South cooperation in education.

5.2 The European Union would like to stress in particular the following main issues: United Nations reform and UNESCO, Africa, education and culture. The debate on United Nations reform provides a decisive opportunity to set out an approach on how we envisage the United Nations operating in the future. Especially, by reorganizing the efforts at country level, the One United Nations plans give us the chance to better align the work of the specialized agencies better by country needs. All the specialized agencies should be fully engaged in the follow-up of the High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence, with corresponding mission statements based on an updated interpretation of their current mandates and constitutions.

5.3 UNESCO's decentralized in-country operations may require changes in the Organization's operational planning and budgeting, to reflect United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) agreed at country level; consolidation of the accountability factor to enhance headquarters in-country coordination is important so as to ensure optimal use of resources and the attainment of expected results as set out in document 34 C/5 and approved work plans; after the 34th session of the General Conference, long-term measures to adjust UNESCO's field presence should be considered. In order to reinforce UNESCO's effectiveness and visibility, the quality of its sectoral work should be improved through better integration into country-led UNDAFs.

5.4 For the European Union, UNESCO must ensure that all its sectors fully draw on its sectoral competencies and main priorities, with an adequate balance between global, regional and national levels, and between normative and capacity-building tasks. Results-based programming and real, accountable and transparent management at all levels must guide UNESCO's work.

5.5 When reviewing document 34 C/5, UNESCO's global policy role must be connected to the Organization's standard-setting function; at the country level, activities should be aimed at enabling countries to implement these global standards. In its field activities UNESCO should continue developing cooperation with both state and non-state actors.

5.6 Africa is a priority for the European Union. The time has come to develop for the first time a real European Union-Africa joint strategy. We have been working closely together with the African Union in order to organize the second European Union-Africa summit that will take place in Lisbon, next December. We also encourage UNESCO to reinforce its priority programmes with a view to developing an enriching triangular cooperation. We are, in addition, looking for a clear demonstration of UNESCO's declared priority for Africa in terms of resource allocation and results obtained. The European Union fully supports the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015), particularly the Teacher Training Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA), as well as education for sustainable development within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

5.7 The Director-General's new budget proposal is based on the minimum needs of the Organization, and we hope for an agreement on this proposal. We are at a decisive moment of UNESCO's agenda as we approach the adoption of the new C/4 and C/5 documents by the General Conference. We thank the Drafting Group members for their dedication and the excellent work achieved.

5.8 We trust that the new management instruments and the internal reform will help to improve the budget ratio of allocations that will be allocated to the programmes rather than to central services and administration, thus reinforcing the quality of the expected results. In this regard, while appreciating that some progress has been made, we consider that in the present C/5 document the funds allocated to the services in central administration are still excessive in comparison with those assigned to the programme activities of the sectors. We also support effective measures for a more transparent, efficient management, leading to reductions in travel expenses and unnecessary publication costs.

(The speaker continued in French)

5.9 Monsieur le Président, nous avons pris note des résultats de l'examen d'ensemble des grands programmes II et III, présenté en avril dernier, tout en tenant compte des observations faites par le Directeur général à ce sujet. Nous espérons que le débat portant sur le rôle de l'UNESCO aux côtés des autres acteurs onusiens permettra de mieux mettre en évidence la valeur ajoutée potentielle de l'UNESCO dans le domaine des sociétés du savoir. Cette initiative vient très opportunément à la rencontre des préoccupations de la communauté internationale.

5.10 La Commission océanographique intergouvernementale (COI), qui est un exemple de succès malgré un budget représentant 1 % seulement du budget ordinaire de l'UNESCO, fêtera ses cinquante ans en 2010. À sa 24^e session, elle a entamé une réflexion approfondie sur son avenir, qui nécessitera certainement une dotation accrue en personnel et un budget ordinaire proportionnel aux activités, afin de garantir leur continuité et leur stabilité.

5.11 L'année prochaine débutera la célébration du 60^e anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme. Dans le cadre des initiatives de l'UNESCO, les pays de l'UE ont proposé au Directeur général de retenir deux thèmes : l'éducation aux droits de l'homme et la protection des journalistes professionnels, qui risquent leur vie dans l'exercice de leur travail en défendant les droits de l'homme et la liberté d'expression ainsi que la

liberté de la presse. Nous souhaitons que les initiatives qui seront choisies contribuent efficacement à la diffusion et au respect de ces droits partout dans le monde.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

5.12 Education is more than a priority, it is one of the major challenges that UNESCO and the international community face. This is indeed a mission that UNESCO cannot fail. Our Organization must focus on fulfilling its role in education in order to ensure a sustainable future for humankind. The European Union firmly and deeply believes that education is not only essential to human development; it also contributes largely to building responsible and sustainable societies, in a spirit of tolerance, peace and understanding.

5.13 We continue to fully participate in the efforts and initiatives of the Organization to achieve the education for all (EFA) goals and the related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within the agreed international timeframe. In this perspective, we support the ongoing education reform process, with appropriate decentralization measures and results-based management, that will undoubtedly strengthen UNESCO's position as the lead agency in education, a position which, unfortunately, still needs to be strengthened, and which should make UNESCO more accountable and effective, capable of responding successfully and adequately to global, regional and national needs and priorities.

5.14 The European Union is strongly committed to ensuring the right to education and to accelerating progress so that all children, irrespective of gender, have equal access to quality education. In that regard, during the High-Level Conference on education that took place in Brussels, last May, the European Union committed €1.7 billion to education worldwide and €22 million to the Fast-Track Initiative (FTI). We also would like to recall the significant contributions given by European Union Member States to UNESCO in the field of education.

(The speaker continued in French)

5.15 Monsieur le Président, nous considérons que l'un des défis les plus importants de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de la culture consiste à maintenir un haut niveau d'engagement, de créativité et de dynamisme dans la mise en œuvre et le suivi des grands textes normatifs de référence qui portent notamment sur le patrimoine mondial, le patrimoine immatériel et la diversité culturelle. L'engagement et la volonté de tous doivent être mobilisés à cette fin. Il importe de promouvoir la synergie entre ces conventions dans les activités de l'UNESCO.

5.16 Le rôle de la culture dans le développement est fondamental. Il est par conséquent important que l'expertise sectorielle de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de la culture trouve sa juste place dans les plans de développement nationaux. À cet égard, le Fonds africain du patrimoine mondial et le Fonds international pour la diversité culturelle sont deux instruments qui permettent de concrétiser ce rôle et méritent à ce titre toute notre attention. En même temps, la promotion du dialogue interculturel devrait devenir une dimension transversale de tous les programmes de l'UNESCO.

5.17 En ce qui concerne l'audit de gestion du Centre de l'UNESCO pour le patrimoine mondial, nous voudrions exprimer notre accord avec la suggestion du Directeur général d'utiliser le Centre pour une expérience pilote en vue de l'éventuelle mise en œuvre d'un système de comptabilité analytique dans l'ensemble de l'Organisation. En même temps, nous encourageons le Directeur général

à prendre toutes les mesures pour donner suite aux recommandations formulées dans le rapport d'Audit, notamment en ce qui concerne la restructuration et la réorganisation du Centre, y compris la nécessité de créer des postes permanents pour la réalisation des activités à long terme.

5.18 Enfin, nous soutenons pleinement l'initiative du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies concernant l'Alliance des civilisations et considérons que l'UNESCO doit tout mettre en œuvre pour assumer le rôle de partenaire majeur de l'Alliance, un rôle qui lui revient tout naturellement en raison de sa vocation et de sa capacité à promouvoir la tolérance et le respect de toutes les convictions et dans lequel elle pourra, dans le cadre de partenariats, prendre des initiatives novatrices et utiles. Comme l'a dit Octavio Paz : « Toute culture naît du mélange, de la rencontre, des confrontations. À l'inverse, c'est de l'isolement que meurent les civilisations ».

5.19 Je vais à présent m'exprimer au nom du Portugal. Monsieur le Président, l'éducation, du fait qu'elle joue un rôle crucial dans le processus du développement durable, offre une voie réelle et vitale vers un avenir viable. L'UNESCO, en tant que chef de file pour la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable, doit s'engager pleinement dans la sensibilisation de la communauté internationale, en définissant des stratégies éducatives et en promouvant la recherche, en coopération systématique avec le réseau des commissions nationales, les unités décentralisées, les chaires, centres et instituts et les ONG. Partout dans le monde, de nouveaux partenariats doivent être établis pour permettre une plus grande participation des individus et du secteur privé, afin de renforcer les capacités par le partage des données d'expérience et des bonnes pratiques, et de promouvoir l'utilisation des technologies de l'information et de la communication aux fins de l'éducation au service du développement durable.

5.20 Le Directeur général a pris récemment l'initiative louable de créer une Équipe spéciale sur le changement climatique mondial. Nous comptons que ses travaux et sa réflexion, menés en étroite coordination avec l'Équipe spéciale sur les grands programmes II et III, se traduiront par une orientation dûment ciblée dans le 34 C/4, et dans les C/5 à venir. Le changement climatique est un phénomène mondial. Il est important que la prise de conscience de ce danger stimule, dès à présent, une action proactive à long terme, fondée sur une approche multilatérale, efficace et déterminée. Les pays en développement sont les plus exposés aux menaces induites par les changements climatiques, et le succès dans l'éradication de la pauvreté et dans la protection des plus vulnérables, de même que la réalisation des autres Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, seront de plus en plus liés à la maîtrise de cette menace. Notre Organisation multidisciplinaire dispose d'instruments adéquats pour contribuer à une solution. Au moment où la possible création d'une nouvelle agence des Nations Unies pour l'environnement est à l'ordre du jour de la communauté internationale, nous sommes ravis de pouvoir approfondir ces questions dans le cadre du débat thématique de cet après-midi. N'oublions jamais que l'avenir est entre nos mains. Merci Monsieur le Président.

6.1 **Mr Lakatos** (Hungary) *in extenso*:

For an international organization like ours, life begins at 60. Together with the greatest intellectuals of previous generations we have tried to do our best during the first 60 years of alternately waxing and waning multilateralism. In many domains, the results of this activity are well known – and often they are not yet visible

enough. We all know our realities. And we all may have, I venture to say we all should have, dreams.

6.2 My dream is that UNESCO may become even more useful to all of us. My dream is that we may build democracy and knowledge societies. Knowledge is the key to personal growth; democracy is a precondition for the exercise of liberty. My dream is that UNESCO may focus even more strongly on its contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. My dream is that our activities may be more visible so that our Organization occupies its well-merited leading place in the multilateral system of international relations. And my dream is of a strong and dynamic UNESCO within a universally beneficial, mutually efficient and colourfully diversified, truly United Nations.

(The speaker continued in French)

6.3 Chers collègues, j'aimerais que nous nous souvenions d'où nous venons et de ce qui nous a permis d'arriver où nous sommes. Souvenons-nous avec gratitude de nos écoles, de nos instituteurs et institutrices et de nos professeurs, grâce auxquels nous tous avons le privilège d'être ici ! Nous faisons de l'éducation aux droits de l'homme une priorité car les jeunes d'aujourd'hui - qui sont les dirigeants de demain - doivent être profondément associés à la promotion de ces valeurs. Faire participer les jeunes à notre action est devenu un engagement constant, dont témoigne aussi le Forum des jeunes organisé traditionnellement pendant la Conférence générale. Nous soutenons l'initiative visant à commémorer le 60^e anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme et nous souhaitons que ces activités aient beaucoup d'ampleur tant au niveau national qu'au niveau local. La société civile doit devenir un partenaire clé dans ce processus.

(L'orateur poursuit en espagnol)

6.4 Señoras y señores: Hungría saluda el inicio de la implementación de los grandes instrumentos normativos en el dominio de la cultura, atribuyendo una gran importancia a que tanto la diversidad cultural como nuestro patrimonio material e inmaterial gocen de una protección adecuada. Algunos de los presentes tienen el privilegio de expresarse en su lengua materna por ser idioma oficial de nuestra Organización; otros no tienen esta oportunidad. Sin embargo, existen otros terceros, y son innumerables, que dentro de unos años no tendrán más su idioma. Hungría se congratula por la proclamación de 2008 Año Internacional de los Idiomas, y recalca la importancia de que la UNESCO desempeñe un papel fundamental en las actividades destinadas a celebrarlo. Una de nuestras tareas ahora es elaborar un mecanismo eficiente y universal para que demos una oportunidad sobre la tierra al menos a la mitad de las más de 6.000 lenguas que todavía existen.

(6.4) *(Translation from the Spanish)* Ladies and gentlemen, Hungary welcomes the beginning of implementation of the major standard-setting instruments in the field of culture, as it attaches great importance to ensuring that both cultural diversity and our tangible and intangible heritage are adequately protected. Some of us here today have the privilege of being able to speak in our mother tongue because it is an official language of the Organization, others do not have that possibility. Even so, there is a third group, a very large one, consisting of those who in a few years will no longer have their own language. Hungary welcomes the proclamation of 2008 as International Year of Languages, and emphasizes the

importance of UNESCO playing a fundamental role in activities to celebrate it. One of our tasks is now to develop an efficient and universal mechanism which may give a chance at least to half of the more than 6,000 languages that still exist on earth.

(The speaker continued in Russian)

6.5 Уважаемые коллеги, мы приветствуем достигнутые результаты общего обзора крупных программ II и III и надеемся, что они помогут ЮНЕСКО более эффективно определить ту нишу, в которой наша организация имеет относительное преимущество в системе ООН. Мы также надеемся, что в рамках нашей организации будут продуктивно функционировать как Сектор социальных и гуманитарных наук, так и Сектор естественных наук, а наиболее успешным программам будет уделено должное внимание.

6.6 Доступность информации является важнейшим фактором научного развития. Мы, однако, должны вместе задуматься о том, как превратить информацию в реальные знания. Проводимый в Будапеште 3-й Всемирный научный форум по теме «Инвестиция в знание – инвестиция в будущее» является свидетельством нашего взгляда в будущее.

(6.5) *(Translation from the Russian)* Esteemed colleagues, we welcome the results of the overall review of Major Programmes II and III, and hope that they will help UNESCO to pinpoint more effectively those areas in which our Organization has a comparative advantage in the United Nations system. We also hope that within our Organization, both the Social and Human Sciences Sector and the Natural Sciences Sector will operate efficiently, and that the most successful programmes will receive due attention.

(6.6) The availability of information is a prime factor in scientific development. We need, however, to think together about how to turn information into real knowledge. The Third World Science Forum to be held in Budapest on the topic of "Investing in knowledge – investing in the future" is a testament to the way in which we view the future.

(The speaker continued in Arabic)

٦,٧ سيدي الرئيس، هنغاريا ترحب بالمبادرة في نطاق تحالف الحضارات كوسيلة للحوار والتفاهم الحقيقي بين الشعوب والقناعات والثقافات، وهذا يدخل في صلب اختصاصنا. تقوية التفاهم المتبادل هو هدف استراتيجي يجب أن نعمل له دوماً. نحن ندعم المشاركة الفاعلة لليونسكو في المنتدى السنوي الأول لتحالف الحضارات الذي سيعقد في كانون الثاني/يناير في اسبانيا عام ٢٠٠٨. نحن نرحب بروح التعاون والتسامح اللذين يميزان منظمنا حيث تمكنا من إيجاد اتفاق في الآراء في المواضيع الحساسة المدرجة على جدول الأعمال، مثل موضوع القدس. شكراً.

(6.7) *(Translation from the Arabic)* Mr Chairperson, Hungary welcomes the Alliance of Civilizations initiative as a means for true dialogue and mutual understanding among peoples, convictions and cultures – this is part of the core of our competence. Strengthening mutual understanding is a strategic goal towards which we should constantly strive. We support UNESCO's active participation in the First Alliance of Civilizations Annual Forum to be held in Spain in January 2008. We welcome the spirit of cooperation and tolerance that characterizes our

Organization, where we have managed to achieve a consensus on various sensitive topics on our agenda, such as Jerusalem. Thank you.

(The speaker continued in Chinese)

6.8 主席先生，我们欢迎教科文组织主要机构之间的合作有了长足的进步，每个机构都能有效地发挥互补作用。在过去的两年里，我们高兴地看到了一个得到强化的执行局。我们要特别感谢执行局主席章先生在他的任期内所表现的不偏不倚、建设性、敬业精神和智慧。最后，我想强调指出，教科文组织在过去的第一个六十年里已经取得了成功。在今后六十年里，我们的共同任务就是确保教科文组织事业不能失败，而要取得成果和成功。

(6.8) *(Translation from the Chinese)* Mr Chairperson, we welcome the remarkable progress made in cooperation between the major organs of UNESCO, each of which has effectively complemented the others. In the past two years, we were pleased to see the Executive Board becoming progressively reinforced. We are particularly grateful to the Chairperson of the Board, Mr Zhang Xinseng, for his leadership, which is balanced, constructive, committed and intelligent. Finally, I should like to emphasize that UNESCO has been successful in its first 60 years, and it will be our common task in the next 60 years to ensure that UNESCO turns out to be a synonym of fruitful results and success, not a failure.

7.1 **M. Santer** (Luxembourg) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le **Président** du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord de souligner que le Luxembourg se rallie au discours prononcé par le Portugal au nom de l'Union européenne. En tant que nouveau délégué permanent du Luxembourg auprès de l'UNESCO, j'intègre ce Conseil exécutif avec un regard que j'espère encore frais, et je souhaite vous transmettre ici quelques messages que mon pays juge très importants. Je limiterai mon intervention à quelques points essentiels venant compléter les observations de la Présidence de l'Union européenne.

7.2 Le premier concerne ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler « le nerf de la guerre » : le **budget** de l'UNESCO pour les deux années à venir. Le Luxembourg avait soutenu le premier scénario préconisé par le Directeur général, et nous espérons aujourd'hui qu'après les efforts de ce dernier, le budget réduit de 631 millions de dollars fera l'objet d'un consensus. En effet, le Luxembourg, comme d'autres, attache beaucoup d'importance à la recherche d'une plus grande efficacité dans la gestion de l'Organisation, à la rationalisation continue des ressources, à l'amélioration du ratio entre dépenses administratives et dépenses opérationnelles, ou encore à la poursuite des réformes internes de l'UNESCO. Nous saluons les efforts de réforme entrepris jusqu'ici.

7.3 Mais nous attachons également une grande importance à la mise en œuvre des principes, des conventions et des programmes, qui sont la véritable raison d'être de l'UNESCO. Il faut pour cela que nous, États membres de cette Organisation que nous défendons, ne rendions pas son fonctionnement impossible par une excessive rigueur budgétaire. Gardons-nous de franchir le seuil au-delà duquel l'UNESCO n'aurait plus assez de moyens pour s'acquitter

de son mandat et réaliser ses priorités - ce mandat et ces priorités que nous-mêmes, États membres, lui avons assignés ! Si nous voulons une UNESCO efficace mais aussi dynamique, il faut que les efforts de réforme interne se poursuivent, mais nous devons également nous donner les moyens de nos exigences et ambitions.

7.4 Cela vaut aussi pour les efforts entrepris en vue d'améliorer la cohérence entre le budget ordinaire et les contributions extrabudgétaires. L'UNESCO ne peut avoir deux séries de priorités différentes - celles que nous définissons pendant la Conférence générale et celles que nous choisissons de soutenir de façon bilatérale par des moyens extrabudgétaires. Les deux doivent se compléter et se prolonger l'une l'autre, et toujours s'inscrire dans les plans nationaux de développement et dans le cadre des efforts communs de l'ONU. Le Luxembourg est convaincu que le succès de la nouvelle politique extrabudgétaire dépendra autant des propositions du Secrétariat que de l'attitude des donateurs (ce que l'on appelle « *good donorship* ») et des pays bénéficiaires (ce que l'on pourrait appeler « *good ownership* »), ces derniers devant réellement s'approprier les politiques et les programmes.

7.5 Dans ce contexte, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de citer l'exemple du premier et à ce jour unique fonds-en-dépôt multidonateurs de l'UNESCO : un projet d'alphabétisation fonctionnelle des femmes et d'éducation aux droits de l'homme au Niger, financé conjointement par le Luxembourg, Monaco, Chypre, l'Andorre et Saint-Marin. Ces cinq pays ont uni leurs efforts et dépassé leurs différences sur le plan des procédures internes dans un effort commun en faveur d'un pays africain.

7.6 Une autre réforme importante qui tient à cœur au Luxembourg est celle des Nations Unies. Mon pays s'efforce d'ailleurs d'y contribuer activement en tant que cofacilitateur des négociations visant à améliorer la cohérence du système onusien (« *system-wide coherence* »). Nous tenons donc à saluer les efforts faits par l'UNESCO pour participer de façon proactive à cette réforme, contribuant ainsi au multilatéralisme efficace qui nous est cher.

7.7 L'un des aspects de la participation de l'UNESCO à l'effort de réforme de l'ONU et à l'« Unité d'action des Nations Unies » est la décentralisation, elle-même liée à la question de la rotation du personnel. Pour renforcer sa présence sur le terrain, il nous semble judicieux que l'UNESCO, plutôt que d'ouvrir des bureaux supplémentaires, s'intègre, tant que faire se peut, dans les équipes unifiées de l'ONU sur le terrain. Les bénéfices en matière de cohérence mais aussi de coût nous semblent évidents.

7.8 De façon plus générale, le Luxembourg souhaite que l'UNESCO poursuive son effort de clarification des contrats et des procédures de recrutement du personnel afin d'unifier et de rationaliser sa politique générale en la matière. Elle devra également veiller, dans la gestion du personnel, à assurer la continuité et la durabilité de son action à travers le développement de postes et de carrières stables et un recrutement respectueux de tous les critères.

7.9 Au nombre des priorités sectorielles auxquelles le Luxembourg est attaché, je citerai l'éducation, et notamment l'initiative « Éducation pour tous », pour laquelle l'UNESCO doit absolument maintenir le cap et être à la hauteur de son rôle de coordonnateur.

7.10 S'agissant de la culture, il nous semble important de travailler activement à la mise en œuvre des trois

grandes conventions. Nous devrions notamment avoir pour ambition de faire en sorte que le patrimoine immatériel devienne un jour aussi connu et visible internationalement que l'est aujourd'hui le patrimoine mondial. En ce qui concerne la Convention sur la diversité culturelle, le Luxembourg participera activement à sa mise en œuvre en tant que membre élu du Comité intergouvernemental. Nous appelons de nos vœux la poursuite des ratifications des deux dernières grandes conventions, de façon notamment à ce qu'elles aient une représentation géographique équilibrée.

7.11 Je me permets enfin, pour conclure, de lancer un appel à la rationalisation des travaux du Conseil exécutif. À sa dernière session, plusieurs pays avaient plaidé pour que l'on réduise le nombre de points inscrits à l'ordre du jour, en répartissant notamment la charge entre les deux sessions annuelles, ou en augmentant le nombre de discussions conjointes des Commissions FA et PX, évitant ainsi un cloisonnement parfois quelque peu artificiel. Or, pour ne citer que cet exemple, notre ordre du jour est encore plus chargé que celui de la session précédente. Poursuivons nos efforts communs en la matière pendant la présente session. Je suis convaincu que la rationalisation et le souci d'aller à l'essentiel ne peuvent qu'accroître la qualité des débats et la pertinence de nos décisions.

7.12 Monsieur le Président, nous avons pour vocation d'aider les populations les plus démunies - et il nous faut refuser toute tentative pour minimiser le rôle que l'UNESCO pourrait avoir dans la lutte contre la pauvreté. Il n'y a pas que la pauvreté économique. L'UNESCO s'attaque à la pauvreté dans des domaines trop souvent ignorés, négligés ou même méprisés : la pauvreté culturelle ou intellectuelle est un obstacle tout aussi fort au développement des peuples. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

8.1 **Г-н Каламанов** (Российская Федерация)

полный текст:

Уважаемый г-н Генеральный директор, уважаемый г-н Председатель Исполнительного совета, уважаемые коллеги, нынешняя сессия Исполнительного совета предшествует 34-й сессии Генеральной конференции, важность которой заключается, прежде всего, в принятии Среднесрочной стратегии ЮНЕСКО на 2008-2013 гг., а также Программы и бюджета Организации на 2008-2009 гг. Эти документы определяют основные направления программной деятельности ЮНЕСКО на ближайшие годы, которая будет осуществляться в условиях быстро меняющегося глобализирующегося мира и на фоне разворачивающейся широкомасштабной реформы системы ООН.

8.2 Поддерживая шаги по повышению эффективности и конкурентоспособности ЮНЕСКО, более тесному увязыванию стратегических целей Организации с приоритетами всей системы ООН и обеспечению максимальной согласованности с другими специализированными учреждениями и организациями, мы твердо выступаем за сохранение уникальности мандата и функций ЮНЕСКО. Убеждены, что эта уникальность должна исходить из глобальной задачи достижения устойчивого развития и других международно согласованных целей, в первую очередь целей в области развития, сформулированных в Декларации тысячелетия ООН. В свою очередь, необходимо, чтобы двухлетняя программа, как и последующие документы С/5, последовательно раскрывали мандат и стратегические цели ЮНЕСКО на уровне главных

секторальных приоритетов. В этой связи подготовленные Редакционной группой предложения к документу 34 C/5 в целом отвечают вышеупомянутым критериям и заслуживают поддержки Исполнительного совета.

8.3 Этот год – определяющий для процесса ОДВ. Российская Федерация поддерживает усилия Организации, направленные на то, чтобы «Образование для всех» стало неотъемлемой частью международного сотрудничества. Как вам хорошо известно, первая из шести целей Дакарских рамок действий содержит призыв к расширению и совершенствованию комплексных мер по уходу за детьми младшего возраста и их воспитанию, особенно в отношении наиболее уязвимых и обездоленных детей. Учитывая актуальность данной проблематики, правительство Москвы предложило провести в 2010 году Международную конференцию по образованию детей младшего возраста. Призываем государства-члены поддержать эту инициативу.

8.4 Российская Федерация выступает за дальнейшее развитие наиболее значимых направлений в деятельности Сектора естественных наук (Международная программа по фундаментальным наукам, биоэтика, возобновляемые источники энергии). Одновременно необходимо обратить еще большее внимание, в рамках Сектора социальных наук, на проблемы толерантности, прав мигрантов на образование и ряд других проблем.

8.5 Приветствуем появление в повестке дня сессии Исполнительного совета целого ряда предложений государств-членов по созданию институтов и центров категории 2. Особый характер финансирования таких институтов и центров мы рассматриваем как дополнительный вклад в обеспечение деятельности ЮНЕСКО со стороны стран, на территории которых такие центры действуют. Деятельность их сети должна отвечать основным приоритетам Организации. Вместе с тем, мы выступаем за совершенствование механизма отчетности и мониторинга центров перед ЮНЕСКО.

8.6 Мы продолжаем уделять самое серьезное внимание будущему Межправительственной океанографической комиссии (МОК). С учетом важности решаемых в ее рамках задач, полагаем, что необходимо укреплять связь ЮНЕСКО и МОК, вести дело к поиску наиболее оптимальных форм взаимодействия и структурно-организационных модальностей.

8.7 Мы озабочены тупиковой ситуацией, сложившейся сегодня вокруг проекта Декларации в отношении культурных ценностей, перемещенных в связи со Второй мировой войной. Проект остается источником принципиальных разногласий между государствами-членами, вследствие чего два заседания совещания экспертов не смогли привести к консенсусу по этому документу. Российская Федерация подтверждает свою твердую позицию о недопустимости уравнивания в правах агрессоров и их жертв и любых попыток пересмотра итогов Второй мировой войны.

8.8 Положительно оцениваем работу Организации по содействию развитию межгосударственного диалога. Убеждены, что это направление должно усиливаться и впредь. Российская Федерация присоединилась к числу государств, предложивших объявить 2009 год Годом диалога культур,

включающим и межрелигиозное измерение, и призываем другие государства присоединиться к числу соавторов.

8.9 Российская Федерация намерена активно использовать свое председательство в интересах глобальной борьбы с применением допинга в спорте. Нами выдвинуты конкретные инициативы на этом направлении, поддержанные Президиумом Конференции сторон и секретариатом Международной конвенции о борьбе с допингом в спорте. Мы надеемся на тесное сотрудничество с другими странами.

8.10 Наша страна придает важное значение вопросам сохранения всемирного культурного и природного наследия и выполнению своих обязательств по соответствующей Конвенции 1972 года. Выражаем надежду на то, что в ходе реформирования Организации место и роль Центра всемирного наследия ЮНЕСКО в качестве определяющего органа, содействующего функционированию Комитета всемирного наследия и соблюдению Конвенции об охране всемирного культурного и природного наследия 1972 года, будут сохранены. Позвольте в заключение поблагодарить Генерального директора, сотрудников Секретариата, уважаемых коллег послов за поддержку мероприятий, проводимых Российской Федерацией на полях ЮНЕСКО.

(8.1) **Mr Kalamano** (Russian Federation)
in extenso (translation from the Russian):

Esteemed Director-General, esteemed Chairperson of the Executive Board, esteemed colleagues, the present session of the Executive Board precedes the 34th session of the General Conference, the importance of which lies, first and foremost, in the adoption of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, as well as the Organization's Programme and Budget for 2008-2009. These documents will define the main thrust of the Organization's programme activities in the coming years, which will be carried out in a rapidly changing globalizing world and against the backdrop of the wide-ranging reform of the United Nations system that is under way.

(8.2) While supporting steps to boost UNESCO's effectiveness and competitiveness, to link the strategic goals of the Organization more closely with the priorities of the entire United Nations system, and to ensure maximum coherence with other specialized agencies and organizations, we are strongly in favour of retaining the uniqueness of UNESCO's mandate and functions. We are convinced that this uniqueness should stem from the global task of achieving sustainable development and from other internationally agreed goals, first and foremost the development goals formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In its turn, the forthcoming biennial programme, as well as subsequent C/5 documents, will need to properly highlight the mandate and strategic goals of UNESCO at the level of main sectoral priorities. In this connection, the proposals for document 34 C/5 prepared by the Drafting Group generally meet the above-mentioned criteria, and deserve the support of the Executive Board.

(8.3) This year is decisive for the education for all (EFA) process. The Russian Federation supports the Organization's efforts to make EFA an inherent part of international cooperation. As you well know, the first

of the six goals of the Dakar Framework for Action calls for “Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children”. Taking into account the topical nature of this problem, the municipal authorities of Moscow have proposed holding an international conference on early childhood education in 2010. We call on Member States to support this initiative.

(8.4) The Russian Federation is in favour of further developing the most important areas within the activities of the Natural Sciences Sector (International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), bioethics and renewable energy sources). At the same time, it is important to pay even greater attention, in the Social and Human Sciences Sector, to the issues of tolerance, migrants’ rights to education and a range of other issues.

(8.5) We welcome the appearance on the agenda of the Executive Board session of many proposals from Member States for the creation of category 2 institutes and centres. We regard the special nature of the funding of such institutes and centres as a supplementary contribution to ensuring UNESCO’s action on the part of countries in which they operate. The activities of their network should be in line with the basic priorities of the Organization. Moreover, we are in favour of improving the centres’ reporting and monitoring mechanism vis-à-vis UNESCO.

(8.6) We continue to pay the closest attention to the future of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Considering the importance of the issues it addresses, we believe that it is necessary to strengthen the connection between UNESCO and IOC, and to seek optimum forms of interaction and structural and organizational arrangements.

(8.7) We are concerned by the impasse that was reached today regarding the draft declaration of principles relating to cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War. The draft remains a source of fundamental disagreements between Member States, as a result of which two rounds of meetings of experts were not able to achieve consensus on the document concerned. The Russian Federation reiterates its firm position that it is inadmissible to give equal rights to the aggressors and their victims or to make any attempt to revise the outcomes of the Second World War.

(8.8) We appreciate the Organization’s work to foster the development of the dialogue among civilizations. We are convinced that this area should continue to be strengthened in the future. The Russian Federation has joined the group of States proposing to declare 2009 the year of dialogue among cultures, which should include an interfaith dimension, and we call on other States to join the sponsors of that proposal.

(8.9) The Russian Federation intends to make active use of its chairmanship in the interests of the global fight against doping in sports. We have put forward concrete initiatives in this area, which are supported by the Bureau of the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport and by its secretariat. We are hoping for close cooperation with other countries.

(8.10) Our country attaches great importance to the preservation of the world cultural and natural heritage

and the fulfilment of its commitments under the 1972 Convention. We hope that in the ongoing reform of the Organization, the place and role of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre will be maintained as the main body contributing to the functioning of the World Heritage Committee and to compliance with the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. In conclusion, allow me to thank the Director-General, the staff of the Secretariat and my esteemed Ambassador colleagues for their support for the measures carried out by the Russian Federation in UNESCO’s fields of competence.

9.1 **Mme Bourgois** (France) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, permettez-moi tout d’abord de vous exprimer mes remerciements pour l’accueil que vous réservez au nouvel ambassadeur que je suis. J’éprouve le plus grand plaisir à faire connaissance avec cette Organisation et plus particulièrement avec les membres du Conseil exécutif. Je considère comme une chance de vivre à mes débuts la double expérience du Conseil exécutif et de la Conférence générale, ainsi que ce moment de pause créative pendant lequel l’UNESCO doit faire le point sur ses multiples activités, sur la mise en œuvre effective de deux conventions fondamentales dans le domaine de la culture, et sur son insertion dans la réforme générale des Nations Unies.

9.2 La délégation de la France souscrit bien évidemment aux propos tenus par la Présidence portugaise. Mais si, me référant, ne serait-ce qu’un instant, aux « Lettres persanes » de Montesquieu, j’en retiens qu’un novice est autorisé à poser de bonne foi quelques questions naïves sur un monde inconnu de lui, je vous prierais de porter attention aux considérations suivantes.

9.3 En ce qui concerne **les questions administratives et budgétaires**, tout d’abord, la procédure suivie cette année, semble-t-il pour la première fois, pour le C/5 m’a déconcertée par le foisonnement des documents et la mise à contribution fréquente des membres du Conseil dans le cadre du Groupe de rédaction, le tout pour arriver à une enveloppe globale à partir de laquelle les réductions à effectuer par rapport au scénario initialement privilégié sont à la fois peu claires et, pour autant qu’elles soient compréhensibles, discutables.

9.4 La part prépondérante prise par le recours à des financements extrabudgétaires est chose courante de nos jours dans les organisations internationales. La gestion de ces ressources n’en requiert pas moins une rigueur toute particulière : cohérence entre les programmes financés de la sorte et le budget ordinaire ; coûts induits pour ce budget que d’aucuns refusent d’augmenter ; évaluation des programmes engagés de cette manière et coordination de cette évaluation avec celle conduite pour les programmes ordinaires. À lire l’ordre du jour de ce Conseil exécutif, d’autre part, on est surpris par la prolifération des instituts et centres de catégorie 2 placés sous l’égide de l’UNESCO. Elle pose, du point de vue de la comptabilité analytique, des problèmes que la validité des propositions nationales ne suffit pas à résoudre.

9.5 L’évaluation est, ici comme ailleurs, le maître mot de votre mission, Monsieur le Directeur général. Force est de constater que, malgré vos efforts sans relâche vers une réforme fondée sur cette base, des progrès restent à faire sur le plan de l’application des résultats. Je n’en souhaite pas moins rendre hommage au travail accompli, et plus particulièrement à la manière ponctuelle dont vous avez mis en œuvre les recommandations du Commissaire

aux comptes sur certains aspects touchant au Secteur de l'éducation.

9.6 Dans le domaine de **l'éducation**, mission cruciale, la nomination d'un Sous-Directeur général nous fait espérer la relance du processus de réforme dans ce Secteur au cours d'une année qui se terminera en décembre prochain par l'examen à mi-parcours du Plan d'action de Dakar, permettra de mesurer les progrès accomplis et les défis à surmonter. L'UNESCO est par excellence le lieu d'élaboration et de mise en œuvre d'une stratégie associant les pays du Nord et les pays du Sud, voire les pays du Sud entre eux.

9.7 S'agissant des **grands programmes II et III**, l'audit engagé doit être salué, mais les conclusions à en tirer quant au degré de réalisation et de réussite des programmes, ainsi que les évolutions nécessaires à l'avenir, n'apparaissent pas encore clairement. Il faut aller plus loin. Dans le domaine des sciences exactes, la France note que la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale continue d'être l'un des foyers d'excellence et de visibilité de l'Organisation. Sachons préserver cet outil qui a démontré à la fois la pertinence de ses travaux sur le fond et sa capacité à évoluer en fonction des nouveaux défis du monde. Veillons à ce que ses ressources soient à la hauteur des résultats escomptés et n'entraînent pas des interrogations sur son éloignement de l'Organisation qui nous seraient à tous préjudiciables. Cette dernière remarque vaut également pour le Centre du patrimoine mondial dans sa mission de suivi de la Convention de 1972.

9.8 La transition s'étant faite tout naturellement avec **la culture**, je me félicite de la récente session du Comité intergouvernemental de sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel à Tokyo. Elle engage sous les meilleurs auspices la mise en œuvre de la Convention. Nous ne doutons pas qu'il en ira de même pour la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, avec l'engagement de tous les États parties, et le renfort nécessaire du Secrétariat.

9.9 Un mot sur un sujet qui, comme beaucoup, se situe au carrefour des sciences exactes et des sciences humaines et sociales : la bioéthique. L'UNESCO continue de nous apparaître comme le lieu privilégié du difficile dialogue des experts sur les aspects éthiques de la biologie médicale et scientifique.

9.10 Pour finir, j'avouerai avoir suivi, pour me retrouver dans le labyrinthe des programmes, des procédures, et des organigrammes, le fil d'Ariane du site Web de l'UNESCO. Ce site est excellent du point de vue de ses objectifs de communication. Pourrais-je simplement exprimer ma surprise et mon incrédulité au vu de l'absence de trop nombreux contenus en version française ? Voilà qui ne vous surprendra pas mais qui vaut d'être dit, à titre d'exemple parmi d'autres. Voilà, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, le fruit de la curiosité qu'inspire à un nouveau venu la situation actuelle d'une Organisation à laquelle la France continue d'apporter tout son soutien.

10.1 **M. Moscato** (Italie) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, l'Italie souscrit pleinement à l'intervention faite par l'Ambassadeur du Portugal au nom de la Présidence de l'Union européenne. À sa présente session, le Conseil exécutif est appelé entre autres à définir le Projet de programme et de budget pour le prochain exercice

biennal, qui sera présenté à la 34^e session de la Conférence générale. L'approbation du budget est sans doute l'un des moments les plus révélateurs dans la vie d'une organisation internationale. L'Italie a toujours attaché une grande importance au multilatéralisme, au bon fonctionnement et à l'efficacité de l'UNESCO. Pour cette raison, elle était favorable à la proposition de budget basée sur une croissance réelle zéro, c'est-à-dire l'option de 648 millions de dollars, car après plusieurs années de budget à croissance nominale zéro, le temps de doter l'UNESCO d'un budget plus coiffé nous paraissait venu, surtout à la lumière des nouvelles tâches qui se dessinent.

10.2 Nous pouvons toutefois nous satisfaire de la proposition qui semble recueillir un consensus, à savoir un budget de 631 millions de dollars, même si, dans la répartition des ressources proposées par le Directeur général, les montants alloués à la mise en œuvre des programmes sont très souvent sacrifiés. Les ressources extrabudgétaires continuent de jouer un rôle décisif dans la réalisation des objectifs stratégiques de l'Organisation. Nous reconnaissons qu'il est important d'assurer la cohérence des activités extrabudgétaires par rapport au Programme ordinaire, conformément au plan d'action du Directeur général pour l'amélioration de la gestion des activités extrabudgétaires, au sujet duquel mon pays s'est déjà prononcé favorablement.

10.3 L'Italie se félicite de la décision du Directeur général d'élever au niveau d'ADG le poste à présent occupé, avec compétence reconnue et finesse intellectuelle, par M. Hans D'Orville. En ce qui concerne le Secteur de l'éducation, l'Italie souhaite au nouveau Sous-Directeur général, M. Nicholas Burnett, plein succès dans l'exercice de ses fonctions. Elle félicite également le Directeur général d'avoir poursuivi le travail de mise en œuvre des décisions relatives à la réforme du Secteur afin d'en améliorer l'efficacité et la cohérence. Nous voudrions exprimer notre appréciation pour la mise au point de l'outil de planification UNESS qui permet d'élaborer des stratégies communes à l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies dans le domaine de l'éducation, afin de répondre aux priorités nationales.

10.4 S'agissant des sciences, nous avons suivi de près le processus de l'examen d'ensemble des grands programmes II et III. Nous attendons maintenant le projet de plan relatif à la mise en œuvre des recommandations formulées par l'équipe d'experts à l'issue de cet examen. Par ailleurs, nous nous réjouissons de la décision d'établir au sein de la Conférence générale deux commissions distinctes, l'une pour les sciences exactes et naturelles, et l'autre pour les sciences sociales et humaines. Dans le domaine des sciences naturelles, l'Italie voudrait souligner l'importance pour l'UNESCO, compte tenu de la vaste expérience que celle-ci a acquise au fil des ans, de préserver et approfondir ses compétences dans des secteurs vitaux pour l'avenir de la planète. Nous félicitons le Directeur général d'avoir organisé le débat thématique de cet après-midi, lequel pourra utilement reprendre quelques thèmes de la réunion sur les changements climatiques qui s'est tenue au Siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies à New York le 24 septembre dernier. Dans le domaine des sciences sociales et humaines, nous sommes satisfaits de ce que la philosophie occupe une place adéquate au sein du Projet de stratégie à moyen terme, car nous estimons que les activités réalisées autour de cette discipline facilitent le dialogue entre les peuples et correspondent à la fonction de laboratoire d'idées de l'UNESCO. Dans ce contexte, je suis heureux d'annoncer que l'Italie est prête à accueillir la célébration

de la Journée mondiale de la philosophie en novembre 2008.

10.5 En ce qui concerne le Secteur de la culture, je voudrais tout d'abord annoncer que le Parlement italien a ratifié la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel le 12 septembre dernier. S'agissant du Centre pour le patrimoine mondial, le Directeur général nous a fourni, en séance privée, des indications détaillées sur le suivi qu'il entend donner aux recommandations formulées dans le rapport d'audit de gestion. Il est apparu que l'un des problèmes les plus délicats touchait à des questions liées aux ressources humaines et financières. C'est pourquoi il sera urgent d'identifier les « *core functions* » du Centre et de veiller à ce que celles-ci soient confiées à des fonctionnaires occupant des postes permanents. Nous attendons également que la définition du niveau d'autonomie du Centre soit clarifiée, afin que celui-ci soit à même d'opérer avec célérité et efficacité et puisse se concentrer sur les compétences directement liées à la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1972.

10.6 Je voudrais aussi féliciter le Directeur général pour sa décision de créer l'Équipe spéciale sur le dialogue entre les cultures, qui témoigne de la volonté de l'UNESCO d'instaurer une coopération plus étroite avec l'Alliance des civilisations. Afin de contribuer à cette tâche, le Gouvernement italien a décidé de financer le recrutement d'un expert associé issu d'un pays africain qui, au sein du Secteur de la culture, sera affecté à la Division des politiques culturelles et du dialogue interculturel.

10.7 Monsieur le Président, la mondialisation a donné un coup d'accélération au destin de l'humanité. De profonds clivages subsistent néanmoins à différentes échelles. À partir de ce constat, il nous faut chercher à fédérer nos forces autour des objectifs communs. Fédérer nos forces - « *viribus unitis* » disaient les Latins - afin que soient réalisés les objectifs statutaires de notre Organisation en matière de paix et de respect de la dignité de la personne humaine. Mais l'esprit de paix ne se décide pas, il se cultive. Que l'UNESCO soit donc cette enceinte privilégiée où les fractures se réduisent et les maladies de l'âme guérissent. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Mme Oliver (États-Unis d'Amérique) prend la présidence.

11.1 **Sr. Jorge Valero** (République Bolivarienne de Venezuela) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente: la República Bolivariana de Venezuela quiere reiterar ante esta Organización su apego al multilateralismo, en un mundo en el cual la prepotencia imperial ha empeorado los desequilibrios estructurales, que repercuten negativamente en la seguridad y el bienestar mundial. Reiteramos la necesidad de alcanzar un orden mundial multipolar, basado en el respeto de los principios del derecho internacional y de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

11.2 El proceso de reforma global del sistema de las Naciones Unidas demanda un esfuerzo conjunto, que tome en cuenta las iniciativas del Grupo de los 77 y China, el Movimiento de los No Alineados y los distintos grupos regionales, que son expresiones concretas de la cooperación Sur-Sur. En este marco, nuestro país está brindando un apoyo significativo a países de África, el Pacífico Sur y el Caribe que sufren desastres naturales, como la desertificación y la sequía, temas que están, como se sabe, estrechamente vinculados a la protección de la biosfera y la biodiversidad.

11.3 Cuando nos aproximamos al año 2010, en el cual debemos cumplir con los objetivos de reducir el deterioro de la biodiversidad, tenemos que tomar todas las medidas necesarias para proteger el medio ambiente luchando de forma responsable y cumpliendo nuestros compromisos para luchar contra el calentamiento del planeta.

11.4 Señoras y señores: temas de carácter transversal como la lucha contra la pobreza y la promoción de los derechos humanos, deben inscribirse en la agenda del desarrollo sustentable. Estos derechos están totalmente vigentes en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. En nuestro país se respetan tanto las libertades democráticas y los derechos políticos y civiles como los derechos económicos, sociales, culturales y ambientales. En ese contexto, el Gobierno revolucionario que preside Hugo Chávez Frías ha propuesto en la OEA la adopción de la Carta Social de las Américas, a cuyos efectos se desarrolla el debate en el seno de ese foro. La existencia de la pobreza erosiona la calidad de la democracia. Sin la participación de los pobres y los excluidos de la tierra en el desarrollo económico y social, no podrá alcanzarse nunca un verdadero desarrollo sustentable.

11.5 Señor Presidente: la República Bolivariana de Venezuela le asigna suprema importancia a las prioridades sectoriales establecidas en el Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2008-2009 (34 C/5). El fomento del pluralismo y el diálogo entre culturas y civilizaciones es indispensable para alcanzar la unión verdadera de los pueblos en un mundo solidario.

11.6 La reforma constitucional que se adelanta en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela se propone alcanzar estadios superiores de justicia social, en un marco democrático verdadero orientado al socialismo del siglo XXI. Reconoce y reivindica nuestros orígenes indígenas, africanos y europeos como componentes históricos de nuestra identidad nacional, latinoamericana y caribeña.

11.7 Saludamos la decisión adoptada por el Movimiento de los Países No Alineados y el apoyo que se ha brindado a la iniciativa de crear el Centro para el Desarrollo de los Derechos Humanos y la Diversidad Cultural.

11.8 Con espíritu constructivo hemos tomado nota de las recomendaciones contenidas en la decisión emanada de la 31ª reunión del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial de la UNESCO sobre las medidas de conservación del sitio patrimonial venezolano de Coro y su Puerto. Aunque este bien se mantiene en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial en Peligro, el Gobierno Bolivariano adopta todo tipo de acciones para atender los requerimientos contenidos en los informes del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial de los años 2002 y 2005. En la República Bolivariana de Venezuela se adelantan intensos trabajos para la conservación de este bien y para cumplir con los compromisos, de conformidad con la Convención de 1972. Solicitamos del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial y de las autoridades de la UNESCO una consideración justa y oportuna de los informes remitidos por nuestro país, donde se detallan las medidas de preservación adoptadas por la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. Tenemos la mejor disposición de planificar, previa concertación con las autoridades de la UNESCO, la visita a nuestro país para que se pueda por fin establecer un calendario de retiro del bien de la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial en Peligro. Asimismo, anunciamos nuestra disposición a dar a conocer mayores detalles de las estrategias de conservación implementadas por el

Gobierno Nacional en la próxima reunión del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial, ya que desafortunadamente, no dispusimos del tiempo necesario en la reunión de Nueva Zelandia para explicar en detalle la realidad actual de Coro y la Vela, y los avances en el plan integral de desarrollo. El Gobierno Bolivariano ha implementado un plan audaz para proteger nuestro acervo patrimonial, aprobando una asignación financiera extraordinaria que mejorará cualitativamente todos los servicios de la infraestructura, no sólo del área patrimonial, sino también de su entorno social, lo cual mejorará la calidad de vida de toda la población. Se ha creado asimismo una oficina permanente de gestión para atender el plan de acción.

11.9 Queremos destacar la importancia que tiene la iniciativa venezolana, acogida favorablemente en el Consejo Ejecutivo, de elaborar un instrumento normativo internacional para proteger las lenguas indígenas y las lenguas indígenas en peligro de desaparición. Se trata de reivindicar los derechos inalienables de los pueblos originarios que han sido secularmente avasallados en sus legítimos derechos.

11.10 Señor Presidente: la República Bolivariana de Venezuela reivindica la decisión de los Ministros de Educación de América Latina aprobada en Buenos Aires, donde se reiteran los compromisos de la Organización con los postulados de Educación para Todos (EPT). La educación es un fin prioritario para el Gobierno Revolucionario del Presidente Hugo Chávez Frías. Una evidencia incontestable es que el prepuesto en educación ha crecido del 2,6% en 1998 al 8% del PIB en el 2006.

11.11 Señor Presidente: para la Revolución Bolivariana la comunicación, la libertad de expresión y el derecho a la información son derechos humanos fundamentales. La inclusión social y la creación de un modelo de televisión de servicio público, como nuestra nueva Televisora Venezolana Social Tves, recién inaugurada, promueve el pluralismo y la participación popular. Considera al ser humano como un ciudadano y no como un simple consumidor.

11.12 Señor Presidente: la UNESCO debe rescatar los valores éticos y fundamentos civilizatorios que le dieron origen. La Revolución Bolivariana está al servicio de estos propósitos.

(11.1) **Mr Jorge Valero** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) *in extenso*
(translation from the Spanish):

Mr Chairperson, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to reiterate to this Organization its attachment to multilateralism in a world in which imperial arrogance has aggravated structural imbalances which have a negative impact on global security and well-being. We reiterate the need to achieve a multipolar world order based on respect for the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

(11.2) The global reform of the United Nations system demands a concerted effort that takes account of the initiatives of the Group of 77 and China, the Non-Aligned Movement and the various regional groups that are concrete expressions of South-South cooperation. In this framework, our country is providing substantial assistance to countries in Africa, the South Pacific and the Caribbean which are suffering from natural disasters such as desertification and drought, problems which we all know are closely linked to protection of the biosphere and biodiversity.

(11.3) As we approach the year 2010, in which we are supposed to achieve the objective of reducing biodiversity loss, we must take all necessary measures to protect the environment, fighting responsibly and fulfilling our commitments to combat global warming.

(11.4) Ladies and gentlemen, cross-cutting issues such as the fight against poverty and the promotion of human rights should be part of the sustainable development agenda. These rights are fully observed in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Democratic freedoms and civil and political rights are respected in our country, as are economic, social, cultural and environmental rights. In this context, the revolutionary government headed by Hugo Chávez Frías has proposed in the Organization of American States (OAS) the adoption of the draft social charter of the Americas, for which the debate is advancing in that forum. The existence of poverty erodes the quality of democracy. Without the participation of the world's poor and excluded in economic and social development, it will never be possible to achieve genuine sustainable development.

(11.5) Mr Chairperson, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela attaches the utmost importance to the biennial sectoral priorities established in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5). Fostering pluralism and dialogue between cultures and civilizations is essential in order to achieve the genuine union of peoples in a world of solidarity.

(11.6) The constitutional reform taking place in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is intended to attain higher stages of social justice within a genuine democratic framework aimed at twenty-first century socialism. Our indigenous, African and European roots are acknowledged and proclaimed as historical components of our national Latin American and Caribbean identity.

(11.7) We welcome the decision adopted by the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and the support it has given to the initiative to establish a centre for the development of human rights and cultural diversity.

(11.8) We have taken note, in a constructive spirit, of the recommendations contained in the decision adopted at the 31st session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on measures for conserving the Venezuelan heritage site of Coro and its Port. Although this site is included in the List of World Heritage in Danger, the Bolivarian Government is taking a wide range of measures in response to the requirements contained in the reports of the World Heritage Committee of 2002 and 2005. Intensive work is under way in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to conserve the property and fulfil our commitments, in line with the 1972 World Heritage Convention. We call on the World Heritage Committee and the UNESCO authorities to give fair and timely consideration to the reports submitted by my country, which set out in detail the conservation measures taken by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. We are keen to make preparations, after consultation with the UNESCO authorities, for a mission to our country so that at last a time frame may be set for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Likewise, we declare our readiness to provide more details about the conservation strategies implemented by the government at the next

session of the World Heritage Committee, as unfortunately we did not have enough time at the New Zealand session to explain in detail the actual situation at Coro and La Vela, and advances in the overall development plan. The Bolivarian Government has implemented a bold plan to protect our heritage wealth, approving an extraordinary financial allocation that will improve the quality of all the infrastructure services, not only in the field of the heritage, but also in its social environment, which will improve the quality of life of the whole community. Furthermore, a permanent management office has been established to deal with the plan of action.

(11.9) We would like to highlight the importance of the Venezuelan initiative, welcomed by the Executive Board, to develop an international standard-setting instrument to protect indigenous languages and endangered indigenous languages. It involves restoring the inalienable rights of indigenous peoples who have for centuries been deprived of their legitimate rights.

(11.10) Mr Chairperson, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela endorses the decision of the ministers of education of Latin America that was adopted in Buenos Aires and which reiterated the Organization's commitments regarding the prerequisites of education for all (EFA). Education is a priority objective for the revolutionary government of President Hugo Chávez Frías. Incontrovertible evidence of that is the fact that the education budget has grown from 2.6% of GDP in 1998 to 8% in 2006.

(11.11) Mr Chairperson, for the Bolivarian revolution, communication, freedom of expression and the right to information are fundamental human rights. Social inclusion and the creation of a model of public service television, such as our new Venezuelan Social Television (Tves), recently inaugurated, promote pluralism and popular participation. The human being is seen as a citizen and not as a mere consumer.

(11.12) Mr Chairperson, UNESCO must recover the ethical values and fundamentals of civilization that brought it into being. The Bolivarian revolution is at the service of these purposes.

12.1 **M. Kondo** (Japon) *in extenso* :

Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, au cours de la présente session du Conseil, phase finale de la préparation du prochain exercice biennal, nous devons veiller particulièrement à ne pas perdre de vue une double perspective, à la fois universelle et à long terme. D'abord et avant tout, nous devons poursuivre le processus de réforme. Adressons un message clair à ceux qui tentent de le saboter en leur disant que nos efforts ne doivent jamais cesser, et que le prochain exercice est primordial pour l'obtention de résultats concrets.

12.2 La décentralisation doit également se poursuivre et s'accompagner d'une juste politique de rotation du personnel. Cependant, décentralisation ne signifie pas indépendance totale. L'esprit de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO, ainsi qu'un ensemble de règles communes en matière de finances et de personnel doivent prévaloir dans tous les bureaux de l'UNESCO, y compris les bureaux hors Siège, au sein du Centre pour le patrimoine mondial, comme dans les instituts de catégorie 2. C'est alors seulement que le tout, c'est-à-dire l'UNESCO, pourra être plus grand que la somme de ses parties, c'est-à-dire les secteurs.

12.3 Il est important de maintenir entre les trois organes une coopération étroite fondée sur le respect du mandat de chacun. Nous devons, à cet égard, veiller à éviter la tendance à la microgestion du travail du Secrétariat. Laissez-moi illustrer ces propos par un exemple culinaire : si vous avez envie d'une délicieuse tarte aux pommes, dites à votre cuisinier ce que vous voulez exactement, une tarte fine aux pommes ou une tarte Tatin, indiquez-lui la façon dont elle doit être sucrée et quel doit en être le prix. Ne lui dites pas, en revanche, quelle variété de pommes utiliser, ni la quantité de sucre nécessaire. Si vous intervenez de façon excessive dans son travail, il risque de s'en trouver démoralisé et de rater de ce fait sa tarte aux pommes. Une fois la tarte terminée, donnez votre avis. Dites à votre cuisinier que vous la trouvez délicieuse, ou, au contraire, que vous auriez préféré qu'elle soit plus sucrée, mais, encore une fois, ne lui dites pas comment faire. C'est ainsi que nous devons procéder avec le C/5 : accorder une enveloppe budgétaire, définir les objectifs que nous souhaitons voir atteints, puis faire confiance au Secrétariat, et enfin effectuer une évaluation au terme de la période.

12.4 Monsieur le Président, voilà qui m'amène à la question du budget et de l'évaluation. Le Gouvernement japonais, en dépit de très sérieuses contraintes budgétaires, et se félicitant de la réussite de la réforme entreprise par le Directeur général, et mise en œuvre depuis le début dans le cadre d'un budget à croissance nominale zéro, a décidé de soutenir une enveloppe budgétaire d'un montant de 631 millions de dollars, faisant ainsi exception à son attachement au principe d'une croissance nominale zéro.

12.5 Nous nous réjouissons de la priorité claire donnée par l'UNESCO à l'Afrique - qui est aussi notre priorité. C'est dans cet esprit que nous accueillerons en mai 2008 la Conférence internationale de Tokyo pour le développement de l'Afrique (TICAD IV). Le thème principal de cette quatrième Conférence, « Vers une Afrique qui gagne : Un continent de l'espoir et des chances », met l'accent sur la croissance économique, la sécurité humaine et le changement climatique.

12.6 Je me félicite des récents progrès accomplis par l'UNESCO dans le domaine de l'évaluation. En effet, celle-ci revêt une importance cruciale à trois niveaux : tout d'abord, elle nous fournit des indices intéressants dans notre difficile tâche d'identification des priorités. Ensuite, elle aide le personnel du Secrétariat à acquérir une culture de la réforme axée sur les résultats. Enfin, dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du principe d'Unité d'action des Nations Unies dans les bureaux hors Siège, elle offre à l'UNESCO de bons arguments pour justifier son utilité.

12.7 Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, aucun pays plus que le Japon n'est capable d'apprécier l'importance de l'EPT, et je souhaite ici traiter de quelques programmes qui, s'ils ne porteront leurs fruits qu'à long terme, n'en revêtent pas moins une importance cruciale, et auxquels il convient donc d'accorder une attention particulière lors du processus d'évaluation. Le premier est la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable. C'est, en fin de compte, sur l'esprit humain que repose la réussite de la durabilité. À cet égard, j'espère que le Conseil adoptera le projet de décision proposé par le Japon sur cette question, sur la base d'une proposition de la commission nationale japonaise pour l'UNESCO. Le deuxième est le dialogue interculturel, dont la valeur réside dans le processus de mise en œuvre lui-même et non dans les résultats. Le troisième projet que je souhaite mettre en exergue est la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel

immatériel. Je lance ici un appel à tous les États membres pour qu'ils ratifient cette Convention s'ils ne l'ont déjà fait.

12.8 Ce sont là des projets qui, progressivement, contribueront à « élever les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes », empêchant ainsi la naissance de nouvelles guerres. C'est la crainte des critiques que les historiens du XXII^e siècle pourraient émettre à l'encontre des hommes du début du XXI^e qui doit guider notre action : faisons en sorte qu'ils ne puissent nous faire le reproche de trop avoir privilégié le concret et le court terme, d'avoir considéré les avancées scientifiques et technologiques avec trop d'optimisme, et de n'avoir pas su empêcher l'UNESCO de tomber dans les travers de la société de notre époque, laissant ainsi une nouvelle tragédie se produire. Merci de votre attention.

١٣،١ السيد العمري (اليمن) النص الكامل :

سيدتي نائبة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيد المدير العام، أصحاب السعادة أعضاء المجلس، السيدات والسادة، اسمحو لي في البداية أن أضم صوتي إلى من سبقني في توجيه الشكر إلى السيد جانغ شينشنغ رئيس المجلس التنفيذي والسيد كويشيرو ماتسورا المدير العام لليونسكو والأمانة على جهودهم في الإعداد لهذه الدورة التي تكتسي طابعا مميزا كونها تسبق انعقاد الدورة الرابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام وتجري أعمالها في شهر مبارك هو شهر رمضان الذي يقترن فيه العمل بالعبادة لدى المسلمين في العالم.

١٣،٢ سيدتي نائبة الرئيس، في البداية نود أن نعبر للسيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي شخصيا عن تقديرنا للنجاح الكبير الذي تحقق تحت إدارته لمجلسنا خلال العامين الماضيين وتمكنه من حل ما طرح من قضايا ومشاكل في إطار من التوافق وبروح تسودها المودة والحرص على مستقبل عمل المنظمة في جو من الوفاق والتراضي، وقد كنا دوما إلى جانب هذه السياسة الحكيمية والعملية مساندين وداعمين.

١٣،٣ لقد تتبعنا تقرير السيد المدير العام ونود شكره مرة أخرى على حسن تسييره لأعمال المنظمة وقدرته على معالجة الثغرات الناتجة عن محدودية الإمكانيات قياسا إلى المهام والأعمال التي تتطلع الدول الأعضاء في اليونسكو إلى أن تقوم بها المنظمة في مجالات التربية والثقافة والعلوم والاتصال.

١٣،٤ لقد تعددت وجهات النظر حول الاستراتيجية المتوسطة الأجل وكنا ندافع عن فترة أربع سنوات كمدة تتناسب مع ولاية السيد المدير العام لليونسكو، وقد وافق قناعتنا ما توصل إليه مجلسنا الموقر باعتماد استراتيجية لفترة ست سنوات مع إمكانية النظر فيها دوريا وإضافة طابع المرونة على صياغتها بما يحقق مواجهة المتغيرات الإدارية والمالية التي ستجري في نطاق المنظمة خلال الفترة القريبة القادمة. وبهذه المناسبة، نؤكد دعما لتصور ميزانية تحقق أهداف الاستراتيجية وتمكن المنظمة من الحفاظ على مكانتها كوكالة رائدة في مجال تحقيق أهداف الألفية بشأن التعليم للجميع على وجه الخصوص، ونؤيد ما توصل إليه الفريق المشكل ضمن مجلسنا لإعداد الصيغة النهائية للوثيقة الخاصة بهذا الموضوع.

١٣،٥ سيدتي نائبة الرئيس، نود أن نضع المجلس الموقر في صورة أن اليمن وإن كانت جغرافيا في آسيا إلا أنها من حيث الخصائص الاقتصادية والتنموية يمكن أن تصنف ضمن مناطق الأولوية التي تقع غالبا في القارة الأفريقية، وعليه فإننا نتطلع إلى أن يحظى بلدي بدعم برامجه في مجالات التعليم والثقافة والإعلام بما يحقق أهداف المنظمة، وهذا يقتضي تضافر الدعم الدولي والإقليمي لصالح البلدان الأقل نموا ومنها بلدي. ونخص بالتحديد موضوع التربية الذي حرصت اليمن على

الاهتمام به بالذات، وبمساندة اليونسكو تجري عمليات تدريب وتأهيل المعلمين في اتجاه تحسين مخرجات التعليم العام ومحاولة تحقيق أهداف الألفية.

١٣،٦ سيدتي نائبة الرئيس، إن اللامركزية هي حجر الزاوية في ظل التوجه الذي بدأته المنظمة للانخراط في المبادرات المشتركة للأمم المتحدة، ومن هذا المنطلق نحث اليونسكو على الاهتمام بالعمل الميداني على المستوى القطري بحيث يتعزز الاتصال المباشر بين المنظمة والبلدان المستفيدة من دورها. وقد تم مؤخرا فيما يتعلق بالمنطقة العربية استحداث مكاتب ذات طابع قطري وإن كانت لظروف خاصة (السودان والعراق) ونأمل الاستمرار في هذا التوجه في البلدان التي تبرز فيها الحاجة إلى وجود اليونسكو على المستوى القطري - ومنها بلدي - لأسباب عملية وبما يليبلي أداء وظيفتها في ميادين اختصاصها ويعزز مسار اللامركزية ويتوافق مع الاتجاه الدولي لحضور منظمات الأمم المتحدة على مستوى القطر الواحد.

١٣،٧ لقد حفل جدول أعمال هذه الدورة بعدد من المواضيع الهامة ومنها ما يهم الشرق الأوسط، سواء ما يخص فلسطين والأراضي العربية المحتلة أو قطري العراق ولبنان. ونقدر عاليا لليونسكو الدور الذي تقوم به في هذه المنطقة. ونود أن نعرض على المجلس الموقر موضوع مساندة اللاجئين العراقيين الموجودين في الجمهورية العربية السورية والأردن وكذا في البلدان التي استقبلت عددا من هؤلاء المهجرين تحت وطأة العنف والاحتلال، وخاصة الطلاب في مستويات التعليم المختلفة. لكن ما يجعل وضعهم خاصا في سوريا هو العدد الكبير وفتح الحكومة السورية لهم أبواب مدارسها ومعاهدها مما أثقل كاهلها. وهذا الموضوع في صلب عمل المنظمة ويكتسي طابعا طارئا وعاجلا ونتائج فيما يتعلق بصورة المنظمة ودورها ذات أثر إيجابي على المدى القصير والبعيد. وفي جميع الحالات فإن قضايا هذه المنطقة، سواء في مجال التعليم أو في مجال المياه، يجب أن تحظى بأولوية خاصة في برامج اليونسكو.

١٣،٨ سيدتي نائبة الرئيس، إن اليمن وهي تشارك في هذه الدورة الأخيرة من ولايتها في المجلس التنفيذي، تشكر كل من تعاون معها في إنجاح أعمال المجلس وتعرب عن رضاها الكبير لما تم إنجازه خلال السنوات الأربع الماضية، وهي تترك هذا المقعد إيمانا منها بأهمية التداول على خدمة المنظمة والمجموعة الانتخابية التي تنتمي إليها وتأكيدا على حرصها على أهمية التناوب، وتتمنى للبلدان المرشحة للمجلس التوفيق في مسعاها القادم.

١٣،٩ وأود، في الختام، أن أكرر الشكر للسيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي ولأمانة اليونسكو، وعلى رأسها السيد المدير العام، ولكل الذين سهلوا عمل هذا المجلس، وندعو لهم بالتوفيق في الترتيب للمؤتمر العام الرابع والثلاثين. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(13.1) Mr Alamri (Yemen) in extenso
(translation from the Arabic):

Ms Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, allow me first to add my voice to those who have spoken before me in addressing thanks to Mr Zhang Xincheng, Chairperson of the Executive Board, to Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and to the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing for this session, which is of particular importance, since it comes immediately before the 34th session of the General Conference, and is taking place during the holy month of Ramadan, in which work and worship are associated for Muslims worldwide.

(13.2) Ms Vice-Chairperson, at the outset, I should like to express to the Chairperson of the Executive Board in person our appreciation of his great success in steering the work of our Board over the past two years, which has enabled him to solve various problems and issues which have arisen, in a framework of consensus, a spirit of friendship, a concern for the future of the work of the Organization, and an atmosphere of harmony and mutual consent. We have always been in favour of this wise and practical policy.

(13.3) We followed the report of the Director-General carefully, and wish to thank him again for his good management of the work of the Organization, and his ability to address the gaps arising from the severe lack of resources with respect to the tasks and work which the Member States expect the Organization to undertake in the fields of education, culture, science and communication.

(13.4) Varying points of view have been expressed regarding the Medium-Term Strategy. While we are in favour of a four-year period, to coincide with the term of office of the Director-General of UNESCO, we have joined the consensus the esteemed Board has reached on adopting a six-year Strategy with a possibility of revising it periodically (a rolling strategy) and giving its drafting the necessary flexibility to cope with evolving administrative and financial tasks to be carried out within the Organization in the forthcoming period. In this connection, we reiterate our support for a draft budget which achieves the goals of the Strategy and enables the Organization to preserve its status as lead agency for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to education for all (EFA). We welcome the results achieved by our Board's Drafting Group on this subject.

(13.5) Madam Vice-Chairperson, we should like to inform the esteemed Board that Yemen, although geographically in Asia, has economic and development characteristics of a priority region such as the African continent. We hope that our country will receive the support of UNESCO's programmes in the fields of education, culture and information, in fulfilment of the objectives of the Organization. This will require concerted international and regional support for least developed countries (LDCs) including my country, and in particular with regard to education, which Yemen has been keen to promote. With UNESCO's support, it has held teacher training courses aimed at improving the outcomes of general education and attempting to achieve the MDGs.

(13.6) Madam Vice-Chairperson, decentralization is the cornerstone of the Organization's moves to become involved in joint United Nations initiatives. In this connection, we urge UNESCO to focus on work in the field at the country level in order to strengthen the direct links between the Organization and the beneficiary countries. With respect to the Arab region, the country offices have recently been reorganized, albeit as a result of special circumstances (Sudan and Iraq). We hope that this trend will be continued in countries, including my own, which are in need of UNESCO's presence for practical reasons so that it may perform its function in its fields of competence and enhance the progress of decentralization, in accordance with international moves towards a One United Nations presence in each individual country.

(13.7) The agenda of this session contains a number of important items, including those of interest to the Middle East, concerning Palestine, the occupied Arab territories, Iraq and Lebanon. We greatly appreciate the role played by UNESCO in this region. We would like to submit to the esteemed Board the topic of providing support to Iraqi refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan and other countries that have accepted numbers of these persons who have been displaced as a result of violence and occupation, especially students at various educational levels. What makes their situation special in the Syrian Arab Republic is their great number and the fact that the Syrian Government has opened its schools and institutes to them, regardless of the cost. This issue lies at the core of the Organization's work, and has an urgent, emergency nature; the results thereof will have a short- and long-term positive impact on the image and role of the Organization. In all cases, the problems of this region, whether in the field of education or that of water, should have special priority in UNESCO's programmes.

(13.8) Madam Vice-Chairperson, Yemen, which is participating in this session of the Executive Board for the last time during its current term of office, thanks all those who have cooperated with it and helped to make the work of the Board a success. Yemen expresses its great appreciation of what has been accomplished in the past four years, it leaves its seat believing firmly in the importance of rotation in the service of the Organization and the electoral group to which it belongs, and stressing its desire to ensure such alternation, and wishes the countries nominated to serve on the Board every success in their forthcoming efforts.

(13.9) Finally, allow me to reiterate my thanks to the Chairperson of the Executive Board and to UNESCO's Secretariat, and in particular the Director-General and all those who have facilitated the work of the Board. We wish them every success in their arrangements for the 34th session of the General Conference. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-raḥmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you).

14.1 **Ms Wagiswara** (Sri Lanka) *in extenso*:

Madam Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, distinguished colleagues, I wish to thank the Director-General, Mr Matsuura, for his comprehensive report, which provides us Member States with a broad overview of the projects and programmes being implemented by UNESCO and the measures being introduced in relation to the reform process.

14.2 Madam Chair, we in Sri Lanka, a country that has a 92% literacy rate, continue to give high priority to education. Education is, and should be, a basic and an important endeavour to all mankind. In the context of knowledge-based societies in the twenty-first century, education has become a necessary tool. As the lead agency entrusted with the global coordination role for education, UNESCO is well placed and needs to give high priority to further enhancing and improving UNESCO's role so as to achieve education for all (EFA).

14.3 In promoting basic education, we need to focus on teacher-training initiatives to support policy reforms to professionalize the teaching vocation, and capacity-building in teacher education. We would like to see UNESCO's global outreach in this field further

strengthened. When we speak of quality education, UNESCO needs to enhance this process and re-orient education in support of sustainable development in coordination with national policies of Member States. It is in line with these factors that Sri Lanka, together with several other Member States, recommended at the 176th session of the Executive Board that “Education for peace and sustainable development” be included as a focused programme in the next Medium-Term Strategy.

14.4 We appreciate the role played by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in adapting existing tools towards the needs of developing countries, and would like to encourage UIS to play a proactive role by way of appropriate networking through the Internet; in order to build capacities of UNESCO Member States which are in need of such assistance.

14.5 We are beginning to feel the impact of the strengthening of UNESCO's role as the lead global coordinator for education, particularly in its actions concerning the EFA mid-decade assessments (MDAs). We are particularly convinced of the Delivering as One approach. This innovative pilot scheme, which draws on all the available resources, we hope, would bring about better coordination and better utilization of relevant expertise. However, as these innovative projects are still at an early stage, it will require a sustained commitment by UNESCO to support the United Nations reform process. UNESCO should draw on the technical capacities and expertise within the system to meet the challenges posed by the reforms being introduced, and adopt new solutions to the reform initiatives.

14.6 Madam Chair, under the Basic Sciences programme, there should be more focus on building science capabilities at the national level through training, and the provision of necessary tools to promote the application of appropriate technologies, which would be especially beneficial to developing countries.

14.7 Sri Lanka is happy to have hosted, in December 2006, an international conference on humid tropical ecosystems, where a strong message was adopted to promote the role of biosphere reserves as learning laboratories for sustainable development. We hope that these recommendations will be adequately followed up by the Member States of UNESCO, and appropriate mechanisms instituted for their implementation.

14.8 We are also happy to note the consolidation of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, with a focus on improved data-sharing policies to ensure the communication of information downstream to the communities concerned. The intergovernmental coordination groups of the Asia region will also need to continue close cooperation for the building of capacities of marine science institutes.

14.9 The emphasis placed by UNESCO on biosphere reserves to achieve environmental sustainability, the management of water as a scarce resource and the strategic role of renewable energy are all vital areas that need to be pursued actively.

14.10 We firmly believe in placing increased emphasis on the social and human sciences. It is important to strengthen links between social science and research, and to increase cooperation and exchanges among policy-makers in charge of social development. For us in Sri Lanka, a subject such as migration is relevant in view of the social and cultural impact of migration, mainly comprising unskilled labour migrating from villages to urban cities or overseas.

14.11 Madam Chair, UNESCO's mandate within the United Nations system on the subject of culture gives the Organization a distinct advantage in making a significant contribution to the protection and promotion of culture and cultural diversity. We look forward to cooperating with UNESCO to further promote our diverse cultures, which should bring about greater understanding among the global community.

14.12 In this context, the many conventions in place under the auspices of UNESCO not only help in the protection and promotion of one's heritage, but also promote sustained development, through well-managed heritage tourism. Another tangible contribution would be the promotion of concepts for arts and cultural centres that could attract many visitors; this would not only encourage and give due recognition to creativity and artistic expressions, but would also help in sustaining livelihoods of those in the field.

14.13 Sri Lanka, being an island nation, is keenly following up on the ratification of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, which involves national legislation. We wish to thank the Government of Norway and UNESCO for having approved the proposal for building the capacities of the Regional Institute for Maritime Archaeology in Sri Lanka.

14.14 As a functioning democracy, Sri Lanka has always been committed to maintaining freedom of expression and the free flow of information and communication in an era of instant communication. We need to recognize the tremendous impact and influence of the media in modern times. It is unfortunate, however, that media reporting is sometimes distorted and does not reflect the correct picture. On global issues such as human security, poverty, good governance and the fight against terrorism, UNESCO, with its intersectoral reach, could play a greater role in encouraging a free and balanced media culture and promote peace and understanding through its communication mandate.

14.15 Madam Chair, we are all well aware that the human resources in any organization are the driving factor in the success of the organization. In considering the implementation of the reform process, we would like to see a dynamic policy to inspire the UNESCO staff and to have appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and assessment. We believe that the decentralization process should be strengthened and that the structures in the field should be better equipped to coordinate and respond to needs at both the country and the regional levels. As nearly 60% of UNESCO's budget is spent on staff costs, it is important to ensure optimum use of existing staff, and further rationalize costs.

14.16 Madam Chair, the ideals upheld by UNESCO are indeed noble. I wish to conclude by reiterating Sri Lanka's commitment to work together to achieve the objectives of this Organization for our common benefit. Thank you, Madam Chair.

15.1 **Sr. Ángel Correa** (Colombia) *in extenso*:

Señor Director General de la UNESCO, señora Vicepresidenta del Consejo Ejecutivo, excelencias, miembros de las delegaciones, señoras y señores: primero que todo quisiera agradecer al Director General sus muy completos informes sobre los puntos **4, 5, 6 y 25** del orden del día, en los que nos presenta un vasto panorama de las actividades de la Organización en sus áreas de competencia. Al respecto, quisiera centrar mi intervención sobre algunos aspectos concretos relacionados con cada uno de los sectores.

15.2 En educación, mi país se felicita por el impulso y la destacada mención que se le otorga al Proyecto Regional de Educación para América Latina y el Caribe (PRELAC) en la Estrategia a Plazo Medio, como uno de los mecanismos motores de la Educación para Todos en la región, toda vez que este programa es un faro para América Latina y el Caribe en todos los niveles del sistema educativo. Por ser la educación uno de los temas prioritarios en nuestra región, invitamos a la Organización a continuar con mayor ímpetu su función de laboratorio de ideas que permitan impulsar el desarrollo de capacidades, la inversión financiera en educación, la distribución equitativa, y la creación de políticas públicas amplias e integradas. En este marco, Colombia quisiera subrayar una vez más la importancia de los programas de canje de deuda por educación, como uno de los aportes esenciales en esta materia a los países en desarrollo.

15.3 En el área de cultura, Colombia reafirma su interés por la promoción del multilingüismo, así como la protección de la diversidad lingüística, uno de los pilares que garantiza la diversidad cultural, el diálogo, la cohesión social y la paz, y anuncia su decidida intervención para combatir en el seno de la UNESCO las pretensiones abiertamente expresadas de prescindir en algunos órganos de la traducción al español. Por otro lado, señor Director General, señalamos la necesidad de tener un director regional para América Latina y el Caribe en el Centro del Patrimonio Mundial que acompañe y promueva las iniciativas regionales de protección del patrimonio, tanto cultural como natural.

15.4 En lo relativo al libro y a la promoción de la lectura, es muy importante para nuestra región reforzar el papel del Centro Regional para el Fomento del Libro en América Latina y el Caribe (CERLALC), cuyas misiones y realizaciones en el campo de la promoción de la lectura constituyen un aporte fundamental para el desarrollo y la integración de los países de la región, a través de la construcción de sociedades lectoras y la valorización del conocimiento, en aras de promover la cultura de la paz. A este respecto, quisiera destacar, señor Director General, la experiencia que usted mismo conoció en Medellín (Colombia) ciudad en la cual, a través de una innovadora iniciativa de creación de bibliotecas en zonas urbanas con altos índices de conflicto, se logró reducir la violencia a niveles mínimos y hacer del libro y la lectura un instrumento tangible de paz y cohesión social. En la próxima Conferencia General, el alcalde de Medellín, Sergio Fajardo, tendrá la oportunidad de relatar con más detalles esta experiencia a todos los Estados Miembros.

15.5 En cuanto al Sector de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Colombia quiere expresarle su deseo de trabajar hombro a hombro con la Organización en el programa de bioética, disciplina que actualmente es objeto de profundas reflexiones y debates en nuestro país, concretamente en temas relacionados con la ética de la investigación científica, la propiedad de los hallazgos en las áreas de las ciencias médicas y biológicas, y otras esferas de la ética en su relación con las ciencias, que quisiéramos compartir y contrastar con los demás miembros de la comunidad internacional. Otro tanto podríamos decir de la biosfera y el Programa sobre el Hombre y la Biosfera (MAB), de gran importancia para nuestro país, uno de los más ricos en biodiversidad del planeta, como lo demuestran nuestras 9.200.000 hectáreas de parques nacionales naturales con vocación ecoturística. En los temas relativos a este sector, deseo mencionar aquí la muy reciente firma del acuerdo entre la UNESCO y el Gobierno de Colombia para la creación del Centro Regional de Aguas para América Latina y el

Caribe, el cual desarrollará investigación y proyectos fundamentales que repercutirán en bienestar y salud pública.

15.6 También en ciencias sociales y humanas, destacamos la importancia de fortalecer la labor de la UNESCO en la dimensión ética, así como la difusión de los resultados concretos de los vínculos entre investigación y formulación de políticas en los ámbitos de los derechos humanos, en especial del evento organizado en Nairobi, y la necesidad de ampliar la coalición de ciudades contra el racismo en América Latina. Colombia apoya la iniciativa de la UNESCO de conmemorar el 60º aniversario de la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos, y quisiera señalar en este foro la necesidad de reflexionar sobre su aplicación en el mundo actual, frente a la aparición de los llamados “derechos emergentes” y de las nuevas formas de violación de los derechos humanos.

15.7 En cuanto a la comunicación y la información, señor Director General, deseo agradecerle una vez más su apoyo decidido en la lucha por la libertad de prensa expresado a través del Premio Mundial Guillermo Cano de Libertad de Prensa de la UNESCO, entregado este año en Colombia con su amable presencia, lo cual refrendó el compromiso de nuestro país con ese importante logro social que es la libertad de prensa. Colombia seguirá con gran atención las actividades de la UNESCO para promover el desarrollo de medios de comunicación independientes y pluralistas, con especial atención en zonas de conflicto y posconflicto. De ahí nuestro interés en el Programa Internacional para el Desarrollo de la Comunicación, PIDC, y en los avances de la Red sobre el Poder de la Paz, y desea pedir que sus acciones se extiendan a la Región América Latina y el Caribe.

15.8 Sabemos que este año deberá definirse el tope presupuestario de la Organización para el próximo bienio. En este punto, Colombia aspira a que la UNESCO continúe reforzando la cultura de la rendición de cuentas, lo cual permitirá una gestión eficaz y racional de sus recursos, riesgos y actividades de forma intersectorial y en todos los niveles de la administración. Por ello, nuestro país se felicita por la integración de las Normas Internacionales de Contabilidad del Sector Público (IPSAS) a la Organización, y estará a la espera de sus efectos positivos en las labores de evaluación y seguimiento de programas y su presupuestación que se basarán en los estándares de las Naciones Unidas. Tradicionalmente Colombia ha apoyado el crecimiento nominal cero y está estudiando la propuesta de 631 millones de dólares; abriga la esperanza de que los debates en este foro permitan llegar a un consenso.

15.9 Asimismo, nos felicitamos de la iniciativa para debatir sobre los desafíos de las sociedades del conocimiento y el cambio climático: los retos son de gran actualidad y merecen por ello una reflexión oportuna que permita prevenir grandes catástrofes: tan sólo por citar un ejemplo de los devastadores efectos para nuestro país: en la actualidad existen en Colombia 4,8 millones de hectáreas, correspondientes al 4,1% del territorio nacional, que están afectadas por procesos de desertificación. Ante un escenario de cambio climático, se sumarían a éstas 3,6 millones de hectáreas adicionales. En caso de duplicarse el nivel de dióxido de carbono en la atmósfera, el área de 23 distritos de gran irrigación sujeta a procesos de degradación por desertificación pasaría del 32,2% actual, a más del 50% y en el 2050 habrían desaparecido más del 70% de los nevados y más del 50% de los páramos colombianos. Por todas estas

razones, Colombia invita a la UNESCO a responder a esta situación mundial mediante su experiencia, competencia y estímulo. Muchas gracias.

(15.1) **Mr Angel Correa** (Colombia) *in extenso*
(translation from the Spanish):

Mr Director-General of UNESCO, Madam Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Board, Excellencies, members of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, I should first of all like to thank the Director-General for his very comprehensive reports on agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 25, in which he has given us a vast panorama of the Organization's activities in its fields of competence. In this respect, I should like to focus my statement on a few specific aspects connected to each one of the sectors.

(15.2) In education, my country welcomes the impetus and emphasis given to the Regional Education Project for Latin America and the Caribbean (PRELAC) in the Medium-Term Strategy as one of the driving forces for education for all (EFA) in the region, given that this programme is a flagship for Latin America and the Caribbean at all levels of the education system. As education is one of the priority themes for our region, we invite the Organization to continue with greater impetus its function of a laboratory of ideas which encourage capacity-building, financial investment in education, equitable distribution and the creation of comprehensive and integrated public policies. In this connection, Colombia wishes to underscore once more the importance of debt swaps for education programmes as one of the key contributions to this area for developing countries.

(15.3) In the field of culture, Colombia reaffirms its interest in promoting multilingualism, and protecting linguistic diversity, one of the pillars ensuring cultural diversity, dialogue, social cohesion and peace, and declares that it is determined to combat within UNESCO the openly expressed plans to dispense with translation into Spanish in some bodies. In addition, Mr Director-General, we should like to point to the need for a regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Heritage Centre to attend to and promote regional initiatives to protect both the cultural and natural heritage.

(15.4) As regards books and the promotion of reading, it is very important for our region to strengthen the role of the Regional Centre for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC), whose missions and achievements in the promotion of reading are a fundamental contribution to the development and integration of the region's countries by means of the construction of reading societies and enhancement of knowledge, in the interests of promoting the culture of peace. In this regard, I would like to emphasize, Mr Director-General, the experience you yourself had in Medellín, Colombia, a city which, by means of an innovative initiative to establish libraries in urban areas with high conflict indicators, has managed to reduce violence to minimal levels and make books and reading a tangible instrument of peace and social cohesion. At the next session of the General Conference, the mayor of Medellín, Sergio Fajardo, will have the opportunity to recount this experience to all Member States in greater detail.

(15.5) As to the Natural Sciences Sector, Colombia wishes to express its desire to work shoulder to

shoulder with the Organization in the bioethics programme, as bioethics is currently the subject of in-depth reflection and debate in my country, specifically on themes related to the ethics of scientific research, the ownership of discoveries in the medical and biological sciences, and other areas of ethics in relation to the sciences which we wish to share and compare with other members of the international community. We could say as much about the biosphere and the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, of great importance to my country, one of the richest in biodiversity on earth, as shown by our 9.2 million hectares of national nature parks with an ecotourism vocation. Among the themes related to this sector, I wish to mention here the very recent signature of the agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Colombia to establish the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will develop basic research and projects that will have an impact on public well-being and health.

(15.6) Likewise, in the social and human sciences we underscore the importance of strengthening UNESCO's work on the ethical dimension and the dissemination of the specific results of the links between research and policy formulation in the fields of human rights, in particular the event held in Nairobi, and the need to broaden the coalition of cities against racism in Latin America. Colombia supports UNESCO's initiative to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and would like to stress, in this forum, the need to reflect upon its application in today's world in light of the appearance of what are known as "emerging rights" and new forms of human rights violations.

(15.7) In regard to communication and information, Mr Director-General, I should like to thank you once more for your decisive support for the combat for press freedom as expressed in the UNESCO-Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, awarded this year in Colombia in your kind presence, which reaffirmed my country's commitment to that important social achievement, press freedom. Colombia will follow with great attention UNESCO's activities to promote the development of independent and pluralist media, paying particular attention to conflict and post-conflict zones, hence our interest in the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the progress made by the Power of Peace Network, whose activities we would like to see extended to the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

(15.8) We know that the budget ceiling for the Organization for the forthcoming biennium must be set this year. Regarding this matter, Colombia hopes that UNESCO will continue to strengthen the culture of accountability which will enable the effective and rational management of its resources, risks and activities on an intersectoral basis and at all levels of administration. My country therefore welcomes the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by the Organization, and expects that they will have a positive effect in work to evaluate and monitor programmes and budgeting which will be based on United Nations standards. Traditionally, Colombia has supported zero nominal growth, and is examining the proposal of \$631 million; it expresses

the hope that debates in this forum will enable a consensus to be reached.

(15.9) Likewise, we welcome the initiative to debate the challenges of the knowledge society and climate change. These challenges are immensely relevant, and therefore warrant timely reflection which could prevent major disasters. To cite but one example of the devastating effects on our country: at present in Colombia there are 4.8 million hectares, which is 4.1% of the national territory, that are affected by desertification. Given a scenario of climate change, an additional 3.6 million hectares would be so affected. If the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere were to double, the area of 23 heavily irrigated districts subject to deterioration owing to desertification would go from the current 32.2% to more than 50% and in 2050 more than 70% of the mountain snow and more than 50% of the Colombian high plateau (*párama*) would have disappeared. For all these reasons, Colombia calls upon UNESCO to respond to this global situation with its experience, competence and drive. Thank you very much.

16.1 **M. Najman** (Serbie) *in extenso* :

Madame la Présidente, je voudrais d'abord parler du budget. Il est de toute évidence essentiel, et cela a été souligné dans leurs exposés par le Directeur général et par le Président du Conseil exécutif, d'arriver à un consensus. C'est une tradition à l'UNESCO d'essayer de dégager un consensus sur le plafond budgétaire. Ce consensus dépend de nous et j'espère que les négociations qui se poursuivront durant la session permettront de le trouver. Je ne vous cacherai pas que mes préférences allaient à la croissance réelle zéro, c'est-à-dire au budget de 648,3 millions de dollars proposé par le Directeur général. J'espère qu'il existe encore une possibilité que les négociations au sein de notre Conseil nous amènent à adopter ce plafond budgétaire et à le proposer à la Conférence générale.

16.2 Nous avons passé beaucoup de temps hier et aujourd'hui à discuter de la place que devrait occuper le secrétariat ou l'organe de telle ou telle convention internationale. Pour ma part, je considère que cela relève de la responsabilité du Directeur général. Je crois qu'il appartient à ce dernier de répartir le personnel du Secrétariat de la manière la plus rationnelle possible et aux mieux des intérêts de l'Organisation. Je suis beaucoup plus intéressé par la question de savoir quelles sont, concrètement, les relations juridiques entre les conventions qui se sont dotées d'organes de gestion et les trois organes de l'UNESCO. En quelque sorte, je suis préoccupé par les relations entre, non pas trois, mais quatre organes, à savoir la Conférence générale, le Conseil exécutif, le Secrétariat et les organes intergouvernementaux de gestion établis par un certain nombre de conventions adoptées au sein de l'UNESCO.

16.3 Pour ce qui est des autres instruments, le contenu du document 177 EX/35, qui porte sur le suivi des recommandations et activités des conventions qui ne sont pas dotées de mécanismes institutionnels spécifiques, me satisfait pleinement. Je crois que nous n'avons pas épuisé, ni même abordé, la question de ce que devraient être les relations entre les différents organes de l'Organisation et, par exemple, les organes compétents en matière de diversité culturelle, les organes institutionnels chargés du patrimoine immatériel ou de lutte contre le dopage, la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale, et les organes de suivi de la Convention de Paris de 1972, et de celle de 1954 et tout particulièrement de ses deux protocoles.

16.4 En d'autres termes, je crois que nous sommes dans une situation qui n'est pas claire sur le plan juridique du fait de l'absence de relations de hiérarchie entre, par exemple, le Conseil exécutif et le Comité du patrimoine mondial. Le Conseil exécutif émane d'une convention. Le Comité du patrimoine mondial aussi. Ce sont des instruments de droit international des plus importants. Il n'y a pas de rapport hiérarchique entre eux, et la question se pose de savoir de quel droit le Conseil exécutif examine des questions qui relèvent du Comité du patrimoine mondial et vice-versa. Je plaide donc pour que, lors du prochain biennium, nous nous donnions le temps d'essayer de déblayer ce terrain et de préciser les relations entre les compétences des organes directeurs de l'Organisation et celles des organes intergouvernementaux établis par les différentes conventions ou de définir des règles de conduite claires en la matière. Et, je le répète, la question de la répartition du personnel, c'est-à-dire de son affectation au Secteur de la culture ou de la science ou dans tel ou tel service particulier, relève me semble-t-il du jugement du Directeur général.

16.5 Cela m'amène au dernier point de mon intervention : la concentration du programme. Nous en parlons beaucoup, mais lorsque nous examinons le rapport écrit du Directeur général ainsi que son rapport oral, nous avons presque l'impression de lire un annuaire téléphonique. Il y a peu de domaines dans lesquels l'UNESCO ne met pas les doigts, ou comme on dit en anglais, n'a pas « *its fingers in the pie* ». Le problème c'est que nous avons une quantité considérable d'activités, toutes utiles certes, mais qui, vu les ressources budgétaires limitées dont nous disposons, devraient être elles aussi limitées. C'est la raison pour laquelle - je répète la proposition que j'avais faite lors de la réunion informelle du Conseil - nous pourrions peut-être revoir le programme de l'UNESCO en l'analysant sous l'angle des quatre principales missions de l'Organisation : l'action normative la plus importante que lui assigne l'Acte constitutif ; la coopération intergouvernementale, essentielle dans tous les domaines et en particulier celui du maintien de la paix ; les activités par lesquelles l'UNESCO sert les États membres (« *UNESCO as a servicing Organization* ») ; et, enfin, l'action opérationnelle. Si au lieu d'examiner le programme de l'UNESCO d'une manière verticale, secteur par secteur, activité par activité, nous l'examinons mission par mission, je crois que nous saurions mieux sur quoi concentrer nos efforts. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

M. Michelini (Uruguay) prend la présidence.

17.1 **Sr. Aridjis Fuentes** (Mexique) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente: estamos a unos días de dos importantes eventos; la conclusión de su mandato y el inicio de la próxima reunión de la Conferencia General. Mi delegación desea dejar constancia de la importante contribución que usted ha realizado y el gran liderazgo que ha ejercido en su calidad de Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo de 2005 a 2007. La proximidad del inicio de la 34ª reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO permite a México realizar una evaluación general del proyecto de programa y presupuesto del próximo bienio, con arreglo a tres principios rectores de cualquier gobierno y de cualquier organización internacional, es decir: la transparencia, la eficiencia y la racionalidad.

17.2 México pugna para que los presupuestos de los organismos internacionales sean transparentes, eficientes y reflejen una correspondencia entre las prioridades programáticas y las líneas presupuestarias asignadas. En

la UNESCO, muchos procedimientos relativos a la forma en que se presenta y ejerce el presupuesto son complejos y poco transparentes. Esta situación no debe continuar. No es útil para la UNESCO pretender, por ejemplo, que saldos no utilizados en bienes anteriores, y cuya existencia no se reportó en tiempo y forma a los órganos de decisión de la Organización, ahora cubran gastos no previstos en la ejecución del Plan de Renovación de los Edificios de la Sede. La Secretaría reporta en el párrafo 31 del documento 177 EX/55 como saldo de las obligaciones pendientes del ejercicio bienal 2004-2005 la cantidad de 3.735.000 dólares. Insistimos en que sólo lograremos mayor eficiencia en la UNESCO cuando se elaboren los planes de trabajo de las diferentes áreas de la Organización antes de aprobar el presupuesto. México considera imperativo que la UNESCO genere ahorros en sus gastos de administración y evite el crecimiento de su burocracia internacional y la proliferación de órganos subsidiarios. Ante la nueva propuesta de presupuesto, México ve con preocupación que una gran parte del aumento en 21 millones de dólares, o sea el equivalente al 3,44%, se destine al pago de nómina, administración y gastos de viaje. A mi delegación le llama la atención el bajo incremento, en términos nominales, del presupuesto para los programas, que representa tan sólo un 1,4% respecto del bienio actual, mientras que los rubros de gastos de viaje para participantes y personal aumentan un 12% y 18%, respectivamente. Es significativo observar cómo el total de estos rubros asciende a 32.676.800 dólares, mientras que la propuesta de C/5 reduce en el 6% el Programa de Participación, asignándole tan sólo 18.800.000 dólares. Para México es difícil justificar un aumento de esta naturaleza, sobre todo cuando la Secretaría informó, en la pasada reunión del Consejo, que el programa de viajes para el próximo bienio no existe, y cuando el documento 177 EX/4 Parte II en su página 44, presenta información del elevado índice de gastos -de casi el 94%- en estos rubros al 30 de junio de 2007.

17.3 El reto de la UNESCO es convertirse en una organización más eficiente y que cumpla cabalmente sus funciones, en particular de fortalecimiento institucional. México está convencido de que con el compromiso de la Secretaría y de los Estados Miembros podríamos definir mecanismos de apoyo a los países que más lo requieren. Mi país podrá acompañar la propuesta de tope presupuestal de 631 millones de dólares para el bienio 2008-2009 si se formula un fuerte compromiso de propiciar que la Organización trabaje con transparencia, eficiencia, racionalidad y en beneficio de los programas, y en particular de la cooperación Sur-Sur y la cooperación Norte-Sur-Sur. Dicho sea de paso, la Secretaría ha informado que bajo este nuevo tope presupuestal se verán afectadas las actividades de cooperación Sur-Sur en educación.

17.4 Por ello, me permito someter a consideración de los Estados Miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo las siguientes propuestas: primero, realizar una disminución del rubro asignado a viajes; segundo, transferir esos recursos al Programa de Participación; tercero, reorientar el Programa de Participación para fortalecer la cooperación Sur-Sur y Norte-Sur-Sur a fin de que todos los Estados Miembros puedan realizar programas, proyectos y actividades que contribuyan a alcanzar la misión de la UNESCO; cuarto, invitar a todos los Estados Miembros a elaborar y presentar sus propuestas, en el marco del Programa de Participación, para compartir sus mejores prácticas. Quinto, pedir a la Secretaría que apoye a los Estados Miembros que lo soliciten en la

elaboración de programas, proyectos y actividades. En caso de contar con el respaldo de los Miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo, mi delegación estaría en condiciones de plantear la propuesta técnica en la Comisión FA.

17.5 Señor Presidente, ahora pasaré a otros temas: México reitera su apoyo a la reforma del Sector de Educación y da la bienvenida al señor Nicholas Burnett, su nuevo Subdirector General. Mi delegación desea expresar su preocupación por el hecho de que esta Organización pudiera interpretar la idea de descentralización como la completa desaparición del tratamiento de los temas en la Sede, en particular en asuntos que se encuentran en el centro de su mandato y que requieren una acción holística, intersectorial y transversal.

17.6 En relación con el Plan de Acción Global sobre Educación para Todos, México se percata, con pesar, que no existe en la reunión de este Consejo un punto en el orden del día que permita analizar detenidamente el estado de avance de la implementación de dicho Plan. Como foro político, la UNESCO debe fomentar la participación de ministros en los diferentes encuentros y eventos de la Organización. Para ello, es necesario contar con información completa y oportuna acerca de los mismos.

17.7 Señor Presidente, como México otorga a los temas relativos a la protección del medio ambiente una alta prioridad, en la pasada reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo fue el primer Estado Miembro en ofrecer su participación en la Exposición Temática "Planeta Tierra: del Espacio al Lugar". Sin embargo, debo informar que después de haber hecho gestiones al más alto nivel en mi país, la Secretaría comunicó no contar con el espacio necesario para ello.

17.8 El poeta William Butler Yeats dijo que "In dreams begin responsibilities"; de esta manera podríamos soñar con una UNESCO visionaria pero eficiente, a la altura de las demandas de nuestra época, pero transparente, y a la vanguardia de otras organizaciones, pero integradora y más democrática. Gracias.

(17.1) **Mr Aridjis Fuentes** (Mexico) *in extenso*
(translation from the Spanish):

Mr Chairperson, we are a few days away from two important events – the end of your term of office, and the beginning of the next session of the General Conference. My delegation wishes to place on record the important contribution you have made and the great leadership you have exercised in your capacity as Chairperson of the Executive Board from 2005 to 2007. The imminence of the opening of the 34th session of the UNESCO General Conference gives Mexico an opportunity to carry out a general evaluation of the Draft Programme and Budget for the next biennium, on the basis of three principles guiding all governments and international organizations, namely, transparency, efficiency and rationality.

(17.2) Mexico is striving to ensure that the budgets of international organizations are transparent, efficient and reflect an alignment between programme priorities and the corresponding budget lines. In UNESCO, many procedures relating to the way in which the budget is presented and implemented are complex and not particularly transparent. This situation must not continue. It is not useful for UNESCO to claim, for instance, that unused funds from previous biennia, and whose existence was not reported in due time and form to the decision-making

bodies of the Organization, may now cover unforeseen costs in the implementation of the Renovation Plan for Headquarters Buildings. The Secretariat reports in paragraph 31 of document 177 EX/55 that the balance of unliquidated obligations from the 2004-2005 biennium stands at \$3,735,000. We would stress that we will only achieve greater efficiency in UNESCO when the work plans in the various areas of the Organization are produced before the budget is approved. Mexico considers that it is imperative for UNESCO to make savings in administrative costs, and avoid increases in its international bureaucracy and in the number of subsidiary organs. In the new budget proposal, Mexico sees with concern that a large part of the increase of \$21 million, or the equivalent of 3.44%, is intended for the payment of salaries, administration and travel costs. My delegation's attention was drawn to the small increase in the budget for programmes, in nominal terms, which represents only 1.4% in relation to the current biennium, while the allocations for travel costs for participants and staff have increased by 12% and 18% respectively. It is significant to note that the total for these items stands at \$32,676,800, whereas the budget for the C/5 document cuts the Participation Programme by 6%, allocating it only \$18.8 million. It is difficult for Mexico to justify an increase of this kind, especially as the Secretariat reported, at the last session of the Board, that there was no programme for travel in the next biennium, and document 177 EX/4 Part II, in Table 4, presents information about the high rate of costs – almost 94% – under those headings as at 30 June 2007.

(17.3) The challenge facing UNESCO is how to become a more efficient organization which performs its functions fully, in particular that of institutional strengthening. Mexico is convinced that with the commitment of the Secretariat and Member States, mechanisms could be defined to support countries that need it most. My country could go with the proposal of a \$631 million budget ceiling for the 2008-2009 biennium if a strong undertaking were made to encourage the Organization to work transparently, efficiently and rationally and to the benefit of the programmes, in particular South-South cooperation and North-South-South cooperation. Incidentally, the Secretariat has stated that South-South cooperation activities in education will be affected under this new budget ceiling.

(17.4) Accordingly, allow me to submit for the consideration of the States Members of the Executive Board the following proposals: first, that a cut be made in the budget line for travel; secondly, that those resources be transferred to the Participation Programme; thirdly, that the Participation Programme be reoriented to strengthen South-South and North-South-South cooperation so that all Member States may carry out programmes, projects and activities that contribute to achieving UNESCO's mission; fourthly, that all Member States be invited to develop and present proposals, under the Participation Programme, to share their best practices. Fifth, that the Secretariat be asked to provide support to those Member States that so request in developing programmes, projects and activities. Should we receive backing from the Members of the Executive Board, my delegation would be in a position to make the technical proposal in the Finance and Administrative Commission.

(17.5) Mr Chairperson, I shall now move on to other subjects. Mexico reiterates its support for reform of the Education Sector, and welcomes Mr Nicholas Burnett, its new Assistant Director-General. My delegation wishes to express its concern that this Organization might view decentralization as entailing the wholesale disappearance of handling issues at Headquarters, in particular questions that lie at the heart of its mandate and demand holistic, intersectoral and cross-cutting action.

(17.6) In relation to the Global Action Plan on Education for All, Mexico has noted, with regret, that there is no item on the agenda of this session of the Board that would allow for the in-depth analysis of the state of progress of implementation of the Global Action Plan. UNESCO, as a policy forum, should encourage the participation of ministers at the Organization's different meetings and events. In order to do so, it is necessary to provide full and timely information about them.

(17.7) Mr Chairperson, as Mexico gives high priority to questions relating to the protection of the environment, at the last session of the Executive Board it was the first Member State to offer to take part in the thematic exhibition "Planet Earth". Nevertheless, I must inform you that despite having made arrangements at the highest level of my country, the Secretariat has told us that it does not have enough space for it.

(17.8) The poet William Butler Yeats said "in dreams begin responsibilities"; let us thus dream of a visionary, yet efficient UNESCO, which may rise to the demands of our times, while remaining transparent, at the forefront of other organizations, yet inclusive and more democratic. Thank you.

18.1 **M. Mboui** (Cameroun) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, distingués délégués, chers collègues, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous remercier pour la qualité de la collaboration que j'ai trouvée auprès de vos services et de chacun d'entre vous dans l'exercice de mes fonctions de porte-parole du Groupe V(a) pour l'exercice biennal qui s'achève. Mes remerciements vont aussi à l'ensemble du Bureau, que notre Président a dirigé avec une compétence et un doigté exemplaires. Je remercie enfin nos compatriotes, le Secrétaire du Conseil exécutif et le Conseiller juridique, qui m'ont fourni toute l'assistance nécessaire à l'accomplissement de ma mission.

18.2 Monsieur le Directeur général, le groupe africain, au nom duquel je m'exprime en premier lieu dans cette enceinte, mesure à sa juste dimension l'importance stratégique de la présente session du Conseil exécutif, qui précède de quelques jours la 34^e session de la Conférence générale. En effet, il nous faut examiner le Projet de stratégie à moyen terme pour 2008-2013 et transmettre à la Conférence générale le Projet de programme et de budget pour 2008-2009.

18.3 Le document 34 C/4 a bénéficié cette année, dans le cadre des travaux du Groupe de rédaction, d'un apport important et de contributions substantielles des États membres eux-mêmes. Cela a abouti à un document condensé, marqué par la volonté de concentrer les activités et les moyens de l'Organisation sur des orientations stratégiques bien définies afin d'obtenir des résultats tangibles. Nous tenons à féliciter tous les

membres du Groupe de rédaction, avec une mention spéciale à Madame l'Ambassadeur de l'Inde et à Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Nigéria. S'agissant de l'Afrique, l'énoncé renforcé de la priorité que ce continent constitue aux yeux de l'UNESCO nous confirme votre engagement, Monsieur le Directeur général, et celui des organes directeurs, de la traduire en actes dans l'ensemble des programmes.

18.4 Le document 34 C/4 tient compte, par ailleurs, des évolutions récentes et en cours au sein du système des Nations Unies. Mais la réforme de ce système tendant à instaurer l'unité d'action au niveau des pays doit être envisagée en tenant compte des fonctions à la fois normatives et opérationnelles de l'UNESCO, ainsi que de la spécificité de son mandat originel d'organisation de coopération intellectuelle. En d'autres termes, la visibilité de notre Organisation ne doit en aucun cas se diluer dans une unité factice dans la mesure où, dans presque tous nos pays, la bataille pour la promotion des objectifs énoncés dans l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO, à savoir l'éducation, la science et la culture, n'est pas entièrement gagnée. Chacun sait qu'elle demande encore des moyens appropriés, y compris sur le plan des symboles, dont le sigle de l'UNESCO constitue, à n'en pas douter, l'un des plus forts au monde.

18.5 N'est-il pas vrai que, dans le cadre des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, le bilan à mi-parcours laisse apparaître que de nombreux pays africains risquent de ne pas atteindre l'objectif n°1, à savoir la réduction de moitié de la pauvreté d'ici à 2015 ? D'où la nécessité d'engager une politique vigoureuse pour relancer la mobilisation des partenaires et des ressources dans le cadre de l'EPT, de l'alphabétisation et de l'éducation des adultes, de la formation des enseignants, ainsi que de la promotion de la science et de la technologie en vue du développement durable, non seulement au sein d'un même pays, mais aussi dans les structures de la coopération régionale et sous-régionale définie par l'Union africaine dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

18.6 L'Afrique attend que, dans son rôle de chef de file des Nations Unies pour un certain nombre de décennies et d'initiatives majeures visant à répondre à d'autres défis mondiaux, comme l'EPT, ONU-Eau, ONU-Océans, le dialogue des civilisations, le suivi du Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information, etc., l'UNESCO veille à ce que l'éducation demeure au premier rang des préoccupations de la communauté internationale.

18.7 S'agissant du 34 C/5, le groupe africain, vous le savez, Monsieur le Président, est favorable à l'option de 648 millions de dollars, qu'il considère comme appropriée, parce que de nature à permettre la réalisation des objectifs du programme, tous secteurs confondus. Mais l'Afrique comprend également les préoccupations légitimes exprimées par les pays qui auraient des difficultés à verser une plus grosse contribution à l'Organisation. L'option de 631 millions de dollars présentée par le Directeur général semble constituer une solution médiane. Il n'empêche qu'elle va conduire à une réduction de nombreux programmes, alors même que l'Organisation manque cruellement de ressources humaines et financières pour les mettre en œuvre sur le terrain. L'Afrique demande donc au Directeur général de poursuivre ses négociations avec les pays gros contributeurs pour améliorer autant que possible la capacité de performance de l'Organisation.

18.8 C'est pourquoi le groupe africain se félicite de ce que le 34 C/4 intègre dans ses perspectives de

programme un appui au nouvel engagement et au plan d'action en faveur de la science et de la technologie en Afrique, décidés par le Sommet des chefs d'État de l'Union africaine en janvier 2007 à Addis-Abeba. Si l'on attend à présent de l'UNESCO qu'elle prenne en compte les nouvelles préoccupations concernant le changement climatique dans le monde, par exemple notamment sur notre continent, il ne faudrait pas qu'il en résulte une inversion de l'ordre des priorités, qui serait préjudiciable à la maîtrise et à la vulgarisation des sciences fondamentales et de la technologie dans toutes les couches des sociétés africaines. Il appartient à l'UNESCO de veiller à ce que de nouvelles urgences planétaires ne viennent pas reléguer au second plan certains objectifs majeurs déjà arrêtés par la communauté internationale pour assurer le décollage irréversible de notre région. C'est dans le même esprit que nos pays attendent de l'UNESCO qu'elle accorde une attention spéciale à la demande de professionnels de la science et de la technologie et à leur mobilité de façon que les ressources humaines dans ce domaine servent à renforcer nos capacités dans ces disciplines, considérées à juste titre comme l'une des conditions préalables de ce décollage.

18.9 L'examen à mi-parcours de la mise en œuvre du Cadre d'action de Dakar pour l'Éducation pour tous révèle que bon nombre de pays africains ont adopté des politiques et stratégies avisées. Les efforts qui restent à faire devront porter principalement, selon les pays, sur la qualité de l'éducation en général, la scolarisation accélérée des filles, l'alphabétisation des adultes, ainsi que sur l'adoption de mesures adéquates pour ceux qui quittent le système éducatif prématurément ou sans diplôme. Raison de plus pour que l'UNESCO, de concert avec les autorités et les partenaires de la société civile, intensifie son action de plaidoyer en faveur de l'EPT dans presque tous nos pays afin de conjurer tout relâchement.

18.10 La récente Conférence régionale de Bamako sur le renouveau de l'alphabétisation a constaté l'insuffisance des moyens mis en œuvre pour lutter contre l'analphabétisme. Ce constat devrait rappeler aux décideurs et à nos partenaires l'urgence d'une action d'alphabétisation renforcée comme facteur d'accès et de réussite à l'école. À cet égard, il faut saluer l'intervention de nouveaux acteurs - les Premières Dames africaines - en faveur de l'alphabétisation, thème désormais central dans les politiques éducatives de nos pays. Il va sans dire que, dans ce domaine, le concours de l'UNESCO est indispensable à nos pays pour faire face au problème majeur de leurs systèmes éducatifs qu'est **la formation des maîtres**. C'est le lieu de se féliciter de l'« Initiative pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne » (TTISSA), qui est en train de prendre forme avec l'appui de gros contributeurs tels que les États-Unis d'Amérique. À cet égard, le groupe africain s'associe unanimement au projet de décision soumis au Conseil à sa présente session.

18.11 Dans l'enseignement secondaire et supérieur, l'Afrique s'oriente de plus en plus vers la mise en place de filières professionnelles. À cette fin, elle devra bénéficier sur le terrain d'une assistance et d'une expertise adaptées aux besoins de chaque pays. Le recours aux formes de coopération Sud-Sud et Sud-Nord-Sud n'a d'autre but que de mettre à profit les meilleures pratiques et les expériences couronnées de succès d'autres régions du monde. Pour prendre à bras le corps tous ces défis, nous fondons beaucoup d'espoirs sur la nomination du nouvel ADG pour l'éducation, M. Nicholas Burnett, qui n'est pas un inconnu puisqu'il était précédemment chargé de la coordination du Rapport mondial de suivi sur l'EPT.

Nous savons qu'il a déjà une bonne connaissance des problèmes de l'éducation en Afrique. Nous espérons que l'Organisation mettra à sa disposition les ressources budgétaires et humaines requises pour lui permettre de tenir le rythme soutenu que va exiger la période actuelle 2007-2015 en ce qui concerne les objectifs de l'EPT.

18.12 Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, vous savez que l'Afrique attache une importance particulière à la dimension culturelle dans son développement. Nous voudrions nous féliciter de l'entrée en vigueur de la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel et de celle, plus récente, de la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles. À la faveur de l'élaboration de ces deux nouveaux instruments, des préoccupations nouvelles sont apparues, qui ont trait aux impératifs de la conservation du patrimoine sous toutes ses formes et du développement d'industries culturelles, à la mobilité des créateurs, artistes et professionnels de la culture, indispensable pour leur permettre d'aller à la rencontre de leurs homologues dans le monde ainsi qu'à la nécessité de promouvoir et de soutenir la lutte contre le trafic illicite des objets culturels et leur retour dans leurs pays d'origine. Le Fonds africain du patrimoine mondial entend agir comme un partenaire crédible et efficace aux côtés de l'UNESCO afin d'apporter l'assistance requise aux pays africains pour sensibiliser leurs peuples aux menaces qui pèsent sur leur patrimoine naturel et culturel.

18.13 Maintenant que la voix de l'Afrique s'est fait entendre parmi nous sur quelques points en débat, permettez-moi d'évoquer très brièvement un ou deux sujets intéressants mon pays, le Cameroun. L'année même de son accession à la souveraineté internationale en janvier 1960, le Cameroun a adhéré, au mois de novembre, à l'UNESCO. Notre Organisation a apporté une aide décisive à mon pays, dès que ces liens ont été noués, en l'appuyant dans la construction d'une École normale supérieure, vrai ressort du spectaculaire essor de l'enseignement secondaire général camerounais. Plus près de nous, une semaine consacrée à la visibilité de l'UNESCO au Cameroun vient d'être organisée dans plusieurs de nos localités du 18 au 21 septembre 2007. Ces manifestations ont permis de constater que 47 ans de cette coopération ont puissamment contribué à un renforcement continu des capacités du Cameroun, non seulement dans les domaines de compétence traditionnels de l'UNESCO, mais aussi dans des domaines plus spécifiques comme l'information, la communication et la préservation du patrimoine visible et immatériel.

18.14 D'autre part, grâce au programme First Family Africa qui bénéficie d'un soutien spécial de l'Italie, pays que nous remercions une fois de plus ici, la pandémie du sida est l'objet d'un traitement particulier dans le cadre du Centre international de référence Chantal Biya pour la recherche sur la prévention du sida, basé à Yaoundé, notre capitale. Enfin, la voix la plus autorisée du Cameroun devrait prochainement se faire entendre à l'UNESCO pour témoigner de la manière la plus significative de la profonde adhésion de notre pays aux très nobles idéaux de notre Organisation. Dans cette attente, je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

19.1 **Mr Landymore** (United Kingdom) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Director-General, distinguished delegates, I wish to begin by endorsing fully the statement made by Portugal on behalf of the Member States of the European Union. In particular, I wish to confirm my

delegation's support for the compromise budget figure put forward by the Director-General, and our hope that the Board can quickly find agreement on his proposal. I wish to express appreciation for the effort he has made and for his attachment to the goal of launching the new Medium-Term Strategy on the basis of a budget envelope that has the support of the whole of the Board.

19.2 Mr Chairman, last April I mentioned that the United Kingdom Government is strongly committed to the goal of effective multilateralism, that is to say, working together as a global community to confront the major issues facing the world today. For this, we need an effective United Nations, including a more effective UNESCO, working not for itself alone, but as a key part of a coherent United Nations system, alongside its partners such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and also the World Bank. I recognize that a number of the proposals made for system-wide coherence by the United Nations Secretary-General await consideration in New York, but progress is being made in both the pilot programmes for Delivering as One and more generally, within the existing policy framework, on better coordination of agencies within country-level United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). We very much welcome the positive engagement in this that the Director-General has promoted: both for UNESCO and for the wider group of specialized agencies. We look forward also to the appearance of the first set of UNESCO country programme documents, which he mentioned in his introduction to the general debate. We understand that country-led programming presents challenges to UNESCO's traditional methods, but programmes that are chosen by developing countries, in the context of the whole United Nations development system, have clear potential to provide better targeting and accountability for UNESCO's country-based actions, above all for those countries.

19.3 The Education Sector remains, for my government, UNESCO's top priority. The gap in top management in the last six months has, undoubtedly, been a handicap. I am sure that the new Assistant Director-General will have the support of all of us in relaunching the drive to establish UNESCO as the effective global leader for education for all (EFA): not by saying it but by doing it. There are many international agencies engaged in helping to make access to quality education a reality for the hundreds of millions who are excluded from it. UNESCO is not needed for the money that it can bring to this campaign, but for the advocacy, coordination and leadership it can offer, and the expertise of its associated institutes. We look to UNESCO to be the champion of the goals, to monitor progress, to publicize and applaud the best achievements, and to highlight the areas of slow progress and greatest needs. This agenda needs to be pursued more vigorously, not just at the Dakar meeting of the EFA High-Level Group in December 2007, but in a succession of major meetings in the next 12 months.

19.4 There is one item on the Board's agenda which I should like to mention especially: item 29, on category 2 centres. Let me be clear that these are potentially useful assets to UNESCO, but, like others, I have mentioned before our concern over possible proliferation, mainly because of the need to be conscious of their impact on UNESCO's own resources. I thank the Director-General for bringing forward a paper (177 EX/29) which adds to the existing guidance. It is a good paper, but it ought to be

strengthened: specifically in requiring at the outset clear resource limits on UNESCO's contributions to category 2 centres.

19.5 Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom has, with others, worked hard to establish the Board's position on the Programme and Budget for the next two years. But in the long term – starting with the next C/5 document – I hope it will be possible for the Director-General to propose a budget which is much more intelligible in terms of how resources are spent on programmes – which sets out expected results and then allocates all the Organization's resources, both staff and non-staff resources, against the actions designed to deliver those results. At present, a big part – 47% – of the budget is allocated to central activities of various kinds rather than to programmes and their related services. It is paradoxical that one can say that one-third of UNESCO's resources (counting programme funds only) are allocated to its largest programme, education, but at the same time, that only one-sixth of all its resources are so allocated.

19.6 Turning to the sciences, my delegation is encouraged by the Director-General's support for the outcomes of the review of the science programmes, and looks forward to speedy implementation of the many important recommendations made. We support his intention to enhance UNESCO's contribution to international research on global climate change. This brings into strong focus a key and urgent recommendation of the review: to bring about closer strategic cooperation on research and monitoring among UNESCO's four environmental programmes. Like my French and Italian colleagues, we particularly stress the centrally important programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), which is one of UNESCO's success stories, and the importance of the adequacy of its budget.

19.7 Lastly, Mr Chairman, as you and colleagues know, the United Kingdom is stepping down from the Board after this meeting, after two years of membership, to allow Germany to return to the Board. It may be appropriate to remind colleagues of our reasons. Rotation of membership has been a long-discussed issue: we hope to have shown by example that there are ways in which it can be improved in the short term, even if both the size of the Board and rotation of membership remain, to my mind, major issues for necessary longer term reform. The United Kingdom will, as you know, be standing again for election in 2009. I thank you for your attention.

20.1 **Ms Haile-Mikael** (Ethiopia) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, distinguished Permanent Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, let me first express, on behalf of my delegation, our appreciation to the Chairman of the Executive Board for his wise leadership in organizing the Executive Board session meticulously and for directing our attention to the weighty task ahead of us. My delegation also wishes to convey its high regard to the Director-General for carrying out his responsibilities tirelessly and effectively, and for providing us with a comprehensive written report. My delegation would further like to express our support to the speech delivered by Cameroon on behalf of the Africa group.

20.2 In its previous sessions, the Executive Board has certainly dealt with very crucial and challenging items. In our view, the most important of these are the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) and the biennial Programme and Budget (34 C/5). We wish to commend

all those who have served at committee or working group level in the preparation of the documents. We believe that you, as our Chairman, have played a very significant role in all matters pertaining to the documents, and would like to thank you for your effective management.

20.3 In education and development in general, my delegation has major concerns relating to education for all (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals. These concerns have been given due emphasis in the Draft Medium-Term Strategy and the Draft Programme and Budget, and it is important to continue highlighting them in subsequent discussions in the Board as well as at the General Conference. The contributions of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) and the Teacher Training Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA) in this regard must be enhanced.

20.4 As my delegation pointed out in its address at the 176th session of the Executive Board, Ethiopia is doing all it can for the construction of a suitable building for the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA). This is in line with UNESCO's emphasis on teacher development. However, IICBA cannot be expected to fulfil its mandate unless, among other things, it is allotted a reasonable budget, which it is lacking at the moment. We feel that a top-up from extrabudgetary sources is very important in supporting the activities of IICBA, but we also consider it essential to ensure that IICBA is allotted adequate resources from the regular budget to do justice to UNESCO's commitment to improving education in Africa.

20.5 We have eagerly waited for TTISSA to determine the modality of implementation and priority areas of the programme in different African countries. It is now important for TTISSA to intensify its activities, and in the process pick up lessons for improving them still further.

20.6 In addition, I wish to recall the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) which, among other things, identifies tertiary education as a focal area for Africa. In this respect, UNESCO's support in research and quality assurance is important. Then we have South-South cooperation in education and its triangular form, North-South-South cooperation. In this regard, we believe that pilot projects should always be designed with adequate consultations so that they may provide useful ideas about the forms of partnership, resource requirements, management and effectiveness of cooperation needed to address subregional or regional problems.

20.7 In the natural sciences, we find the issues of global climate change and diminishing biodiversity critical. Our fight against poverty will not make headway unless we are able to support efforts, both in research and implementation of sound research results, to tackle the problems posed by global warming and endangered biodiversity. In this respect, we find the work on strategy development in relation to climate change that has been indicated in the report by the Director-General particularly important.

20.8 In our view, our major concern in the area of the social sciences is the support that developing countries need to formulate contextually meaningful and viable development policies.

20.9 Regarding culture, UNESCO's contribution to the promotion of multilingualism and to the safeguarding of endangered languages is important, not just for expanding educational provisions and maintaining heritages, but also

for promoting human rights and peace. We appreciate the work done so far in this area, but we think that much more needs to be done. We therefore welcome the attention given to this matter both in the Draft Medium-Term Strategy and the Draft Programme and Budget, and hope that the activities indicated in the documents will be implemented effectively.

20.10 The various types of training proposed for the coming two years in the area of communication and information are no doubt important. However, we would like to stress that all training activities should be evaluated rigorously in order to establish their impact and to devise more effective approaches, where appropriate.

20.11 Mr Chairman, turning to some general issues, it has been evident for some time now that UNESCO needs new and effective strategies for fundraising to carry out its activities. We appreciate the attention the Director-General has given to the matter, and we would like to underscore the importance of pursuing the matter even more vigorously. We appreciate the efforts the Director-General has made in United Nations reform.

20.12 Finally, I would like to emphasize the importance of UNESCO's cooperation with the African Union in all spheres, and it is a pleasure for my delegation to observe that the Director-General has been forthcoming and supportive in this area. Along this direction, we hope that, among other things, UNESCO will take further steps in strengthening that cooperation. Thank you.

٢١,١ السيد آل خليفة (البحرين) النص الكامل:

السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي الموقر، السيد المدير العام الموقر، السادة الزملاء الموقرون أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. يسعدني أن أتحدث إليكم ونحن نتأهب للانطلاق بمنظمتنا العريقة إلى آفاق جديدة تستمد رؤاها من تجربة دامت أكثر من ستين عاما من عمر اليونسكو، تلاقت فيها الأفكار، وتداخلت فيها الثقافات، وربطت بينها روح المودة والاحترام التي كانت دائما السمة البارزة لكل من شارك في أعمال هذا المجلس أو في المؤتمر العام أو في أمانة المنظمة.

٢١,٢ واسمحوا لي في البداية أن أتقدم بالشكر والتقدير، باسم بلدي، إلى سعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي وإلى معاونيه في أمانة المجلس التنفيذي على حسن التنظيم والتنسيق. كما أتقدم بالشكر إلى سعادة المدير العام ومعاونيه على ما بذلوه من جهد في إعداد وثائق هذه الدورة وبهذا المستوى الرفيع.

٢١,٣ السيد رئيس المجلس، لا يخفى على سعادتك ما لهذه الدورة من أهمية قصوى، إذ إنها الدورة التي تسبق انعقاد الدورة الرابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، وتضطلع من أجل ذلك بالنظر في جدول أعمال من أهم مفرداته التداول في أمرين مهمين للغاية: الأمر الأول هو الاستراتيجية المتوسطة الأجل للفترة ٢٠٠٨-٢٠١٣. والأمر الثاني هو البرنامج والميزانية لعامي ٢٠٠٨-٢٠٠٩، وهو بالطبع مبني على ما جاء في الاستراتيجية.

٢١,٤ إن القضايا المطروحة في الاستراتيجية هي بلا شك أولويات اختارتها الدول الأعضاء من خلال التشاور وتداول الآراء داخل هذا المجلس الموقر، ومن خلال المشاورات المتعددة التي قامت بها أمانة المنظمة. ولعل من أهم ما تتميز به هذه الاستراتيجية هو أسلوب طرحها للقضايا من خلال تحديد الأولويات واقتراح أسلوب المعالجة في ضوء النتائج المتوقعة، وهذا لا شك نهج علمي جيد نتمنى أن يتبع عند

تنفيذ البرامج المختلفة وبصورة تمكن المنظمة من إجراء عمليات القياس والمحاسبة كنهج ثابت متفق عليه.

٢١,٥ إن مما يدعو إلى المزيد من التأمل هو أن بعض القضايا المهمة المطروحة في هذه الدورة ظلت على جدول أعمال المجلس التنفيذي على مدى سنوات. ويبرر بعضهم ذلك بأن بعض هذه القضايا، مثل تعميم التعليم الجيد، وسحو الأمية، ونشر التكنولوجيا، ومحوية الفقر والتمييز بين الجنسين، عصي على الحل. ويقول آخرون إن العلة تكمن في الطرق التقليدية التي تتبعها اليونسكو والدول الأعضاء في التنفيذ، ويقول آخرون إن شح الإمكانيات المادية وشح الخبرة الإنسانية عالية التأهيل في كثير من الدول هما السبب. ولعلنا نعلم جميعا ما دار حول هذه المسائل من نقاش داخل هذه القاعة وفي العديد من المنتديات، ونعلم أيضا ما تخض عن كل ذلك من توصيات، إلا أن التنفيذ في معظم الأحيان لم يكن بمستوى الحماسة والالتزام. وعليه، فإننا نأمل أن تشهد فترة الاستراتيجية المتوسطة الأجل مستوى جدبا من الالتزام والوفاء بالوعود من جانب الدول الأعضاء ومن جانب الشركاء في القطاعين الأهلي والخاص، مما يسهم في تطوير التعليم والثقافة والعلوم والتكنولوجيا بصورة أفضل. إذ لا يجد التعليم ولا الثقافة ولا العلوم ولا التكنولوجيا العناية الكافية والتنفيذ الملائم مهما جددت الوعود، ومن المهم تكثيف العمل على المستويات الإقليمية ليكون رافدا قويا للعمل على المستوى الدولي.

٢١,٦ إن من أفضل القيم التي جاءت بها اليونسكو وظلت تسعى بها بين الدول قيمة التعاون بين الشعوب وتبادل الخبرات والتجارب. ولليونسكو في هذا الصدد سجل حافل بالنجاحات، ولها الفضل في دعم الجهود الوطنية التي آتت أكلها في كثير من الدول.

٢١,٧ إن التقدم في عصرنا الحالي أصبح أكثر من ذي قبل رهينا بالرؤى المتجددة وبتوظيف العلوم والتكنولوجيا توظيفا عمليا لتحقيق التنمية المستدامة التي يمثل التعليم ركيزتها الأولى، وهو وحده القادر على تعميم منظور التنوع الثقافي، وهو وحده القادر من خلال تطبيق التكنولوجيا على تجاوز العقبات التي تحول دون تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة. لذلك ظلت حكومة بلدي تولي التعليم الأولوية الأولى عبر السنوات. وقد أحدث النظام التربوي في بلدي طفرة نوعية جديدة بإدخال تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال في التعليم من خلال مشروع جلاله الملك حمد لمدارس المستقبل. وقد قررنا التوسع في مجال الاستفادة من التكنولوجيا متضامنين مع الدول الشقيقة في مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية وجمهورية اليمن وغيرها من دول المنطقة العربية، وذلك باقتراح إنشاء مركز إقليمي لتكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال من الفئة الثانية، يكون مقره مملكة البحرين، وأعدنا بهذا الخصوص وثيقة بالتعاون مع اليونسكو، وهي معروضة على مجلسكم في الدورة الحالية وكلنا ثقة بأن مجلسكم الموقر سيدعم قيام هذا المركز.

٢١,٨ سيدي الرئيس، لقد تشرف بلدي بعضوية هذا المجلس الموقر على مدى السنوات الأربع المنصرمة. وأود في هذه العجالة أن أعبر لسعادتك ولسعادة المدير العام وجميع الزملاء الموقرين أعضاء المجلس عن مدى سعادتنا بعضوية هذا المجلس، لأنها فتحت لنا آفاقا واسعة للتشاور والتداول مع السادة الأعضاء ومع أمانة اليونسكو وزادت من روابط التعاون والاحترام بيننا. ولا يسعنا في هذا المقام إلا أن نتقدم بالشكر إلى الجميع، خاصة تلك الدول التي شرفت بلدي بانتخابه عضوا في المجلس. ونجدد العهد بأننا سنظل مخلصين لهذه المنظمة العريقة، داعمين لجهودها الإنسانية الخيرة، ومدافعين عنها في كل المنابر، انطلاقا من توجيهات القيادة في بلدي مملكة البحرين التي

تدعم وتساند جهود اليونسكو. وفقنا الله جميعا لما فيه خير البشرية.
والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(21.1) **Mr Al Khalifa** (Bahrain) *in extenso*
(translation from the Arabic):

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, distinguished colleagues, Members of the Executive Board, *as-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). I am pleased to address you as we prepare to launch our venerable Organization towards fresh horizons whose vision derives from the experience of the more than 60 years of UNESCO's existence, during which time ideas have fertilized one another, cultures have intermingled and been linked by that spirit of friendship and respect which has always been the hallmark of all that have participated in the work of this Board, the General Conference or the Secretariat of the Organization.

(21.2) Allow me at the outset to voice thanks and appreciation, on behalf of my country, to His Excellency the Chairperson of the Executive Board and his colleagues in the secretariat of the Executive Board for their excellent organization and coordination. I also express thanks to His Excellency the Director-General and his colleagues for their efforts in preparing the documents for this session to such a high standard.

(21.3) Mr Chairperson of the Board, you are well aware of the exceptional importance of this session, coming, as it does, before the 34th session of the General Conference, and which will consider two extremely important items on its agenda: the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-20013 and the Programme and Budget for 2008-2009, which is naturally based on the Strategy.

(21.4) The issues raised in the Strategy are without doubt priorities which have been selected by the Member States following consultations and exchanges of views within this distinguished Board, and thanks to the numerous consultations undertaken by the UNESCO Secretariat. The most important aspect of this Strategy is surely the way it tackles these issues by setting priorities and suggesting ways of addressing them in the light of expected results. This is certainly a good scientific approach which we hope may be followed in the execution of the various programmes, thus enabling the Organization to perform monitoring and assessment as a regular and agreed procedure.

(21.5) What calls for further reflection is the fact that some of the important issues under discussion at this session have been on the agenda of the Executive Board for years. Some justify this on the grounds that some of these issues, such as spreading quality education, literacy, the dissemination of technology, and combating poverty and gender discrimination, are difficult to resolve. Others maintain that the fault lies with the traditional methods followed by UNESCO and Member States in execution. Yet others claim that lack of material resources and highly-qualified expertise in many countries is the reason. We probably all know the discussions that have been held on these topics in this hall and in many other fora, and we also know what recommendations have been the outcome of such discussions, but their implementation has for the most part not been

commensurate with the initial enthusiasm and commitment. We therefore hope to see during the period of the forthcoming Medium-Term Strategy a serious level of commitment and fulfilment of promises on the part of the Member States and public- and private-sector partners, which should help to develop education, culture, science and technology more effectively. Neither education, culture, science nor technology receive sufficient attention or appropriate implementation, however many new promises are made; it is necessary to intensify efforts at the regional levels, which should then become strong inputs to work at the international level.

(21.6) One of the best values which UNESCO has promoted and continues to promote among its Member States is that of cooperation among peoples, and exchange of expertise and experience. In this regard, UNESCO has a strong record of success, and the great merit of having supported national efforts which have borne fruit in many countries.

(21.7) Progress in the current age is more than ever dependent on innovative visions and the practical harnessing of science and technology in order to achieve sustainable development, of which education is the prime mainstay. Education alone can help to spread an outlook which is favourable to cultural diversity; education alone, by applying technology, can overcome the obstacles to the achievement of sustainable development. For this reason, the government of my country has attached top priority to education over the years. The education system in my country took a fresh quantum leap with the introduction of information and communication technology in education through King Hamad's Schools of the Future Project. We decided to expand the field of benefiting from technology in solidarity with our fraternal countries in the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) through a proposal for the establishment of a category 2 regional centre for information and communication technology with headquarters in Bahrain. To this end, we have prepared a document, in cooperation with UNESCO, which is submitted to the Board at its current session, and we hope that the esteemed Board will support the establishment of this centre.

(21.8) Mr Chairperson, my country has had the honour to be a Member of this distinguished Board for the past four years. I should like, on this occasion, to tell Your Excellency and His Excellency the Director-General how pleased we have been to be a Member of the Board, which has opened up broad horizons for consultation and discussion with the distinguished Members and with the UNESCO Secretariat, and has enhanced our links of cooperation and mutual respect with them. In this connection, we are bound to voice our thanks to all, and in particular those countries that honoured my country by electing it to the Board. We vow once again to remain faithful to this venerable Organization, to support its noble humanitarian efforts, and to defend it in all fora, on the basis of the orientations adopted by the leadership of my country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, which gives its full support to the efforts of UNESCO. May God grant us all success in the interests of the welfare of humankind. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you).

22.1 **Mr Figaji** (South Africa) *in extenso*:

Thank you Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Permanent Delegates to UNESCO, Members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the South African delegation I extend my greetings to all of you. I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairperson for the leadership he has offered us in the last two years. As many colleagues have said, this appreciation is not only for his leadership, but for how he acted in leadership. Our delegation also wishes to record its wholehearted support for the matters raised by the leader of our group, the Vice-Chairperson for Africa.

22.2 Let me now turn to the substance of the Director-General's report. The budget for 2007-2008 contained in document 34 C/5 at \$631 million is a compromise position, and we wish to support this proposal and thank our colleagues who had to endure tough negotiations back home to get us to this level. We would have preferred a budget level of \$648 million, but we recognize the difficulties. For us, the relevance of this budget is that the pattern of static budget levels over the last number of years has now been broken. Our challenge as UNESCO is to demonstrate financial prudence and enhanced service delivery so that we can justify a budget that represents real growth in the next biennium and in the future.

22.3 Mr Chairperson, we would also like to draw attention to the fact that we think UNESCO is underestimating the time, resources and effort it is going to take for the Organization to effect the transition to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) system. If we are going to be anywhere near ready for IPSAS implementation, then we need to provide more money for financial controls, for systems enhancement and for staff training. We cannot reduce any effort in this area because of budget cuts. So, our appeal is for the reinstatement of any reductions in the current budget and other budgets for the areas of accounting, treasury and financial control. We note with appreciation the action that the Director-General has taken in response to the External Auditor's recommendations that resulted from the Education Sector investigation.

22.4 Mr Chairperson, the South African delegation is also gratified by the cooperation that has been shown by all delegations and regional groups in the recent rounds of negotiations that framed the Executive Board's recommendations on the Draft Medium-Term Strategy of the Organization, which will therefore have as its twin priorities for 2008-2013 Africa and gender equality, as well as a focus on youth, the least-developed countries and the small island developing States (SIDS). We are heartened that the Organization will also respond to the needs expressed by the African Union's summits of January 2006 and January 2007, in the fields of strengthening the ties between education and culture, science and technology, and sustainable development of Africa.

22.5 I fully appreciate the contribution that science, technology and engineering can make to sustainable economic development and poverty eradication. It is the sincere hope of the South African delegation that major efforts will be devoted to strengthening the capacities of developing countries, particularly in Africa, through enhancing the work of the Natural Sciences Sector and engineering at UNESCO. Over the years the Natural Sciences Sector and particularly the engineering division at UNESCO has been reduced significantly. We must rebuild the in-house capacity in these areas if we are serious about making an impact and helping the

developing world to participate more effectively in the modern world.

22.6 A few areas in which the sciences, technology and engineering can assist in the development of Africa include the design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure; applied research in the issues confronting Africa in technology and social transformations; the more effective management and conservation of the continent's freshwater resources; and as a guide for action across the spectrum of disaster management through policies and frameworks for disaster mapping, prediction, avoidance, prevention, mitigation and relief as well as education for disaster reduction. Measures for the prevention, avoidance or mitigation of the impact on inhabitants of natural disasters are widely regarded as being far more cost-effective than emergency responses after the event.

22.7 Mr Chairperson, this afternoon we will be holding a thematic debate on climate change. In our view, everyone talks about the global threat of climate change, but very little action has taken place so far. Through its foresight, networking and convening functions, UNESCO is well placed to draw together the best scientific brains, and the political decision-makers to address the issues. At this stage, some of the basic actions should include incorporation of material on global warming into the school curricula to make all children aware of the dangers of climate change and of socially responsible behaviour to address the causes. Efforts should also be made to raise awareness of the effects of global warming by using information channels for mass media and through information and communication technologies; studies on the damage being done to world heritage sites and UNESCO's networking of biosphere reserves. The impact of climate change on increasing desertification and increased flooding will be devastating for the world's poor, particularly in Africa.

22.8 Mr Chairperson, as regards the reform of the Organization, we are of the view that continuing efforts remain necessary to ensure that UNESCO, through its country and regional offices, integrates itself fully into the activities of the United Nations country teams in their cooperation with host country governments in order to identify the priorities of governments and together plan appropriate programme interventions to address their needs. It is only through such cooperative actions that transparency and ownership will be assured, and therefore also the long-term sustainability of the programmes.

22.9 Finally, I want to support all the actions already taken by the Director-General on administrative matters that are aimed at making this Organization more efficient and more effective. Thank you very much.

23.1 **Mr Omolewa** (Nigeria) *in extenso*:

Thank you Mr Chairperson, Mr President of the General Conference, Your Excellencies, Permanent Delegates, honourable Members of the Board, Mr Director-General, dear colleagues. You will all understand if I feel constrained on this occasion to say a few words of evocation, in remembrance of our dear colleague and friend Torben Krogh of Denmark, who has passed away since we last met. I know that the Board has fittingly paid tribute to him, for his contributions to the life and work of the Organization. But in view of the special privilege that circumstances offered me, of working directly and intensely with him, and the comradeship and friendship that developed between us, I cannot but offer a token testimony for the man, for what he was and for what UNESCO meant for him. My thoughts at this moment can

only be those of admiration for the single-mindedness of Torben Krogh, as he relentlessly sought to infect everyone with the burning desire that had become his mission, to contribute to making UNESCO a shining example in the United Nations firmament, as a most efficient star organization, in the service of humanity. He was faithful to that belief to the very end. And for that, we remember him with respect, with admiration and with appreciation. And for me, personally, his example will always be a source of compelling inspiration.

23.2 Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues. In making my intervention, I would like first of all to express my support for the statement made by our Vice-Chairman, Professor Joseph Mbouï of Cameroon, on behalf of the Africa group, as it represents our commonly shared preoccupations, aspirations and our position on several questions before us.

23.3 This biennium, which is now drawing to a close, has again been dominated by various actions aimed at reforming UNESCO. We have all now accepted the importance of reform. What tended to stand out, among others, in this period, is our confrontation with the difficulties of reforming. All our reform action is aimed at better planning, better implementation and increased relevance and usefulness for Member States. These are the constant expected results of our search for improved performance. And these we must attain. They must therefore guide the implementation of our education reform. In this context, we are grateful to UNESCO for the successful regional conference on literacy support in Africa held in Bamako, Mali, in September 2007. We hope that the conference will further stimulate literacy enhancement in the region and revitalize the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE).

23.4 Revisiting our action in the sciences has turned out to be a most useful exercise. We strongly support the retention of two separate sectors with strengthened and better coherence and coordination between the two sectors. In culture, we wish to recognize the current achievements and successes, the ongoing readjustments in the Culture Sector and the reassessments and reinvigoration in the World Heritage Centre and its activities.

23.5 Mr Chairman and dear colleagues, while still addressing the subject of culture I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of Member States the fact that we are planning to hold an exhibition of Black and African Arts and Culture during the 34th session of

the General Conference in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of FESTAC 77, the Festival of Black and African Arts and Culture, which took place in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1977, with the participation of more than 50 countries representing Black and African peoples and their arts and cultures both on the African continent and in the Diaspora. We look forward to sharing with you this treasure which is representative of cultures and arts from diverse Black and African peoples from different parts of the world.

23.6 Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, at this session, under agenda item **69**, the Director-General is presenting the proposal of Nigeria for the establishment in Nigeria of a category 2 institute for African culture and international understanding. The institute, which will be based at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria, will be part of a network which will be spread all over Nigeria and extend to institutions outside Nigeria; particularly in the African Diaspora. I look forward to your support for this cultural endeavour which is destined to play an important role in a field of great importance to UNESCO and to its work for culture, peace and international understanding.

23.7 Mr Chairman, in order for UNESCO to efficiently occupy its rightful place and to meet the expectations of its Member States, it must be endowed with adequate funds that will allow it to fully play its particular role, side-by-side with all the other institutions of international cooperation, especially those of the United Nations system. In spite of Nigeria's penchant for regular, reasonable growth in UNESCO's regular budget, we will, as usual, be ready to work with fellow Member States to support the Director-General's proposal for the needs of UNESCO in the biennium ahead.

23.8 As regards our programmes for the next biennium, please allow me to mention, for extra emphasis, one or two programmes. These include support for the E-9 countries, especially in their efforts to meet the different achievement-targets facing them; we also call attention to the arrangements being made within the Secretariat for supporting South-South and triangular North-South-South cooperation. We will make our comprehensive views on the various items listed on the agenda available in the relevant commissions later in the week. Thank you for your attention, and God bless you.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

TROISIÈME SÉANCE

Mardi 2 octobre à 14 h 30

Président : M. Zhang

GENERAL MATTERS

Item 61: Thematic debate: Facing the multidisciplinary challenges of knowledge societies and global climate change: UNESCO's contributions to United Nations reform at the regional and country levels (177 EX/INF.6)

1.1 **The Chairperson** *in extenso*:

Mr Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister of State of France, UNESCO's host country, excellencies, Minister Gago of Portugal, Secretary-General Touré of the International Telecommunication Union, Professor Pachauri, Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, esteemed guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I now declare open this meeting. *Monsieur le Ministre d'Etat, je vous souhaite la bienvenue à la Maison de l'UNESCO.*

1.2 The purpose of the Executive Board's thematic debates is to hold intellectual policy discussions to inform Members of the Executive Board about emerging topical issues of the day with long-term implications that fall within UNESCO's fields of competence and are likely to inform the Organization's future actions.

1.3 This session's debate will focus on two policy areas, highlighting concretely where UNESCO has been making specific contributions over the years, and where it has indeed taken a leadership role among United Nations organizations at the global, regional and country levels. It is highly likely that these issues will become components of joint United Nations action at the national level, and that United Nations country teams, among them UNESCO, will be called upon to support governments in their own efforts, which require coherent action, effectiveness and commitment to quality delivery without duplication.

1.4 The subjects of knowledge societies and global climate change are interdisciplinary as well as intersectoral in nature, and fall within the specific sphere of competence of several organizations of the United Nations system. It is therefore highly topical to examine how UNESCO as a specialized agency can, through its sectoral competences and in an intersectoral manner, respond to national development priorities in these fields while contributing to enhanced coherence of the United Nations system – a prime objective in the current phase of United Nations reform.

1.5 Mr Borloo, while you do not require a formal introduction for my colleagues on the Executive Board, allow me to say a few words about your illustrious career. You are a distinguished politician, a lawyer and a university lecturer. You have been a member of the European Parliament and also a deputy in France's National Assembly, as well as having the rich experience of being a mayor. You have also held the post of Minister for the Economy, Finance and Employment, Minister of Labour, Labour Relations and Solidarity, and Minister Delegate for Urban Affairs and Urban Renovation. Thus you have a keen sense of local, national and international priorities of concern to all citizens. You currently have the weighty responsibility of being Minister of State of France, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development and Planning.

1.6 *Monsieur le Ministre d'Etat*, let me say that we are all so honoured that such a high representative of the

host country will be speaking to us today. We very much look forward to hearing your views on the challenges and opportunities that our thematic debate presents. *Vous avez la parole.*

2.1 **M. Jean-Louis Borloo** (Ministre d'État de la France, Ministre de l'écologie, du développement et de l'aménagement durables) *in extenso* :

Merci. Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, mes chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs et chefs des délégations permanentes auprès de l'UNESCO, je suis très heureux de participer, ne serait-ce que brièvement, à vos travaux. En effet, les séances de notre Parlement m'appellent dans 20 minutes et je vous prie de bien vouloir m'en excuser. Je veux cependant vous dire à quel point je tenais à venir passer quelques minutes avec vous lors de cette 177^e session, qui s'inscrit dans le cadre des efforts entrepris par l'UNESCO pour améliorer d'une manière ou d'une autre ce grand combat pour la planète qui est le nôtre.

2.2 Monsieur le Président, je souhaiterais vous dire trois choses. La première c'est que l'UNESCO est un acteur qui apporte une contribution fondamentale au développement durable. Elle est un acteur légitime, compte tenu de sa mission et des sujets sur lesquels elle a beaucoup travaillé : l'éducation dans le domaine du développement durable, bien sûr, le travail mené par la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale sur l'alerte aux tsunamis et les changements dans les océans, ou encore la création du premier Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère.

2.3 Dans le dispositif d'information - pour revenir au présent débat - qu'il s'agisse de l'information scientifique, des systèmes d'alerte ou de l'information accessible au plus grand nombre, l'UNESCO me paraît devoir jouer un rôle absolument crucial tout en restant dans le cadre de ses compétences. Je suis convaincu, Monsieur le Président, de même que mon gouvernement, que l'information et la diffusion de l'information auprès du grand public passent et doivent passer par l'éducation, mais aussi par l'image, et par tous les procédés modernes de sensibilisation. Je suis tout aussi convaincu qu'il n'y a de bonne information que s'il existe préalablement des données scientifiques - j'en profite pour saluer le Président Pachauri que j'ai croisé tout à l'heure et le travail du GIEC - et que l'information destinée à l'ensemble des populations de la planète doit être convenablement intégrée.

2.4 Ma troisième observation, c'est que j'ai la conviction que nous sommes face au principal défi laïque, inévitable, collectif de la planète. Et l'un de nos grands sujets de réflexion, qui est aussi celui de votre débat, est de savoir comment passer de l'information scientifique - à condition qu'elle existe, et l'UNESCO peut largement y contribuer -, c'est-à-dire d'une information du cerveau, à une information du quotidien, à une information du cœur. Cela me paraît être un enjeu majeur et je suis convaincu que cette grande Organisation qu'est l'UNESCO peut jouer un rôle essentiel dans ce domaine, étant donné sa crédibilité.

2.5 Certes, Monsieur le Président, la croissance durable, celle qu'il est possible de maintenir dans le respect de l'environnement, est un enjeu pour lequel des succès sont enregistrés, des efforts particuliers sont faits. Mais il n'est pas encore prouvé qu'au niveau d'un système global,

nous soyons réellement capables de poursuivre le développement ou de le faire en prélevant une part des ressources rares moindre que ce que la planète peut reconstituer. C'est pourquoi nous avons organisé sous une appellation étrange, le « Grenelle de l'environnement », une conférence qui regroupe toutes les parties prenantes, à savoir les syndicats, les entreprises, les agriculteurs, les ONG, l'État et les collectivités locales, pour essayer de voir si, tous ensemble, par un petit effort d'information et par des gestes du quotidien, ou par des grandes décisions plus importantes, nous sommes capables de changer la donne dans un pays tempéré, ou qui connaît en tout cas un climat tempéré, et que rien n'empêche objectivement d'y parvenir.

2.6 Monsieur le Président, je tenais donc à vous dire que nous sommes, quant à nous, déterminés à aller de l'avant. Nous sommes convaincus que ce défi exige une évolution de la gouvernance mondiale et, pour autant, nous sommes tout aussi convaincus que l'UNESCO, de par sa spécificité, son rayonnement, son humanisme, sa crédibilité, et une certaine forme de gratuité de l'expression, est un lieu absolument essentiel pour mener ce combat et relever ce défi. Vous savez que la France sera toujours derrière vous. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

3.1 **Le Directeur général** *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Ministre d'État de la France, qui venez de prononcer un discours très important, Monsieur le Secrétaire général de l'Union internationale des télécommunications, Monsieur le Président du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat, Monsieur le Ministre de la science, de la technologie et de l'enseignement supérieur du Portugal, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis très honoré de vous accueillir au Siège de l'UNESCO, à l'ouverture de cet important débat thématique consacré à deux grands défis de notre temps : la construction de sociétés du savoir et le changement climatique.

3.2 Une telle rencontre, permettant un véritable échange de vues entre nos États membres, est aujourd'hui plus que nécessaire. Aussi suis-je très reconnaissant au Président du Conseil exécutif d'en avoir pris l'initiative, tout en invitant quatre hautes personnalités reconnues sur le plan international afin qu'elles éclairent nos discussions.

3.3 Au Ministre d'État de la France, qui est déjà reparti, je tiens à exprimer mes réels remerciements d'avoir été un moment avec nous cet après-midi et de nous avoir exposé la position de la France en ce qui concerne le développement durable et le défi climatique. Je suis très encouragé de l'avoir entendu dire que l'UNESCO est un grand acteur dans ce combat et que la France sera toujours derrière l'Organisation dans les efforts qu'elle déploie.

3.4 À cet égard, je note avec grand intérêt l'appel à la mobilisation de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale pour lutter contre le réchauffement climatique que le Président Sarkozy a lancé à New York.

(Le Directeur général poursuit en anglais)

3.5 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, today's thematic debate touches on issues that are central to UNESCO's mission and also emerging priorities on the global agenda. In an era of globalization, old problems appear in the guise of new, more complex challenges on larger, global scales which necessitate different

responses and interventions. On the one hand, humanity is entering the era of knowledge societies, with all the benefits that these can bring. On the other hand, humankind, through its activities, risks generating catastrophes that threaten its very survival.

3.6 The focus on knowledge societies allows us to concentrate on the strategic significance of the notion of knowledge societies for all countries undergoing globalization. Unless we pursue quality education for all (EFA), unless we respect cultural diversity, unless we promote universal access to information and knowledge, and uphold freedom of expression in all spheres, the conditions for economic and social advancement will not be in place.

3.7 Today's debate links this quest for knowledge societies with UNESCO's prime role in climate change: building a knowledge base through scientific research and monitoring. In this regard, it recalls the importance of fully mobilizing our five domains under one roof – under One UNESCO – in the service of Member States and international cooperation. Multidisciplinarity and intersectorality must be more than catchwords. They must determine the daily reality of our work – especially in the countries we serve.

3.8 UNESCO has steadily refined its capacities as an international benchmarking organization through various global reports and studies. This has now matured into an indispensable function of longer-term relevance, especially in the context of climate change. One key component of knowledge societies, namely quality education, will be in high demand when popularizing adaptation and mitigation measures. In particular, education for sustainable development, as Mr Borloo has just explained, will play a crucial role in addressing climate change.

3.9 Once international agreements in this field have been reached, the principal challenge will be translating them into concrete measures at the country level. As I have always underlined, the quality of UNESCO's global standard-setting role is inextricably linked to its operational action in countries. Here, UNESCO and the United Nations system as a whole must assume their responsibilities – to deliver effectively, coherently and with high quality.

3.10 As I said yesterday in the plenary meeting, UNESCO's involvement in United Nations country-level action is guided by a set of principles developed and shared by all United Nations agencies. The most important is national ownership. In our work we must be guided by one overriding objective: to assist Member States in the pursuit of their national development priorities – and in this way, help them attain internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The other core principles are inclusion, diversity and respect for core mandates and thematic leadership.

3.11 UNESCO also places a high premium on partnership, not only with Member States and other United Nations agencies, but also with civil society, including the private sector. UNESCO's mandate is a broad one and we cannot accomplish it alone.

3.12 Mr Chairperson, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the challenges before us – of building knowledge societies and addressing global climate change – have become the staples of the international media. They have entered the awareness of our fellow

citizens in virtually all countries and stimulated governments into launching action plans.

3.13 The aim of today's meeting is to help define the way forward, building on UNESCO's longstanding expertise, and drawing on the wisdom of our distinguished guests. The Secretariat has prepared a background document (177 EX/INF.6) to help stimulate your debate. Let me assure you that I shall be following your discussions with great interest. Thank you for your attention.

٤.١ السيد موسى حسن (رئيس المؤتمر العام) النص الكامل:

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم. معالي رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، معالي المدير العام، أصحاب المعالي الضيوف الكرام، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، أصحاب السعادة السفراء المذوبين الدائمين. سيداتي، سادتي، إن الناس في مختلف مناطق العالم تقوم ثقافتهم على النظام البيئي المحيط بهم، وتعتمد حضارتهم وأسلوب معيشتهم على الموارد التي يوفرها المحيط البيئي الذي يعيشون فيه والتي تعد ذات أهمية ثقافية كبيرة بالنسبة لهم. لذلك، فإن حماية البيئة هي التي تضمن فرصاً للأجيال المقبلة لكي تعيش من النعمة التي توفرها البيئة، وهذا الضمان هو أساس التنمية المستدامة. ولكن البيئة تتعرض لتهديدات جديدة، سواء من الشمال أو من الجنوب. فنظرية إعادة السلامة إلى الأرض بعد إلحاق الأذى بها لا تستند إلى الحقيقة. فالمشكلات المعروفة التي سببتها الحضارة مثل مشكلات تلوث المياه، والمخلفات الصناعية الخطرة، والصرف الصحي، وفضلات الحياة اليومية، واستخدام المبيدات والمخصبات الكيميائية في الزراعة، وإزالة الغابات واقتلاع الأشجار نتيجة للنشاط الزراعي والسياحي والعمراني تمثل كلها أخطاراً عرفتها الأجيال منذ أن اجتاحت الحداثة كوكبنا، ولم يعد بالإمكان إعادة الأرض إلى ما كانت عليه من قبل.

٤.٢ سيداتي، سادتي، إن التهديدات التي تسببها التغيرات المناخية تبعث في البشرية الخوف من تعذر استمرار الحياة على كوكبنا. إنه الخوف، الخوف الذي تقول عنه الكاتبة الإيرانية الحائزة على جائزة نوبل للسلام، شيرين عبادي: "إن الخوف يشبه الجوع فهو شعور يأتي ببساطة سواء أَرَادَهُ الإنسان أم لم يردّه، وليس بالإمكان القيام بشيء ضده".

٤.٣ سيداتي، سادتي، إن الموضوع الذي ناقشه اليوم هو موضوع علمي، ومن اختصاص الخبراء. لذلك، سأستعين بما قرأته للخبراء بشأن توقعاتهم لما ستسببه التغيرات المناخية من آثار مدمرة على البيئة إذا لم نندرك هذه الأخطار. فعلى سبيل المثال، قرأت أن المناخ في القطب الشمالي يزداد احتراراً. ومن المتوقع أن تؤدي التركيزات الكونية المتزايدة لثاني أكسيد الكربون وغازات الاحتباس الحراري الناتجة عن الأنشطة البشرية إلى رفع درجة حرارة القطب الشمالي بين ٤ و ٧ درجات بحلول نهاية القرن الحالي. أما التغيرات من قبيل تزايد معدلات ذوبان الجليد والأنهار الجليدية واتسام فصول الشتاء بمزيد من الطول والدفء وتقلص الغطاء الجليدي، فستستمر لقرون قادمة. وتضيف الدراسة أنه يبدو لنا أن القطب الشمالي بعيد في الظاهر عن التأثير المحسوس على ظروف الحياة التي يعيش في ظلها مليارات البشر في قارات العالم الست. لكن الحقيقة غير ذلك تماماً. فالقطب الشمالي مثل بارومتر كوني يقيس التغير المناخي، بل هو أقرب إلى نظام إنذار بيئي للعالم أجمع. وما يحدث في القطب الشمالي لا يعني فقط الدول الثماني التي تتقاسمه بل يعني كل إنسان على ظهر كوكبنا. فعندما يبدأ الجليد في الذوبان وتعصف تأثيراته الكونية السلبية بمناخ كوكبنا وظروف الحياة فيه، ستكون الدول النامية والفقيرة بإمكانياتها المادية والاقتصادية والعلمية المحدودة عاجزة عن مواجهة تأثيرات

التغير المناخي، وستعاني أوحم العواقب، وسيدفع الجميع الثمن بمن في ذلك أولئك الذين يظنون أنهم بعيدون عن ما يحدث في القطب الشمالي، حتى القاطنون في غابات الأمازون وشبه القارة الهندية بل وأولئك الذين يعيشون عند خط الاستواء.

٤.٤ أصحاب المعالي، سيداتي، سادتي، رغم أن الخبراء يتوقعون ارتفاعاً في درجة الحرارة بمقدار ٤ درجات إذا استمر العالم في حرق الوقود الأحفوري بالمعدلات الحالية، فإن الكوارث ستكون هائلة. ويتوقع الخبراء أنه إذا ارتفعت الحرارة ٣ درجات فسيشهد جنوب أوروبا موجات جفاف خطيرة على مدى عقد من الزمان، وسيعاني ما بين مليار وأربعة مليارات إنسان من نقص المياه بينما سيحصل نحو خمسة مليارات على المياه، لكنهم سيتعرضون لمزيد من الفيضانات.

٤.٥ في الختام، تعالوا نستعين بالفن من أجل التغلب على ما يحصل للحياة من تدمير، ونذكر ما تقوله الروائية نادين جورديم، وهي من جنوب إفريقيا: "الفن يكشف الطبيعة الحقة للهزيمة مما قد يؤدي إلى التغلب عليها. إنه يهزم الهزيمة من داخلها، فهو يستحضر بهجة الحياة رغم كل المحاولات لإفسادها وتدميرها". وشكراً.

(4.1) **M. Musa Hassan** (Président de la Conférence générale) *in extenso* (traduit de l'arabe) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs et délégués permanents, chers invités, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, toutes les populations du monde possèdent une culture fondée sur l'écosystème environnant, et leur civilisation et mode de vie dépendent des ressources que leur procure leur milieu naturel et qui revêtent une grande importance culturelle. La protection de l'environnement offre aux générations futures la garantie de pouvoir vivre des richesses fournies par l'environnement, et c'est cette garantie qui est à la base du développement durable. L'environnement est toutefois exposé à de nouvelles menaces venant du Nord comme du Sud. La théorie selon laquelle on pourrait restaurer les sols après les avoir endommagés ne tient pas compte de la réalité. Les problèmes connus liés à la civilisation, comme la pollution de l'eau, les déchets industriels dangereux, l'assainissement, les ordures ménagères, l'utilisation de pesticides et d'engrais chimiques dans l'agriculture, le déboisement et l'arrachage d'arbres par suite d'activités agricoles, touristiques ou de construction, représentent tous des dangers dont les générations successives sont conscientes depuis que notre planète a été envahie par la modernité, et il n'est désormais plus possible de restaurer les sols.

(4.2) Mesdames et Messieurs, les menaces dues aux changements climatiques font craindre à l'humanité de ne pas pouvoir maintenir la vie sur notre planète. Évoquant la peur, Shirin Ebadi, auteure iranienne et lauréate du prix Nobel de la paix, a dit : « La peur, comme la faim, est un sentiment qui tout simplement apparaît, qu'on le veuille ou non, et contre lequel on ne peut rien ».

(4.3) Mesdames et Messieurs, le sujet que nous abordons aujourd'hui est un sujet scientifique qui relève de la compétence d'experts. C'est pourquoi, je m'appuierai dans mes propos sur ce que j'ai lu quant aux prévisions des experts concernant les incidences

dévastatrices que les changements climatiques auront sur l'environnement si l'on n'écarte pas les dangers susmentionnés. Par exemple, j'ai lu que le climat se réchauffait au pôle Nord et qu'il était prévu que la température y augmente de quatre à sept degrés d'ici à la fin du siècle en raison de la hausse des concentrations mondiales de dioxyde de carbone et de gaz à effet de serre imputable aux activités humaines. Quant aux évolutions telles que l'accélération de la fonte des glaces et des cours d'eau gelés, ainsi que l'allongement et l'adoucissement des hivers et le rétrécissement de la couverture glacière, elles se poursuivront pendant des siècles. Selon une étude sur la question, nous avons l'impression que le pôle Nord n'influe pas concrètement sur les conditions de vie de milliards de personnes vivant sur les six continents, mais la réalité est tout autre. Le pôle Nord agit comme un baromètre mondial qui mesure l'évolution du climat, voire comme un système d'alerte mondial aux changements environnementaux. Ce qui se passe au pôle Nord concerne non seulement les huit pays qui se le partagent, mais également tout être humain vivant sur la planète. Lorsque la fonte des glaces commencera et que le climat et les conditions de vie sur Terre en subiront les conséquences défavorables, les pays en développement et les pays pauvres, aux moyens matériels, économiques et scientifiques limités, seront incapables d'y faire face et seront les plus durement touchés. Tout le monde en paiera le prix, y compris ceux qui ne se croient pas concernés par ce qui se passe au pôle Nord. Même les habitants de la forêt amazonienne et du sous-continent indien, voire ceux qui vivent sur l'équateur, seront touchés.

(4.4) Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, les experts prévoient une hausse de température de quatre degrés si le monde ne modifie pas les taux actuels de consommation de combustibles fossiles, et les catastrophes qui en résulteront seront spectaculaires. D'après les experts, si la température augmente de trois degrés, le sud de l'Europe souffrira de graves vagues de sécheresse durant une décennie, entre un et quatre milliards de personnes manqueront d'eau, et environ cinq milliards auront de l'eau mais connaîtront davantage d'inondations.

(4.5) En conclusion, tournons-nous vers l'art afin de surmonter les destructions qui touchent la vie, et citons la romancière sud-africaine Nadine Gordimer, qui dit : « L'art révèle la véritable nature de la défaite, ce qui peut permettre de la vaincre. L'art vainc la défaite de l'intérieur et suscite une joie de vivre malgré toutes les tentatives visant à la corrompre et à la détruire ». Merci.

5. **The Chairperson** said that he wished to give the floor in turn to the Board's three distinguished guest speakers. Each speaking session would be moderated by a Member of the Board. He invited the first speaker, Professor Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the Moderator, Ambassador Macedo Soares, to take the floor.

6.1 **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil) (Modérateur)
in extenso :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le professeur Pachauri, Messieurs les invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, je me propose de présenter très brièvement M. le professeur Rajendra Pachauri.

6.2 Il y a une vingtaine d'années déjà, la communauté des nations était en présence ou reconnaissait l'existence d'un processus global qui, sans être certes le seul, était peut-être le plus important, à savoir le changement climatique. Réagissant promptement, la communauté internationale a créé le Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat, le GIEC (IPCC en anglais), qui a produit son premier rapport vers 1990. Aussitôt après, la communauté internationale a entrepris le travail politique et juridique consistant à négocier la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques. Cela a été, il faut le dire, la plus grande entreprise de négociation multilatérale. Auparavant, la négociation la plus vaste dans le domaine considéré avait été celle de la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer. Mais avec la Convention-cadre sur les changements climatiques, il s'agissait du climat, de l'air.

6.3 Ce résultat a pu être obtenu grâce surtout au travail scientifique du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat. La Convention-cadre a été suivie du Protocole de Kyoto, qui est en quelque sorte un règlement d'application de la Convention, laquelle a établi les principes fondamentaux.

6.4 Or, il importe aussi de voir que s'il y a eu une reconnaissance, une prise de conscience de l'avènement de ce problème mondial, universel, on sent aujourd'hui encore, ici même au sein du Conseil exécutif, une difficulté à intégrer le traitement de cette question dans les débats internationaux ou même dans la gouvernance. Il est difficile pour les gouvernements de mettre les questions d'environnement au centre de leur action. Or, il s'agit de développement durable. Il n'y a pas de développement s'il n'est pas durable, mais il n'y a pas de durabilité sans développement. Il faut donc saluer l'initiative de l'actuel Gouvernement français, qui a justement confié le portefeuille de l'environnement à un ministre du plus haut rang, M. Jean-Louis Borloo, qui était parmi nous tout à l'heure.

6.5 De même, à l'UNESCO, nous devons faire en sorte que les questions d'environnement, et surtout celle du processus de changement climatique, fassent, entre autres, partie intégrante de l'action menée dans le domaine de l'éducation et constituent non pas un champ de réflexion spécialisé isolé, mais un aspect central du problème de l'économie - car au fond, il s'agit bien d'économie, et, pour résoudre les problèmes économiques, il faut conduire une politique.

6.6 Je pense que nul n'est mieux qualifié pour nous parler de tout cela que le professeur Rajendra Pachauri, président du GIEC, qui travaille activement sur ce problème depuis déjà plusieurs décennies, et je suis très honoré de lui donner la parole.

7.1 **Professor Pachauri** (Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Your Excellency Director-General of UNESCO, Your Excellency Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, Moderator of the debate, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me at the outset express my gratitude for being given this opportunity to address this august gathering. I am particularly heartened by the fact that UNESCO is devoting so much time and effort to assessing the opportunities and the challenges that arise in this field, and I think this is indeed significant, coming as it does after what happened in the United Nations last week. I had the privilege of speaking there at the High-Level Event on Climate Change organized by the United

Nations Secretary-General, and I doubt if an assembly of so many heads of State or government has ever spent an entire day discussing climate change. So the portents are right, and there is an enormous amount of resolve in the international community, and UNESCO has necessarily to be an important part of it.

(The speaker presented a series of slides)

7.2 Mr Macedo Soares has given you some background on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In my presentation, I will cover a little bit of the background of IPCC, the issues involved in understanding climate change, the expected impacts of climate change, and the adaptation and mitigation challenges that lie ahead of us, and of course I need to specify that we are now at a stage where it is time for action.

7.3 Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The role of IPCC is to assess, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, all aspects of climate change and to understand the scientific basis of the risk to humans of climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. IPCC thus carries out a comprehensive exercise, and it does so by mobilizing a large number of experts, the very best on this planet, who carry out this comprehensive exercise on a regular basis. The first assessment report was brought out in 1990. We are now at the stage of finalizing the fourth assessment report, three parts of which have been completed. The fourth part – the synthesis report – will be completed in the middle of November, when we meet in Valencia for this purpose. What we produce is essentially a set of reports which mobilize a team of authors. Close to 600 experts from all over the world have been directly involved in drafting the fourth assessment report. We try very hard to see that there is a geographical balance, because one needs to get perspectives and local knowledge from every part of the globe. But if you were to count the number of people who carry out reviews of these reports, which is done in a very systematic and transparent manner, as well as those who provide inputs as contributing authors, it is really a mammoth exercise involving literally thousands of experts all over the world, including government officials, since governments also have an opportunity to comment on the drafts. Each comment has to be taken seriously, and we have a group of review editors, who document what is done with every single comment. Of course, the final word lies with the authors, and then, ultimately, governments have to accept and approve the reports that IPCC produces.

7.4 Knowledge that is included in the fourth assessment report is based on new and more comprehensive data, more sophisticated analysis of data and improvements in understanding of processes. Knowledge has thus moved forward substantially. In February 2007 when IPCC released the report of working group I in this very building in UNESCO's conference hall, I was amazed to see close to 500 media people packed in that room at the end of the presentation. I suppose that is an indication of the interest that exists in whatever IPCC brings out, and the reason why that interest has been sparked is because it is now well known that the science has advanced substantially.

7.5 I am now going to present some key findings from the fourth assessment report. This is the picture as it

looks going back to the start of the industrial age, from the period of the industrial revolution. The graph at the top shows the increase in global average temperature; the second graph presents global average sea-level rise and the third, the Northern hemisphere snow cover, which has gone down significantly. In the twentieth century the average surface temperature increased by 0.74°C, but of course this has varied in different parts of the globe. The Arctic is warming at twice the average rate of the rest of the globe. Sea-level rise in the last century was in the range of 17 cm. In terms of both temperature increases and sea-level rise, there has been an acceleration in the last decade or two.

7.6 Another area which is causing enormous concern is the rate at which glaciers are melting around the world, and this slide gives you a picture of glaciers in different regions. I come from a region where we are extremely dependent on water flows originating in the Himalayan glaciers. Let me draw your attention to the line charting the cumulative balance of glacier mass in the Asian high mountains. As a result of this trend, water supply problems could affect about 500 million people in South Asia in the next couple of decades, and perhaps 250 million people in China. New data confirm that losses from the ice sheets have contributed to sea-level rise over the period 1993-2003.

7.7 There are also changes taking place in precipitation levels. In the temperate regions there is the tendency for an increase in precipitation in the tropics and the sub-tropics and in Mediterranean regions there is a decline, and this trend is likely to continue in the future. What is even more important is the fact that there is an increase in extreme precipitation events, which means that large quantities of rain or snow may fall in very short periods of time. This has major implications, not only in terms of protection of life and property, but also in terms of water availability. Therefore we have been seeing, and are likely to continue to see, more intense, longer droughts, widespread changes in extreme temperature, and increasing intense cyclone activity. All of this is based on systematic observations. No speculation or imaginary science is being presented here; these conclusions are based on hard data which has been analysed very carefully.

7.8 This slide presents a picture of global and continental temperature change in different regions of the world. Presented here are projections using very sophisticated models that look at the impact of natural forcing, that is, natural changes in climate which are the result of solar activity as well as volcanic activity, and models using both natural and anthropogenic forcing; we have also plotted observations. The most convincing part of this kind of analysis is that today our models are able to predict a separation not only of the factors that are driving these changes, but also a combination of this which gives us results that are very close to the actual observations. The validity of science and our models today is therefore very strong and compelling.

7.9 This next slide shows a familiar diagram. Those of you who have seen the movie *An Inconvenient Truth* would probably have seen former Vice-President Al Gore climbing on a mechanical device reaching up to the top of this particular spike representing changes in CO₂ in recent years. What is important is to see that, relative to previous periods the increase in recent years has been quite sharp as far as the concentration of greenhouse gases is concerned. This is a significant observation. In 2005 the concentration of CO₂ exceeded by far the natural range

that has existed over the last 650,000 years. This is where science has made an enormous difference.

7.10 The next slide presents surface warming projections for the twenty-first century. What we have done is to examine a number of plausible scenarios of how the economy, technology and social factors will change over a period of time. Based on that, we have come up with best estimates: at the lower end, the projections give us a figure of a 1.8°C increase by the end of this century, and at the upper end, we get a best estimate of 4°C. This must be viewed in conjunction with the 0.74°C increase that has already taken place in the twentieth century.

7.11 The effects of climate change are not geographically uniform, and given the fact that some regions are more vulnerable than others, I would like to highlight some of the impacts. Let us consider the impact on the poor regions – and this includes poor regions everywhere, even in the rich countries. For instance, while I do not wish to link hurricanes Katrina and Rita with human-induced climate change, we have seen that the poorer people affected by the storms suffered the most. In the case of the Sahelian region, yields from rainfed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50% by 2020, and 75 to 250 million people in Africa could be exposed to increased water stress by 2020. Again, this has to be seen in the context of the fact that the Sahel is a region which already has a scarce water supply. Food insecurity and loss of livelihood could be exacerbated by loss of cultivated land and nursery areas; fisheries could be threatened by inundation and coastal erosion in low-lying areas of tropical Asia.

7.12 Coastal areas and island locations are going to be particularly at risk. The slide shows that some locations are at extreme risk, others are at high risk, and a third category at medium levels of risk. In its fourth assessment report, IPCC found that the mega-deltas in Asia, which includes cities like Dhaka, Kolkata and Shanghai, are particularly vulnerable. These locations have very high population densities, and are certainly vulnerable to coastal flooding and sea-level rise.

7.13 The impact of climate change on natural ecosystems is a topic that should be of interest to UNESCO. Climate change will reduce biodiversity, perturb the functioning of most ecosystems and compromise the services they currently provide. Ecosystems provide a wealth of services, particularly those that are dependent on the growth of various species around them. This is true of both plant and animal species. We have also determined that 20%-30% of plant and animal species are at risk of extinction if increases in global average temperature exceed 1.5 to 2.5°C.

7.14 Some systems are highly vulnerable: coral reefs, tundra, boreal forests and Mediterranean regions. These data are now fairly well established and well known. There is therefore a need for adaptation, because whatever we do, climate change will continue, even if we were to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases today. So adaptation is inevitable, and I think an organization like UNESCO, which is directly involved in promoting the welfare of specific cultures and communities, looking at social as well as other aspects, would perhaps do well to look at the issue of adaptation to climate change. This is not a technical challenge, but one that really involves society in its widest sense, and I think a multidisciplinary body like UNESCO can make a difference. Adaptation is taking place already, and I think we need to build on those practices, but adaptation capacity is limited and uneven

across and within societies. Climate change poses new risks that will require new investments in adaptive processes. Just to give you an example, I was in the Netherlands a few weeks ago, where dykes are being built simply because such investments are required to protect against sea-level rise. Let me emphasize that adaptation alone cannot cope with all the projected impacts of climate change. And the costs of adaptation and impacts will increase as global temperatures increase.

7.15 There is a need for a mix of strategies involving adaptation and mitigation. Let me draw your attention to Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The ultimate objective of the Convention is essentially to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Now this is a question that science cannot answer because it involves value judgements. But what science can do is to provide the basis by which those judgements can be exercised. This is an issue that UNESCO could perhaps take up as an intellectual exercise, because what is dangerous in one part of the world may not be dangerous in another. When we seek to establish a global norm or benchmark, we might listen to the words of Mahatma Gandhi, the anniversary of whose birth is being celebrated today, making it an extremely auspicious day for all Indians, and Gandhi reminded us that whatever we do, we must look at the impacts on the poorest of the poor. His slogan of *antayodaya*, which in Hindi means the welfare of the last, of the one who is the least privileged, is extremely important. Intellectually we need to use the same framework when we look at the impacts of climate change on different communities in the world. I am highlighting this as an issue which, generally speaking, the global community has to address with a great deal of rigour.

7.16 Let us turn now to mitigation. The slide before you presents an assessment by IPCC of mitigation at different levels of concentration of greenhouse gases. I should like to draw your attention to the upper row of the table. If we were to stabilize at 445-490 parts per million of CO₂ equivalent, that would probably limit the temperature increase over time to 2° to 2.4°C. If we need to do that, then we can only allow emissions to increase up to 2015, beyond which they will have to decline. Let me emphasize that, if we decide to stabilize at this level, then by 2050 we will have to reduce emissions from 85% to 50%. That is a major challenge. Mitigation efforts over the next two to three decades will have a large impact on the possibility of achieving lower stabilization levels. Therefore, if we want to stabilize in the future we need to start action today. We are often told that the cost of mitigation is going to be crippling for several of the world's economies. Our assessment, which has been very rigorously reviewed and commented on, is that if we stabilize at the level which I indicated earlier – 445-535 parts per million – then the cost in 2030 will be less than 3% of the global GDP. This means that the level of prosperity that we are likely to reach in 2030 would be postponed at best by a few months, and that the annual cost would amount to 0.12% of the GDP.

7.17 What are the actions that need to be taken? We have assessed a number of policies. What we need are appropriate incentives for the development of technologies. What is critically important is to place a price on carbon. If the market has to be used, then merely developing appropriate technologies is not enough. Such technologies will only be disseminated if a price signal moves producers and consumers in that direction. When

we invest in energy infrastructure we necessarily have to look at the long-term impacts of those investments, because the infrastructure created will remain in place for 30, 40 or 50 years, and once made, the infrastructure cannot be changed without incurring very high costs. One of our important findings has to do with changes in lifestyle and behaviour, and this is particularly important, because attitudes and behaviour have to change. For instance, when a child brushes his teeth, first the tap is turned on and it takes a few minutes before the water is really utilized. The lighting technology that we use is not always the best, even though it may be economically viable. We also leave lights on, we keep temperatures very high when it is cold in the rooms with central heating, and so on. So I think a change in values and in lifestyle and behaviour is needed, and may I suggest, Mr Director-General, that this is an area where UNESCO can perhaps do some meaningful work.

7.18 What are UNESCO's advantages? It has a multidisciplinary set of capabilities, and when dealing with interlinked impacts and solutions, that is what is needed. It is not a matter of a technical fix, it is not an economic issue, it is a social, cultural and scientific issue. UNESCO could set up programmes using its decentralized network, which would be extremely important. In this regard, I want to highlight the fact that we have found a major shortfall in climate change studies in different parts of the world. If one wishes to look at the impacts on, for example, sub-Saharan Africa, localized studies are needed to indicate what those impacts will be. Such studies are not simple; they require a great deal of sophisticated modelling abilities and capacity. UNESCO's World Heritage Centre could study climate change impacts on natural and cultural common goods. I think it is also important to look at the implication of future generations and the need for behavioural change.

7.19 One of the things that gives IPCC a great deal of satisfaction as a scientific assessment organization is the fact that what has happened so far in terms of attention to climate change is purely the result of knowledge being generated and disseminated. I think that IPCC has played a small, but if I may humbly submit, critical role in determining this level of awareness and understanding. What we really need to do now is to ensure that UNESCO, with its charter for bringing about change through knowledge and education, plays a major role.

7.20 There are other dimensions that perhaps need some consideration, for instance the whole ethical and equity dimension of climate change. This requires a great deal of intellectual study and debate, which I think UNESCO is well placed to carry out. UNESCO also has enormous convening power and would therefore be able to create the conditions for such a debate. As I indicated earlier, in order to study the impacts of climate change on a local and regional basis the level of knowledge and higher education and research capabilities in different parts of the world need to be upgraded. This is where UNESCO might perhaps join hands with other partner organizations to ensure that adequate research and adequate knowledge generation takes place in different regions of the world.

7.21 I end all my presentations with some very wise quotations from Gandhi-ji, and today I think it is particularly significant since it is the anniversary of his birth: "Technical society has two choices: first it can wait until catastrophic failures expose systemic deficiencies, distortion and self-deceptions. Secondly, a culture can provide social checks and balances to correct for systemic distortion prior to catastrophic failures." I think the time

has come for us to look at this seriously. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

8. **El Sr. Aridjis Fuentes** (México) observa que su país ha insistido, en diversos foros internacionales, en que todos los países deben trabajar a escala nacional y cooperar entre sí para reducir las emisiones de los gases que causan el efecto invernadero. El Presidente de México, Felipe Calderón, afirmó que desde la entrada en vigor del Protocolo de Kyoto ha cundido la idea de que el esfuerzo debe recaer principalmente en los países desarrollados y se ha asumido el principio de responsabilidades compartidas, pero diferenciadas, para abordar el problema. Sin embargo, ese principio ha dado pie a la idea, a su entender errónea, de que la responsabilidad de reducir las emisiones de dióxido de carbono y combatir el cambio climático incumbe sólo secundariamente a los países en desarrollo. En 2007 México ha empezado a defender una postura distinta, afirmando rotundamente que la responsabilidad es común. Concluye preguntando qué rumbo imprimirá la UNESCO a sus actividades sobre el tema, cuyo carácter urgente no debe impedir que haya un debate al respecto, y en este sentido propone que se celebre un seminario con la participación de expertos de muy diversas disciplinas, pues la complejidad del problema exige la participación de todos.

(8) **M. Aridjis Fuentes** (Mexique) fait observer que son pays a insisté, lors de diverses rencontres internationales, sur le fait que tous les pays doivent agir à l'échelon national et coopérer entre eux pour réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Le Président du Mexique, M. Felipe Calderón, a noté que depuis l'entrée en vigueur du Protocole de Kyoto, l'idée selon laquelle les efforts devaient principalement échoir aux pays développés avait fait son chemin et que le principe d'un partage différencié des responsabilités dans l'approche du problème était acquis. Or, selon l'orateur, ce principe a conduit à penser, à tort, que la responsabilité de réduire les émissions de dioxyde de carbone et de lutter contre le changement climatique n'incombait qu'à titre secondaire aux pays en développement. En 2007, le Mexique a commencé à défendre une position différente, en affirmant catégoriquement que cette responsabilité était une responsabilité commune. L'orateur demande en conclusion quelle orientation l'UNESCO entend donner à ses activités sur ce thème, dont le caractère urgent ne doit pas empêcher que l'on en débattre; il propose à cet effet l'organisation d'un séminaire auquel prendraient part des spécialistes de disciplines très diverses, étant donné que la complexité du problème exige la participation de tous.

9. **Г-н Анисимов** (Российская Федерация) благодарит профессора Пачаури за его содержательный доклад, посвященный климатическим изменениям, и спрашивает его о возможностях использования этой информации в рамках ЮНЕСКО. Г-н Анисимов указывает на преимущество ЮНЕСКО в области образования и напоминает о существовании большого числа программ, целью которых является оповещение населения о выводах ученых. Необходимо правильно представить заключения, сформулированные в докладе группы экспертов. Г-н Анисимов напоминает о своем участии в процессе создания доклада и в подготовке материала по арктическим регионам. Г-н Анисимов жалеет, что в докладе не были упомянуты

возможные позитивные последствия потепления для некоторых стран. Отмечая возможность использования положительных эффектов потепления для мобилизации экономического потенциала в целях минимизации негативных последствий, г-н Анисимов выражает желание получить информацию о странах, в которых ожидаются позитивные последствия от потепления, и о возможности их использовать.

(9) **M. Anisimov** (Fédération de Russie) remercie M. Pachauri pour son riche exposé sur le changement climatique et lui demande s'il serait possible d'utiliser cette information dans le cadre de l'UNESCO. L'Organisation joue un rôle de chef de file dans le domaine de l'éducation, et M. Anisimov rappelle qu'il existe un grand nombre de programmes conçus pour faire connaître aux populations les conclusions des scientifiques. Il faut correctement présenter les conclusions formulées par le Groupe d'experts. M. Anisimov rappelle qu'il a participé à l'élaboration du rapport du GIEC et à la préparation de la documentation sur les régions arctiques. Il regrette qu'il n'ait pas été fait mention dans ce rapport des éventuelles conséquences positives du réchauffement pour certains pays. Étant donné que l'on peut mettre à profit les effets positifs du réchauffement pour mobiliser le potentiel économique des pays en vue d'en réduire le plus possible les conséquences néfastes, il serait souhaitable d'obtenir des informations sur les pays où l'on attend du réchauffement qu'il ait des conséquences positives et sur les possibilités de tirer parti de ces conséquences.

10. **La Sra. Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala), tras declararse sumamente inquieta por la situación del mundo y la evolución del clima, observa que la cosmovisión de los pueblos indígenas reposa en un profundo respeto por la trinidad que forman la Madre Naturaleza o Madre Tierra, los seres humanos y el ente Creador. Partiendo de esta idea, pregunta al Sr. Pachauri cómo utilizan los científicos el conocimiento de los pueblos indígenas para encaminar el mundo a una vida más sana, limpia y sobre todo respetuosa de los derechos humanos y del primero de entre todos ellos, que es el derecho a la vida.

(10) **Mme Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala), après avoir fait part de sa vive inquiétude face à la situation mondiale et à l'évolution du climat, fait observer que la cosmogonie des peuples autochtones repose sur un profond respect de la trinité que forment la Nature-Mère ou Terre-Mère, les êtres humains et le Créateur. Partant de cette idée, elle demande à M. Pachauri comment les scientifiques utilisent le savoir des peuples autochtones pour bâtir un monde plus sain, plus propre et, surtout, plus respectueux des droits de l'homme et du premier d'entre eux, le droit à la vie.

11.1 **Professor Pachauri** (Chairman of IPCC), in response to Mexico's suggestion that given the complexity of the climate change issue, a conference might be held on it, said that the International Panel on Climate Change held a major event each year, the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. The next meeting, to be held in February 2008, and which heads of State or government, chiefs of United Nations agencies and renowned scientists were expected to attend, would focus on climate change and sustainable development. He hoped that UNESCO would be among the participants.

11.2 Positive effects of climate change had been identified. However, in the long run, if climate change reached a much higher magnitude, those effects could become negative. Some phenomena, for example, the increase in rainfall noted in temperate regions, had both negative and positive effects. Extreme precipitation events were increasing globally, and would continue to do so, causing much damage, while regions that were formerly snowbound year round were getting warmer, which could open them up to economic activity, and temperature increases up to a certain point might be expected to increase agricultural yields in temperate zones. As President Putin had said a few years previously, climate change might well be good for the Russian Federation since it would reduce the demand for fur and open up new regions for agriculture, but it also brought with it the threat of floods and drought.

11.3 IPCC had highlighted issues concerning indigenous populations in its reports. Where indigenous knowledge existed, it was being taken into account. Studies were needed at the regional level to examine the potential impact on indigenous populations of the loss of animal and plant species, 20 to 30% of which were facing extinction.

12. **Mr Rachman** (Indonesia) asked Professor Pachauri to comment on the development of moral and values education. Was education moving in the right direction? Should a culture provide social checks and balances to correct for distortion before catastrophe occurred? Should progress and modernization be kept in check, and if so, in what manner?

13. **Ms Marčiulionytė** (Lithuania) said that she hoped that the debate in which the Executive Board was engaged would provide a complement to the High-Level Event on Climate Change held recently at the United Nations and initiated by her country in its capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). UNESCO was still seeking to identify the role it might play in the climate change arena. It was, for example, only fairly recently that discussions had begun on the impact of climate change on the world heritage. Now that climate change had become fashionable, there was a risk of duplication of efforts. How, she asked, could UNESCO avoid such pitfalls?

14. **Mme Bennani** (Maroc) note que l'on peut sans verser dans l'alarmisme affirmer que la planète est en danger. Dans le cas de l'Afrique, les prévisions sont apocalyptiques. Des études de plus en plus nombreuses présentent le savoir comme la panacée. Et, certes, les sociétés du savoir sont mieux armées pour sauver la planète, patrimoine commun de l'humanité. Mais ce sont les pays en développement qui sont les plus exposés, d'où la nécessité d'une solidarité internationale et d'une éthique collective à l'égard de ces pays dépourvus des indispensables ressources financières, institutionnelles et humaines. L'oratrice demande au professeur Pachauri, ce que, selon lui, l'UNESCO pourrait faire pour agir sur ce terrain qui n'est pas celui de la science.

15.1 **Professor Pachauri** (Chairman of IPCC) said he believed that education could make an enormous difference, but that a shift in priorities was in order. Education needed to be reoriented to take account of the impact of human production and consumption patterns on the planet's ecosystems. The efforts made by the United States and other countries in the 1970s to improve energy efficiency in response to the oil crisis provided an impressive example of how patterns could change.

15.2 Modernization and rural development were not incompatible. The answer was to harness modern and sophisticated scientific knowledge for the benefit of the poor. Technologies must not simply be transferred from one region to another; they needed to be customized on the basis of local needs. Such an approach had yet to be practised widely.

15.3 In answer to the question raised by Lithuania, he said that there were always possibilities of duplication. However, since the challenge was so huge, there was no reason to be unduly concerned about that. Each agency could bring its own comparative advantage to the effort, which would naturally need to be carefully coordinated.

15.4 In answer to Morocco, he said that in view of the world's wealth and technological capabilities, it was well within the reach of humanity to find and implement solutions. All that was needed was knowledge, awareness and a strong political will. He was highly optimistic, given the great interest the subject was currently evoking.

16. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) asked whether the activities taking place at the northern and southern extremes of the earth could have a negative effect and exacerbate an already alarming situation. For example, in his own region, there was a serious shortage of water.

17. **Mr Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that the President of Sri Lanka had called climate change the defining issue of the era. In its efforts to meet that challenge, Sri Lanka had convened earlier in the year, with UNESCO support, an international meeting to discuss how the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programmes could become learning laboratories for sustainable development, and it planned to hold a nation-wide debate in November 2007 on climate change. The question that he wished to raise was how could a culture provide social checks and balances to correct for distortion before catastrophe occurred? He also wished to request the Director-General to prepare a comprehensive UNESCO strategy to address climate change issues in the Organization's fields of competence.

18. **Ms Ali** (Pakistan) said that Professor Pachauri's informative and insightful presentation had sent up red alert signals concerning human-related environmental degradation and its many consequences. In meeting that challenge, behavioural change and education were the two most important areas of focus for UNESCO, which was well placed to promote change through, *inter alia*, education systems, curriculum development and the media. What were, she asked, Professor Pachauri's views on the use of indigenous technology in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on the environment?

19.1 **Professor Pachauri** (Chairman of IPCC), replying to the observations of the representative of Afghanistan, said that IPCC had underlined that the Central Asian region was going to be extremely vulnerable to water stress. To meet such challenges, water resources would need to be managed in a very different way in the future.

19.2 The Arctic icecap was definitely melting at a rapid rate. One matter of great concern was the possibility, and he wished to emphasize that it was merely a possibility, of a part of the Greenland ice sheet or the western arctic ice sheet collapsing, which could result in a very high sea-level rise. That would in some sense change the geography of the planet.

19.3 It was time to focus on the equity dimension of climate change, both in terms of the world's regions and with regard to future generations. That would not

necessarily require saintly behaviour on the part of the human race; it was more a question of developing methodologies that would keep it on track. Market forces could even be harnessed to that end. For example, high carbon prices would stimulate the development of low-carbon technologies and ensure their dissemination.

19.4 Working group III of IPCC had been brave enough to address the issue of the need for behavioural change and that position had been widely endorsed by governments. It was in the area of behavioural change that UNESCO could bring to bear its comparative advantage.

19.5 It was important to promote indigenous technologies and to give indigenous communities a voice in the process of making technological choices. Developing countries could learn much from each other by working together in that area.

20. **Mr Kondo** (Japan) said that progress on mitigating climate change was hindered by decision-makers' reluctance to act without support from the business community, the business community's reluctance to act without demand from consumers, and consumers' short-sightedness. Education was the key to breaking that vicious cycle. However, resources were limited and were being apportioned among several areas, including education for sustainable development (ESD). He wondered if such resources were being appropriately shared and whether the amount for ESD should be increased.

21. **The Director-General**, in response to Sri Lanka's request, said that he was in the process of preparing a UNESCO strategy on climate change, which would be published in November 2007. The presentation by Professor Pachauri, and the current debate, would naturally provide inputs to the strategy, as would the relevant debate to be held during the General Conference.

22. **Professor Pachauri** (Chairman of IPCC) said that if UNESCO should need it, IPCC would be pleased to mobilize its experts to help review the strategy under preparation.

23. **Ms Hanna-El-Daher** (Lebanon) welcomed Professor Pachauri's clear, convincing, but frightening presentation. It had been concluded, on the basis of sound scientific data, that 16,000 of the 40,000 recognized species existing on earth were in danger of extinction. Yet, some renowned scientists had challenged that finding. Their position gave governments an excuse to postpone taking action, and millions of individuals an excuse to delay making lifestyle changes, because it was easier not to do so.

24. **El Sr. Gamboa** (Colombia) compara a los países ricos en recursos naturales, ya sean boscosos, marinos, petroleros o minerales, con las personas generosamente dotadas de atributos físicos. Aun siendo esa riqueza o patrimonio un regalo de la naturaleza, y no fruto del propio esfuerzo, el modo en que disfrutaban de esos dones trae aparejado necesariamente su deterioro. No existe riqueza material que no disminuya con su utilización. De ahí que, según recientes estudios aparecidos en la prensa, el 80 por ciento de las emisiones de dióxido de carbono provengan de países del Norte, mientras que el Sur es responsable sólo de un 15 por ciento. Recordando que el Sr. Pachauri se ha referido a la ética, le pregunta si existe algún programa para que el esfuerzo de los Estados sea proporcional a su nivel de desarrollo y, en segundo lugar, si cabría concebir un mecanismo por el

que los países que más contaminan compensaran a los que lo hacen menos.

(24) **M. Gamboa** (Colombie) compare les pays riches en ressources naturelles, qu'elles soient forestières, marines, pétrolières ou minérales, aux personnes physiquement avantagées. Cette richesse ou ce patrimoine constitue un cadeau de la nature, et non le fruit d'un effort mais l'usage qui en est fait a nécessairement pour effet de le dégrader. Il n'est pas de richesse matérielle que son exploitation ne vienne amenuiser. C'est ainsi que, selon des études récentes dont la presse s'est fait l'écho, 80 % des émissions de dioxyde de carbone proviennent des pays du Nord, le Sud n'étant responsable que de 15 % du volume total. Rappelant que M. Pachauri a parlé d'éthique, l'orateur lui demande s'il existe un programme visant à s'assurer que les efforts mis en œuvre par les États sont proportionnels à leur niveau de développement et, d'autre part, s'il y aurait lieu de concevoir un mécanisme pour que les pays les plus polluants dédommagent ceux qui polluent le moins.

25.1 **Professor Pachauri** (Chairman of IPCC), in reply to the comments of Japan, said that expenditure on education for sustainable development would certainly pay for itself if properly utilized. Education was the most effective means of bringing about change, and should accordingly receive the necessary resources.

25.2 Turning to the comments by the representative of Lebanon, he said that there was always a section of the scientific community that questioned the work of IPCC. However, the Intergovernmental Panel used a methodology that gave credence to its findings. Each report it produced was reviewed thoroughly by government experts, some of whom held views opposite to that of the Panel, and the report had ultimately to be approved by governments. Fortunately, the number of sceptics was on the decline, demonstrating broader acceptance of the rigorous scientific work being carried out by IPCC.

25.3 In reply to the question raised by Colombia, he said that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provided that States should protect the climate system "in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities". Those who had the means and who had been historically responsible for climate change were expected to do more than the others. The Convention also made provision for appropriate financial transfers and transfer of technology. Naturally, any action in those respects should be decided on the basis of agreements that were acceptable to all.

26. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway), after thanking Professor Pachauri for encouraging UNESCO to find ways to use its comparative advantage to address climate change, said that it was human activities which had set in motion the forces of nature that were giving rise to climate change, which would have wide-ranging negative social consequences for humanity. While the forces of nature could not be modified, human behaviour could, and it was there that the social sciences could contribute. Should greater emphasis, then, be placed on using the social sciences to assess the consequences of climate change? Was it possible for UNESCO to take the lead in that regard?

27. **Ms Shi** (China) said that Professor Pachauri had mentioned education and the development of technologies as two ways of meeting the challenge of climate change. Countries, and in particular developing

countries, should work together to achieve those goals because national efforts were not sufficient in themselves. Countries should assume common and differentiated responsibilities, which meant that the developed countries would be expected to transfer to the developing countries all the knowledge and technology they needed to cope with climate change. What did Professor Pachauri, as Chairman of IPCC, expect from the Member States of UNESCO in terms of cooperation in the areas of technology and science, including social science, to meet the challenge of climate change?

28. **M. Yaï** (Bénin) note avec satisfaction que le professeur Pachauri ne dissocie jamais science et conscience et garde présente à l'esprit la pensée très pertinente du Mahatma Gandhi. Étant donné les conséquences qui viennent d'être évoquées pour les régions les plus pauvres - insécurité alimentaire, malnutrition, une baisse de 50 % de la production agricole à l'horizon 2020 et jusqu'à 250 millions de personnes exposées au stress hydrique (« water stress ») -, il demande quelle forme pourrait revêtir cette gouvernance mondiale que M. Borloo a justement appelée de ses vœux, tant il est vrai que tout le monde est « dans le même bateau » et doit prendre garde à ne pas le faire chavirer.

29.1 **Professor Pachauri** (Chairman of IPCC) said that it was not possible to separate the biophysical, geophysical and social science dimensions of climate change from one another. Personally, he was disappointed that social scientists were not more actively involved in research in that area. The problems arising from climate change and the solutions to it concerned society as a whole, and social scientists should be encouraged to use the tools at their disposal to study the issue.

29.2 Scientific and technical cooperation needed to enter a new era altogether, to which both South-South and North-South-South cooperation could contribute. Now that most countries had established intellectual property protection regimes, there was no reason that science and technology could not be shared. Cooperation between the developing and developed countries could even broaden markets for the latter, since technology, no matter where it was developed, would benefit world markets as a whole. It was up to UNESCO to promote intellectual debate on how science and technology could be used to provide climate change solutions in different regions of the world.

29.3 Organizations and institutions could only be as effective and successful as the spirit underlying them. What the world needed was a common vision, an awareness that everyone was in the same boat, and a common resolve to meet the challenges of climate change. It was only by benefiting from the full moral and material support of all the world's countries that its institutions could be effective.

30. **Mr Macedo Soares** (Brazil) (Moderator) thanked Professor Pachauri for his excellent presentation and for his concise and informative answers to questions from Board Members.

(Applause)

Mr Janyška (Czech Republic) took the Chair as Moderator.

31.1 **M. Janyška** (République tchèque) (Modérateur) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le

Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un très grand honneur que d'avoir parmi nous le deuxième orateur de cet après-midi, M. Hamadoun Touré. M. Hamadoun Touré va nous parler de la société du savoir et des communications.

31.2 Je ferai observer d'emblée que notre maison, l'UNESCO, n'est pas tout à fait vierge dans ce domaine et qu'elle a produit, les experts le disent, un excellent rapport intitulé « Vers les sociétés du savoir », publié il y a deux ans, sous la direction de M. Khan, sous-directeur général pour la communication et l'information. Par conséquent, nous disposons déjà de cette base solide.

31.3 Le docteur Hamadoun Touré va donc nous parler de la société du savoir. Il va nous dire comment articuler les notions de société du savoir et de communications. Comment faire, si cela est possible, pour mettre les communications au service de la société du savoir ? Que désigne cette dernière notion ? Comment cette société a-t-elle évolué et surtout où va-t-elle, quel sera notre avenir, l'avenir de nos enfants ? Est-ce que nous allons vivre un jour dans le meilleur des mondes grâce à la société du savoir ? Aurons-nous un jour des maisons, des appartements et des salles de conférence équipés de toutes sortes de matériels informatiques au moyen desquels tout sera programmé et contrôlé à distance ? Est-ce que, par exemple - nous en avons parlé au déjeuner - le jour est proche où, s'il manque du lait dans votre réfrigérateur, celui-ci enverra de lui-même un signal au centre de distribution qui vous livrera le lait que vous avez l'habitude de donner à vos enfants ? Et surtout, comment faire pour que tous puissent bénéficier de ces nouvelles possibilités ? Que faire pour que l'Internet, par exemple, n'ait pas pour effet que la société du savoir, le fonds des connaissances soient limités à une partie de la population du globe, les autres se retrouvant véritablement en marge ? Voilà toutes les grandes questions dont M. Touré va nous parler.

31.4 M. Touré est actuellement Secrétaire général de l'UIT. Et je dois dire que ce sigle même est emblématique de l'évolution dont je viens de parler. Car l'UIT, c'est l'Union internationale des télécommunications, mais le T n'a pas toujours voulu dire « télécommunications ». Comme l'a noté M. Touré, l'UIT est la plus ancienne Union du monde ; elle a été créée vers 1865, et s'appelait alors Union internationale du télégraphe. Plus tard, le T a désigné le téléphone, et plus tard encore les télécommunications. Alors je me demande quel autre sens cette lettre va-t-elle prendre dans les années à venir ? En passant, je dirai que cette Union a été créée à Paris.

31.5 Vous avez devant vous le curriculum vitæ du docteur Touré ; je ne vais pas le détailler, il est long de deux pages. Avant l'UIT, M. Touré a travaillé pendant longtemps à INTELSAT, l'Organisation internationale des télécommunications par satellites, puis au Bureau de développement des télécommunications (BDT). D'ailleurs il m'a dit que toute sa vie se passe un peu avec les satellites, sous les satellites. Quand on lui demande quel chemin il a parcouru pour devenir Secrétaire général de l'Union internationale des télécommunications, il répond qu'en cette matière il est un peu semblable à nous tous ici. C'est-à-dire qu'au début, sa famille avait un poste de radio, qui appartenait bien sûr à son père ; le poste de télévision est arrivé plus tard. Pour le téléphone, ce fut d'abord le fixe, et plus récemment le mobile. Mais la raison pour laquelle il considère l'ensemble du globe sous l'angle des satellites et des communications réside peut-être dans le fait qu'il est né dans le désert au Mali, à

Tombouctou. Ce désert, extrêmement vaste, sans limites, lui a sans doute donné envie de se lancer dans des projets peut-être plus grands que les autres, dans des projets planétaires. Mais je m'arrête là, et je passe la parole au docteur Hamadoun Touré.

32.1 **M. Hamadoun Touré** (Secrétaire général de l'UIT) *in extenso* :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général et cher ami, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, chers collègues, je suis très honoré d'avoir été invité par S. E. M. Zhang à venir prendre la parole devant le Conseil exécutif à l'occasion du débat sur le thème « Face aux défis multidimensionnels des sociétés du savoir ». Je suis d'autant plus humblement pénétré de cette gratitude qu'on m'a fait savoir que c'est la première fois qu'un chef d'agence du système des Nations Unies s'adresse à cette auguste assemblée, et c'est aussi la première fois que je prends moi-même la parole en tant que Secrétaire général de l'Union internationale des télécommunications devant le Conseil d'une autre agence. J'ai du reste retourné l'invitation à mon cher ami Koïchiro Matsuura. En effet, à la suite de la visite de M. Ban Ki-moon à l'UIT au mois de juillet de cette année, lors de laquelle le changement climatique a été évidemment abordé, ce thème sera débattu de manière approfondie à la prochaine session de notre Conseil d'administration, auquel j'ai donc convié à mon tour mon cher ami M. Matsuura.

32.2 Je suis originaire du Mali, donc d'un pays du Sahel où, vous le savez, la déforestation est un problème sérieux. Je vais donc être ici un peu provocateur : j'ai fait le tour de la salle pour voir la quantité de pages, de papier - et surtout le nombre d'ordinateurs portables - qui y sont utilisés, et j'observe que rien n'est fait pour réduire l'exploitation des arbres. Seuls cinq États membres, la République bolivarienne de Venezuela, le Guatemala, le Brésil, la Fédération de Russie et la Belgique, utilisent des ordinateurs portables dans cette salle, plus cinq membres du Secrétariat et trois autres personnes, dont un membre de l'UIT ici présent. Je crois donc qu'on ne fait pas suffisamment d'économies et qu'on ne contribue pas du tout dans cette salle à la lutte contre le changement climatique.

32.3 Je le dis parce que depuis ma visite au Rwanda, il y a un an, où le Président Kadamé qui m'a reçu m'a fait visiter la salle du Conseil des ministres entièrement « paperless », sans papier, j'ai pris conscience que, même dans les pays en développement, on pouvait, en utilisant les technologies de l'information et de la communication, contribuer à économiser de l'énergie, à économiser les plantes et donc à sauver ensemble la planète.

32.4 J'ai donc entrepris, depuis mon élection et ma prise de fonctions en janvier de cette année, de faire la même chose à l'UIT, où la salle du Conseil est désormais « sans papier » ; mais je dois tout de même avouer que cela n'a pas été sans mal. Cela dit, je tenais ainsi à vous encourager à vous demander dans quelle mesure nous pourrions tous contribuer à l'avenir à maîtriser le changement climatique.

32.5 Chacun de nous pourrait envisager d'utiliser un ordinateur portable, donc de se passer de papier ; ce sont des arbres qui seraient ainsi sauvés, sans compter ceux

que nous pourrions planter nous-mêmes. Chacun de nous pourrait se demander combien de temps il passe dans sa voiture, s'il l'utilise seul pour aller au bureau et s'il ne pourrait pas parfois emmener quelqu'un avec lui et contribuer ainsi à la lutte contre le changement climatique. Si vous me le permettez, Monsieur le Président, je poursuivrai mon exposé en anglais, qui est la langue dans laquelle je l'avais initialement préparé.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

32.6 I would like to start by thanking the honourable representative of Lithuania for raising a very good question on duplication in the United Nations system. I believe it was a very good question. The question of One United Nations and the question of avoiding unnecessary duplication in the United Nations system has been very much raised over the past few years and, lately, the One United Nations concept has been put in place and is being implemented in a number of countries now, in eight country pilots that will enable us to have system-wide coherence and avoid unnecessary duplication in the system. I am very grateful to His Excellency Director-General Matsuura for his very close cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Indeed, we are together in the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) as a follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society trying to coordinate our efforts and avoid exactly these unnecessary duplications. And I think both of us know exactly the roles we can play together that will be complementary, that will enable us to do things more efficiently: UNESCO dealing with contents and the ITU dealing with infrastructure and applications. And therefore, the two going together in ensuring we all fulfil our goals, and our strategic goals, in a complementary manner, but all this knowing that we are supposed to be doing all this with the agreement of, with the policies designed by, the countries themselves. You cannot assist a country that does not know what it wants. You cannot assist a country that does not conceive its own development programme and a development programme cannot be conceived from Geneva, by ITU, or from Paris, by UNESCO here. It has got to be from the grass roots. Therefore, any other thing that we will be doing here, including climate change, needs to be addressed at the country, grass-roots level and we are doing just that.

32.7 I very much appreciate UNESCO's work in this area, namely your 2005 World Report, entitled *Towards Knowledge Societies*. Your idea of a public knowledge forum, the basis of UNESCO and of its Constitution, is also embedded in the outcome document of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which took place in Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005. This debate comes at a particularly important moment for ITU and UNESCO. The 2003 Geneva declaration of principles, *Building the Information Society: A global challenge in the new millennium*, endorsed the concept of an information society for all, based on shared knowledge or, as you would say, public knowledge. The three other WSIS documents – the Geneva Plan of Action as well as the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society amplified those multidisciplinary challenges. For example, the Tunis Commitment, in paragraph 10, recognizes that access to information and sharing and creation of knowledge contributes significantly to strengthening economic, social and cultural development. Another example, in paragraph 42 of the Tunis agenda for the information society, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to seek, receive, impart and use information, in particular, for the creation,

accumulation and dissemination of knowledge. Here, in the context of this debate, I would say public knowledge.

32.8 I would go on listing those challenges, however, we have people and nations waiting for our agencies to act. We are less than eight years away from 2015, the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals, and what should we do? In fact, when I was discussing this issue during the Chief Executives Board earlier this year in March, among the heads of the United Nations agencies with the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, my point was that if we, the ITU, do not meet our Millennium Development Goals, say by 2012, no one else will meet their goals because information and communication technology (ICT) is recognized today as a tool for all sectors of the economy. You cannot talk about government without e-government; you cannot talk about education without e-education; you cannot talk about health without e-health; you cannot talk about business without e-business; agriculture without e-agriculture; e-everything today. Therefore this tool has got to be there, but the tool is not important. The aim of the tool is to be used, to be used efficiently.

32.9 Today, the upsurge in information and communication technologies is contributing to the information society. During ITU's 142 years of history, people have gone from walking to the nearest post office to send telegraphs, to sending faxes from machines in their offices, and now to sending multimedia messages from their computers and mobile devices from anywhere. Communication tools are coming closer and closer to the end user. But how important are these information and communication technologies in modern society, and what role should they play? Twenty-two years ago, the Maitland Commission published a major report. The Maitland Commission was a commission put in place by the International Telecommunication Union back in 1980 to 1982, when they presented their report. At the time, they came forward with the Missing Link report. They were supposed to bridge the gap in 20 years, so the year 2002 was a deadline to be sure that we had bridged the gap between developed and developing countries, the gap between cities and rural areas. But we were not there. In 1998, when we were debating on the outcome of the Missing Link report, we realized that we were doing it alone, and we were failing. That is how the idea of a World Summit on the Information Society came about which could be inclusive for all Member States, and at which we would be calling on all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society. That is why we had a summit in two phases, in Tunis and Geneva as earlier mentioned. A summit without demonstrations, because civil society, instead of demonstrating outside, had an opportunity to speak in the air-conditioned rooms in Geneva and Tunis, so they contributed very well.

32.10 The Maitland Commission already understood the importance of ICT for national and regional development. What the Maitland Commission identified as the missing link at that time is now referred to as the digital divide. In summary, in fact, the monster became bigger, bigger and faster. That is what happened with the advent of the Internet and the new technologies and applications. At the time, the lack of telecommunication infrastructure in many countries was seen as the missing link because it prevented people living in those areas from achieving their full potential in social and economic development. Having access to a telephone, within a reasonable distance, that was the objective. Having a telephone within a reasonable distance. Not like today, when you have a telephone in your pocket. That was seen

as one of the main objectives to be reached to close the gap. In the early 1980s, telecommunications meant mainly fixed telephone lines or telex, with fax just beginning to be used. The use of mobile phones was also being launched in a few countries. The World Wide Web was still a research project. Now, there are more than 4 billion fixed and mobile subscribers in the world, and over 1 billion Internet users worldwide. The importance of communications has continued to grow over the last 20 years. In the emerging information society, the creation and distribution of information have become an important economic and cultural activity. Information and knowledge are one of the major sources of wealth.

32.11 ITU is shifting its focus to reflect the new world of communications and the importance of ICT for development. Now, the focus is on ICT as a key tool for shaping the information society and knowledge societies. Of course, technology alone will not solve the world's problems, but it is certainly one of the most important tools that can help to create a better society. I believe that in the information society, no human being should be left behind. I also believe that if we all pool our resources, we can bridge the development gap, meet the Millennium Development Goals, and create a just and sustainable information society for all.

32.12 I join the previous speaker who was very optimistic at the end, even though he painted a very alarming picture here, but he concluded in a very positive tone. Because, you know, when I was in charge of the development sector, people used to compare the number of telephones. I am an optimist by nature. People used to compare the number of telephones in Tokyo or in New York with the whole of Africa, and I always said, why are we making this comparison? East Africa has 1% or 2% telephone penetration. That means that it has 98% potential for growth, and that is how I see it. There are opportunities for us; we need to see them, and it has got to start now. I also believe that when we pool our resources together, we can bridge the development gap, and we can meet the Millennium Development Goals and create an information society that can be inclusive for all of us. We must all work together then, with governments, the private sector, civil society and multilateral organizations. And again, while doing that, we need to avoid unnecessary duplication. The resources are scarce, we need to avoid that. But I see no reason for not doing so, because our efforts are complementary. We in ITU are not specialized in education content. Why should we? UNESCO is not specialized in the technical ICT field. Why should they be involved in it? But if we work together we can provide the best product for our Member States. And therefore, United Nations-wide, there is a need to do so. But I always asked why the United Nations was doing unnecessary competition in-house? We were unfortunately in the credit-taking business. As an agency, if I don't take credit for everything, I will block it. That is the way of thinking, the old way of thinking. I think there is a new spirit of thinking in the United Nations system of people who believe that we need to use our resources more efficiently and work together, give the credit to the people who we are assisting, and the credit will rebound to all of us together. And I think this is the spirit with which we are working today.

32.13 The ITU mission is to ensure that ICTs are put at the service of all people, regardless of language, culture, gender or geographical location. A large number of people around the world are still without access to communications networks. Since information and communication are the main preconditions for the

economic and cultural development of any society, it is our duty to bridge the digital divide. We at ITU plan to achieve this through our Connect the World initiatives. We will begin this year with Connect Africa and then move to other regions of the world, one at a time. Latin America and the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, you name it, one region at a time, and this is in addition to the management and coordination job that is being carried out inside ITU over spectrum management and the coordination of global standards, the technical work we are doing as part of our development work. We believe that we should do something, something that will enable us to be inclusive to all organizations, and that is why we are calling on all of our partners, including UNESCO, to work with us in Connect Africa and then later on continue to connect the world. Connect Africa will be taking place in Kigali, Rwanda, on 29 and 30 October 2007, and will be launched under the patronage of His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, with the support of United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon, in partnership with the World Bank, the Global Alliance for ICT and Development that has been put together by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which is led by a private sector member, Craig Barrett, the Chairman of Intel, and other development agencies and all of the United Nations family. We are planning to do this together as one and it offers the potential for us to bring together business people.

32.14 The concept behind Connect Africa is not a new summit of resolutions. I always say we have enough resolutions and recommendations, and please, while you are doing this, don't make new resolutions and recommendations. There are enough resolutions. Have we implemented even one-tenth of the resolutions that we have today? They are all very good. They have been very well conceived by our Member States. Let's implement them. In Kigali, we want to have an opportunity to bring together governments and the private sector and financial institutions to see how they can work together. We are lucky that we are in a field, the ICT field, that is a profitable business. No matter where you are, be it on the smallest island, if you want to sell a telecommunications licence today, you have five to ten bidders competing for it, because indeed your customers are not only the population of that island; your customer is indeed the world. Any tourist or any visitor or businessman who will come to that island will be your customer. Therefore, it is profit-making, and we have to accept, start accepting, and I think it is accepted in the United Nations system now, that it is OK to make profits. There was a time when it was wrong; it was something wrong to make a profit. And I don't see anything wrong with that, particularly because I am probably the first Secretary General of ITU not only to come from the private sector, but to come straight from the private sector into ITU. And I believe, from my private sector life, that there is no contradiction between private sector and government. Their roles are complementary, and they can work together.

32.15 During the World Summit on the Information Society, UNESCO consistently maintained that the debate is not only about technology and infrastructure, however important these issues are, but also about the broader social, cultural, economic, political and institutional dimensions of change. As the 2005 World Report of UNESCO that I mentioned earlier concluded, the concept of knowledge societies encompasses much broader social, ethical and political dimensions. And we at ITU entirely share this view.

32.16 As you know very well, WSIS also endorsed a

joint ITU-UNESCO leading role for action line C3: access to information and knowledge. This action line is linked to action line C2: information and communication infrastructure, where ITU has a leading role. When talking about access to information, the future is definitely broadband communications, and one of the major challenges facing the global ICT community is bringing broadband to all of the world's citizens. I did not want to bother you here with our technical names, like Next Generation Networks (NGN), and other things that are linked to broadband, so I will just limit myself to broadband here. But it is something that is for all the citizens of the world. Legacy single-purpose networks are being replaced by broadband next generation networks that can carry any combination of voice, data and multimedia graphics, video and audio, in any format. Broadband is potentially as different from standard voice telephony as telephony is from the telegraph services of 150 years ago.

32.17 Not only is broadband necessary for education, entertainment such as downloading music and video, but it also enables a wide range of applications for education, health, governance, social protection and environment. I mentioned those five – education, health, governance, social protection and environment – because those five are key result areas identified in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), to improve the quality of life. As you see, in not one of the five was ICT mentioned, but it is there. Information and communication technology is the tool for each and every one of them, be it good governance, health and telemedicine, tele-education, environment or social protection. ICT is embedded in each and every one of them, and I think that we need to work together to ensure that we include that.

32.18 The vast majority of today's broadband users are in the industrialized world. But broadband development is expanding in the developing world as well. Broadband is one of the key tools for development because it increases the potential for generating content that is relevant to communities and produced in their languages. Eventually, people in even the remotest areas could become broadcasters and educators in their own communities and the wider world. We would in fact be creating knowledge societies. When my dear friend the Moderator was introducing me, he mentioned the fact that any machine in your house will talk to the central service to report a failure of its own machine inside the machine, before you even know about it. Therefore a repair man will come and knock at your door and tell you that your fridge is running out of gas soon, and he will be putting it in it. And a salesman will be able to come and bring you fresh vegetables and fruits and milk because your fridge has informed the supermarket that you are running low on your supplies. Those are the things that will happen in this knowledge society.

32.19 The rise of the Internet itself, or the incredible take-off of short message systems (SMS), which took the world by storm, are enough to remind us of one thing: that it is often the creativity of the users on the ground rather than the foresight of market analysts that sparks the beginning of a ground-breaking new trend. An understanding of the global impact and demand for technologies is fast becoming a benchmark for successful investment and development. In this light, it seems indispensable to exchange and look at ways in which people and institutions around the globe have been using technologies to improve their work and lives.

32.20 I was saying that I am very optimistic. There are key indicators here that give us hope. China alone has, every month, 8 million new users of mobile telephony. India has, every month, 7 million new mobile phone subscribers. But let me tell you also, there is good news even in Africa. Africa, where you only hear news through wars and starvation or conflict. Africa has been leading in terms of growth, over the past three years, of telecommunications, some countries going from 50% to 400% growth annually, three years in a row. Nigeria, Gabon, Senegal. The Orange group globally had the highest profits in Senegal last year. For the first time, Africa is leading some telecommunications indicators, positive indicators. Therefore, something is happening. What we need is to give the impulse to continue the momentum that is there. Create a regulatory environment that is conducive to more business, that is conducive to sharing of information, learning of the best lessons learned, best practice, learning to avoid mistakes that have been made. What a waste if you have to make a mistake that was already made by someone. It is already worse to rediscover the wheel, something that has been invented, but making a mistake and having to start all over again is worse than anything else. That is why in this information society, sharing of information is key, and that is one area where I see UNESCO's role in ensuring that in every school, there will be school programmes and curricula, on which UNESCO will advise them, about climate change, so the school children can share that information at all levels. And that can be done through ICT while working together. Schools provide an ideal environment to realize the educational benefit of information access. Many governments have launched initiatives to provide funding for the supply of broadband in schools. And other good news, in Senegal, for example, the government has dedicated 40% of its budget to education. It is the highest in the world. The highest percentage of government budget for education in the world. And they will reap those benefits very soon. When you are teaching kids whose daily life is survival, the fight for survival, if you teach them software development, they will be the best programmers in the world, because software development is about finding solutions, finding survival kits, and they will be very innovative, more innovative than a child who just puts his hand under a tap and the water comes out, or just presses a button and the light comes on. Who will teach kids, as the previous speaker was saying, to save water? Before brushing their teeth, they open the tap and start brushing. That is what happens. Have we taught our children to do so? Any of you could look at your small children or grandchildren, like me – I have a granddaughter now so I am very proud of that – I would like to teach her not to waste water, because in my country, water is a resource, like in many other countries.

32.21 For governments, it is seen as crucial to conceive and engage in capacity-building programmes for job creation, knowledge creation and wealth creation. And I take all three on the positive side, because some people talk about poverty reduction or, worse than that, some talk about poverty alleviation. You are going to alleviate my poverty and not eliminate it? That was a concept. We have to go beyond that and create jobs so that people will be able to create wealth, and that can only be done through knowledge creation. Only then can the United Nations family acting as one have an impact on coherence and effectiveness at the country level, as we are creating the One United Nations, with undivided focus, unity and diversity, as we say in the United Nations

system, we will be meeting the guiding principles that drive the current United Nations reform.

32.22 Ladies and gentlemen, we have another important challenge. We must build confidence and security in the use of ICTs. This is known as action line C5 in the World Summit on the Information Society report, of which ITU is one of the facilitators. And I am heavily working on that. Cybersecurity. Paragraph 42 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society requires that measures be taken to ensure Internet stability and security, to fight cybercrime and to counter spam, must protect and respect the provisions for privacy and freedom of expression. Why is this important? We are giving the Internet today to our kids in their bedrooms, and we think they are safe. They are not. It is like being on the street with potential predators, child pornographers, and many other things that can access them while you are calmly sleeping in your bedroom. That is what we need to avoid.

32.23 When I started mentioning the challenges of cybersecurity, I did not expect a country to be attacked. Estonia's network was attacked a few months ago. The whole network was down for 48 hours. We should avoid attacks by countries. The best way to win a war is to avoid it in the first place. We know that. But unfortunately human nature is ready to spend so much money on a war, but not ready to spend the same amount of money on making peace, on avoiding that war. And that is why I am trying to prevent a cyberwar which would be a catastrophe worse than a tsunami, because our daily lives are depending on that – government, schools, businesses, everything. This is why on 17 May this year, I launched the Global Cybersecurity Agenda, a multi-stakeholder framework that will build on existing initiatives and partners, and take full advantage of recognized sources of expertise. Its purpose is twofold. One, to identify commonly agreed global challenges to cybersecurity, and two, to build national ICT security and emergency response centres, regionally and globally as well. And make sure that those centres are linked and you have the proper capacity-building to bring them to the same level because the criminal will always use the weakest point. We know there are regional frameworks – the Council of Europe is a good framework. But the only thing wrong with it is that it is Europe. The criminal can be outside of Europe, and it is a different legislation. The criminal cannot be trapped outside of Europe. So what do we do? We need a global framework for cybersecurity to keep the world a better place. I am talking about cyberpeace that we need to see, to conceive it before a war is declared. So, for the first time, we are trying to avoid a war before it starts.

32.24 These processes actually will begin in Geneva this week on 5 October. I will have the first high-level expert group on cybersecurity to be held there. The anticipated outcome of this process is a framework to achieve the objectives of building confidence and security in the use of ICT, and I intend to bring a report to my council next year on this so as to pave the way forward for a global framework for ICT cybersecurity.

32.25 During his visit to ITU, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, requested ITU to include climate change and environment in our ICT priorities. This is being done in action line C7 of WSIS again, together with other agencies. In particular we are calling on all our members in organizations to use ICT applications to work in a paperless environment to save trees, and use videoconferences to cut down on travel and so on. I think each and every one of us can contribute to this.

32.26 How can ITU and UNESCO cooperate? As you well know, before WSIS in 1992 and again in 2000, we signed a cooperation agreement between ITU and UNESCO. WSIS has provided us with additional mechanisms for cooperation such as leading roles for action lines, different action lines, C3, C4, C1, C11. Moreover, the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) has been a very good platform for our two Organizations, and I want to take this opportunity to thank UNESCO and especially Director-General Koichiro Matsuura, to whom I handed over the chairmanship of UNGIS this year in July. In his preface to the first *UNESCO World Report: Towards Knowledge Societies*, I want to quote the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Matsuura, again, please allow me to say this. He has drawn our attention to the fact that there has been much reference to the digital divide which is a reality, but a still more disturbing factor is the knowledge divide between the most developed and the developing countries. That is a very important statement that I thought I should bring up again.

32.27 To conclude, the development of knowledge societies requires strong cooperation among the United Nations family members to support the programmes and projects conceived and managed by Member States. Given its fields of competence, UNESCO commands valuable expertise and experience in the area of educational, cultural and scientific content. This expertise complements ITU's own expertise in the area of information and communication technologies and applications. Together, let us build the knowledge society that we all dream of. Now allow me to say a few words in French in final conclusion.

(The speaker continued in French)

32.28 Chers collègues et amis, notre avenir dépend de notre rêve, du rêve que nous concevrons pour l'école, le bureau, les usines, le supermarché, les salons, les voitures de demain, encore que l'on puisse se demander si ce n'est pas déjà demain, aujourd'hui.

32.29 Je voudrais vous dire qu'à mon avis, toutes les conditions sont réunies pour que nous contribuions de façon significative à la lutte contre le changement climatique et que cela dépend de chacun d'entre nous. Il reste encore quantité d'études à faire, certes, mais nous en savons déjà beaucoup sur les moyens de contribuer à enrayer le changement climatique. Nous devons commencer dès aujourd'hui. Chacun de nous, en sortant de cette salle, doit savoir ce qu'il ou elle peut faire à cet égard. Essayons d'utiliser les technologies de l'information et de la communication pour partager les connaissances, pour éduquer nos peuples et changer le climat, mais aussi pour sauver des arbres, réduire nos déplacements et donc la production d'oxyde de carbone.

32.30 Savoir partager et partager le savoir, tel est en conclusion mon message. Mesdames et Messieurs, je m'excuse d'avoir été long mais c'était une occasion unique de partager ces quelques réflexions avec vous. Je vous remercie de me l'avoir donnée. Merci.

(Applaudissements)

33. **Mr Janyška** (Czech Republic) (Moderator) thanked Mr Touré for his extremely interesting intervention, and said that it put him in mind of Marshall McLuhan's phrase, the "global village", which expressed how everyone's lives were interconnected. Mr Touré's vision, by contrast with that of science fiction, was optimistic: several of the points he made could be drawn on for inspiration, from the everyday use of technology

instead of paper to the role of the United Nations family and of UNESCO in building the knowledge society. He had spoken very frankly about the gaps in this global picture and offered several solutions.

34. **Mr Touré** (Secretary-General of ITU) thanked the Moderator for his kind words.

35. **Ms Illnerová** (Czech Republic) expressed appreciation for Mr Touré's contribution to creating the information society and bridging the gap between the different societies in the world. While she understood the need for access to information for education and economic development, that was not always positive: not all the information on the Internet was accurate, and the impact on youth raised on the Internet was not known. She asked how Mr Touré would address the important question of avoiding negative impacts and ensuring a return to human values.

36. **M. Kizabi** (République démocratique du Congo) reconnaît l'utilité des TIC comme facteurs de progrès et de rapprochement dans le monde, mais se demande si la « quincaillerie » issue de ces technologies ne contribue pas à la détérioration du climat.

37. **Mr Ramalho Ortigão** (Portugal) thanked Mr Touré for his interesting presentation. While ICT was the best instrument for the rapid and widespread transfer of UNESCO's competences, the role of the knowledge society in the development process depended heavily on reducing the digital and knowledge divides. Could the digital divide seriously weaken or neutralize UNESCO's efforts to deliver its capacities on climate change?

38.1 **Mr Touré** (Secretary-General of ITU) agreed that it was necessary to consider both the positive and negative aspects of ICT, but when those were compared, the positive outweighed the negative. It was important to be realistic and to take the necessary measures: it was like building a house with safeguards against intruders, but with both the positive and negative aspects amplified tenfold. Cyberspace should be approached exactly like the physical world. The alternatives to ICT in today's world were costly. Without a telephone, a woman selling vegetables in a market in Africa would lose hours in travelling by bus to renew her supplies when they ran low. Now, with a simple phone call, she could contact her supplier and order more without having to interrupt her work, and would earn more as a result. For the everyday life of a village, the advantages outweighed the disadvantages. The same measures needed to be taken, just as people taught their children not to talk to strangers in the street. The same rules applied in cyberspace. It was a question of advancing constantly in order to keep ahead of potential criminals and predators.

38.2 Répondant en français au représentant de la République démocratique du Congo, M. Touré reconnaît que la « quincaillerie » pose des problèmes et rejette à cet égard la politique consistant à donner des ordinateurs usagés aux pays en développement. Ces derniers doivent disposer des mêmes technologies de pointe que les pays développés, d'autant qu'elles sont moins coûteuses et consomment moins d'énergie. Il faut au demeurant réfléchir aux moyens d'utiliser ces équipements le plus longtemps possible, recourir aux centres de recyclage et réduire la pollution et la consommation d'énergie, par exemple en équipant tous les téléphones portables de batteries et de chargeurs normalisés, ce qui abaisserait leur coût d'environ 30 %. Ce sont quelques-unes des pistes que l'UIT explore.

39. **Ms Marčiulionytė** (Lithuania) thanked Mr Touré for his visionary presentation. Her question, to which she requested the frankest possible reply, related to the role UNESCO played within the United Nations, and the need for all its actions to have added value. The implementation of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society appeared to modify UNESCO's role and the action lines for which it would be the lead agency. Were the roles of all the players in the field, she asked, well designed, and which action lines had given rise to the most debate?

40. **Mr Rachman** (Indonesia) asked what guarantees and mechanisms existed to ensure that the tool of telecommunications technology was properly used for the betterment of mankind.

41. **Ms Mukherjee** (India) congratulated Mr Touré on having spoken about connectivity in Africa. UNESCO attached great importance to development in Africa. What he had said about mobile phones was very heartening, and the same was true of India. She was certain that the statistics relating to mobile phones would be of great interest to all. She had been very interested by the dialectical nature of the presentations of the two speakers: Mr Pachauri had said earlier that in combating climate change, one of the most important issues was that of changing behavioural patterns and lifestyles. And, with regard to knowledge societies, Mr Touré had made the very important point, with which UNESCO thoroughly agreed, that technology that had been rejected was not acceptable (India had never accepted it). The issue was how to create a knowledge society to address the challenges of climate change in a manner which was consistent with UNESCO's mandates and which enabled UNESCO to cooperate with ITU. In that context, having seen how knowledge societies had developed in China, India and elsewhere in Asia, she asked both Mr Pachauri and Mr Touré if they saw a strong role for North-South-South cooperation in the development of knowledge societies, and in what way they believed such cooperation could help to combat climate change.

42.1 **Mr Touré** (Secretary-General of ITU) referred to the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, the Annex of which had 11 action lines and specified the lead agencies for each. Where more than one was named, the first was the lead agency. UNESCO was named in many parts of that document. There had never been any conflict during the debates, for instance between ITU and UNESCO, as to which should take the lead, because it was known in ITU that ICT was just a tool, and that content took precedence. What mattered when installing the Internet, or even something as simple as a television, was information. People forgot the engineers working behind the scenes, and only remembered them when a technical problem arose. Infrastructure was important, but only up to the point where content took over: the content was more important than the tool, just as a truck was less important than the goods it carried. The same applied to the debate about whether Internet governance should be the responsibility of the telecommunications authorities or the content authorities: the owner of the highway did not necessarily own the trucks on it, and certainly not their contents. What mattered was that they should work together to ensure that the dimensions of the trucks were known, so that bridges and highways could be built to ensure an efficient flow. For ITU, there had never been any question about UNESCO's leadership role: the two were viewed as complementary. He did not see UNESCO as overshadowing his own organization when they worked together. Coming from a developing country, he believed that time should not be wasted on internal fighting over

who should take the credit while countries like his own were suffering. Having fought very hard to be elected Secretary-General of ITU, his contribution would be to ensure that internal fights were not allowed to prevent the development of countries like his own. Development, to him, meant constant movement, with no starting point or end point. Not moving meant going backwards: that was an overall law of nature. United Nations agencies needed to work together in a complementary manner. Action line C1 named the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations regional commissions and ITU as lead agencies. Action line C2 listed ITU, for infrastructure. Action line C3, on access to information and knowledge, listed ITU/UNESCO. Action line C4 showed the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, ITU and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for capacity building. Each of them had one area of contribution, and all of them could work together. During the debates, importance had been attached to ensuring that the scarce resources of Member States were not wasted on unnecessary duplication. The principle was simple, and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) had been based on it. ITU recognized that it had been trying to bridge the gap alone, and that it was failing, because it had not involved any of the other bodies. What was at stake was a knowledge society, an information society in which everyone had a contribution to make.

42.2 Ensuring that ICT as a tool was used properly was a question of education and of taking the normal measures at every level, both at school and at work. Like every tool, information technology could be used for good or bad ends. Cell phones could be used for child pornography and spam. Every tool could be used as a weapon – no one had imagined that a plane would be used as a bomb as it had on 9/11. The world must educate itself to build a peaceful environment in which people could communicate better.

43. **Г-н Анисимов** (Российская Федерация) выражает поддержку призыву начать с себя в деле борьбы с негативными процессами изменения климата, используя электронные средства коммуникации. ЮНЕСКО необходимо вселять доверие. Для будущего очень важно поощрять использование электронных средств коммуникации, поскольку для молодых поколений такие средства часто являются главным источником получения знаний. Отвечая на вопрос представителя Литвы, г-н Анисимов призывает использовать киберпространство для распространения информации о климате.

(43) **M. Anisimov** (Fédération de Russie) appuie les appels lancés à donner soi-même l'exemple en ce qui concerne la lutte contre les effets négatifs du changement climatique, par le recours aux moyens de communication électroniques. L'UNESCO doit répandre la confiance. À l'avenir, il est très important d'encourager l'utilisation de ces outils électroniques qui sont souvent pour la jeunesse la principale source de connaissances. Se référant à la question posée par la représentante de la Lituanie, M. Anisimov engage à utiliser le cyberspace pour diffuser des informations sur le climat.

44. **Mr Wole** (Ethiopia) congratulated Mr Touré for his very valuable contributions. His first question concerned access to ICT, and his second, its proper utilization. Regarding access, it was certainly good news that a Connect Africa project was to be launched in Kigali in the near future. He wished to know if Mr Touré envisaged the use of local languages in that project. As to

utilization, the problem was serious, as various forms of abuse had been observed in the use of ICT, both to promote violence and for potentially harmful communications. Education was important in combating the problem, but so was a coordinated multiple approach involving legal, technical, educational and other aspects, not just at the national level, but also internationally; he wished to hear what Mr Touré thought.

45. **El Sr. Cueva** (Ecuador) observa que, pese a la gran inquietud que el calentamiento planetario suscita en los organismos internacionales y, en general, en el mundo contemporáneo, las respuestas al problema se quedan muchas veces en buenas palabras. Recuerda en este sentido que su país ha hecho una propuesta concreta a la comunidad internacional. En Ecuador se ha descubierto no hace mucho un gigantesco yacimiento petrolífero situado en el Parque Nacional Yasuní, que alberga una gran diversidad biológica. Su país desea preservar ese espacio natural, por su valor intrínseco y porque la explotación de sus yacimientos contribuiría al calentamiento global, pero necesita dinero. Por ello ha propuesto a la comunidad internacional mantener intacta esa reserva a cambio de cierta cantidad de dinero, desde luego muy inferior a la que se obtendría con la explotación del yacimiento petrolífero. Es algo concreto, que va más allá de las palabras y las reuniones, y que tendría efectos tangibles sobre la conservación del planeta.

(45) **M. Cueva** (Équateur) fait observer que, malgré la grande inquiétude que le réchauffement de la planète suscite au sein des organismes internationaux et dans le monde actuel en général, la recherche de solutions ne dépasse pas souvent le stade des bonnes paroles. Il rappelle, à cet égard, que son pays a fait une proposition concrète à la communauté internationale. Récemment, on a découvert en Équateur un gigantesque gisement de pétrole situé dans le parc national Yasuní, lequel abrite une grande diversité biologique. Son pays souhaite préserver cet espace naturel, en raison de sa valeur intrinsèque et parce que l'exploitation des gisements qu'il renferme contribuerait au réchauffement planétaire, mais il a besoin d'argent. Il a donc proposé à la communauté internationale de laisser en l'état cette réserve en échange d'une compensation financière, évidemment très inférieure aux sommes que lui rapporterait l'exploitation du gisement de pétrole. Il s'agit là d'une action concrète, qui va plus loin que les paroles et les réunions, et qui aurait des effets tangibles sur la préservation de la planète.

46.1 **Г-н Турэ** (Генеральный секретарь МСЭ) разделяет мнение г-на Анисимова о важности использования ИКТ и о необходимости совместной работы и приветствует инициативы отдельных стран в этой области. Г-н Турэ также признает необходимость мер по распространению ИКТ среди молодежи.

(46.1) **M. Touré** (Secrétaire général de l'UIT) pense, comme M. Anisimov, qu'il est important d'utiliser les TIC et qu'il faut travailler ensemble ; il se félicite de l'initiative prise par plusieurs pays dans ce domaine. Il estime lui aussi qu'il faut prendre des mesures pour répandre les TIC dans la jeunesse.

46.2 Continuing in English, he said that local languages would not be used in the framework of the forthcoming conference, as the African Union had not thus far used local languages itself. However, new technologies were being introduced which would enable

translation into local languages and access to information in local languages on the Internet, as well as allowing contributions to be made by those who spoke only local languages. He himself was giving encouragement to the many organizations working in that field, so that material from local language speakers could be used on the Internet. If that could be achieved, the contribution to world civilization would be tremendous, as there were many people who spoke neither French, Spanish or English, but who had much to offer. In his view, the use of local languages should be encouraged, including the preparation of software in those languages. Business people using local languages would be represented in Kigali, and efforts made to find business partners to work with them to exploit those opportunities.

46.3 Turning to the issue raised by the representative of Ecuador, he said that Ecuador deserved praise for keeping intact a part of the world with such a high degree of biodiversity. He agreed that the international community should be offering help to that country as a way of compensating for the difficult choices it had made for the good of the planet. The only way to survive was to invest in ICT and education, and to promote opportunities for profit making and creating new businesses in the ICT field. ICT was like a natural resource: the only natural resource that was equally distributed by geography, gender or development level. ICT was in the brain, and brains were the same everywhere in the world. It was a matter of training brains to respond and be more creative. By putting the emphasis on capacity building, the natural global reserve of human brainpower could be used, with all the brains contributing. People whose daily lives were carried on under very difficult natural conditions, whose survival kits enabled them to make a living, could contribute more in the ICT field if they were properly trained in software development and other applications of ICT.

47. **Mr Janyška** (Czech Republic) (Moderator) thanked Mr Touré for his presentation and for his answers to the questions raised. The world he had described was the modern world, the world of tomorrow and of their children.

(Applause)

Ms Bennani (Morocco) took the Chair as Moderator.

٤٨٠١ السيدة بناني (المغرب) (مديرة المناقشة) *النص الكامل* :
شكراً، سيدي الرئيس. حضرات السيدات والسادة، لي عظيم الشرف أن أدير هذا الشوط من المناقشة الموضوعية المخصصة لضيفنا الجليل السيد الوزير جوزيه ماريانو جاجو، وزير العلوم والتكنولوجيا والتعليم العالي بالبرتغال. والسيد الوزير هو كذلك أستاذ، وباحث مرموق ذو شهرة عالمية، وصاحب أبحاث ومؤلفات عديدة في ميدان العلوم التجريبية ومجتمعات المعلومات والدراسات الاستكشافية. كما يمثل مرجعية للاستراتيجية الأوروبية في الميادين الآتية الذكر. ومن بين أنشطته المرموقة أخص بالذكر اللقاءات السنوية للدراسات الاستكشافية، وراثته لـ International Risk Governance Council وهي مؤسسة دولية متخصصة في إدارة المخاطر. وتوجد بين أيديكم نبذة من حياته. أكتفي بهذا التقديم أتوجه إلى السيد الوزير.

(48.1) **Mme Bennani** (Maroc) (Modératrice) *in extenso* (traduit de l'arabe) :

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai le grand honneur de diriger cette partie du débat thématique pendant laquelle nous allons écouter notre éminent invité le Ministre portugais de la science, de la technologie et de l'enseignement

supérieur, M. José Mariano Gago. Monsieur le Ministre est également un éminent professeur et chercheur de renommée internationale, auteur d'un grand nombre de travaux et d'ouvrages portant sur les sciences expérimentales, les sociétés de l'information et les études de recherche. Il fait également autorité en ce qui concerne la stratégie européenne appliquée dans ces domaines. Parmi ses activités de premier plan, je citerai les rencontres annuelles consacrées aux études de recherche ainsi que sa présidence de l'*International Risk Governance Council*, un organisme international spécialisé dans la gestion des risques. Puisque vous avez sa notice biographique entre les mains, je vais me contenter de cette présentation et m'adresser à Monsieur le Ministre.

(L'oratrice poursuit en français)

48.2 Monsieur le Ministre, nous sommes très honorés par votre présence aujourd'hui parmi nous lors de cette séance consacrée à notre débat thématique. Nous attendons avec impatience de bénéficier de vos lumières sur cet important sujet d'une brûlante actualité auquel nous devons à notre Président de nous intéresser aujourd'hui, à savoir cette menace aux dimensions universelles et aux conséquences multiples qui pèse sur notre sécurité, voire même sur notre avenir.

48.3 Je crois que vous vous proposez de centrer votre intervention sur les différents aspects de la connaissance en général et sur le rôle éventuel des Nations Unies, question qui rejoint une de nos grandes préoccupations en ce moment, puisque nous sommes en train de nous interroger sur la valeur ajoutée que l'UNESCO peut apporter dans le cadre de l'unité d'action des Nations Unies. Vous avez la parole, Monsieur le Ministre.

49. **Mr Gago** (Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal; President of the European Council of Education Ministers) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO, dear friend, Director-General, Mr Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Professor Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and former colleague at the International Risk Governance Council, Mr President of the General Conference, Ambassadors, representatives, ladies and gentlemen, I am going to start in French and then I will continue in English if you will allow me.

(The speaker continued in French)

49.2 Je voudrais tout d'abord vous remercier tous de votre invitation et vous remercier, Madame, pour vos aimables paroles, mais n'attendez pas trop de moi !

49.3 L'UNESCO a, parmi les organisations du système des Nations Unies, l'unique et exceptionnel privilège de s'adresser en même temps aux institutions et aux personnes, de s'adresser aux gouvernements aussi bien qu'aux enseignants des écoles, aux médias aussi bien qu'aux scientifiques. C'est une énorme responsabilité. L'UNESCO contribue pour une part considérable à créer un climat de confiance, de transparence et d'espoir dans l'avenir de la connaissance et de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture dans le monde.

49.4 Tout au long de ma vie, j'ai plusieurs fois collaboré avec l'UNESCO et bénéficié de ses exceptionnelles capacités. Mes propos seront donc aussi

le fruit de cette expérience personnelle. J'étais un jeune adolescent quand j'ai lu pour la première fois le Manuel de l'UNESCO pour l'enseignement des sciences ; c'est probablement pour cela que je suis devenu un scientifique et un chercheur. J'ai même - j'avais alors 12 ou 13 ans - écrit à l'UNESCO, et l'on m'a répondu ! On m'a envoyé, gratuitement, chez mes parents, une énorme caisse contenant des publications de l'UNESCO. C'était il y a fort longtemps, mais j'espère que le même esprit règne encore. Plus tard, j'ai travaillé avec des gens qui ne sont plus ici à l'UNESCO mais qui ont façonné l'Organisation, surtout dans le domaine de l'éducation permanente : Ettore Gelpi, Ruth Lazarus, une pionnière en Afrique du Sud, puis à l'UNESCO.

49.5 L'UNESCO a beaucoup appuyé le travail que j'ai moi-même développé à l'Université populaire de Genève, dans le domaine de l'enseignement des sciences comme vecteur d'intégration sociale et comme réponse à la volonté d'apprendre des populations migrantes. J'ai été pendant très longtemps physicien au CERN : c'est là que j'ai fait toute ma carrière, et le CERN est certainement, en tant que grand centre international de recherche, l'une des meilleures réussites de l'UNESCO. J'ai été membre du Bureau de la revue « Impact : Science et société » qui était extrêmement influente dans le monde et qui, je crois, n'existe plus.

49.6 Vous comprendrez donc que je profite de cette occasion pour, une fois de plus, exprimer toute ma reconnaissance personnelle à l'Organisation pour son action exemplaire. Je voudrais aussi vous remercier vivement, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, pour votre invitation et votre initiative.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

49.7 My contribution to your debate will focus on a few points only, because I think the subject is extremely vast, and as a scientist I have learned my limitations. So I am just trying to focus on a very few points, six points, in fact. I am using this PowerPoint – not to be projected – on my laptop, and I think Mr Touré will be happy not only that I am using a laptop, but that my Council of Ministers in my own country, Portugal, works only with computers, and the circulation of documents, even the signature of documents, is entirely digital nowadays. And yes, you are right, this has reduced the volume of paper, and I think the amount of weight I have to carry to get to cabinet meetings has also been reduced.

49.8 The six items are: ICT for information and knowledge, risk governance, science-based evaluation, real science education for all, high-level engineering design for deprived societies, and networks of higher education. I will just try to address these different issues very briefly. The first point is that the Internet has been developed for some time now, and has expanded all over the world. In fact it has expanded because of science, and because of the scientists and scientific organizations that first helped to develop it, and to develop it as a free tool. Now we know that the Internet and other means of communication are complementary. We know that both radio, for instance, and the Internet are, and will continue to be, extremely useful; that writing – and this has to do probably with the importance of orality and not only of writing – and communication awareness and freedom of expression can be, and have been, multiplied by the availability of information and communication technologies, as open access to knowledge has been extremely important. However, world access to digital libraries and the existence of free Internet access centres are still subject to many constraints in many parts of the

world. We need global science and education e-infrastructures, like for instance GEANT, the pan-European, research network, which has now been extended to other parts of the world, namely with the Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks (CLARA) and others. That is a clear mission for organizations, for worldwide international organizations.

49.9 The second point (and I am sorry to be very brief in my remarks, but I am afraid of the music that attacks the speakers – I will import this new tool to control speakers into my own country, and probably into the European Union) is risk governance. Risk governance is extremely important nowadays, and I don't think the problem of risk governance can be addressed nationally. It is increasingly a problem for international organizations, in my view for the United Nations. Transforming fatality into predictable risk and transforming despair into risk mitigation is something that humanity wants. Risk governance requires shared knowledge and trust. The politics of risk governance include scientific and technological expertise; they require an international framework, not only because many of the risks to be addressed are themselves international in nature, but because the expertise is not available nationally. You need independent evaluation, because the politics of risk governance are in fact the politics of conflicting interests – public, private, political and economic interests – and they require some sort of social participation. Without that you cannot effectively address risk governance or risk mitigation. So, supporting better risk governance, in my view, should be part of the new mission of the United Nations.

49.10 The third point is science-based international evaluation. The need for a culture of evaluation as an instrument for freedom is extremely important as part of the development of societies. We know that historically, science is at the source of sustainable evaluation processes. In fact, scientific activity itself has produced the culture of evaluation from which we are benefiting in many developed societies. In fact, evaluation procedures are now embedded in modern organizations: evaluation of institutions, evaluation of projects and problems, evaluation of policies. And I think there is an increasing need for the role of UNESCO in stimulating international platforms for science-based independent evaluation. But please keep it at arm's length, because countries really need independent evaluation, and it is extremely difficult for international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, to provide independent evaluation.

49.11 The fourth point is real science education for all. We know, and we know in particular from the work of UNESCO, that if you just look at the curricula of schools all over the world, science is everywhere. There is no country in the world where education is part of the social system and some sort of compulsory education exists, that does not give science studies a share, an important share, within compulsory education. However, that does not say it all. To see science in a curriculum text doesn't mean that the practice of education includes real science, or that you are not just using words that stem from science but have little to do with science itself. You need networking by teachers and students through project work. You need proximity and experimental work, not just words and definitions, and you need them shared at global level. Why? Because networking with scientists and research organizations in schools is probably the best help to science teachers all over the world in resisting the pressure of bureaucratic science education and formal science education, and in trying to convey the sense of

science itself to the students. And I would urge you, as a symbol, to celebrate and to revisit the *New UNESCO Source Book for Science Teaching* that did so much for science and scientific education all over the world during the second half of the last century.

49.12 My fifth point is about engineering design. I call it the need for research on high-level engineering design for deprived societies. New technologies and new materials now allow new products to be specifically designed for poor social and economic environments with limited technical support and limited maintenance, and no availability of spare parts, that face aggressive human and physical environments. Many years ago, some people were convinced, and many of us were convinced, that these new technologies were in fact old technologies, that appropriate technologies for deprived societies in fact meant technologies from the past. We now know that is wrong. Appropriate technologies require much higher scientific and technological investment, as they need to incorporate the otherwise unavailable organizational and technological environment they would normally need to operate. On the other hand, appropriate technologies for deprived societies may share some research and development objectives with high-level engineering design for extreme conditions, like space research or deep ocean research.

49.13 My last point is higher education networks. Higher education networks are real societal centres for citizenship education, and I agree with many UNESCO reports that they should not be seen as virtual institutions. Higher education institutions are not monoliths, but hubs of departments, research centres and people of very diverse quality and very diverse potential. We probably need to revise the forms of international cooperation in this field of higher education. We need networking-specific higher education components to circumvent mediocre top management in higher education. That is probably the key to success. We need to provide independent evaluation and to trigger the emergence of international partnerships for specified objectives. We need to fight undeserved and envious prestige in this area with well-deserved international recognition. That does not mean, in many cases, and certainly not in developing countries, the majority of the top management of these institutions. International higher education and research partnerships can help the empowerment of the best, limit the brain-drain and stimulate higher education reform. So my final question in this area is just a simple one: can UNESCO help?

(The speaker continued in French)

49.14 Un dernier mot avant de répondre à vos questions. En tant que Président, pour ce semestre, du Conseil des Ministres de l'Union européenne, responsable des politiques de recherche aussi bien que de l'enseignement supérieur et de la société de l'information, je voudrais très solennellement vous assurer de la priorité que le Conseil de l'Union européenne accorde au développement de la science et de la technologie dans le cadre de sociétés de la connaissance libres et ouvertes. Les efforts de l'UNESCO sont aussi nos efforts, à l'Union européenne. L'Europe se reconnaît dans les objectifs de l'UNESCO et veut contribuer activement à leur concrétisation. Merci.

(Applaudissements)

50. **Mme Bennani** (Maroc) (Modératrice) remercie l'orateur invité dont le très riche exposé reflète les qualités à la fois d'homme politique et d'universitaire. Les six

points qu'il vient d'évoquer rejoignent les préoccupations de l'UNESCO, que celle-ci a développées dans le chapitre 8 de la publication « Vers les sociétés du savoir ». L'UNESCO est donc d'ores et déjà dans le droit chemin, mais M. Gago a su mettre en relief les éléments auxquels elle devra prêter une attention encore accrue. Au demeurant, toutes les interventions ont pour point commun d'insister sur le rôle de l'éducation.

51. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) thanked Mr Gago for his excellent intervention. His country, too, had started using information technology rather than paper, and he wished to see that type of intelligent use of natural resources at UNESCO in the years to come. He noted that the words "South-South" and "South-North" cooperation had been used more than 18 times during the day. For world bodies such as UNESCO, as well as for the countries of the South, that was a fundamental issue. What, he asked, would be Mr Gago's basic advice to the international community, UNESCO and its Member States, on how to bring that knowledge of science to the south, and how to use it for development purposes.

52. **M. Yaï** (Bénin), rendant hommage aux qualités de chercheur et d'enseignant du Ministre portugais, souhaite établir un lien entre le sixième des points évoqués par lui et les propos de M. Borloo relatifs à la nécessité de diffuser une information du cœur et du quotidien, dont l'éducation serait le relais. Les remarques concernant l'importance des réseaux d'enseignement supérieur, en particulier pour mettre un terme à l'exode des cerveaux, s'appliquent tout particulièrement à l'Afrique. M. Yaï demande à M. Gago si, en sa qualité de Ministre de l'Union européenne, il serait prêt à appuyer l'UNESCO en vue de l'élaboration d'un plan Marshall pour la rénovation des universités africaines, assez malmenées ces dernières années.

53. **El Sr. Gamboa** (Colombia) se refiere a Internet y al hecho de que a través de la red y la transmisión de conocimientos, que guardan estrecha relación con la enseñanza y con el cambio en los modos de vida, se puede contribuir a atenuar el cambio climático. A este respecto, y teniendo en cuenta que las distintas regiones del mundo tienen problemas distintos, pregunta al Sr. Gago qué opinión le merece la idea de instituir un sistema de gobierno mundial de Internet, análogo al que se propone en relación con el cambio climático.

(53) **M. Gamboa** (Colombie) évoque l'Internet et le fait que le réseau et la transmission de connaissances, qui sont étroitement liés à l'enseignement et à l'évolution des modes de vie, offrent des moyens de contribuer à atténuer le changement climatique. À cet égard, et compte tenu de ce que les diverses régions du monde ont des problèmes distincts, il demande à M. Gago ce qu'il pense de l'idée de mettre en place une gouvernance mondiale de l'Internet, à l'image de ce qui est envisagé en ce qui concerne le changement climatique.

54.1 **M. Gago** (Ministre de la science, de la technologie et de l'enseignement supérieur, Portugal), répondant au représentant de la Colombie, dit partager la méfiance de certains à l'idée d'une gouvernance mondiale de l'Internet, car ce réseau a été précisément conçu pour être géré en toute liberté, et son développement futur nécessitera de nombreux compromis. On ne gouverne pas un réseau ouvert comme on gouverne une organisation. Pour l'instant, l'esprit ouvert dont a fait preuve la communauté scientifique et universitaire du monde entier en laissant l'Internet se développer et être

approprié par ses utilisateurs demeure intact. Le nécessaire équilibre entre les différents partenaires paraît raisonnablement assuré par l'ICANN.

54.2 Passant à la question du représentant du Bénin, l'orateur se dit favorable au renouvellement des universités africaines, mais note que celles-ci ne représentent pas seulement ceux qui les gouvernent. Elles réunissent des groupes très divers : étudiants, professeurs, qui ne sont pas tous actifs, départements, dont certains n'existent parfois que sur le papier, personnes qui utilisent l'université à des fins de pouvoir personnelles, tandis que d'autres placent en elle tous leurs espoirs... Le meilleur service que la communauté internationale puisse rendre à ces universités, c'est de ne pas cacher cette diversité et d'utiliser les systèmes d'évaluation existants pour aider les universitaires, dans chaque université, à améliorer les choses. Certes, des investissements matériels sont nécessaires, mais l'université ne peut se transformer qu'avec ceux qui croient en elle.

54.3 S'agissant de l'état de la science dans les pays moins développés dans ce domaine, la situation est complètement différente de ce qu'elle était il y a plusieurs décennies. Le nombre de personnes ayant reçu une formation supérieure et fait de la recherche est sans commune mesure avec ce qu'il était au départ. La circulation des personnes est grandement facilitée, du simple fait qu'il y a beaucoup plus de jeunes qualifiés dans un monde globalisé. À cet égard, il faut avoir davantage foi en la générosité des jeunes générations de scientifiques des pays riches, qui sont prêts à travailler sans compter et à approvisionner gratuitement en matériels et publications leurs collègues des pays pauvres. Sans cette coopération désintéressée des pays riches, de nombreux départements seraient déjà fermés.

55. **El Sr. Micheline** (Uruguay) observa que, según se ha dicho, para combatir el cambio climático y utilizar debidamente las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación se requieren cambios culturales y de hábitos de las sociedades humanas, lo que a su vez depende, al menos en parte, de que existan buenas instituciones universitarias por doquier, en particular en los países en desarrollo. En este sentido, pregunta al Sr. Gago qué se podría hacer, desde la UNESCO y desde otras instancias intergubernamentales, para combatir la concepción de los estudios universitarios como simple mercancía, idea que está reñida con la posibilidad de profundizar en los mencionados cambios culturales.

(55) **M. Micheline** (Uruguay) fait observer que comme cela a été dit, la lutte contre le changement climatique et la bonne utilisation des technologies de l'information et de la communication exigent que des changements culturels s'opèrent et que les sociétés humaines modifient leurs habitudes, ce qui suppose, notamment, qu'il existe partout, et en particulier dans les pays en développement, de bons établissements universitaires. Dans cette optique, il demande à M. Gago ce que, selon lui, on pourrait faire, à l'UNESCO et dans d'autres instances intergouvernementales, pour combattre la conception qui consiste à voir l'enseignement supérieur comme une simple marchandise, conception qui fait obstacle aux profonds changements culturels susmentionnés.

56. **Mr Kondo** (Japan) commented that research and development, particularly in the natural sciences, as well as information technology, had led to increased knowledge, but also to a flood of information becoming available, especially in the developed countries. What, he

asked, was the impact of that flood of information on higher education in Europe and North America, and what problems and solutions did Mr Gago envisage? Secondly, while on the one hand knowledge was gaining in depth, on the other, a holistic approach was necessary in order to make science useful to human beings. What kind of higher level education did Mr Gago have in mind to ensure that depth of knowledge was combined with a holistic and ethical approach, so that the products of research could be used to the full for the benefit of mankind?

57. **Ms Illnerová** (Czech Republic) referred to the statement by Mr Gago that UNESCO could play a role in science-based independent evaluation of institutions, projects and policies, and asked him to expand on the idea. Should UNESCO itself offer such evaluation, or what part should it play?

58. **Mr Gago** (Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal) commented that it was unfair to try to give a brief response to such deep and difficult questions. He was aware of the debate on education within the World Trade Organization (WTO), and of the proposition that education should be treated as a service. He disagreed with that view. There were profound reasons why education was a very different activity. As to the impact of the flood of information on higher education, the wealth of information available meant that there was a need, on the one hand, to develop new tools for data mining and the selection of information, and on the other, to create layers of referencing of institutions, sites and contents, so that Internet users could be certain their information came from reliable sources. Education in the evaluation and referencing of sources of information was crucial. However, a new trend was emerging of real, personal dialogue between those individuals seeking information and the ones who could assess it and guide them through it. Such a return to direct personal contact between persons and institutions was easier now than it had been years previously, thanks to technology. Networking between institutions at different levels, between scientists and research institutions in different countries and schools, teachers and students in others, was possible because of the Internet and the availability of information. On the question on evaluation, the experience available came from scientific organizations such as the International Council for Science (ICSU) or the European Science Foundation, and the developed countries had addressed the issue through the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Clearly, it was difficult for an intergovernmental organization to address the issue operationally, but it was, he thought, possible to address it politically, in order to create the conditions necessary for evaluation. A university might wish to evaluate one of its departments internationally: it would be easier if it could refer to a specialized international organization for help. He was looking at UNESCO simply as a platform, and not as an operator in that respect, and he felt certain that those present knew more about the subject than he did himself.

59. **La Sra. Prera Flores** (Guatemala) aclara que se dirige al Sr. Gago sobre todo en su calidad de ministro, pues su pregunta tiene una clara dimensión política. El problema del cambio climático es no sólo científico, sino también, y sobre todo, una cuestión de actitud moral para con las generaciones venideras. Hace ya muchos años que los científicos cumplieron con su trabajo, diagnosticando el problema, proponiendo soluciones y dando a conocer una verdad incómoda, sin que hasta

ahora esa verdad hubiera tenido eco suficiente y hecho mella en la conciencia popular. Pero ahora la sociedad exige responsabilidades a los únicos que las tienen: los gobernantes. Urge escuchar a los científicos y tomar medidas antes de que se alcance una situación irreversible. Por otra parte, los problemas mundiales exigen soluciones mundiales, que por su propia naturaleza entran en el ámbito de trabajo de las Naciones Unidas. En este sentido, pregunta al Sr. Gago si le parece que los programas y proyectos de carácter científico, tanto de la UNESCO como de otras instancias, pueden surtir algún efecto mientras no exista una clara voluntad política tanto de los Estados como de las Naciones Unidas.

(59) **Mme Prera Flores** (Guatemala) dit à M. Gago que sa question s'adresse principalement au Ministre, car elle a une dimension politique certaine. Le problème du changement climatique n'est pas seulement scientifique ; c'est aussi et surtout une question d'attitude morale à l'égard des générations à venir. Voilà déjà de nombreuses années que les scientifiques ont fait leur travail, en diagnostiquant le problème, en proposant des solutions et en exposant au grand jour une vérité qui dérange, sans que cette vérité n'ait, jusqu'à maintenant, trouvé dans la conscience populaire un écho suffisant pour l'ébranler. Mais aujourd'hui, la société demande des comptes aux seules personnes qui exercent des responsabilités à cet égard, à savoir les dirigeants. Il est urgent d'écouter les scientifiques et de prendre des mesures avant que l'on n'arrive à une situation irréversible. Par ailleurs, les problèmes mondiaux appellent des solutions mondiales dont la recherche, compte tenu de leur nature, s'inscrit dans le cadre de travail des Nations Unies. L'oratrice demande à M. Gago s'il pense que les programmes et les projets à caractère scientifique, aussi bien de l'UNESCO que d'autres instances, peuvent produire quelque effet quand ils ne s'accompagnent pas d'une volonté politique claire, de la part des États comme des Nations Unies.

60. **Ms Mukherjee** (India) congratulated Mr Gago on his most interesting presentation, and said that it was time for the Organization to focus on the whole issue of higher education, particularly in the African context, since the Asian experience had shown that countries like China and India, which focused on both higher and elementary education right from the earliest stages of their development, had been able to reach take-off stage. She firmly believed that Africa would benefit from investment in higher education. As to research and development, one of the main problems in developing countries, though not in India, was that funds were not committed until the researcher could prove the objective of the research. She agreed that the subject of science education for all was very important, and noted that it had been discussed by the Committee for the Overall Review of Major Programmes II (Natural sciences) and III (Human and social sciences). Finally, the Asia and the Pacific group had held a very interesting first meeting with the European Union shortly before the current Executive Board session. One of the issues discussed had been North-South-South cooperation between Asia and the European Union (EU) for Africa, especially in education and science. Since Portugal held the EU Presidency, she was taking the opportunity to seek Mr Gago's guidance and views on that most interesting initiative.

61. **Mr Rachman** (Indonesia) had a question on higher education, networking and collaboration, similar to

the one raised by Japan. Looking at the structure of higher education, did Mr Gago, he asked, consider that restructuring was needed to introduce a more holistic approach? Was it currently too compartmentalized, and what should be done to realize its diverse potential?

62.1 **Mr Gago** (Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal) began with the last point raised. He thought it would be too easy to answer yes or no, as the question required a more precise understanding of what was meant by a more holistic approach. He was very reluctant to use the word "holistic" when speaking of specialized knowledge because the whole could only really be approached by someone competent in the parts. There had been many attempts at top-down experiments that lacked expertise. On the other hand, he agreed with the current approaches to restructuring higher education, for example those in Europe, that consisted of putting different cycles in place the first of which embraced basic science and education in different fields, leaving specialization to the later cycles. That seemed to be a good way of adapting higher education institutions to meet economic, social and cultural demands.

62.2 He concurred with all the interesting remarks of the representative of India. There was indeed a need to invest in higher education, and also to invest in science and technology in earlier phases of development. He was looking forward to the summit of the European Union in India later in the year, when he hoped to have the opportunity to discuss those issues further.

62.3 The interesting problem raised by Guatemala could not really be addressed in such a brief discussion. The issue of global warming was probably not first and foremost a moral one: he always objected to viewing political problems as moral problems when they were very different in nature. In a democratic society, a moral problem was essentially an individual problem, whereas a political problem was a collective one. Transforming moral problems into political problems that could be solved politically was the whole problem of risk governance. As with many other global risks from which most of humanity suffered, the question of how to avoid the risks of global warming was one that should be addressed by risk governance policies. Those policies must naturally be based on the best scientific knowledge available, but it was absolutely clear that in democratic societies there must be a complete separation between decision-making responsibilities on the one hand, and the knowledge and science that could help support the decision-making process on the other.

63. **Ms Ali** (Pakistan) noted that the world was becoming increasingly virtual, and that the national boundaries around knowledge were being erased by technology. However, some countries had had more success than others in attracting the global scientific community. She asked Mr Gago for his assessment of the functioning of higher education networks between the North and the South, and asked what conditions could be promoted by UNESCO to encourage transfer and exchange of scientific knowledge. Given the political dimensions of the issue, she would be very interested to hear his views on science transfer between the North and the South.

64. **Mr Barbosa** (Deputy Director-General) wished to clarify, in reply to the representative of the Czech Republic, that the Organization had a very systematic process of evaluation of its operations. The process was sometimes misunderstood, outside the scientific sector,

as an investigation and not a normal development. Such misunderstanding posed a cultural problem that was steadily being resolved; the Organization's partnerships with other entities were serving to make its evaluations more external and independent.

65.1 **Г-н Анисимов** (Российская Федерация) выражает благодарность за интересный и хорошо структурированный доклад. Касаясь предложения о необходимости установления более тесной связи между высшим образованием и наукой, г-н Анисимов отмечает, что в науке следует прежде всего учитывать необходимость сохранения возможности поиска. Будучи физиком по образованию, г-н Анисимов указывает на то, что научные изыскания иногда приводят к результатам, которые не получают одобрения научного сообщества. Непосредственное перенесение этих результатов в учебную сферу способно принести вред, особенно для таких наук, как медицина.

65.2 Г-н Анисимов не сомневается, что современные науки найдут в конце концов отражение в учебном процессе. Остается, однако, вопрос о таких нетрадиционных формах науки, как нетрадиционная медицина, хилеры, восточная медицина. Их поддерживают только отдельные лица. Очень важно сохранить знания, накопленные человечеством. Г-н Анисимов приводит пример о том, как НАСА занималось конструированием шариковой ручки для использования в космосе до тех пор, пока не заметило, что русские используют для этой цели карандаш. Таким образом, забытые знания позволяют сберечь средства и ресурсы.

(65.1) **M. Anisimov** (Fédération de Russie) remercie l'orateur pour son exposé intéressant et bien structuré. En ce qui concerne l'idée de la nécessité d'établir des liens plus étroits entre éducation et science, M. Anisimov note qu'en science il convient de considérer avant tout la nécessité de préserver la possibilité de faire de la recherche. Lui-même physicien de formation, il relève que des recherches scientifiques aboutissent parfois à des résultats auxquels la communauté scientifique n'adhère pas. Il peut être nuisible d'incorporer immédiatement ces résultats dans l'enseignement, en particulier dans des disciplines comme la médecine.

(65.2) M. Anisimov ne doute pas que la science contemporaine finira par trouver sa place dans le processus éducatif. La question ne s'en pose toutefois pas moins des formes non traditionnelles de sciences comme la médecine alternative, les pratiques des guérisseurs, la médecine orientale, qui ne sont soutenues que par quelques-uns. Il est très important de conserver les savoirs accumulés par l'humanité. On citera à cet égard l'exemple de la NASA, qui cherchait à mettre au point des stylos à bille utilisables dans l'espace jusqu'à ce qu'elle s'avise que les Russes se servaient de crayons. C'est ainsi que des connaissances oubliées permettent d'économiser les moyens et les ressources.

66.1 **M. Gago** (Ministre de la science, de la technologie et de l'enseignement supérieur, Portugal), faisant écho aux remarques de M. Barbosa, se dit d'avis qu'il est très utile pour le développement de bon nombre de pays de recourir à des instances indépendantes, capables de les aider en matière d'évaluation. Chacun sait combien il est difficile, en période de développement culturel, scientifique et éducatif, de se convaincre du

caractère indépendant des évaluations, surtout quand celles-ci sont importantes.

66.2 Continuing in English, in reply to the representative of Pakistan, he indicated that he was not in a position to offer a comprehensive assessment of collaboration between the North and the South in the field of higher education. He had been personally involved in some such collaborations between institutions, which had worked extremely well. The framework provided by international scientific collaborations was of great benefit in that it allowed scientists from different parts of the world to discuss specific matters, and not generalities, with one another on an equal basis.

66.3 Replying to the representative of the Russian Federation, he agreed that the use of recent scientific research was not important to the early stages of higher education, although it was at, for example, the doctoral level. Only after decades as a researcher had he himself felt able to teach physics at an elementary level, and that had not involved his latest research. He also noted that knowledge that had been passed down by tradition could be harmful or beneficial, but should, like modern knowledge, always be the object of scientific study, and should not be celebrated simply because it was traditional. That was the spirit of science and of knowledge itself.

67.1 **Mme Bennani** (Maroc) (Modératrice) remercie et félicite M. Gago, qui a montré sa parfaite connaissance des questions abordées, et dont la clarté, la franchise et la foi en l'être humain méritent d'être saluées. Étant elle-même une universitaire, elle a particulièrement apprécié ses propos pertinents sur l'enseignement supérieur dans les pays en développement, où l'importance croissante des établissements privés devient préoccupante et doit être en effet encadrée. Les idées très pertinentes exposées par M. Gago ont été d'une grande utilité aux membres du Conseil.

(Applaudissements)

68. **The Chairperson** thanked the speakers for ensuring the interesting and dynamic nature of the first two parts of the thematic debate. He said that the Secretariat would make available the speeches and presentations made, along with a summary record of the debate.

69.1 **M. Moscato** (Italie), après avoir remercié les trois orateurs invités, souhaite revenir sur le changement climatique et son corollaire, le développement durable, dont il cite la définition figurant dans le rapport Brundtland de 1987: « Le développement durable est un développement qui répond aux besoins du présent sans compromettre la capacité des générations futures de répondre aux leurs ». La Commission Brundtland proposait un équilibre entre trois piliers: économie, équité et écologie. Or, l'apport de l'UNESCO au développement durable est fondamental puisqu'il en élargit la base en reconnaissant que la diversité culturelle est aussi nécessaire pour l'humanité que la biodiversité pour la nature. Il existe donc un quatrième pilier, que concrétise la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles. Comme l'a rappelé la représentante du Guatemala, plusieurs cultures et civilisations anciennes ont compris depuis fort longtemps la nécessité de préserver l'harmonie entre environnement, société et économie.

69.2 Au cours d'une réunion récente à New York, le Président du Conseil italien a évoqué la nécessité d'une nouvelle alliance avec la nature. Le rôle central des

Nations Unies en matière de changement climatique et de protection de la nature a été à cette occasion reconnu ; en effet, les problèmes planétaires appellent des réponses planétaires. Il faudra donc continuer de s'interroger sur ce que peut être l'apport de l'UNESCO en tenant compte des résultats de la prochaine réunion sur le climat qui se tiendra à Bali. M. Moscato aurait souhaité connaître le point de vue de M. Pachauri à ce sujet.

70. **Mr Engelken** (United States of America) recalled that on the issue of how UNESCO could best contribute to the United Nations system's efforts to address the challenge of climate change, several speakers had commented upon UNESCO's excellent work over many years through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), natural hazard mitigation, and addressing the impact of climate change on World Heritage sites. The United States agreed that there were crucial elements of the global response to climate change, which should be supported, continued and highlighted. The United States was further of the view that UNESCO should not seek new mandates with regard to the issue of climate change.

71. **La Sra. López** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela) dice que no se necesitan más resoluciones ni instituciones, sino más bien la voluntad de aprovechar los recursos que ya existen. Por un lado, hay que aplicar los instrumentos de vigilancia mundial del medio ambiente, favorecer el conocimiento local y crear condiciones propicias para su aplicación. Al mismo tiempo, conviene recordar la propuesta formulada por las Naciones Unidas en enero de 2005 de establecer un sistema mundial de alerta contra toda clase de peligros naturales, tener en cuenta las asociaciones propuestas en la Cumbre Mundial sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible de Johannesburgo y convertir las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación en un instrumento accesible al público. Por último, hay que recordar sus obligaciones a todas las instituciones. La República Bolivariana de Venezuela cree en la creación de un auténtico espacio público de información como garante de la seguridad de las generaciones presentes y venideras, y en el uso público y masivo de las tecnologías de la comunicación para vehicular mensajes de concientización sobre los problemas ambientales.

(71) **Mme López** (République bolivarienne de Venezuela) déclare que ce ne sont pas de nouvelles résolutions ou institutions dont il est besoin aujourd'hui, mais plutôt de la volonté de mettre à profit les ressources qui existent déjà. D'une part, il convient d'appliquer les instruments de surveillance mondiale de l'environnement, de favoriser la diffusion des connaissances à l'échelon local et de créer des conditions propres à en faciliter l'application. Dans le même temps, il faut se souvenir de la proposition formulée par les Nations Unies en janvier 2005 qui tendait à créer un système mondial d'alerte pour tous les risques naturels, tenir compte des alliances proposées au Sommet mondial pour le développement durable, tenu à Johannesburg, et rendre les technologies de l'information et de la communication accessibles aux populations. Enfin, il y a lieu de rappeler leurs obligations à toutes les institutions. La République bolivarienne de Venezuela croit en la création d'un espace public d'information digne de ce nom qui permette de garantir la sécurité des générations présentes et à venir de même qu'en l'utilisation massive des technologies de la communication par les pouvoirs publics pour véhiculer

des messages de sensibilisation aux problèmes touchant l'environnement.

72. **Mr Walden** (Canada) commented, in response to Mr Touré's remark that the majority of broadband users were in the developed world, that the majority of such users were young people who were not always interested in the issues, such as governance, health, the environment, education and social protection, that Mr Touré had outlined. The most popular websites were YouTube and Facebook, and it was questionable whether such sites were contributing to the kind of knowledge society being discussed at the present session. Given such problems, he asked how issues such as climate change could best be addressed, and remarked that it was important to keep in mind the kind of knowledge society that expanded connectivity was intended to create.

73. **The Chairperson** invited the representatives to show their appreciation for the attendance of Minister Gago, who was departing.

(Applause)

74.1 **Mr Touré** (Secretary-General of ITU) said that he believed that there should be no new resolutions. It was always easier to ask for a new resolution than to take on the challenge of effective action. It was important that the communications gap not only in mobile phone use, but also in broadband use be closed, which was why efforts were being made, together with regulatory authorities from all over the world, to determine how the same phenomenal growth experienced in mobile phone use in the developing world could be achieved with respect to broadband. Since his arrival at ITU in 1999, he had established a regulators' forum, which provided a great opportunity for all sides to learn from one another, since issues such as the Voice over Internet Protocol, interconnectivity and Internet introduction were so new to all concerned that developed countries could often learn a great deal from the innovative solutions of developing countries.

74.2 In response to the representative of Canada, he agreed that the majority of broadband users were young people from the developed world, but he believed that young people could be trusted. ITU Telecom events each included a Youth Forum, to which one boy and one girl from every country were invited, and their contributions to the debate had often been remarkable. Through the ITU Youth Forums, young people had taken many steps to organize themselves into global networks to exchange ideas with one another, preparing themselves to become real leaders; such efforts should be supported by giving young people the tools they needed.

75. **Mr Kusi-Achampong** (Ghana) said that creating a knowledge society required the use of information and people, and that such a society could be viewed as a modern way of disseminating information to improve quality of life. A knowledge society relied on the Internet, but in many developing countries even a newspaper could be considered a luxury item. Given that, and given the threat of climate change, he wondered what the prime challenges were on which the United Nations and UNESCO needed to focus.

76.1 **M. Iten** (Suisse), prenant note des commentaires des trois orateurs invités sur le rôle de l'UNESCO face aux défis du changement climatique et des sociétés du savoir, souhaite situer ce rôle dans le contexte de la réforme des Nations Unies, et exposer brièvement le point

de vue de la Suisse sur ce que cette réforme devrait être et ce qu'elle ne devrait pas être.

76.2 La réforme de l'ONU devrait permettre de définir des priorités collectives et de procéder à une répartition claire des tâches entre les organismes des Nations Unies, et non pas d'étendre le portefeuille d'activités ou de laisser proliférer les mandats. Elle devrait servir à améliorer la pertinence et l'efficacité du système au niveau des pays afin que ces derniers soient en mesure de répondre à leurs priorités nationales en matière de développement, et non pas à assurer à tout prix une présence locale qui renforcerait l'appareil administratif, ni à accentuer la concurrence autour des ressources financières disponibles. Elle devrait être l'occasion de réorienter les modes d'intervention en explorant des voies nouvelles et de privilégier les changements institutionnels de fond et non des changements de pure forme.

76.3 Revenant sur deux notions qui figurent dans la documentation, à savoir l'intégration et la diversité, l'orateur observe qu'en ce qui concerne l'engagement spécifique d'institutions spécialisées comme l'UNESCO, les discours entretiennent une certaine confusion entre intégration et concentration. Pour la Suisse, l'avantage comparatif du système opérationnel de l'ONU réside dans le renforcement des capacités et les conseils de nature politique. La responsabilité des institutions spécialisées en la matière est de même nature que celle des fonds et programmes des Nations Unies. Le rôle essentiel de l'UNESCO sur le terrain consiste dès lors à aider le gouvernement concerné à adapter les normes et les règles internationales à la situation locale et à se doter des moyens requis pour les appliquer. L'Organisation n'a pas pour mission de s'engager dans la mise en œuvre des projets. Les mêmes principes devraient régir l'action de l'UNESCO dans les domaines du changement climatique et des sociétés du savoir.

77. **Mr Boksenberg** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom was pleased to see the surge of interest in and commitment to the issue of climate change voiced by the Director-General. He noted that the issue of pollution would not simply go away since, for example, a molecule of carbon dioxide remained in the atmosphere with a half-life of 100 years. When considering UNESCO's role in efforts to address climate change, it should be recognized that UNESCO could itself have mobilized the global scientific expertise that was the foundation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It could also have been the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) or the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which publicized the most influential scientific evidence relating to the future of the planet. The issue had been one of brokering, effort and partnership rather than one of funding. UNESCO could still make an important contribution through its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), which, if productively coordinated by UNESCO, could be extremely important contributors to targeted research and critical analysis leading to optimized action. UNESCO also had access to the expertise base provided by its various institutes and centres, the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, its international or intergovernmental scientific programmes (ISPs), and its National Commissions. UNESCO's limited internal resources could mobilize its unique external resources in order to become a unique contributor in the complex matter of climate change, by coordinating its ISPs to increase capacity-building for research and

monitoring, by extending full inclusion to the social sciences, and by encouraging UNESCO's promotion of laboratory ideas to pave the way to true analysis and innovation leading to policy recommendations.

78. **El Sr. Miranda Ortiz** (México) dice que la UNESCO debe ayudar a encontrar fórmulas para compartir contenidos educativos, no recurriendo a consultores que los elaboren sino haciendo lo necesario para que los propios Estados Miembros formulen propuestas basadas en su experiencia. Todo el bagaje acumulado por la Organización podría servir para determinar qué países cuentan con contenidos educativos que otros Estados puedan aprovechar mediante las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación. México espera que el trabajo pluridisciplinario de los sectores de la Organización se traduzca en propuestas que los países que más lo necesitan puedan utilizar para afrontar el problema del cambio climático. Se ha insistido reiteradamente en la necesidad de trabajar en la creación de redes, y éste es otro ámbito en el que la contribución de la UNESCO puede ser decisiva, tanto más cuanto que el uso de las nuevas tecnologías hace muchas veces innecesarios los viajes, y reduce con ello las emisiones de dióxido de carbono.

(78) **M. Miranda Ortiz** (Mexique) dit que l'UNESCO doit aider à identifier des mécanismes permettant de partager les contenus éducatifs sans recourir à des consultants mais en faisant le nécessaire pour que les États membres formulent eux-mêmes des propositions à cet effet sur la base de leur expérience. S'appuyant sur les connaissances accumulées par elle, l'Organisation pourrait déterminer quels sont les pays possédant des contenus éducatifs dont d'autres États pourraient tirer profit par le biais des technologies de l'information et de la communication. Le Mexique espère que les activités pluridisciplinaires des secteurs de l'Organisation déboucheront sur des propositions dont les pays qui en ont le plus besoin pourront s'inspirer pour faire face au problème du changement climatique. La nécessité d'œuvrer à la création de réseaux a été soulignée à maintes reprises, et il s'agit là d'un autre domaine dans lequel la contribution de l'UNESCO peut se révéler essentielle, d'autant plus que le recours aux nouvelles technologies rend souvent les déplacements inutiles, et permet donc de réduire les émissions de dioxyde de carbone.

79. **Mr Wole** (Ethiopia) asked, in the context of the discussion of science education as it related to higher education, how universities might best go about encouraging the development of a scientific culture among the general community in developing countries, in order to advance the appreciation of problems such as climate change and encourage types of behaviour which would reduce such risks.

80.1 **Mr Touré** (Secretary-General of ITU) said, in response to the representative of Ghana's question regarding the challenges faced by the United Nations, that he believed that there were three areas – cyber-security, education, and global policy and regulatory issues – which needed to be addressed by national governments with the assistance of the United Nations. All other issues in the field of information and communication technology could be addressed by the private sector. There was a similar issue in relation to capacity-building. Companies were increasingly loath, for example, to invest in training staff, as their competitors would attract their best staff away. Governments needed to take such factors into account

and should be responsible for assessing, in conjunction with the United Nations system, what the requirements of the private sector would be in five or ten years' time.

80.2 Cyberspace presented a particular problem of definition. One country's cybercrime might not be a crime at all in another country. The best way to approach cybersecurity was to address the issues on which there was universal agreement, such as computer viruses and child pornography. Then the organizational structure created to tackle those problems could subsequently be applied to any other field as might be agreed. Such an approach allowed immediate action to be taken, which was vital.

80.3 Poursuivant en français, M. Touré dit qu'il souscrit aux propos de la Suisse sur l'intégration, la concentration et le renforcement des capacités, mais il tient néanmoins à préciser qu'il n'est pas favorable à un désengagement de l'UNESCO, et des organisations des Nations Unies en général, au stade de la mise en œuvre des projets. En effet, c'est désormais le secteur privé qui, dans bien des cas, prend le relais. Or, les gouvernements qui demandent, par exemple, à l'UIT de les aider dans

l'exécution de tel ou tel projet le font parce qu'ils savent que, dès lors que l'Union est engagée dans le processus, le projet aboutira quoi qu'il arrive et quels que soient les éventuels changements politiques ultérieurs. L'intervention de l'UIT incite aussi les fournisseurs à respecter leurs engagements et à offrir des conditions plus avantageuses, car elle est une garantie contre toute éventuelle tentative de corruption.

81. **The Chairperson** commended the enlightening, dynamic and interactive nature of the thematic debate, which would be a great contribution to UNESCO's intellectual debate and the debate on reform of the United Nations system. He thanked the speakers and moderators for their engaging contributions.

82. **M. Touré** (Secrétaire général de l'UIT) remercie le Président de l'avoir invité à ce débat pendant lequel il a été frappé par la grande qualité des interventions, et réaffirme que l'UIT est et sera toujours prête à travailler en étroite collaboration avec l'UNESCO.

La séance est levée à 19 h 35.

QUATRIÈME SÉANCE

Mercredi 3 octobre 2007 à 9 h 40

Président: M. Zhang
puis : M. Chaisang (Thaïlande)
puis : M. Mbouï (Cameroun)

EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAMME (continued)

Item 4: Report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference (continued) (177 EX/4 Parts I and II and Corr.; 177 EX/INF.7; 177 EX/INF.10; 177 EX/INF.12; 177 EX/INF.13; 177 EX/INF.15)

Item 5: Report by the Director-General on the follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions (continued) (177 EX/5 and Add.; 177 EX/INF.12; 177 EX/INF.13)

Item 6: Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the reform process (continued) (177 EX/6 Parts I and II; 177 EX/INF.12; 177 EX/INF.13)

DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2008-2009 (34 C/5) (continued)

Item 25: Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5) and recommendations of the Executive Board (continued) (34 C/5 2nd version Vols 1 and 2 and Corr.-Corr.2; 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 and Add.; 177 EX/INF.12; 177 EX/INF.13; 177 EX/INF.18)

١,١ السيدة بناني (المغرب) النص الكامل :

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيد المدير العام، السيدات والسادة أعضاء المجلس، أسعدتم صباحاً. يطيب لي في البداية أن أشكر السيد المدير العام على عرضه القيم والغني، وأن أهنيئ السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي على حرصه الدائم على توفير كل الوسائل لضمان نجاح اجتماعات مجلسنا.

١,٢ أود أن أقف أولاً عند التقرير الخاص ببناء القدرات في أفريقيا (١٧٧م/ت/٧) للتأكيد على هذه المسألة الأساسية لتحقيق نتائج ملموسة في ميدان التربية بإفريقيا وبالأخص في هذه الفترة الحاسمة من تطور برنامج التعليم للجميع. فعلاً إن موعد داكار+٧ على الأبواب والتقارير المرحلية تبين أن تحقيق الأهداف المسطرة يبقى دون المستوى المنشود ويمكن أن يكون اجتماع داكار مناسبة للتباحث حول معرفة ما إذا كانت الأهداف حقيقة ممكنة الإنجاز.

١,٣ وبالنسبة لعقد الأمم المتحدة لمحو الأمية (٢٠٠٣-٢٠١٢) (١٧٧م/ت/٨)، لقد استفاد المغرب من برنامج تقييم ورصد أنشطة محو الأمية (LAMP) لإنجاز برنامج قياس وتتبع المستويات القرائية الذي يهدف إلى تطوير منهجيات جديدة لقياس مستويات التعلم لدى الكبار. ومن جهة أخرى، ويتمويل من حكومات الدنمارك وفنلندا والنرويج، مشكورة، تم تنفيذ مشروع مشترك في إطار مبادرة محو الأمية لتعزيز القدرات (LIFE) أطلق عليه اسم "محو الأمية من أجل استقلالية النساء: تعزيز القدرات الوطنية لتنمية مستدامة". إن سلسلة الاجتماعات الإقليمية المنظمة في سياق مؤتمر البيت الأبيض حول محو الأمية على الصعيد العالمي قد مكنت من التعرف بقدر أكبر على الاحتياجات الخاصة لكل منطقة مما يفتح آفاقاً جديدة واعدة، كما أبرز ذلك مؤتمر الدوحة بالنسبة للمنطقة العربية.

١,٤ وفيما يخص التعاون فيما بين بلدان الجنوب (١٧٧م/ت/٥) الذي يعتبره المغرب من بين المحاور الأولية ضمن سياسته الخارجية،

فإن بلدي قد ساهم بـ ١٠ ٠٠٠ دولار في الصندوق الذي أنشئ لدعم هذا التعاون في ميدان التربية.

١,٥ وقبل أن أنتقل إلى محور آخر، أود أن أهنيئ السيد نيكولاس بيرنيت (Nicolas Burnett) على تعيينه على رأس قطاع التربية. إن خبرته العالية تؤهله بدون شك لشغل هذا المنصب.

(1.1) **Ms Bennani (Morocco) in extenso**
(translation from the Arabic):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, Members of the Board, good morning. At the outset, it is my pleasure to thank the Director-General for his rich and valuable presentation, and to congratulate the Chairperson of the Executive Board for his unceasing endeavour to provide all the prerequisites for the success of our Board meetings.

(1.2) I should firstly like to refer to the report on capacity-building in Africa (177 EX/7) to underscore this fundamental issue for the achievement of tangible results in the area of education in Africa, particularly at this decisive period in the development of the education for all (EFA) programme. In fact, the imminent Dakar+7 deadline and interim reports show that achievement of the EFA goals remains below the desired level. The Dakar meeting may provide an opportunity to discuss whether or not the goals can actually be achieved.

(1.3) In relation to the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) (177 EX/8), Morocco has made use of the Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP) to implement a programme to measure and monitor levels of literacy which is aimed at developing new methods for measuring adult education levels. On another front, and with funding gratefully received from the Governments of Denmark, Finland and Norway, a joint project entitled "Eradicating illiteracy for the independence of women: National capacity-building for sustainable development" has been implemented under the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE). The series of regional meetings organized within the framework of the White House Conference on Global Literacy has made possible a greater degree of awareness of each region's special needs, thereby opening up promising new horizons. The Doha conference highlighted this with respect to the Arab region.

(1.4) Regarding South-South cooperation (177 EX/5), which Morocco considers to be one of the primary axes of its foreign policy, my country has contributed \$10,000 to the fund set up to boost such cooperation in the field of education.

(1.5) Before moving on to another theme, I should like to congratulate Mr Nicholas Burnett on his appointment at the head of the Education Sector. His outstanding experience certainly qualifies him to occupy this position.

(The speaker continued in French)

1.6 Quant au grand programme III, il est le grand absent de l'ordre du jour de la présente session. Deux actions menées par le Secteur, pour le moins, méritaient d'être mentionnées. La première est la huitième session du Conseil intergouvernemental du programme MOST, qui s'est penchée sur la nécessité de renforcer les liens entre recherche en sciences sociales et élaboration des politiques dans le domaine du développement humain, enjeu vital pour les pays en développement. La

participation était hélas déséquilibrée, alors que la rencontre visait, entre autres, la diffusion de bonnes pratiques et le renforcement de capacités, une voie à privilégier comme le souligne la Déclaration de Marrakech de mai 2007.

1.7 La deuxième action pour laquelle le Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines mérite de vives félicitations est l'étude sur l'enseignement de la philosophie dans le monde, réalisée à la demande des États membres et publiée la semaine dernière, qui sera une précieuse référence pour tous ceux qui considèrent cette discipline comme un moyen de donner aux apprenants des clés pour comprendre le monde et comme une école de la liberté et de la démocratie.

1.8 Les réalisations relatives à la protection du patrimoine nous satisfont, et nous espérons que l'application des recommandations formulées à l'issue de l'audit permettra au Centre du patrimoine mondial d'améliorer son fonctionnement. Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel, la session de Tokyo a marqué de grandes avancées, ce dont nous nous félicitons.

1.9 Monsieur le Directeur général, notre réunion plénière spéciale d'avril et la session du Comité du patrimoine mondial tenue à Christchurch, caractérisées toutes deux par leur esprit constructif et la volonté d'exploiter au maximum les vertus du dialogue, ont marqué un tournant important dans le traitement du dossier de la Vieille Ville de Jérusalem. Nous espérons vivement poursuivre dans cette même voie lors de la présente session afin de recueillir les fruits des importantes décisions déjà adoptées.

1.10 Enfin, ma délégation voudrait vous féliciter pour la poursuite de l'action en faveur de Jérusalem, de l'Iraq, du Liban, des territoires arabes occupés et de l'Afghanistan.

(L'oratrice poursuit en espagnol)

1.11 En cuanto a la labor del grupo de redacción del C/5, no fue nada fácil, debido a unas incógnitas importantes relativas al presupuesto y a los programas II y III; pero, gracias a la buena voluntad de todos y a la maestría de nuestros copresidentes, hemos logrado cumplir con nuestra misión.

1.12 La versión del C/5 finalmente propuesta asciende a 631 millones de dólares. Los cortes a que ello induce a nivel de los programas no permitirán a la UNESCO responder de forma satisfactoria a las expectativas de los países en desarrollo, que serán al fin y al cabo los grandes perjudicados. Por este motivo, nos resulta violento resignarnos a esta situación.

1.13 La intersectorialidad constituye el enfoque básico y novedoso del actual C/5. Es un hecho muy positivo, pero aún subsisten muchas interrogantes acerca de sus modalidades de aplicación, y esperamos tener pronto información al respecto,

1.14 Por último, es de señalar que la nueva versión del C/5 está mejor relacionada con el proyecto de Estrategia a Plazo Medio, el número de actividades del programa es más reducido y las prioridades están debidamente señaladas, a saber, básicamente África y la igualdad entre los sexos. El conjunto resulta más conciso y está mejor articulado.

1.15 Señor Director General, hemos tomado nota con mucha satisfacción de que prosigue la reforma interna y

de las informaciones acerca de la participación activa de la UNESCO en el proceso de reforma del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Esta es, por supuesto, sumamente necesaria; en este marco, sin embargo, es importante velar por la preservación del carácter específico de la UNESCO y de sus ventajas comparativas.

1.16 La Alianza de Civilizaciones, que en palabras del señor Ban Ki-Moon "puede contribuir a reforzar el trabajo del sistema de las Naciones Unidas en su conjunto", entra en enero próximo en una nueva etapa con el primer foro que se celebrará en Madrid bajo la Presidencia del Sr. Jorge Sampaio. Este acto constituirá una excelente oportunidad para que nuestra Organización, como socio privilegiado, afirme su voluntad de poner su pericia al servicio de esta empresa colectiva en sus ámbitos de competencia, y sembrar en las mentes la simiente del diálogo, el respeto a la diferencia, la educación para la democracia, la ciudadanía y la paz. Con este fin, es importante preparar para ese encuentro un plan de acción concreto y novedoso.

(1.11) The work of the Drafting Group on document 34 C/5 was not an easy task, owing to significant uncertainties regarding the budget and Major Programmes II and III. Nevertheless, we were able to accomplish our mission thanks to the willingness of all parties and the skill of our co-Chairpersons.

(1.12) The version of the C/5 document finally proposed is based on a \$631 million scenario. The resulting programme cuts will not enable UNESCO to meet satisfactorily the needs of the developing countries – which will ultimately be the worst affected. For this reason, it is with reluctance that we resign ourselves to this situation.

(1.13) Intersectorality constitutes the basic, innovative focus of the current draft C/5 document. This is a positive development, although many questions still remain concerning the methods for its implementation, and we hope to receive information in that regard soon.

(1.14) Lastly, it should be mentioned that the new version of the draft C/5 document is more in line with the Draft Medium-Term Strategy, the number of programme activities is decreased, and priorities are outlined clearly, that is to say, Africa and gender equality. It is generally more concise and better organized.

(1.15) Mr Director-General, we have noted with great satisfaction the continuation of internal reform and the information regarding the active participation of UNESCO in the reform process of the United Nations system. While this is of course absolutely necessary, it is important in this context, however, to preserve UNESCO's specific character and comparative advantages.

(1.16) The Alliance of Civilizations which, in the words of Mr Ban Ki-moon, "can help reinforce the work of the United Nations system as a whole", will enter a new phase next January with the first forum, to be held in Madrid under the chairmanship of Mr Jorge Sampaio. This will provide an excellent opportunity for our Organization, as a special partner, to reaffirm its desire to place knowledge in its fields of competence at the service of this collective endeavour, and thus foster a spirit of dialogue, respect for difference, education for democracy, citizenship and peace. To this end, it is important to

draw up a practical and innovative plan of action for the meeting.

(The speaker continued in English)

1.17 Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, this Board session is the last under your chairmanship. We will have, as usual, an opportunity to pay a deserved tribute to you by the end of your term of office, in the framework of a special meeting. Nevertheless, I could not end my statement without reiterating my congratulations for the excellent task achieved and for the efforts deployed, seeking permanently to achieve consensus and preserve the unity of our Board in its diversity. *Xiexie*.

2.1 **Ms Ali** (Pakistan) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, friends and colleagues, as I sit here listening to the considered and passionate speeches of my colleagues, I am reminded of Margaret Mead's famous words: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has". At UNESCO, this commitment of Member States is evident from the priority accorded to education for all (EFA), equal opportunities for all, respect for intellectual freedom, innovation, cultural diversity, protection of our environment, managing climate change, pushing back the frontiers of science, and modifying UNESCO's institutional structures and processes to effectively respond to the aspirations of all people.

2.2 Pakistan today is caught in the vortex of multiple political, ethnic and religious tensions which threaten to tear apart the social and economic fabric of our society. We are battling with the forces of ignorance, deprivation and terrorism, which have impacted our youth, children, men and women alike. In these times, UNESCO and its areas of competence, particularly education, are more relevant than ever before. As H.G. Wells aptly stated: "History is a race between education and catastrophe". We must not and cannot lose this race. The people of Pakistan seek a future of security, stability, peace and dignity.

2.3. Pakistan is acutely conscious of the obscurantism in our society which specifically targets women. We see the primitive, brutal practice of honour killings as an abhorrent form of violence against women. In a serious effort to counter such crimes, my government has recently fortified legislation against honour killings. Education sector reforms have led to a series of textbook revisions to remove gender stereotypes, but a great deal more needs to be done. In this era of globalization and interconnectivity, a fair, free and balanced media can play a vital role in mobilizing public opinion against social evils. In this context, we also see UNESCO's intersectorality as a comparative advantage for advocacy and awareness-raising.

2.4 We believe education is sustainable development, and see it as the cornerstone strategy for peace and building knowledge societies. The challenge before us is how to transform education so that it can itself become more transformative. The conditions of complexity, uncertainty, inequity and interdependence require a different sort of education. Pakistan's aspirations for sustainability include recognition of the efficacy of regional cooperation; this is where UNESCO's role is pivotal.

2.5 We welcome UNESCO's active emphasis on Partnerships for Education in the context of the South-South cooperation programme and North-South-South triangular cooperation, an initiative of the Group of 77 and China. We are also encouraged by the keen interest expressed by the North in fostering triangular modalities

for this cooperation. In fact, Pakistan looks forward to sharing its experience in developing partnerships between business, communities and government at the ministerial round table to be held during the General Conference.

2.6 In the run-up to Dakar, we note that the pace of implementation has been slow, and renewed commitment and vigour are needed to achieve EFA by 2015. It is critically important to reinforce these efforts with sufficient funds, at the domestic and international levels. In spite of generous pledges, the provision of adequate funds remains a cause of concern. UNESCO must play a more proactive role in mobilizing the international community in support of EFA.

2.7 Mr Chairperson, we broadly support the recommendations of the Overall Review Committee for Major Programmes II and III for a new strategy for the sector, with priority being given to transparent selection and evaluation of programmes, science education for sustainable development, and UNESCO's leadership role through new global initiatives. Their successful implementation depends on developing synergies among the intergovernmental scientific programmes and the two science sectors and their interface in the policy dialogue. The proposal for the creation of an external advisory committee requires more consideration and analysis.

2.8 Pakistan is against any cuts in the programme allocations for intergovernmental scientific programmes in comparison to the level of allocations in document 33 C/5. The good work being done by intergovernmental bodies like the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, which bring visibility to the Organization, should not be affected by budget reductions. I would like to mention in particular the solid work of IOC on the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, which is making a difference in mitigating the effects of natural hazards.

2.9 Pakistan believes that Africa merits topmost priority, and that UNESCO's initiatives for Africa should focus on areas where it has a comparative advantage. We support the Organization's participation in the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, and consider it imperative that adequate funding be made available for Africa throughout the three biennia covered by the Medium-Term Strategy.

2.10 We recognize the important work done by the Drafting Group on item 25 under the co-chairmanship of India and Nigeria in developing a consensus draft document. Pakistan supports the proposed budget ceiling of \$631 million, with a very clear understanding that the increase over the last biennium's budget will be utilized for programmes and the two priorities: Africa and gender parity.

2.11 Interstate mobility and migration is an integral part of globalization. We hold the firm conviction that the educational needs of immigrants should be provided for and their cultural identities respected. We request the Director-General to develop a strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance within its areas of competence.

2.12 Depletion of freshwater resources and climatic change impacts most adversely on the lives of the vulnerable – women in particular. We cannot ignore the urgency to address climate change. As Dr Pachauri stated yesterday, we have common and differentiated responsibilities. Those who have been historically responsible need to do more. Highly industrialized

countries, therefore, must go beyond symbolism to substantive action.

2.13 The Report of the High-Level Panel on United Nations System-Wide Coherence makes a case for restructuring. Pakistan deeply appreciates the Director-General's engagement with the United Nations reforms, especially with respect to the different modalities for "Delivering as One" at country level.

2.14 Finally, Mr Chairperson, as the universe unfolds and challenges human ingenuity, we must recommit ourselves to the promise that every child, no less than the trees and stars, has a right to be here and to inherit a world free from ignorance, prejudice and intolerance. This may sound idealistic, but UNESCO is all about dreams and their realization. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

3.1 **M. Iten** (Suisse) *in extenso* :

En premier lieu, je me dois de réitérer les regrets de la Suisse concernant le prochain C/4. Son élaboration aurait dû être l'occasion de clarifier les priorités de l'Organisation et de mieux mettre en valeur ses compétences. Notre vision était celle d'un document plus concis, plus lisible et mieux ciblé qui permette à l'UNESCO de relever le triple défi que constitue le travail de mise en œuvre des instruments normatifs déjà adoptés, les initiatives mondiales et l'application du principe de l'« unité d'action » des Nations Unies au niveau opérationnel.

3.2 Nous restons néanmoins confiants. L'adoption d'une stratégie à moyen terme « ajustable » représente un pas dans la bonne direction. Il est évident qu'un recentrage du C/4 sera nécessaire pour assurer l'impact qualitatif de l'action de l'UNESCO. Pour la Suisse, le processus de réforme des Nations Unies doit guider ce recentrage. Nous sommes comme vous d'avis, Monsieur le Directeur général, que « votre » réforme, élargie par les mesures prises en matière de gestion axée sur les résultats et d'alignement des ressources extrabudgétaires, est en concordance avec les efforts de cohérence entrepris au niveau des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies. Les autorités de mon pays soutiennent vos efforts pour dynamiser encore vos actions.

3.3 À notre sens toutefois, les mesures engagées par l'UNESCO ne doivent pas avoir pour but d'étendre son intervention sur le terrain, mais plutôt d'en renforcer la pertinence. Elles doivent lui permettre de participer à « l'effort onusien » au niveau des pays par l'apport d'une expertise ciblée sur les priorités nationales. C'est pourquoi la Suisse encourage l'UNESCO à poursuivre le renforcement de la capacité d'expertise du réseau décentralisé et à régler les questions de délégation d'autorité et de fonction des bureaux hors Siège. Les pistes proposées par l'Équipe spéciale d'examen de la décentralisation vont dans la bonne direction. Nous proposons que le Conseil soit saisi d'un rapport intérimaire au printemps prochain, et qu'il continue de même à être informé sur la participation de l'UNESCO au processus de réforme des Nations Unies. Il est à notre sens important pour l'évaluation des résultats du C/4 et du C/5 que certains rapports fassent l'objet d'un suivi continu par les organes directeurs.

3.4 Malgré son caractère encore trop lacunaire en terme d'impact, le rapport d'exécution du présent exercice biennal laisse entrevoir que des progrès sensibles se dessinent dans la mise en œuvre du programme actuel. À titre d'exemple, je citerai ceux du Secteur de l'éducation, là où celui-ci est parvenu à consolider son rôle aussi bien

au niveau institutionnel que sur le terrain. Nous comptons que la mise en œuvre du futur C/5 préservera de tels acquis - et je me permets de mentionner ici l'heureuse désignation des deux Instituts de Hambourg et de Genève comme pôles d'excellence, dont nous nous réjouissons. Cependant les équilibres sont encore fragiles, et bien que le Projet de programme fasse apparaître des évolutions positives - je pense ici à la définition de résultats escomptés ou à la nouvelle structure intersectorielle, son contenu sur le plan programmatique est encore trop fragmenté et diffus.

3.5 L'exercice accompli et qui doit être poursuivi dans le domaine de l'éducation devrait être opéré aussi dans les autres secteurs. Le positionnement de l'UNESCO dans le contexte multilatéral doit être clarifié par rapport à plusieurs initiatives mondiales ou régionales. Nous appelons aussi à une coopération accrue entre tous les membres de la « famille UNESCO », ainsi qu'avec le secteur privé et la société civile. L'UNESCO doit servir avant tout de facilitateur entre les différentes parties prenantes en vue de la création de partenariats. C'est de cette manière qu'elle parviendra à mettre en évidence sa valeur ajoutée, à valoriser son identité et à s'affirmer comme « la » référence au sein de la communauté internationale, dans le respect de son mandat.

3.6 Le dialogue de haut niveau, avec les instances politiques et civiles, nous paraît être ici essentiel. Je vous donne deux exemples : dans le domaine des sciences exactes et naturelles, la Suisse aimerait proposer la création d'un « conseil des sciences », travaillant en partenariat étroit avec l'Université des Nations Unies, qui pourrait réunir les compétences les plus éminentes de la société civile, issues de toutes les régions du monde. De nature strictement scientifique, il aurait d'une part le mérite d'offrir une plate-forme de discussion et d'échange de données d'expérience culturellement diverses. D'autre part, il pourrait servir de tribune dans un domaine qui est au centre de la mission de notre Organisation, pour jeter un pont avec les espaces de dialogue politique déjà mis en place et y trouver une résonance. Il pourrait aider à traiter la question de la « fracture scientifique » ou encore celle du rôle de la science et de l'éducation dans la société mondialisée de la connaissance. Nous serions heureux d'obtenir une première réaction à cette proposition.

3.7 Comme deuxième exemple, je citerai la Conférence internationale de l'éducation, qui offre l'occasion de réunir les plus hauts responsables nationaux de l'enseignement de toutes les régions du monde. Il s'agit d'en exploiter le potentiel en consentant à cet effet les moyens nécessaires et en maximisant la mobilisation des ministres du Sud et du Nord. À cet égard, nous comprenons mal la réduction de l'appui aux grandes initiatives mondiales en matière d'éducation qui est annoncée dans le corrigendum au Projet de programme et de budget révisé, que mon pays est bien prêt à soutenir moyennant quelques adaptations.

3.8 La Suisse espère vivement que la restructuration du Secteur de la culture produira les effets escomptés. La mise en œuvre du dispositif normatif doit être menée de la manière la plus sereine possible, avec la confiance que confère la reconnaissance juridique acquise dans le domaine culturel. Dans ce même domaine, nous appuyons aussi la mise en valeur du dialogue à l'UNESCO, qui est peut-être la scène la plus fertile pour la compréhension et le rapprochement entre les peuples. Nous souhaiterions obtenir sur ce dernier point plus de clarté en ce qui concerne la répartition des compétences au sein de la future plate-forme intersectorielle.

3.9 Dans le Secteur de la communication et de l'information, l'UNESCO devrait adopter une attitude plus proactive dans le suivi du Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information et l'appui au Programme Information pour tous, à la mesure du mécanisme intersectoriel mis en place pour promouvoir le développement des sociétés du savoir. La légitimité et la visibilité gagnées à Genève et Tunis, au niveau politique et vis-à-vis de la société civile, doivent être pleinement assumées et exploitées. Nous souhaitons que les futurs axes d'action du Secteur soient bien alignés sur les orientations issues du Sommet mondial.

3.10 Pour conclure, j'aimerais dire ici que la Suisse est particulièrement attachée à l'esprit d'un multilatéralisme ouvert, où toutes les voix peuvent se faire entendre sans que cela ne remette en cause les prérogatives décisionnelles finales des États. Si les principes d'ouverture et de dialogue avec la société civile sont depuis longtemps préconisés à l'UNESCO, de récents exemples montrent que leur concrétisation va s'amenuisant. Nous aimerions vous demander, Monsieur le Directeur général, de bien vouloir prêter la même attention que nous à cette question pour défendre ces acquis en matière de « démocratie ouverte ». Je vous remercie.

4.1 **Mr Kusi-Achampong** (Ghana) *in extenso*:

Thank you. Mr Chairperson, first of all, the Ghana delegation wishes on behalf of His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana and current Chairperson of the African Union, to express sincere gratitude to the Director-General and the international community for their support, which contributed to the success of the Ninth African Union Summit held in Ghana last July.

4.2 The Summit's historic and momentous debate on Union government did not only demonstrate Africa's resolve to foster integration as a means to overcome the mountains of political and economic challenges, but also brought to the fore the continued relevance of the vision of the forefathers of a united Africa, which would need to bury its differences and speak with one voice on issues affecting the continent.

4.3 Mr Chairperson, the world is indirectly going through a metamorphosis which is posing developmental challenges to individual nations and to the international community as a whole. In view of this, the Ghana delegation commends the Director-General on his efforts to strengthen the capacity of UNESCO's field offices to enable them become important players in joint United Nations initiatives at the country level, particularly in the Common Country Assessments (CCAs), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and other joint programming exercises that are being formulated under United Nations coherent approaches in the field.

4.4 The results achieved so far by the Decentralization Review Task Force are commendable. We note in particular the preparation of a working document that has assisted field offices in responding positively to the country-level planning and programming exercises during the first phase. It is also gratifying to note that the document will enable national authorities, especially ministries in charge of planning, to measure the significance and relevance of UNESCO's contribution as a specialized agency. It is our hope that the second phase, which begins at the end of the 34th session of the General Conference, will carry the same momentum in order to achieve the desired results.

4.5 Mr Chairperson, the Ghana delegation has taken note of the corrigendum to the second version of the first biennial Draft Programme and Budget (34 C/5), and of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (2008-2013). According to the Director-General, this version of the C/5 document represents the minimum requirements of the Organization, and any scenario below that financial level would jeopardize UNESCO's ability to live up to the expectations of the Member States and fulfil its mission. It is therefore expected that the draft document could impact positively on the global challenges within UNESCO's fields of competence.

4.6 Mr Chairperson, at this point, what the Board needs to consider are the main lines of action based on the outlined sectoral priorities for each Major Programme. In doing so, special attention must be paid to the emphasis on the two priorities in the Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4), Africa and gender equality, to ascertain whether the provisions in document 34 C/5 do really address them.

4.7 In that connection, the Ghana delegation has the following observations: UNESCO's efforts to strengthen its global leadership and coordination role to make an impact on the education for all (EFA) goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are commendable. In this regard, the issues raised yesterday on literacy and UNESCO's expected role on education for all by the distinguished representative of Cameroon are laudable.

4.8 Ghana supports main lines of action 1 and 2 and the appropriations under Major Programme I. We will urge UNESCO to continue to provide the needed assistance, including extrabudgetary resources to the International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA), to enable African Member States to derive maximum benefit from the EFA initiatives.

4.9 On science and technology capacity-building with emphasis on basic sciences under Major Programme II, Ghana is fully aware that we at present live in a knowledge-based society where virtually every societal issue of consequence is directly linked to advances in science and technology. We are therefore happy to note the extension of a priority status to Africa and gender equality under this Major Programme. We commend UNESCO's efforts to support the African Union/NEPAD to elaborate on Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA). Ghana is concerned about climate change effects on water availability in the next decade, and will therefore welcome the capacity-building initiative to manage both national and transboundary water resources.

4.10 Mr Chairperson, Ghana has a whole ministry with sole responsibility for women's and children's affairs. Moreover, the government is interested in developing programmes to sensitize women and girls to take an active part in science and technology activities. The Ghana delegation therefore fully supports the mainstreaming of gender equality considerations outlined in paragraph 02015 of document 34 C/5. In pursuance of these considerations, Ghana wishes to further request UNESCO to consider the age limit of Africa's women scientists seeking to undertake Ph.D. courses through the UNESCO Fellowships Programme. The 35-year limit, Mr Chairperson, is too rigid for the African woman, with her peculiar social circumstances, and therefore should be readjusted to about 40 years to allow more women in Africa to benefit from the awards.

4.11 Mr Chairperson, as we table these draft documents before the 34th session of the General Conference, the Director-General has already expressed concern about the budgetary constraints facing many Member States. However, we need to recognize that UNESCO is part of the United Nations system, and therefore, the Organization has for the last six years taken stringent measures that have resulted in the reduction of staff by about 20%. We are therefore, Mr Chairperson, left with no alternative but to strain all sinews in our respective Member States, especially the developing ones, to approve the proposed \$631 million scenario budget, which represents a nominal increase of about 3% above the previous budget ceiling.

4.12 Finally, Mr Chairperson, I wish to inform distinguished representatives of governments and States present here that recent floods in Ghana and other parts of African countries have destroyed property, including school buildings, and rendered thousands of people homeless. The Government and people of Ghana are grateful to individuals and the international community for the assistance being rendered to the victims, and would welcome any further assistance from the international community to help in the rehabilitation efforts for the benefit of the flood victims. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

5.1 **Ms Vatsyayan (India) *in extenso*:**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Mr Chairperson, honourable Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, before I make my presentation, I have already warned the Director-General that I shall take two extra minutes to exercise my little right to make a comment on yesterday's thematic debate. Mr Pachauri drew our attention to those words of a man who walked on this earth, Mr Gandhi, and in doing so, he also brought to our attention that the United Nations General Assembly was celebrating the anniversary of this man who reminded us repeatedly that restraint, peace, violence and non-violence was in the minds of men. All the presentations yesterday referred to one thing – that the time has come for us to bring out a climate change in the minds of men. This climate change means that the mind of man has to see and recognize both his limitations and his fragility and the arrogance with which he has dealt with the planet Earth.

5.2 My second comment is on knowledge societies. "Knowledge societies" is a term that we have coined, but we must remember that there have been great knowledge systems which we may today call alternate knowledge systems, which have sustained civilizations; and unless we take cognizance of those knowledge systems, which have had a history of millennia, we shall never bring about any kind of ecological balance within the minds of men.

5.3 Having said this, Mr Chairperson, let me say that decades ago when the United Nations system was established, it was established precisely because a need was felt for an institutional tool to look at the problems that man had created. Today, after all these decades, it is the United Nations system that believes that the institutional tool itself requires reforms, and it is in that context of reforms that I believe UNESCO has a very important part to play, because UNESCO is that intellectual tool, and that intellectual tool itself must not get lost in the mechanisms of itself and in governance matters, in preference to the Organization's own goals. And in that, naturally, all the delegates and most of my distinguished colleagues have reiterated the crucial and fundamental role of education, in that the Dakar goals have yet to be fulfilled. Delegate after delegate has drawn attention to this, and I look forward to the reforms that will continue in

the context of the different institutes and also the strengthening of the institutes such as the International Bureau of Education (IBE).

5.4 With regard to Major Programmes II and III, let me reiterate again the need for integration, because unless we realize that there is this interchange, intersectorality, which was also mentioned yesterday, in the context of the thematic debate, that unless the sciences – the natural sciences and the social sciences – come together, we shall never have an integrated view. There is the question, naturally, of priorities, but those priorities must take into account our major goal of seeing to both sectors, and we pay attention to whatever we call science today, which is a definition which has a historical base. I shall not comment on it further, but in that context, naturally, maths and other cognitive disciplines which develop the mind should be emphasized.

5.5 Coming to the Culture Sector, I am a little embarrassed because I have been associated with this for half a century, and taking into consideration the role of culture, again as an integrating force, and the three divisions of the Culture Sector, which are the intangible and tangible heritage, the natural and cultural World Heritage sites, these are interdependent and cannot be looked at as individual niches of cultural expression, separate from the crafts sector, and there seems to be some lack of an integrated view. There is also the question of the debate on the World Heritage Centre and its priorities. The Director-General had given us an outline of how he wishes to restructure this, but may I simply recall that we should caution against over-centralization.

5.6 India welcomes the current positive developments relating to the establishment of a fund for South-South cooperation in education. India is proud that it has contributed the sum of \$20,000, which triggered the Director-General's decision to provide \$80,000 from the regular budget of the Education Sector, resulting in pilot projects on South-South education for the different regions. As Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China Working Group on South-South Cooperation, India notes with great satisfaction the commitment of the UNESCO Secretariat and the donors to this process. At an informal meeting between the Asia and the Pacific group (ASPAC) and the European Union on 24 September 2007, this matter was discussed, and ASPAC welcomed the European Union's positive attitude, which will also be reflected in the European Union statement.

5.7 On the eve of the 34th session of the General Conference, this Board must now approve the Programme and Budget for the biennium. India was honoured to co-chair the Drafting Group, which has produced a fine document. This has been referred to again, and we shall hopefully approve all the recommendations when the item comes up. My delegation had supported the Director-General of UNESCO's zero real growth budget scenario based on the figure of \$648 million. India regrets that the Director-General had been obliged to revise his own recommendation and propose a budget scenario of \$631 million, resulting only in a nominal increase of 3.4%, as was pointed out by the distinguished representative of Ghana. In doing so, the Director-General has noted that the same level of resources would be maintained in key areas, including devoting greater attention to Africa. We support this.

5.8 In the new budget scenario, the administrative and staff costs in all the major sections are expectedly high, ranging from 53% in Education to 62% in Natural

Sciences and 66% in Culture. As a hardened administrator, let me tell you there is an imbalance here between administrative costs and programme costs. Unless there is a balance between what we spend on administrative costs and on programmes, we are never going to achieve the programmes and the goals of the programmes that we set out for ourselves. We note with equal concern that in the corrigendum to document 34 C/5, the administrative and staff costs have increased as compared to the earlier programme. What can one say? There will be more imbalances, and programmes will suffer. I do not have to reiterate these things, as a founder member of UNESCO, India has always been strongly committed to the five functions of UNESCO. Even as I said, there is time to look at and redefine the nature of those functions.

5.9 The Indian National Commission is very proud that this year we will be celebrating the International Year of Planet Earth. There will be an international MAB drylands workshop in Jodhpur, followed by the very important International Conference on Environmental Education in Ahmedabad and the regional conference as a follow-up of the White House Conference on Global Literacy. India is also organizing a regional symposium on arts education in continuation of the Lisbon World Conference on Arts Education, and there will be the Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the South Asian region in India, and I could go on. However, the Delhi Office is a little handicapped, and it is really being supported by the Government of India. Maybe UNESCO would like to look at that.

5.10 Mr Chairperson, having made all these comments, naturally, I am most appreciative of all that you have been doing. We are not being really unduly nationalistic, but it is a matter of great pride that the Chairperson is from the Asia and the Pacific region, not to mention the Director-General. Thank you.

6.1 **M. Sumrada** (Slovénie) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je souhaiterais en premier lieu dire que ma délégation salue les positions qui ont été déjà présentées dans la déclaration commune de l'Union européenne, et qu'elle apporte aussi son soutien à la dernière proposition du Directeur général, tendant à fixer à 631 millions de dollars le montant du budget pour les deux années à venir.

6.2 Aujourd'hui est un jour particulier pour la délégation de mon pays. C'est en effet la dernière fois que nous participons aux sessions du Conseil exécutif dans le cadre de notre mandat actuel. Permettez-moi donc d'évoquer pendant cette séance l'expérience acquise au cours de ces quatre années.

6.3 Lorsque, à la 32^e session de la Conférence générale, qui s'est tenue en 2003, mon pays a présenté sa candidature pour les élections au Conseil exécutif, il l'a fait principalement avec l'intention de contribuer au développement, au renforcement et à la modernisation de l'UNESCO. Nous avons accompli notre mandat alors que nous comptons parmi les plus jeunes États membres de l'UNESCO et de l'ONU - puisque nous avons accédé à l'indépendance en 1991. Malgré cela, nous avons développé des activités et réalisé des projets dans tous les domaines relevant de la compétence de l'UNESCO grâce aux actions menées de façon remarquable par notre Commission nationale et par ses membres.

6.4 En tant que membre du Conseil exécutif, la Slovénie avait souhaité orienter ses activités vers les domaines suivants : la collaboration et l'association des pays de la région Europe, et plus particulièrement de l'Europe continentale et de l'Europe du Sud-Est ; l'amélioration des connaissances mutuelles de différentes régions et cultures du monde, l'instauration d'un dialogue et l'incorporation active de ces contenus et objectifs dans tous les domaines de l'enseignement au niveau national ; le soutien à la réforme de l'Organisation ; une participation accrue des petits pays à la conception des projets et à leur mise en œuvre. Nous pensons en effet que les petits pays possèdent un potentiel intellectuel considérable et qu'ils sont en même temps capables de réaliser des projets de grande envergure.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

6.5 Mr Chairperson, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, during our term of office, Slovenia has participated in different working bodies of the Executive Board. I would like to share with you the conviction of the members of our delegation that we have learned a lot in the course of these activities, and that at the same time, we also brought to these working environments the views and experience of a small European country, a country which is located at a geographic crossroads between different European languages, cultures and historical regions, and which, due to its multicultural character, also cooperates well with other world regions, especially with African and Arab countries.

6.6 Thus again and again, a few fundamental elements are re-examined in the way an organization such as UNESCO is headed and managed: dialogue, mutual understanding and learning about one another, and the culture of consensus. We are therefore deeply convinced that we should keep observing the principle of rotation in all the leading and subsidiary bodies of UNESCO, and strive particularly for the systematic integration of all Member States.

6.7 The main item on the agenda of the present session of the Executive Board is most certainly consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for the next two years. Our delegation will dwell further and in more detail on these topics in both commissions, but here I would like to draw attention mainly to two elements. First, the format of the Draft Programme and Budget for the next two years is still too complicated, and cannot be applied directly by the decision-makers in the Member States. Progress notwithstanding, we believe that endeavours for a simplified display of the budget and a comprehensible presentation of programme objectives should be continued. Second, discrepancies still exist among the priorities defined in the Draft Medium-Term Strategy, as elaborated by Member States within the framework of consultations and at the sessions of the Executive Board, as well as discrepancies between the objectives and the activities set forth in the Draft Programme and Budget.

6.8 Within the framework of its cooperation with UNESCO, Slovenia will continue to pay much attention to the dialogue among cultures and civilizations. Therefore, we believe that in this context, careful implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is of paramount importance, not only for the dialogue among cultures and civilizations, but also as a means of achieving greater understanding and balance among them. As an introduction to the forthcoming European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, this year we will host the inaugural

meeting of a network of educational institutes in the European and Arab countries. The project is being conducted within the framework of cooperation of the National Commissions of both regions, and we are planning another meeting on this subject in 2008. Mr President, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, it was a great pleasure for us to cooperate with you.

7.1 师女士（中国）发言全文：

主席先生，总干事先生，各位同事，在第三十四届大会召开前夕的本届执行局会议，任务繁重且十分重要，我谨借此机会祝愿本届会议在主席的领导下获得圆满成功。关于 34C/5 号文件，我向以 Mukherjee 大使和 Omolewa 大使为联合主席的工作组成员、总干事先生及秘书处 d'Orville 先生领导的团队所付出的努力表示感谢。在昨天的总政策辩论和专题辩论中，执委们和特邀演讲者对教科文组织在联合国改革背景下未来应发挥的作用提出了非常有见地的看法，我认为这对进一步完善 34 C/5 文件的制订工作很有启发。

7.2 现在我讲以下四点意见：第一，全民教育和非洲优先。中国支持本组织在全民教育方面发挥的作用。实现 2015 年的达喀尔目标，我们面临严峻挑战。包括中国在内的广大发展中国家，多数人口生活在农村地区，基础设施落后，教育资源缺乏，师资水平亟需提高，文盲的多数特别是女性文盲大多集中在农村地区。因此，农村教育应该得到特殊的重视。中国支持本组织在联合国扫盲十年框架下采取的一系列行动，如全球扫盲论坛和地区扫盲论坛。今年 8 月在中国举办的“东亚、东南亚和太平洋地区扫盲会议”和 9 月在马里举办的“非洲地区扫盲会议”，进一步加强了各国通过扫盲消除贫困，促进发展的决心，中国政府在扫盲会议上已经承诺，将继续支持发展中国家的扫盲，特别是妇女扫盲的活动，并在扫盲师资与管理方面的培训、扫盲的研究、扫盲交流经验和扫盲教学的设备方面提供力所能及的支持。

7.3 主席先生，中国代表团完全支持 34C/5 的非洲优先战略，同时也欢迎教科文组织制订符合非洲各国发展需求的计划。为此，我们完全支持教育部门的努力，支持教育部门设立南南合作以及南南—北合作机制。我们希望教育部门在新任助理总干事 Burnett 先生领导下，提高工作效率和质量，动员更广泛的国际资源，使更多的发展中国家受益。为此，中国愿意对南南合作基金继续提供 2 万美元的支持。

7.4 第二，保护文化多样性。保护文化多样性是本组织最具亮点的计划。我们对本组织在《非物质文化遗产公约》和《保护和促进文化表现形式多样性公约》生效后取得的进展表示满意。今年 5 月，非物质文化遗产委员会特别会议在中国成都召开，各国代表对非物质文化遗产保护的规则进行了认真讨论，取得了成果。本次会议召开时，适逢我国举办非物质文化遗产节，中国和来自 30 多个国家的艺术工作者展示了丰富多彩的艺术形式，盛况空前，充分表明本组织保护非物质文化遗产的工作得到了各国的欢迎和重视。本届执行局会议将审议在中国建立亚太地区遗产保护和培训中心的可能性报告。中国愿为世界遗产保护、地区和国际合作做出应有的贡献，并已向非洲世界遗产基金捐款 100 万美元，支持非洲国家遗产保护工作者的培训，并提高非洲在《世界遗产名录》中的代表性。大家都十分重视世界

遗产中心和文化部门的改革，我们希望这一改革继续有利于提升本组织在本领域里的领导作用。

7.5 第三，关于第 2 类机构问题。在上届大会制定有关 2 类机构的指导原则后，第 2 类机构的数量增加，从一定程度上提高了教科文组织在国际和地区的影响力，但也引起了一些国家的担心。我们认为，由于历史的原因，发展中会员国的 2 类中心机构很少。近年来，一些发展中国家希望建立这些机构，证明教科文组织事业发展有这样的需要，也表明会员国对教科文组织的倚重和信任。当然，我们也主张所有冠名教科文组织的 2 类机构必须在本组织的计划领域内开展活动，同时加强能力建设，注重效果，定期评估。东道国应履行各项承诺，维护教科文组织名誉，切实为会员国提供相关的服务。

7.6 第四，关于三大机构和执行局的作用。主席先生，在过去的两年里，在您的领导和执行局全体同仁的努力下，本组织三大机构的改革取得可喜的成就。三者合作密切，各司其职，这是有目共睹的。在执行局全体成员的努力下，34 C/4 将成为本组织今后六年活动的纲领性文件。因为执行局的深度参与，34 C/5 号文件的内容更有针对性。今天的成就是执行局全体成员共同努力的结果。本组织的改革、非集中化、在优先领域的全球牵头作用等，都需要三大机构的协同努力，避免出现重大失误。我相信，一个平衡、民主和高效的教科文组织必将能为国际和平与发展做出更大贡献。

(7.1) Ms Shi (China) *in extenso* (translation from the Chinese):

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, dear colleagues, this session of the Executive Board, which is being held prior to the 34th session of the General Conference, is an important meeting entrusted with arduous tasks. I should like to take this opportunity to wish the session, led by its Chairperson, every success. I should also like to express my gratitude to the members of the Drafting Group, co-chaired by Ambassador Mukherjee and Ambassador Omolewa, to the Director-General and to Mr d'Orville, member of the Secretariat, for their work in preparing document 34 C/5. During yesterday's general debate and thematic debate, Members of the Board and invited speakers shared their valuable insights on the role UNESCO should play in the context of United Nation reform, which, in my view, will contribute greatly to further improvement of document 34 C/5.

(7.2) I should like to make four observations. First, with regard to education for all (EFA) and the Priority Africa programme, China supports the Organization's role in EFA. We are facing grave challenges as we strive to achieve the goals set for 2015 at the World Education Forum in Dakar. Most people in developing countries, including China, live in rural areas, where the infrastructure is obsolete, education resources are inadequate, and the quality of teaching is in urgent need of improvement. As a result, most of China's illiterate population, especially illiterate women, are found in rural areas. Therefore, special attention should be devoted to rural education. China endorses the various efforts made by the Organization in the framework of the United Nations Literacy Decade, including the organization of global and regional literacy conferences. A literacy conference for the region of East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific

was held in August in China, and a literacy conference for the Africa region was held in September in Mali, further strengthening the determination of the participating countries to eradicate poverty through literacy and development. At the conference, China reiterated its commitment to support the literacy efforts of the developing countries, especially efforts concerning women. It also pledged to do everything possible to provide support for the training of teachers and managerial personnel, literacy research, the exchange of literacy experiences and the provision of educational facilities.

(7.3) Mr Chairperson, China fully supports the strategy for Priority Africa called for in document 34 C/5. It is also in favour of the Organization elaborating plans geared to the development needs of the African countries. Therefore, we fully support the efforts made by the Education Sector, including the establishment of a South-South and North-South cooperation mechanism. We sincerely hope that under the leadership of the new Assistant Director-General for Education, Mr Burnett, the Sector will improve its efficiency and work quality, and mobilize more international resources to benefit more developing countries. To this end, China will continue to provide \$20,000 in support of the South-South cooperation fund for education.

(7.4) Secondly, the preservation of cultural diversity is a key feature of the Organization. We are satisfied with the progress made by the Organization in promoting the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In May 2007, the Intangible Heritage Committee held an extraordinary session in Chengdu, China, to discuss its operational directives, which produced good results. Coinciding with this event, our country held an intangible cultural heritage festival featuring colourful art performances by artists from over 30 countries. This demonstrated the great importance attached by the Member States to the Organization's efforts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage. At its current session, the Executive Board will be examining a feasibility study concerning the establishment in China of a world heritage training and research institute for the Asia and the Pacific region. In line with its ongoing commitment to contribute to regional and international cooperation in the field of world heritage protection, China has already donated \$1 million to the African World Heritage Fund in support of staff training and increased representation of the African countries in the World Heritage List. We all attach great importance to the reform of the World Heritage Centre and the Cultural Sector and hope that such reforms will continue to enhance the Organization's leadership in its fields of competence.

(7.5) Thirdly, with regard to category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, there has been an increase in the number of such institutions since the General Conference introduced new guidelines at its last session. While contributing to a certain extent to UNESCO's visibility internationally and regionally, the increase has also caused concern on the part of some Member States. We think that the number of such institutes has remained low in developing countries for historical reasons. In our view, the aspirations shown by some developing countries in recent years in establishing

category 2 institutions is a reflection of the need to advance UNESCO's cause as well as the Member States' respect for and trust in UNESCO. We also believe that all category 2 institutions using UNESCO's name must carry out their work in line with the Organization's programmes, and should enhance their capacity-building, respect the results and carry out regular evaluations of their activities. The host countries should also respect various obligations, safeguard UNESCO's reputation, and provide substantial services to the countries concerned.

(7.6) The fourth point concerns the three organs of UNESCO and the role of the Executive Board. Mr Chairperson, under your leadership, and with the hard work of all the Members of the Board over the past two years, the reform of the Organization's three organs has shown remarkable results. We can see clearly that the three organs cooperate closely in their work while fulfilling their respective responsibilities. With the efforts of all the Board Members, document 34 C/4 is becoming a programmatic document which will guide the Organization in the next six years. Owing to the extensive involvement of the Executive Board, document 34 C/5 is becoming more relevant. Today's achievements are the result of the combined efforts of all the Board Members. In order to avoid serious mistakes, the concerted efforts of the three organs are needed to support the Organization's reform, its drive for decentralization, and its global lead in its priority fields. I believe that a balanced, democratic and efficient UNESCO will surely make a greater contribution to international peace and development.

8.1 **Mr Maynard** (Saint Kitts and Nevis) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Executive Board, Director-General, President of the General Conference, my fellow Executive Board colleagues. It is indeed a high honour once again to present cordial greetings from the Government and people of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Mr Chairperson, after an extended period of time in consultation with the global community, including the National Commissions in all the Member States, NGOs, civil society and international agencies, we are now on the eve of the 34th session of what could well turn out to be one of the most important General Conferences in the history of this Organization. As the Member States prepare to converge here in Paris for the General Conference, the challenges of global warming and climate change, the United Nations reform process and the relentless trade liberalization and globalization process continue to adversely impact on our small nation-States in the Caribbean region with far-reaching consequences.

8.2 As we pay special attention to the UNESCO plans and programmes covering the next six years, my delegation welcomes in broad terms the scope and objectives as defined in draft documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5. We also undoubtedly reaffirm the inherent relevance of UNESCO's mandate and the need for the Organization to address the challenges of globalization and the opportunities that it is capable of offering small island developing States like ours.

8.3 Furthermore, given the recent global trends and challenges, we believe that UNESCO needs to reassert its role in building and strengthening peace among nations by promoting the dialogue among civilizations. This could be accomplished by further contributing to the eradication of poverty, especially through sustainable

development, and in promoting and protecting cultural diversity, including through the promotion and preservation of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage. These goals – which should be set within a human rights framework – should be mainstreamed across all of UNESCO's domain and activities, and permeate all of UNESCO's areas and activities.

8.4 Mr Chairperson, quality education delivered at all levels has been and still is the cornerstone identified as the main catalyst and vehicle for economic development generated by our small nation-State. My delegation is therefore satisfied with the highlighted emphasis placed on quality education under the strategic programme objectives but would, however, reiterate the urgent need for more and better capacity-building in teacher training and education for sustainable development, specifically in our Caribbean region.

8.5 Furthermore, education for responsible citizenship, especially at the primary level, must also not be forgotten as it contributes to a more ethical and balanced society where our children can be taught more about values and human rights, building the ability to understand and accept complexity and change and to be able to cooperate with each other without prejudice. This will hopefully, in turn, help to eradicate some of the violence that is prevalent among our youth, especially young men who prematurely drop out of school. It is thus important that the content and curricula of our education system be structured so that it stresses compassion, tolerance, and understanding, so our students and our young people learn to reject violence as a response to the ever-growing challenges they may face. The expertise of UNESCO in this area would be most welcome.

8.6 Mr Chairperson, you will be aware that the Caribbean region continues to be exposed to the negative impact of climate change and environmental damages caused by rising sea levels, hurricanes, flooding and coral reef damage. It is for these reasons that my government endorses and continues to have a keen interest in overarching objective 2 outlined in draft document 34 C/4, which calls for UNESCO to mobilize science knowledge and policy for sustainable development, not excluding research on water conservation and associated ecosystems. Additionally, the capacity-building policy instruments foreseen in document 34 C/5 under Major Programme II have also inspired us, and encourage us to request further examination of the intersectoral platform.

8.7 Furthermore, Mr Chairperson, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis is seeking ways to diversify the energy sector, by exploring alternative energy sources in order to cope with the volatile and exorbitant prices of crude oil on the global market, which continue to trickle down to our small, fragile economy, which is experiencing the adverse effects of the closure of the 300 year-old sugar industry in Saint Kitts and Nevis some two years ago. Thus, active steps are being taken by my government to identify alternative sources of energy. This follows consultation with a wide body of stakeholders, including the relevant international agencies and UNESCO. This development, coupled with the availability of local sugar resources, makes the production of ethanol in my country a real possibility in the short term. This initiative will in turn help to reduce the barriers to the increased use of renewable energy, thus reducing the dependence on fossil fuel while contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

8.8 Mr Chairperson, my government lends its full support to the introduction of the intersectoral platform

outlined in draft document 34 C/5, as a means of rationalizing and consolidating some of the specific and complex global challenges that characterize our region. We note with pride that UNESCO has all the core competencies to deal with these issues, using its comparative advantage compared with other international organizations. Mr Chairperson, as this platform is apparently being proposed as an alternative to the cross-cutting themes, we believe that emphasis and priority should be given to the projects that can benefit from the different areas of competence of the Organization. We also need to be sure that certain existing and meaningful grassroots projects do not disappear because of the structure of change, but on the contrary, are strengthened within the programmes of UNESCO. Tangible examples of a unique and productive mix of competencies are to be found in the Youth Poverty Alleviation through Tourism and Heritage (PATH) project and Small Islands Voice project in the Caribbean region, aimed at adjusting fundamental issues, especially among youth. This is especially relevant to the follow-up to the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

8.9 Mr Chairperson, If UNESCO is to be effective in carrying out this ambitious but commemorable task as described in document 34 C/5, the National Commissions must become an integral part of the communication and information dissemination mechanism involved in raising the profile of UNESCO in the Member States. This should be organized into strategic levels and backed by an effective communication and marketing programme facilitated by a global network in using all the traditional and modern marketing tools available to it. Mr Chairperson, thank you very much.

9.1 **Mr Agapitus** (Namibia) *in extenso*:

I thank you, Chairperson, Chairperson of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, colleagues, Members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, may I begin my intervention by endorsing the statement presented by the distinguished representative of Cameroon on behalf of the Africa group. The Namibian delegation would like to thank the Director-General and other members of the Secretariat for producing the relevant reports before this session of the Board. These reports, in our view, inform and facilitate the consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 by the General Conference, and will also provide the rationale for the recommendations of the Executive Board thereon.

9.2 Furthermore, we have taken note of the content of document 177 EX/4, especially with regard to the main activities carried out by the Secretariat in the various programme sectors. We appreciate the emphasis that was placed during the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference on: the EFA-related activities in Major Programme I, the contribution to poverty eradication and sustainable development in Major Programme II, improving human security by better management of the environment and social change in Major Programme III, the promotion and protection of cultural diversity in all its forms in Major Programme IV, and universal access to information in Major Programme V. These main lines of action are within the core mandate of the Organization; hence our appreciation for the focus on these activities. Allow me, Mr Chairperson, to refer to a few of them.

9.3 First, in the Education Sector, Mr Chairperson, with regard to EFA, we are half way to 2015. In Dakar, seven years ago, we made a promise that raised high

expectations. We have taken note of the progress achieved thus far, including the introduction of the UNESCO National Education Support Strategy, a number of meetings that took place, the recent education staff seminar, and the appointment of the new ADG for Education. With all these arrangements in place, we now need to take a step forward, namely, to take concrete action including the mobilization of funding in order to achieve the EFA goals in tangible terms.

9.4 In the Science Sector, Namibia appreciates the Director-General's efforts, especially in relation to global climate change, and the programme on Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS). We further appreciate the strengthening of capacities of developing Member States in the area of science and technology, and Namibia was privileged to host the workshop on technology parks and incubators in the Africa region in April 2007.

9.5 In the Culture Sector, Namibia commends UNESCO on its standard-setting framework, in particular the three key conventions which Namibia has ratified. We now need to concentrate our efforts on advocacy among the stakeholders and the implementation of these instruments. Namibia was delighted to have its very first site inscribed on the World Heritage List in Christchurch, New Zealand, in July this year. We are grateful to all for this collective achievement (in particular Italy, for their financial contribution), and we look forward to further support and solidarity for the next site.

9.6 On the follow-up to the Eighth Summit of the African Union on the theme of science, technology and research, Namibia would like to appeal to the Director-General to ensure that UNESCO's participation in Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action is as much as possible in line with the content of the declaration of Heads of State and Government. It would be unfortunate if we focused on blending this Plan of Action with UNESCO's many ongoing activities.

9.7 Mr Chairperson, there is clear improvement on the reports under item 4, but there is need for further improvement. As at previous sessions, we wish, once again, to stress the importance of the reports that are both quantitative and qualitative in nature, especially within the context of results-based programming and management – as it remains difficult to assess the extent to which the activities are producing significant results and therefore making an impact in Member States.

9.8 On item 25, our delegation would like to congratulate the Members of the Drafting Group and the Secretariat for having carried out their work timely and diligently as per the expectation of the Executive Board. We are fairly satisfied with the biennial sectoral priorities for the Major Programmes for 2008-2009, as outlined in the document. These biennial sectoral priorities are in line with the internationally agreed goals, to which UNESCO is expected to contribute, and with our national development objectives. We further highly appreciate the recognition that is accorded to the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, as a network of educational innovation and a platform for young people to promote UNESCO's ideals. It is therefore our wish that the EFA Global Week should be institutionalized within UNESCO, as it is playing an important role in many Member States in advocating for the achievement of the EFA Goals, and in promoting and strengthening partnerships in education. As for decentralization, we are encouraged by the prospects of the reinforcement of field offices to enable them to deliver quality programmes in Member States, and to fully

participate in United Nations reform, "Delivering as One", especially at the country level.

9.9 Finally Mr Chairperson, as we leave the Executive Board, our delegation would like to express our thanks and appreciation to you, Mr Chairperson, the Members of the Executive Board, the Director-General and other members of the Secretariat for your support and collaboration during our term of office on the Executive Board. Namibia, as a member of the international community, values the principles of tolerance, collaboration, consensus-building and international solidarity, which characterize the functioning of the Executive Board and other organs of the Organization. It was a privilege for us, as a small country, to serve on the Board, and we have learned much from our interactions. We therefore wish the Board strength in the future, and hope that it may continue strengthening the spirit and principles of international solidarity, cooperation, collaboration, consensus-building and cohesion. I thank you.

10.1 **Mr Aziz (Afghanistan) in extenso:**

Bismillāh ir-raḥmān ir-raḥīm (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate). Dear Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, dear colleagues, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset, dear Chairperson, dear colleagues, I offer you my *salām*, a message of peace, and a promise of cooperation for the fulfilment of our common duties, the attainment of UNESCO's mission, which among other main principles are peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the common welfare of mankind, acceptance of the democratic principles of the dignity, equality, and mutual respect for men and women.

10.2 I also have the duty to extend, on behalf of the Afghan nation and with my deep personal conviction, to the families, governments and people, our profound and heartfelt sorrow and sympathy for the loss of their loved ones and their citizens who have been the victims of inhumane and murderous acts of terrorism. In Afghanistan, we owe to those brave soldiers our respect as they have given their lives for peace and the reconstruction of the education, culture and information systems, democracy and nation-building, with which the dignity, liberty and cultural identity of all Afghans are connected. There is a number of distinguished representatives of governments, friends of Afghanistan, whose citizens are engaged directly in the peacekeeping operation in, and reconstruction of, our country. Others are involved in bilateral cooperation or through the United Nations system's ongoing efforts. We owe to all of you our thanks and appreciation.

10.3 Many of us believe now that peace and security in Afghanistan is the key to peace and security not only in Central Asia, but also all over the globe. Indeed, it needs to be firmly constructed not only by the use of arms, but also in the minds and hearts of Afghans, through the reconstruction of educational, scientific, cultural, and communication institutions, as well as through the process of nation-building, which also implies democracy, human rights and social services for the entire Afghan nation.

10.4 Thanks to the determination of the people of Afghanistan and to the assistance provided by our friends and the international community, much has been achieved during the past five years in Afghanistan. As you are aware, the government and people of this nation have resolutely decided to continue on the path of peace, security, reconstruction, democracy, social and economic

progress and nation-building to which we jointly committed ourselves with our friends. Indeed Mr Chairperson, dear colleagues, we are following the path, objectives and the mission of UNESCO in Afghanistan: peace-building on the foundation of development, welfare of the people of Afghanistan based on equity, justice, liberty, democracy, national values and cultural identity. We are also aiming to firmly contribute to peace and security, development and welfare of the people in the region and beyond. Please take note of the highly important developments that have recently taken place in our country, which are in conformity with the objectives I have just mentioned.

10.5 First, to reaffirm and further strengthen the resolve of two brotherly countries to bring sustainable peace in the region, an Afghan-Pakistani Joint Peace Jirga was convened in Kabul, Afghanistan, from 9 to 12 August as a result of an initiative taken by the Presidents of Afghanistan and Pakistan on 27 September 2006. This was the first historic event of its kind, which opened up a channel of dialogue in which about 700 people, including members of the parliaments, political parties, religious scholars, tribal elders, provincial councils, civil society and the business community of both countries participated. May I thank the distinguished representative of Pakistan and, through her good offices, the Government and people of Pakistan for this excellent initiative between the two nations. Let us go forward to combat these terrorists and bring about full peace in our region.

10.6 Second, history has proved that Afghanistan can always serve as a meeting point and land bridge between people, cultures, goods and services, exchange of knowledge and civilizations. The bridge that has been built with the financial assistance of our friend, the United States of America, over the Amu Darya, and has recently been inaugurated by the Presidents of Afghanistan and Tajikistan is proof of our accomplishments. The new bridge has an important significance in restoring Afghanistan's historic role as a land bridge connecting Central Asia, South-East Asia and West Asia. It will also have tremendous impact in fostering trade, economic cooperation and cultural understanding between Afghanistan and its neighbours. May I also present my thanks and appreciation to you, Madam the representative and Ambassador of the United States of America and, through you, to your country, to your people and to your government for this excellent assistance.

10.7 Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, dear colleagues, we all know that peace and development are inextricably linked, and both are needed for the advancement of human dignity. UNESCO, by virtue of its Constitution and mission, has the major responsibility, through its fields of competence, to make important contributions to peace and development by launching effective means and methods, as well as programmes, to respond to the needs and requirements of the most needy segments of the world population. You will agree with me that the people who need UNESCO the most are in Africa, in the least developed countries (LDCs) and in the countries that have suffered from wars and destruction such as Afghanistan. Let me assure our African friends as well as colleagues from the LDCs that the Government of Afghanistan understands the real needs of your countries, and you will be supported, not only through UNESCO, but within the United Nations system, through any programme that improves life in Africa and in the LDCs. You will have my promise.

10.8 I want to say it again, and say it loudly, that Afghan society has suffered much from the hardship of

the Taliban's doctrines. We therefore strongly support the priority gender equality programme of UNESCO. Unfortunately, women constitute the poorest and the most disadvantaged segment of the population in the majority of underdeveloped countries, owing to illiteracy, unemployment and many other social and economic inequalities.

10.9 Mr Chairperson, when we speak of reconstruction, development and nation-building in Afghanistan, we must give an honourable and courageous place for UNESCO within the context of the United Nations system's ongoing efforts. UNESCO was and still is fully engaged in helping Afghanistan in providing technical, moral and material assistance in order to enable us to send our children to school as well as preserve our culture and historical sites and identity. Thank you, Mr Director-General, for UNESCO's appreciated efforts in the restoration of the Kabul Museum and the return of our cultural objects to where they belong.

10.10 Mr Chairperson, may I, through your good offices, assure the Director-General that I will support him, in discussions in the Board and during the General Conference, in his endeavours to upgrade the services of the Organization for the best causes of humanity. May I also, through your good offices, thank the Director-General and his colleagues in the Education, Culture, Communication and Science Sectors for the assistance they are providing to form and establish science and technology policies, culture policy and media policies in Afghanistan. I wish, once again, to present our thanks and appreciation to all of you for your help, advice and feelings of goodwill to the people of Afghanistan. It has been and will be an honour to work with you for the fulfilment of UNESCO's mission. Please help us to serve this honourable Organization together with you.

10.11 Mr Chairperson, dear colleagues, now, a few words about South-South and South-North cooperation, but first of all I would like to thank our colleague for giving me a few minutes of their time in order to do so. As the serving Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China for the current year, I have had the immense honour of moving forward a project that represented a real challenge for our group since the very beginning: I mean South-South cooperation as a pattern for establishing new rules and a structure with a view to creating new conditions for development and cooperation among developing countries in a more and more multilateral world order. Naturally, from this viewpoint, the Paris Chapter of the Group of 77 and China focuses its initiatives on the fields of competence of UNESCO, and foremost on education.

10.12 In this respect, may I thank the great countries of China, India, Malaysia and Morocco for their financial assistance to the project of South-South cooperation in the field of education. The increasing commitment to South-South cooperation on a worldwide level in the different summits of the Group of 77 and China, particularly the Doha Plan of Action in 2005, as well as the United Nations system as a whole, finally provided pertinent analyses and the necessary technical support for implementing South-South cooperation. In this respect, may I now assure my friends, colleagues and dear Members of the Executive Board and other countries of the North that we are looking forward to very concrete, impressive and comprehensive South-North cooperation in UNESCO's fields of competence.

10.13 These developments, together with the know-how of the UNESCO Secretariat, today offer the Paris Chapter

of the Group of 77 and China new opportunities for realizing its objectives. This year, our partnership with the sectors concerned has intensified, thanks to the efforts of all of us. I must here pay special tribute to Her Excellency the Ambassador of India, for the work she has accomplished as Chairperson of our working group on education. I also want to let you know that we formed other working groups in all fields of UNESCO's competence, which will be chaired by our colleagues of the different regions. Finally, we have almost finalized the details of our projects in the field of education. We are looking forward to much larger projects in the form of triangular cooperation, with South-South and South-North participation, in full cooperation with UNESCO's Secretariat. We hope to forge ahead and extend these results to the other fields of competence of our Organization. I thank you all for your attention.

11.1 **M. Laurin** (Canada) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, à l'occasion de cette dernière session de l'exercice biennal, et bien qu'il soit un peu tôt pour faire un bilan définitif, je voudrais souligner que le Conseil exécutif et le Secrétariat ont accompli beaucoup au cours des deux années écoulées, en particulier en ce qui concerne la planification et le suivi de l'exécution des programmes.

11.2 Le Groupe de rédaction a réussi, grâce à un dialogue fructueux avec le Secrétariat, à nous présenter des recommandations qui nous paraissent acceptables dans l'ensemble. Nous estimons particulièrement encourageant l'intérêt que le Groupe a porté à la définition de résultats escomptés, clairs et mesurables. En proposant que la Conférence générale adopte l'énoncé de ces résultats dans le cadre de ses résolutions, le Groupe de rédaction nous fait franchir un grand pas. Nous aurons maintenant une compréhension commune et partagée de ce que nous attendons de l'Organisation. Bien entendu, le Conseil voudra suivre de près les progrès accomplis pour obtenir ces résultats escomptés. Nous souhaitons vivement que les prochains rapports du Directeur général nous présentent clairement ces progrès. Le Secrétariat et le Conseil exécutif devront poursuivre leurs efforts en ce sens et, en particulier, améliorer considérablement le suivi de l'exécution au niveau des pays.

11.3 Comme vous le savez, le Canada est favorable à un budget de croissance nominale zéro pour l'ensemble des institutions du système des Nations Unies. Néanmoins, si un consensus s'établissait sur la nouvelle proposition du Directeur général, à savoir un budget de 631 millions de dollars, nous serions disposés à l'accepter. Même si nous comprenons que la réforme et la rénovation des bâtiments contribuent à une forte augmentation des coûts de l'Organisation, nous déplorons que les fonds alloués au programme n'augmentent que marginalement par rapport aux dépenses administratives. La crédibilité de l'UNESCO requiert un meilleur équilibre entre les dépenses programmatiques et les dépenses administratives.

11.4 Nous sommes favorables au renforcement de l'action de l'UNESCO sur le terrain. Cependant nous pensons que la structure actuelle des bureaux hors Siège doit être réexaminée à la lumière de l'expérience acquise dans le cadre de la réforme des Nations Unies dans son ensemble. Nous sommes heureux des efforts déployés par le Directeur général pour associer pleinement les agences spécialisées à cette réforme et faire en sorte que l'UNESCO se positionne stratégiquement au cœur de l'action des Nations Unies.

11.5 La réforme entreprise au sein du Secteur de l'éducation fait déjà sentir ses effets positifs au niveau de la planification, comme en témoigne la clarté des objectifs qui nous sont présentés pour ce grand programme. Nous sommes particulièrement heureux de l'attention que le Groupe de rédaction a portée aux besoins des groupes vulnérables et marginalisés, une approche tout à fait en harmonie avec celle qui a été adoptée par d'autres partenaires de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT). Nous saluons l'arrivée du nouveau Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation, M. Burnett, et nous l'assurons de notre appui. La formation des enseignants nous apparaît comme un des défis qui exigent une attention immédiate, étant donné son impact sur la qualité de l'éducation.

11.6 Nous prenons bonne note des enseignements tirés de l'évaluation de l'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO, qui est positive dans l'ensemble. Nous approuvons en particulier toute la section intitulée « Gouvernance et gestion » : le Conseil d'administration doit en effet jouer un rôle plus actif, mais aussi être associé davantage à l'élaboration des priorités stratégiques de l'ISU.

11.7 La première session ordinaire de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles a confié en juin dernier une tâche considérable aux membres du Comité intergouvernemental. Avec le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, les Gouvernements du Canada et du Québec travaillent à organiser la tenue de la première réunion du Comité à Ottawa. Nous ne ménagerons aucun effort pour que cette première réunion du Comité contribue à faire progresser de façon significative l'application des directives opérationnelles concernant, entre autres, l'utilisation des ressources du Fonds international pour la diversité culturelle, la coopération internationale et la participation de la société civile.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

11.8 Mr Chairperson, it is a great honour for Canada to chair the World Heritage Committee this year, and we look forward to hosting the next session of the Committee in Quebec City. One concern we have, however, is the increasing politicization of cases coming before the World Heritage Committee. This risks undermining the credibility of the Convention, and we hope this situation will not arise at the meeting in Quebec City. As for the management of the World Heritage Centre, we are happy to see that the Director-General is taking measures to respond to the concerns raised by the audit.

11.9 The present and future situation of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has been a topic of increasing concern to Member States. We support the Assembly's position. The increased mandate of IOC should be acknowledged. For this reason, Canada believes that resources of IOC for 2008-2009 should be increased proportionally as a result of the increase in UNESCO's overall budget, and any new mandate assigned to the IOC should be accompanied by a corresponding increase in resources.

11.10 Like others, we look forward to the presentation by the Director-General of his plan relating to the Overall Review of Major Programmes II and III and his proposals to combine resources in education and science to build scientific research capacities in developing countries.

11.11 The evaluation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) raises a number of important issues which must be addressed urgently if we want this

programme to play the key role intended for it. We encourage UNESCO to present at the next session of the Board, in consultation with the IFAP Council, a strategic plan defining the mandate, the resources required, the responsibilities of the different actors, including the strategic role of the IFAP Council. The role and mandate of intergovernmental councils is a larger policy issue on which Member States need to reflect in order to improve the governance of UNESCO by making better use of the expertise provided by Member States.

11.12 Mr Chairperson, Canada's term on the Executive Board ends this year. We have not sought re-election. The only reason we have not done so is because we are strongly committed to the principle of rotation. It is not enough to pay lip service to this principle. One must respect it in practice. Nevertheless, I can assure you, Mr Chairperson, that this does not mean that Canada will be any less interested in the work of the Executive Board in the future. Thank you.

Mr Bhumirat (Thailand) took the Chair.

12.1 **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Norway would like to focus its statement on the following issues: the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5), the consequences of the One United Nations reform for UNESCO, and the efficiency of the Organization.

12.2 Mr Chair, I welcome the proposal of a budget ceiling that seems to meet consensus, though coming late. Norway is ready to decide on a budget ceiling of \$631 million. We are, however, not fully satisfied with the allocations within the budget envelope. We therefore foresee a discussion on the priorities within the adopted budget ceiling in the FA Commission. Our primary concern is that the education for all (EFA) goals and Millennium Development Goals should be given the highest priority in UNESCO. The programmes and the staff must be better aligned with this overarching responsibility. The proposed C/5 document does not meet this requirement. We are still trying to do too much within limited resources. When comparing document 34 C/5 2nd version Corr. with document 33 C/5 Approved we observe that the programme sectors have close to zero nominal growth, while parts of administration and support for programme execution will have increases of more than 10%. We will also experience a reduction for programme activities, while the staff costs increase or remain at the same level as the current budget.

12.3 We particularly disagree with the proposed reduction of resources for UNESCO's global role in EFA coordination, which still needs to be reinforced. In our view, the new ADG for Education must have a better basis for the enormous task awaiting him than what is provided for in document 34 C/5 2nd version Corr. It is necessary both for the Director-General and the Board to be realistic when prioritizing within tight budget limits. Accordingly, Norway underlines the need to strengthen those budget lines most important for achieving the above-mentioned goals, and we expect innovative efforts to reduce appropriations that are secondary, e.g. travel costs and programme-related services like anticipation and foresight.

12.4 Mr Chair, the Budget and Programme for the next biennium must be implemented in the context of United Nations reform, which is a crucial measure for improving support for Member States in reaching the EFA goals and the Millennium Development Goals. Norway appreciates the Director-General's commitment both inside and

outside the Organization to align UNESCO with this important United Nations agenda. I was also pleased with the emphasis the Director-General put on decentralization in his oral report. We are looking forward to the proposals from the Decentralization Review Task Force in its further work. It is quite clear that the United Nations reform is bound to affect UNESCO's decentralization strategy, and we agree with the Director-General that "it is necessary to explore several cost-estimated options for the future of our field structure". It may even be necessary to revise this strategy completely.

12.5 The United Nations reform has so far primarily been concerned with the country level, while the role of the regional level is less developed. In our opinion, UNESCO may strengthen its ability to deliver at country level by reinforcing the regional offices and by using its institutes more actively, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and international organizations. The consequences, from Norway's point of view, will be that UNESCO must deploy its staff at the regional level or in joint United Nations structures at the country level as far as the mandate of UNESCO is concerned. UNESCO has a unique opportunity to make its mark on this development. In the longer perspective, Norway would like the Director-General to work together with other United Nations agencies, to find out how the United Nations organizations may align their work at the regional level.

12.6 Norway has always upheld the Director-General's right to organize and manage his staff according to his prerogatives. We find, however, that the strategy on decentralization is more a policy question than a staff and management question. As a consequence, we ask the Director-General to involve the Executive Board in the major decisions on decentralization. We expect an item on UNESCO's decentralization policies and United Nations reform for a thorough discussion at the Board's 179th session.

12.7 Mr Chair, when studying the Director-General's report on the implementation of the programme, I am impressed by the variety of results achieved. UNESCO seems to have accomplished a lot and made a significant contribution. However, the report leaves me with the impression that the programme could have been implemented more efficiently for better results. The report does not really spell out whether the outcomes we expected two years ago have been achieved. Nor does it identify challenges. As a consequence, it does not fully serve as the credible management tool the Board needs in order to strengthen the strategic direction and programme delivery of this Organization.

12.8 It is paramount to continue improving the culture of evaluation and results-based management in UNESCO. Norway therefore warmly welcomes the innovative step taken towards producing a new report from the Board to the General Conference regarding the results achieved. In my opinion, this measure will enhance the controlling power of the Board, which is one of the Board's major tasks. Furthermore, I think it would be most useful to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of UNESCO's capacity to deliver according to its important but ambitious objectives, with a view to informing the Board's revision of document 34 C/4 in 2009.

12.9 In this context it is also relevant to take a critical view of the Board's effectiveness. The next Board should continue the work to find ways of reducing the number of items on the agenda. It should focus on how we can group related items into discussion units (clusters), and

place some items in a category of items on which no substantive discussion is expected. I firmly believe in the use of joint meetings of the PX and FA Commissions. And finally, I also think we need to review the methods for preparing the C/5 document. I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

13.1 Ms Oliver (United States of America) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, and thank you, Mr Director-General, for the strong leadership you are giving to UNESCO, and in particular, for promoting reform throughout the Organization, as we believe that the reforms now under way will help UNESCO become a stronger and more influential organization. Of course reform by itself will not create a dynamic effective UNESCO. There must also be a vision for the Organization, one that is compelling and feasible. Do we have such a vision? To some degree, the C/4 and C/5 documents are our answers to that question.

13.2 But how realistic are those answers? Although not perfect, we think that the C/4 document provides a satisfactory framework for UNESCO's work for the next six years, since it is a rolling document that can respond to both internal and external changes. However, despite the hard work of the Drafting Group and its excellent co-Chairpersons, we think that the C/5 document is still overly ambitious. Certainly we are pleased that the C/5 document includes expected results for UNESCO's initiatives, but is it really possible for the Secretariat to achieve those results in only two years, especially if we insist that their work is of high quality? And what will happen if Member States continue to add to the work of the Secretariat with resolutions that call for new activities and programmes, instead of focusing on the ones we already have? Unfortunately, it seems that we still have multiple visions for UNESCO.

13.3 Mr Director-General, we are pleased that your vision includes strengthening UNESCO's organizational structure so that our programmes can achieve long-term sustainable results. Although the United States has consistently advocated a zero nominal growth budget, and believe that was needed in past budget cycles to encourage UNESCO to become more efficient and effective, we have decided to support your \$631 million budget scenario because the additional funds will help reinforce UNESCO's infrastructure, establish an ethics programme for UNESCO staff, and strengthen initiatives focused on the needs of Africa and the developing world.

13.4 Several weeks ago I was in Mali for the African Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy, the third of UNESCO's six literacy regional conferences that follow up on the White House Conference on Global Literacy hosted by Ms Laura Bush one year ago. I was impressed by the determination of the participants, including eleven First Ladies, to advance literacy and health in Africa. They seemed tired of talk, and ready for action. The interrelationship between health and literacy was also the theme for the recent lunch hosted by Ms Bush in New York. The regional literacy conferences held thus far all demonstrate that there are many individuals and grassroots organizations ready and willing to work with UNESCO to advance its programmes in the field. A decentralized UNESCO should take advantage of this enthusiasm.

13.5 Since decentralization also involves the delegation of authority, there must be a high degree of accountability, for this is the only way to ensure coherence among the entities that comprise UNESCO's extended family. Therefore we would like UNESCO to accelerate the development of its accountability

framework, which ought to help us get timely information on how funds are being spent in the field and what results are actually being achieved.

13.6 Transparency is important, and field offices should respond promptly when asked to describe their programmes and activities. Transparency is particularly important when activities are funded by extrabudgetary contributions, since we must be confident that every programme that carries the name of UNESCO is of high quality and appropriate for this Organization. That is why we join our French colleague in emphasizing that evaluation must play a central role in UNESCO's work. We simply cannot have a repeat of the situation that occurred in the Brasilia field office. Although it seems that progress is being made in reorienting the work of that office, we are disappointed that it is taking so long, and hope that the outstanding issues will be resolved soon.

13.7 Greater attention must also be paid to UNESCO's category 2 institutes and centres, which are legally independent from the Organization. Although category 2 centres can enhance UNESCO's visibility in the field, each of these centres place additional responsibilities on UNESCO's limited resources, as the agreements all state that the Organization is expected to provide technical assistance, and in many cases fund-raising assistance, to these institutions. We are pleased that document 177 EX/29 addresses these issues. Given the rapidly increasing number of category 2 centres, we must adopt a strategy that will help guide our decisions on the establishment of these entities in the future, and enable us to better understand what it means to be an organization "under the auspices" of UNESCO.

13.8 As we all know, there is nothing more important for UNESCO than the use of its name and reputation. In addition to maintaining the quality and relevance of UNESCO's institutes and centres, we must be vigilant about UNESCO partnerships. Certainly partnerships, particularly those with academic and research institutions, as well as with the private sector, can be very valuable for UNESCO's work. However, we have serious concerns about some of UNESCO's commercial partnerships that in some instances have rather weak justifications with minimal benefit to the Organization. For example, why is UNESCO giving its name to help sell Allumonde rings when it seems that almost none of the proceeds go to UNESCO or to supporting cultural industries in the developing world.

13.9 The same issue relates to the use of independent experts, either in their own capacity or as members of a UNESCO expert body. Although we agree that it can be interesting to hear the points of view of independent experts on topics that relate to UNESCO's work, we are concerned that their views are often mistakenly seen to be the views of the Organization and/or UNESCO's Member States. Moreover, we are puzzled as to why delegations can be discouraged or even prevented from attending expert meetings as observers. When individuals serve as UNESCO experts in meetings organized by UNESCO staff, their discussions should be open to interested delegations.

13.10 Well qualified staff at all levels are indispensable for UNESCO's work, and we are pleased that Nick Burnett has been chosen to be the new ADG for Education. In addition to continuing the reforms in the Education Sector, we hope that he will make UNESCO's initiatives in literacy, teacher training, and HIV/AIDS education more effective and results-oriented. We also hope he will focus on gender parity and on individuals with disabilities, so

that everyone can enjoy the benefits of education. Finally we hope that he will develop initiatives that address hatred and intolerance, with a particular emphasis on programmes for children.

13.11 UNESCO must also continue its commitment to freedom of opinion and expression, which is fundamental to the promotion of freedom and democracy. We congratulate Colombia on the excellent conference that it hosted last spring on the occasion of the awarding of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize posthumously to the Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, which highlighted this important issue, as well as the need to ensure the safety of journalists. We also want to extend our condolences to our colleagues from Denmark on the passing of the Chairperson of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), Torben Krogh. Mr Krogh's energy and enthusiasm for the work of IPDC helped make that programme an effective force for the creation of independent media in the developing world. The United States of America will continue to give strong support to this important programme.

13.12 Improving the quality of the work of the two science sectors, with an emphasis on capacity-building, continues to be a top priority for the United States of America. Given the importance of science, technology and engineering, particularly for the developing world, UNESCO must play a leadership role in this area. In addition to implementing the recommendations of the science review panel, UNESCO must not waste its limited resources by duplicating work being done in other United Nations agencies. This will also enable us to give more support to successful programmes like IOC, which has achieved worldwide recognition for its work.

13.13 Although this Executive Board has a very full agenda, we are confident, Mr Chairperson, that with your leadership, we will be able to make good decisions that will help UNESCO address the complex issues of today's world more effectively. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

١٤,١ السيد هلال (مصر) النص الكامل:

أصحاب السعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي لليونسكو، رئيس المؤتمر العام، المدير العام، السيدات والسادة الوزراء والسفراء ممثلي الدول الأعضاء ورؤساء الوفود، يطيب لي أن أتوجه إليكم بالحديث أمام هذه الدورة لمجلسكم الموقر التي تكتسب أهمية كبيرة لأنها تسبق مباشرة الدورة الرابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو. وفي هذا الإطار سوف تتركز مداخلتني اليوم على بعض النقاط المحددة التي نود التأكيد عليها فيما يتصل بالرؤية المصرية بشأن عملية رسم مسار اليونسكو خلال السنوات الست المقبلة ٢٠٠٨-٢٠١٣.

١٤,٢ أولاً، فيما يتصل بالسياسة العامة والإدارة: أود بداية أن أتوجه بالتحية والتقدير إلى السيد المدير العام وأعضاء الأمانة وكذا إلى كافة الدول التي أسهمت في إعداد الوثائق الهامة المعروضة للنقاش خلال هذه الدورة. كما أود كذلك أن أحيي الجهود الدؤوبة التي يضطلع بها المدير العام وأعضاء الأمانة في إطار عمليات الإصلاح الهيكلي وتطوير الأداء وزيادة فعاليته، وكذا تفعيل آليات التخطيط والمتابعة والرقابة، وذلك في إطار عملية الإصلاح التي تدور حالياً في منظومة الأمم المتحدة ككل. لذلك نؤكد مجدداً على ضرورة السعي في أنشطة اليونسكو إلى جعل الأهداف التي تعمل المنظمة على بلوغها أكثر تحديداً ووضوحاً، ولاسيما في ظل محدودية الموارد المالية المتاحة. نشدد كذلك على الأهمية الحيوية لترشيد الإنفاق وزيادة فعاليته للحد من الإسراف في مجالات البعثات والمطبوعات والخدمات التعاقدية، ذلك

فضلاً عن وجوب دعم آليات الرقابة بشقيها الداخلي والخارجي. إننا نؤكد كذلك على ضرورة إيلاء قدر أكبر من العناية لعملية اختيار أعضاء الأمانة الذين يتم تعيينهم، خاصة في المكاتب خارج المقر، إذ إن نجاح التوجه نحو اللامركزية مرهون بمدى كفاءة هؤلاء وتميزهم من حيث الخبرة والقدرة على اتخاذ القرار.

١٤,٣ ثانياً، فيما يتصل بالبرامج الرئيسية وأنشطة القطاعات المختلفة: بالنسبة لقطاع التربية، فإننا نتوجه بالتهنئة إلى السيد نيكولاس بيرنيت بمناسبة تعيينه مساعداً للمدير العام لقطاع التربية متمنين لسيادته التوفيق في الاضطلاع بالمسؤوليات الجسام الملقاة على عاتقه بهدف إسراع خطى اليونسكو نحو تحقيق أهداف مبادرة التعليم للجميع وكذا الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية. هذا ونؤكد حرص مصر على بذل أقصى جهد وتوفير أكبر قدر من الإمكانيات لإصلاح قطاع التعليم، كما نؤكد على أهمية دفع التعاون فيما بين دول الجنوب قدماً باعتبارها عنصراً مكملاً للتعاون بين دول الشمال والجنوب، كما نحیی إنشاء صندوق للتعاون فيما بين دول الجنوب، ونحیی الدول التي تفضلت بالإسهام في ميزانيته، وندعو كافة الأطراف إلى المشاركة في تقديم الدعم لهذا الصندوق، على أمل تمكينه من البدء في تنفيذ المشروعات ذات الأولوية لدول الجنوب. إن مصر تؤكد على أهمية إيلاء أكبر قدر ممكن من العناية للقارة الأفريقية باعتبارها تأتي على قمة أولويات اليونسكو، كما ندعو إلى توجيه مزيد من الاهتمام إلى برامج ومشروعات الحد من الفقر نظراً لأهميتها كركيزة لعملية التنمية في ضوء تراجع المخصصات الموجهة إلى هذا البرنامج في الميزانية الجديدة. إننا ندعو اليونسكو إلى تحقيق قدر أكبر من التوازن بين جهود اليونسكو في مجال مكافحة الأمية وتطوير التعليم الأساسي من ناحية، وبين العناية بتطوير التعليم العالي والعمل على رفع جودته، من ناحية أخرى. فالتعليم العالي ليس ترفاً كما قد يتصور البعض، وإنما هو ركيزة أساسية لبناء القدرات وإعداد المعلمين ومن ثم دفع جهود التنمية. ولا يفوتني في هذا الصدد أن أدعو اليونسكو إلى زيادة الدعم المقدم إلى المؤسسات التعليمية في الأراضي المحتلة في فلسطين والجزولان والعراق.

١٤,٤ وبالنسبة لقطاعي العلوم الطبيعية والعلوم الاجتماعية، فإننا نحیی الجهود الجارية حالياً لاستشرف أفضل الأساليب لتطويرهما، وإن كنا نود التأكيد على ضرورة تحقيق التوازن بين أنشطة كل من القطاعين، كما نود كذلك أن نؤكد على أهمية توجيه اهتمام ودعم مادي أكبر لبرنامج إدارة التحولات الاجتماعية MOST، وللجهود التي يضطلع بها من أجل تعزيز الربط بين البحوث والسياسات الاجتماعية، كما ندعو اليونسكو إلى الاهتمام بالبرامج المتعلقة بالعلوم الأساسية والرياضيات باعتبارها ركيزة التقدم التكنولوجي، ذلك فضلاً عن مواصلة الجهود الرامية إلى نشر أخلاقيات العلوم والتكنولوجيا، والتصدي لمشكلات هجرة العقول.

١٤,٥ وبالنسبة لقطاع الثقافة، فإننا نحیی الدور الرائد الذي تضطلع به اليونسكو في المجال التقني والذي دخلت بفضلها إلى حيز النفاذ منظومة متكاملة من الوثائق الدولية فائقة الأهمية شملت مجالات عديدة من مجالات اهتمام اليونسكو آخرها اتفاقية حماية وتعزيز تنوع أشكال التعبير الثقافي لعام ٢٠٠٥، التي يسعدني أن أعلن أمام حضراتكم أن مصر قد صدقت عليها وأودعت وثائق التصديق عليها لدى أمانة المنظمة مؤخراً. ومن ناحية أخرى فإننا نحیی جهود اليونسكو في مجال حماية التراث العالمي بشقيه الطبيعي والثقافي، وذلك من خلال الدور الجدير بالإشادة والتقدير الذي يقوم به مركز التراث العالمي. والحق أن مصر تولي عناية فائقة واهتماماً كبيراً لمجالات حماية التراث على أرضها، كما أن التعاون بينها وبين اليونسكو في هذا المجال يعد نموذجاً للتعاون البناء والمثمر على نحو ما شهد به الخبراء

بموضوعية وحياد. ولا يفوتنا في هذا المقام أن نؤكد على ضرورة توجيه أكبر قدر من الاهتمام للأنشطة الداعمة للحوار بين الثقافات والشعوب والأديان لتصحيح المفاهيم والتصورات المغلوطة عن الآخر، ونشر قيم السلام والعدل والتسامح والمساواة، والتصدي للتمييز والتعصب بكافة صورته وأشكاله.

١٤.٦ وفيما يتصل بقطاع الاتصال والمعلومات، فإننا نحبي جهود اليونسكو في مجال دعم استخدام تكنولوجيا المعلومات في التربية وكذلك السعي إلى بناء مجتمع المعرفة، وفي هذا الصدد فإننا نؤكد على أهمية مواصلة الجهود لإزالة كافة المعوقات التي تعترض إتاحة المعرفة سواء داخل المجتمعات أو فيما بينها، وكذا حماية التعددية اللغوية في مجال الاتصال الدولي، فضلا عن أهمية بذل الجهود بغية التوصل إلى ميثاق شرف عالمي لأخلاقيات الاتصال.

١٤.٧ وأخيرا وليس آخرا، فإننا نحبي جهود اليونسكو في مجال تمكين الشباب والمرأة، ونؤكد حرص مصر البالغ على المضي قدما في هذين المجالين. ومن الجدير بالذكر أن نشير إلى أن مصر قد استضافت في الشهر الماضي المنتدى الدولي للشباب والسلام الذي أقيم بمدينة شرم الشيخ برعاية السيدة سوزان مبارك، سيدة مصر الأولى، لدعم مشاركة الشباب في نشر مبادئ وأخلاقيات السلام.

١٤.٨ السيد الرئيس، السيدات والسادة، اسمحوا لي في نهاية كلمتي أن أعبر لكم عن حرص مصر البالغ على استمرار وتطوير التعاون مع اليونسكو تأكيدا على دعمنا لما تمثله من قيم إنسانية نبيلة واستهدافا للتنمية الشاملة لما فيه خير البشرية. شكرا سيدي الرئيس، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(14.1) **Mr Helal (Egypt) in extenso**
(translation from the Arabic):

Your Excellencies the Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO, President of the General Conference, Director-General, Ministers, Ambassadors, representatives of Member States and heads of delegations, I am pleased to address this session of your esteemed Board, which is of great importance as it directly precedes the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. In this context, my statement today will focus on certain specific points which I should like to emphasize in connection with the Egyptian vision regarding the charting of UNESCO's course over the next six years (2008-2013).

(14.2) First, with regard to general policy and management, I should like to begin by expressing my regards and appreciation to the Director-General, the members of the Secretariat, and all the States that have contributed to the preparation of the important documents submitted for discussion at this session. I should also like to salute the untiring efforts being made by the Director-General and members of the Secretariat within the framework of the processes of structural reform, enhancing performance and effectiveness, and revitalizing the planning, monitoring and control mechanisms, within the framework of the reform process that is currently under way in the United Nations system as a whole. Accordingly, we reaffirm the need to endeavour, in respect of UNESCO's activities, to make the goals the Organization is working to achieve clearer and more specific, especially in view of the limited financial resources available. We also stress the vital importance of rationalizing and increasing the effectiveness of expenditure in order to curb waste in the areas of travel, publications and contractual

services, as well as the need to bolster both internal and external oversight mechanisms. We likewise affirm the need to pay a greater degree of attention to the selection process for the appointment of staff to the Secretariat, particularly to field offices, since the success of the decentralization drive is dependent on the competence of such persons and their suitability in terms of experience and decision-making ability.

(14.3) Secondly, in connection with the Major Programmes and the activities of the various sectors, I extend, in relation to the Education Sector, congratulations to Mr Nicholas Burnett on his appointment as Assistant Director-General for Education, and wish him every success in carrying out the weighty responsibilities placed upon his shoulders with a view to accelerating UNESCO's progress in achieving the goals of the education for all (EFA) initiative and the Millennium Development Goals. We stress Egypt's desire to exert the utmost effort and provide maximum resources for the reform of the Education Sector. We stress, too, the importance of furthering South-South cooperation, as a complementary element to North-South cooperation. We welcome the establishment of a fund for South-South cooperation, and commend those States that have contributed to it. We call upon all parties to help to provide support for this fund, hoping that it will, from the start, be in a position to implement priority programmes for the nations of the South. Egypt affirms the importance of devoting maximum attention to Africa, coming as it does at the top of UNESCO's priorities. We also call for greater attention to be given to poverty alleviation programmes and projects, given their importance as a pillar of the development process, in the light of the reduced allocations for this programme in the new budget. We call upon UNESCO to achieve greater balance between the Organization's efforts to combat illiteracy and develop basic education on the one hand, and the attention given to developing and raising the quality of higher education on the other. Higher education is not a luxury, as some suppose, but a fundamental pillar of capacity-building and teacher-training and, consequently, for driving development efforts. In this connection, I am bound to call upon UNESCO to increase the support provided to educational institutions in the occupied territories in Palestine, the Golan and Iraq.

(14.4) We welcome the current efforts to determine the best ways of developing the Natural Sciences Sector and Social and Human Sciences Sector, although we should like to stress the need to achieve balance between the activities of both sectors. We should also like to affirm the importance of directing greater attention and material support to the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme and to efforts undertaken to foster the link between research and social policy. We call upon UNESCO to devote attention to programmes relating to the basic sciences and mathematics, as mainstays of technological progress, in addition to continuing efforts to propagate the ethics of science and technology and tackle the problems of the brain drain.

(14.5) As regards the Culture Sector, we welcome UNESCO's pioneering role in the area of standard-setting action, by virtue of which an integrated system of extremely important international instruments has come into force, covering numerous areas of concern to the Organization. The most recent of these

instruments is the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) which, I am pleased to announce, has been ratified by Egypt; the instrument of ratification was recently deposited with the Organization's Secretariat. On another front, we welcome UNESCO's efforts to protect the world heritage, both natural and cultural, by means of the commendable and admirable role of the World Heritage Centre. The fact is that Egypt devotes the utmost attention to protecting the heritage in its territory, and cooperation between Egypt and UNESCO in this area is a model of constructive and fruitful cooperation, to which the objective and neutral testimony of experts bears witness. I must also affirm here the need to devote greater attention to activities in support of the dialogue among cultures, peoples and religions in order to correct the mistaken conceptions and images of "the Other", spread the values of peace, justice, tolerance and equality, and oppose all forms of discrimination and bigotry.

(14.6) With regard to the Communication and Information Sector, we welcome UNESCO's efforts to support the use of information technology in education, and also the endeavour to build a knowledge society. In this connection, we should like to reiterate the importance of continuing efforts to remove all obstacles to the provision of knowledge, whether within or between societies, the importance of protecting linguistic diversity in international communication, and the importance of continuing efforts to arrive at an international code of conduct for communication ethics.

(14.7) Last but not least, we welcome the efforts of UNESCO in the area of the empowerment of youth and women, and affirm Egypt's keen desire to make progress in these two areas. It is worth mentioning that last month, Egypt hosted the International Forum of Youth for Peace in Sharm el-Sheikh under the auspices of Ms Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt's First Lady, to support the involvement of youth in disseminating the principles and ethics of peace.

(14.8) Mr Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, permit me, in conclusion, to express Egypt's profound desire to maintain and develop cooperation with UNESCO, in affirmation of our support for the noble human values the Organization represents and with the goal of sustainable development for the good of humanity. Thank you, Mr Chairperson. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you).

15.1 Ms Marčiulionytė (Lithuania) in extenso:

Thank you, Chairperson, as they say in South Africa, "all protocol observed". Lithuania endorses the statement by the European Union, presented by the Portuguese presidency. We are not going to reiterate the points already raised, but only to make some additional comments on issues that we believe need to be emphasized.

15.2 We welcome the new ADG for Education, Mr Burnett, and we sincerely hope that he may realize the ambitious and vital goal of UNESCO of taking a strong lead in the entire process of education for all (EFA), not just in words, but through effective actions. Lithuania believes that the activities of the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), UNESCO Chairs and category 2 centres need to be much more closely related to the C/4 document and the programmes of the different UNESCO sectors, thus making the entire Organization

much more focused and results-oriented. It is important for the credibility of UNESCO to ensure that only those schools, Chairs and centres that are truly active in its fields of activity may be associated with its name; maybe it would be timely to consider the possibility of having a re-accreditation policy for them every four or six years.

15.3 We consider that the science review process still has much room for improvement. We agree with those Member States that stress that the social sciences have not received proper attention, and still need to be evaluated, and that the involvement of the Member States in the review process was somewhat limited. We urge the Secretariat to use the expertise and knowledge of the National Commissions in implementing the recommendations and thus to derive much greater impact from the country level.

15.4 The World Heritage Committee has approved of the decision regarding the management audit of the World Heritage Centre. The implementation of the audit's recommendations could become a case study for UNESCO, as a number of shortcomings found in the management of the Centre are very symptomatic of the Organization as a whole. This is of great importance for finding a solution, first, to the problem of how to guarantee long-term contracts for staff responsible for implementing the core functions of the Centre, and secondly, of how to make the procedure of hiring consultants more transparent, taking better account of geographical distribution.

15.5 One of the main tasks of this session is to take a decision concerning the draft declaration of principles relating to cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War. Lithuania is confident that the document, which has been prepared by the intergovernmental experts and gone through a lengthy process of discussions and compromises, will receive the support and understanding of the Members of the Executive Board.

15.6 The World is celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Freedom of the press is one of the key freedoms of humanity, but the whole world is witnessing one journalist after another being murdered while performing their everyday duties. This is clearly a field of UNESCO's responsibility, and we would expect UNESCO to accelerate the Power of Peace Network and other related activities.

15.7 Standard-setting is one of the key functions of UNESCO. The Organization has contributed to international legislation with a number of conventions and recommendations, but quite a few of them are not monitored. The Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, with a mandate from the Executive Board, is proposing a monitoring mechanism. Its implementation at the country level will help to evaluate UNESCO's impact in the relevant fields. But the quality of evaluation will largely depend on the participation of the Member States and on the reports provided. We all need to make sure that this function of UNESCO is successful.

15.8 We agree that the Organization could save much on travel expenses if the duplication of missions were avoided and a clear priority-based policy were adopted for UNESCO staff to participate in various events organized by Member States of the Organization. On the other hand, major events such as committee meetings hosted by Member States should be covered by extrabudgetary funds for organization, since the host country contributes a great deal in financial terms, also "in kind", and adds to

the visibility of UNESCO. Additional travel expenses should be met by participating countries, not by the Secretariat, whereas the expenses of the latter should be covered by the host country.

15.9 UNESCO's visibility plays a key role in enhancing the status and disseminating the values of the Organization. Today UNESCO covers a wide range of activities. Quite a number of them are identified by a certain logo or an emblem. However, in practice there is a clear lack of unified and regulated directives governing UNESCO branding. This results in partial recognition or a misleading perception of the role of the Organization. Lithuania suggests that UNESCO should prepare a complete unified and obligatory brand-book of its associated logos and emblems, which should be available to all Member States. A unified set of regulations (graphical depiction) would ensure the high quality visibility of the Organization.

15.10 We emphasize that the overall policy of UNESCO publications and their distribution needs to be closely examined. Costly publications need to bring value added to the implementation of the goals of the Organization, and should be respected by the audience targeted. A concrete example: all delegations, National Commissions, receive a thick, expensive book with a compilation of articles and press clippings in different languages. It is hard to believe that this effectively contributes to the ambitious aims of the Organization. Right now we have no data on the quality and impact of books and other publications.

15.11 Lithuania is of the view that the UNESCO website contains a huge amount of highly relevant and important information. Nevertheless, we consider that there is still room for improvement. The separate logics of the different sectors still prevail, and it is time-consuming for an outside visitor to find the information needed. We would suggest having a uniform format for the entire website, and letting the different sectors to fill it in with the relevant information.

15.12 We are at a decisive moment for the Organization in the light of United Nations reform, and we all believe that it is time now to do the utmost to make UNESCO an effective and relevant agency. Thank you very much.

16.1 **Г-жа Гусейнова** (Азербайджан)

полный текст:

Уважаемый г-н Председатель Исполнительного совета, уважаемый Генеральный директор, дамы и господа. Настоящая 177-я сессия Исполнительного совета завершает одно из самых сложных и напряженных двухлетий, которые знала наша Организация за последние годы. Выполнение ответственных, важных задач, поставленных 33-й сессией Генеральной конференции, протекало в условиях одновременного глобального реформирования как всей системы учреждений ООН в целом, так и внутренней структуры ЮНЕСКО. Чтобы адекватно осуществлять свою роль генератора и двигателя идей в этом стремительно изменяющемся мире, ЮНЕСКО не менее стремительно должна изменяться сама, чтобы находить ответы на вызовы и проблемы, возникающие перед человечеством.

16.2 В этом контексте заслуживает всяческого одобрения работа, проделанная странами-членами в тесном сотрудничестве с Секретариатом во главе с неутомимым Генеральным директором, что нашло свое исчерпывающее отражение в обстоятельном докладе г-на Мацууры.

16.3 Несмотря на сложности реформационного периода, работа по реализации программы одного из приоритетов Организации – образования – была проведена на должном уровне. Следует отметить эффективность стратегии оказания поддержки со стороны ЮНЕСКО национальному образованию благодаря учету специфики и потребностей стран-членов, а также успех региональных конференций по борьбе с неграмотностью. Хочу проинформировать коллег о планировании проведения аналогичной конференции в Баку в 2008 г.

16.4 Успешно выполнялись крупные программы II и III, несмотря на сложности, связанные с решением глобальных проблем, стоящих перед человечеством: изменение климата, нехватка водных и энергетических ресурсов, стихийные бедствия и т.п. ЮНЕСКО внесла свой должный вклад в разработку адекватных стратегий действий.

16.5 В области социальных и гуманитарных наук хотелось бы отметить актуальность и значение Международной конвенции о борьбе с допингом в спорте, вступившей в силу в начале текущего года. Представляет значительный интерес план действий по юбилею Всеобщей декларации прав человека, разработанный совместно Сектором и странами-членами.

16.6 Значительная работа проделана Сектором культуры параллельно с реорганизацией его структуры, что не помешало в рекордные сроки добиться вступления в силу двух важнейших нормативных документов: Конвенции об охране нематериального культурного наследия и Конвенции об охране и поощрении разнообразия форм культурного самовыражения. Мы приветствуем усилия Сектора культуры по продвижению диалога между культурами, что приобрело особую значимость в наши дни.

16.7 В деятельности Сектора коммуникации и информации следует особо отметить необходимость и актуальность мероприятий, направленных на анализ и продвижение этических параметров информационного общества. Заслуживают одобрения региональные конференции, проводимые по этой тематике.

16.8 Организация предпринимает немалые усилия по осуществлению планов действий по оказанию поддержки Африканскому континенту. Отрадно, что эта деятельность носит межсекторальный и многосторонний характер и уже имеет зримые результаты.

16.9 Моя страна полностью поддерживает усилия по реорганизации ЮНЕСКО, которые должны привести к ее еще большей эффективности. Децентрализация должна сопровождаться усилением ответственности в бюро на местах. Нас не должна смущать смена тенденций в отношении секретариатов двух органов – Генеральной конференции и Исполнительного совета – на их слияние либо разделение. По истечении определенного срока та или иная модель исчерпывает свои ресурсы, и естественным образом возникает потребность в ее замене.

16.10 Расширив этот тезис, можно говорить об имминентности чередования тенденций к инновациям либо консервации; только постоянно адаптируя организм к изменениям окружения при стабильности основ, можно получить надежно функционирующий эффективный механизм.

16.11 Для того, чтобы ЮНЕСКО продолжала быть этим надежным и эффективным органом, ее обратная связь с окружением должна постоянно совершенствоваться. В этом направлении сделано уже многое – Организация установила партнерские отношения с рядом порой нетрадиционных субъектов, связь с традиционными улучшается (пример тому – всплеск активности Секции по работе с НПО – спасибо послу Лакатошу!).

16.12 Полностью доверяя анализу и выводам Генерального директора, наша страна поддерживает предложенный им во имя консенсуса верхний предельный уровень бюджета в 631 млн долл. США.

16.13 В целом Азербайджан удовлетворен качеством документов C/4 и C/5 и выражает глубокую признательность всем структурам и лицам, внесшим вклад в их разработку. Благодарю за внимание.

(16.1) **Ms Husseinova** (Azerbaijan) *in extenso*
(translation from the Russian):

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, this 177th session of the Executive Board concludes one of the most complex and tense biennia that our Organization has experienced in recent years. The implementation of the vital and important tasks set by the General Conference at its 33rd session has taken place in the context of the simultaneous comprehensive reform of both the entire United Nations system and of the internal structure of UNESCO. In order to carry out its role properly as a generator of and engine for ideas in this rapidly changing world, UNESCO itself needs to change no less rapidly to find answers to the challenges and problems facing humanity.

(16.2) In this context, there should be warm endorsement of the work accomplished by the Member States in close cooperation with the Secretariat, led by the tireless Director-General, as exhaustively reflected in Mr Matsuura's detailed report.

(16.3) Regardless of the complexities of the reform period, work on implementing the programme regarding one of the Organization's priorities – education – was carried out at the proper level. The effectiveness of the strategy for providing support from UNESCO to national education by taking into account the particular characteristics and needs of Member States should be noted, as should the success of regional conferences to combat illiteracy. I would like to inform my colleagues that a similar conference is to be held in Baku in 2008.

(16.4) Major Programmes II and III have been successfully implemented, regardless of the complexities connected with the resolution of the global problems facing humankind: climate change, insufficient water and energy resources, natural disasters, and so on. UNESCO made its rightful contribution to the development of suitable action strategies.

(16.5) In the area of social and human sciences, I would like to mention the timeliness and importance of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, which entered into force at the beginning of this year. The action plan for the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, developed jointly by the Sector and Member States, is of great interest.

(16.6) Considerable work was carried out by the Culture Sector in parallel with the reorganization of its structure, which did not stop it from securing, in record time, the entry into force of two key standard-setting documents: the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. We welcome the efforts of the Culture Sector to promote dialogue among cultures, which has become especially significant in our times.

(16.7) Concerning the activities of the Communication and Information Sector, the need for and timeliness of measures aimed at the analysis and advancement of ethical parameters for the information society should be particularly noted. Regional conferences conducted on this topic warrant our approval.

(16.8) The Organization is making significant efforts to carry out action plans to provide support to Africa. It is gratifying that this activity is intersectoral and multilateral in nature, and already has visible results.

(16.9) My country fully supports the efforts to reorganize UNESCO, which should lead to even greater efficiency. Decentralization should be accompanied by a strengthening of accountability in field offices. We should not be disconcerted by the change in the trends relating to the secretariats of the two organs – the General Conference and the Executive Board – whether they are merged or remain separate. At the end of a given period, a given model exhausts its resources, and the need to replace it arises naturally.

(16.10) Expanding on this idea, we can speak of the imminence of the shift of trends either towards innovations or towards conservation; only by constantly adapting the system to changes in the surrounding environment while retaining stable foundations can a reliably functioning and effective mechanism be obtained.

(16.11) So that UNESCO may continue to be this reliable and effective organ, its feedback links with its surrounding environment should be constantly improved. In this regard, much has already been done. The Organization has established partnerships with a series of sometimes non-traditional entities, and the connection with traditional ones is improving (an example of this is the surge of activity in the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations; thank you, Ambassador Lakatos!).

(16.12) Having full confidence in the analysis and conclusions of the Director-General, our country supports the \$631 million budget ceiling he proposed in the name of consensus.

(16.13) Azerbaijan is generally satisfied with the quality of the C/4 and C/5 documents, and expresses its profound appreciation to all of the units and people that contributed to their elaboration. Thank you for your attention.

17.1 **Mr Islam** (Bangladesh) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairperson, honourable President of the General Conference, Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a proud privilege for me to be amidst a galaxy of international personalities and to convey best wishes to everyone from the very core of my heart. Honourable Chair, I join colleagues in expressing

our sincere thanks and deep appreciation to our Director-General for preparing and presenting the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009. Bangladesh appreciates the consistent efforts to improve the programme content and further rationalize budgeting as presented in document 34 C/5. We are indebted to the members of the Drafting Group for their close scrutiny and valuable contributions to the improvement of the Draft Programme and Budget.

17.2 While offering comments on draft document 34 C/5, I would like to suggest a few amendments. First, regarding the description of the biennial sectoral priority throughout the document, I propose that we formulate the listing of emphasis to read as Africa least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and geographic information systems (GISs), as well as developing countries. This amendment is proposed to place all geographical listings together, which seems to me to be more logical. The listing of the group of countries may be followed by a listing of priority, thematic sectors, namely gender equality and vulnerable segments, etc. I also propose to add landlocked developing countries, which are recognized by the United Nations as one of the disadvantaged groups of countries.

17.3 I also suggest that we include the disabled as a sectoral priority, particularly in Major Programme I. Education of the physically disabled, education delivered to the disabled, and teacher-training for the disabled remain neglected areas. The physically disabled victims of disease, accidents and war are socially and economically marginalized. They are victims of superstition, social trauma and discrimination in many societies. Their situation is often contrary to human dignity. Secondly, I propose that we include in the draft resolution and especially in Human Sciences a provision for a special focus on the follow-up and implementation of the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy. Human rights education has direct links to UNESCO's basic mission – the building of peace.

17.4 Finally, I note with satisfaction the emphasis put on the linkage between research and policy in the resolution on the social and human sciences. I would suggest that we go one step further and set our priority on operational linkages between research and policy. It needs no mention that UNESCO is best known for its work in the area of the world heritage. This bears witness to the wisdom of the linkage we are suggesting. It is possibly time to focus better on follow-up and implementation.

17.5 Revered Excellencies, our Planet Earth is beset with manifold problems – extreme poverty, unfair distribution of wealth, environmental hazards, ethical challenges and dilemmas arising from technological and scientific development, conflicts caused by ideology, religion and economy. Although great progress has been made in the area of education, the periodic evaluation report on the Dakar goals has indicated that education for all (EFA) is still facing enormous challenges. Education is an important means of promoting human development, enhancing intercultural exchanges, and building harmonious societies. The right to education is an important component of UNESCO's Constitution, and the realization of EFA goals requires synergy and synchronization of political commitments, policy-making, financial support, supervision and evaluation, etc. We support UNESCO in its efforts to boost technical and professional education in developing countries.

17.6 Dignitaries, UNESCO is well known on account of its knowledge and intellectual cooperation. It is high time for us to reflect on how UNESCO could play its lead role in the knowledge society. Many of us are concerned that the relationship between the Organization and the intellectual community is not as close as we might wish – a situation which really calls for our attention. This Organization should do its utmost to attract and organize scientists and philosophers of worldwide repute to conduct forward-looking and high-quality research and studies on those major issues which have a major impact on international peace and sustainable development, with a view to propagating ideas and thoughts which will advance our forward movement. In our bid to meet the challenges of the changing world such as global climate change and the degradation of the environment, UNESCO should promote international cooperation and scientific research, including earth science, in order to make the world a better place where we may live in harmony with nature.

17.7 UNESCO is an organization with top-heavy administration – an issue which needs to be addressed urgently, otherwise budgetary allocations will remain imbalanced and, *inter alia*, put a stumbling block on its attainment of laurels. UNESCO personnel, besides having a high calibre, should have an utmost, inherent sense of belonging and accountability. The activities of the field offices should be closely monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.

17.8 Mr Chairperson, there has been a remarkable development in education in the last 36 years in Bangladesh; the level of participation has increased steadily at all levels. Private non-governmental sectors have complemented government efforts in achieving national education goals. Bangladesh is on track in respect of six Dakar goals and eight Millennium Development Goals; Bangladesh has achieved a 98% enrolment ratio at primary level; the secondary enrolment ratio has reached 65%. Our mass education programme has resulted in an adult literacy rate estimated at 69%. Gender parity has been achieved at the primary and secondary levels, with girls accounting for over 50% of enrolment. We have introduced vocational business management and information and communication technology streams at the secondary level. To ensure quality education, the government has taken initiatives to recruit teachers in the private sector through competitive examination under the non-governmental teachers' registration and certification authority, providing teacher training programmes all over the country, and increasing financial support and supply of teaching materials.

17.9 Honourable Chair, cultural heritage constitutes a most significant aspect of the excellence of civilization and creativity. In Bangladesh, there are more than 30 tribal groups with their distinct cultures, religions and traditions. For selected ethnic groups, this is the first time primary level textbooks have been published in their own language. Bangladesh observes the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August). There are a few significant historical monuments at Paharpur and Lalmai-Mainamati, which have a glorious historical past. We implore UNESCO to extend its support for the inclusion of these sites in the World Heritage List.

17.10 Honourable Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, I express my heartfelt gratitude for your attention.

18.1 **M. Rahal** (Algérie) *in extenso* :

C'est avec raison que le Président du Conseil exécutif, dans son introduction à nos travaux, a attiré notre attention sur l'importance de cette session au cours de laquelle nous devons faire le bilan de nos activités en prévision de la très prochaine Conférence générale. C'est un peu l'heure de vérité pour nous, et je suis certain que nous saurons y faire face sous sa présidence, pendant laquelle, je veux le dire sans flagornerie, il a fait montre de beaucoup de panache, d'élégance et de compétence. Il nous a fait part de son souci de présenter à la Conférence générale un rapport qui sorte de la routine : ce souci l'honore et je suis certain qu'il recevra en cela le soutien total de tous les membres du Conseil.

18.2 Je veux également assurer le Directeur général de ma sympathie, que partagent certainement les autres membres du Conseil, dans ces exercices d'une acrobatie tout à fait particulière au cours desquels il doit concilier des exigences contradictoires et toujours produire plus avec des moyens plus réduits. Il y a lieu, effectivement, de s'inquiéter de la tendance, hélas générale, des pays qui en ont le plus les moyens d'accorder plus facilement leur contribution aux œuvres de guerre et de destruction qu'aux œuvres de paix et de développement.

18.3 Dois-je rappeler que, depuis plus de trente ans, les pays développés renouvellent régulièrement leur engagement de consacrer 0,7 % de leur PNB à l'aide au développement ? À ma connaissance, aucun d'entre eux n'a honoré cet engagement, même si quelques-uns, très rares, comme la France, s'en sont rapprochés. Bien entendu, l'UNESCO n'a aucune responsabilité dans cette situation. Je dirais même qu'elle en pâtit en ce sens qu'elle n'est pas mise en état de remplir correctement sa mission, car l'éducation, la science, la culture et la communication auxquelles son sigle fait référence ne sont pas, en elles-mêmes, une finalité pour l'UNESCO, sa vraie finalité étant de les mettre au service du progrès de l'humanité en élevant les défenses de la paix dans l'esprit des hommes.

18.4 L'un des points les plus importants sur lesquels s'est portée l'activité de notre Conseil concerne l'Afrique, continent auquel, nous ne cessons de le répéter à la suite de la Conférence générale, nous devons accorder une priorité absolue. Ce n'est d'ailleurs pas uniquement le cas de notre Organisation. Cette même attitude est partagée par l'ONU et les organisations internationales qui en relèvent. C'est aussi le cas de l'Union européenne et du G-8. C'est effectivement très rassurant pour les Africains. Il est certain que si toutes les promesses faites aux pays africains avaient été tenues, leur continent serait l'un des plus prospères au monde.

18.5 Ne soyez pas étonnés que les Africains soient de plus en plus conscients de cette triste réalité : ils savent maintenant que leur salut est en eux-mêmes, et les choses commencent réellement à bouger chez eux. L'initiative du NEPAD, que vous connaissez tous et à laquelle vous avez promis votre soutien, illustre la prise de conscience des Africains et leur volonté de s'engager de la manière la plus sérieuse et dans tous les domaines dans la lutte contre leur sous-développement. Mais leur écart par rapport au monde développé est tel qu'ils ne peuvent espérer parvenir à un résultat véritable sans l'aide qu'ils attendent, mais n'obtiennent pas, des pays qui en ont les moyens et dont souvent la prospérité repose sur une longue exploitation, coloniale ou autre, des ressources humaines et naturelles d'une Afrique généreuse et impuissante.

18.6 Que l'on ne se fasse pas d'illusion : cette situation désastreuse de l'Afrique représente une menace directe pour la prospérité des pays riches et pour la paix dans le monde. Le phénomène de l'immigration clandestine, dont l'Afrique représente la source la plus importante, devrait donner à réfléchir aux pays développés qui, pour l'instant, ne veulent y faire face que par une répression souvent impitoyable. Tous ces jeunes Africains qui s'exposent à une mort presque certaine désirent seulement vivre un peu comme vivent les autres jeunes dans des contrées mieux fortunées. Toutes les télévisions du monde rapportent ces images insoutenables de grappes humaines fuyant la misère mais rencontrant le rejet impitoyable et le renvoi sans ménagement à leur misère d'origine. Il y a là de quoi bouleverser les consciences les plus endurcies, mais cela ne résout pas le problème, dont la gravité et l'urgence ne font pas l'ombre d'un doute.

18.7 Mes chers collègues, pensez-vous sérieusement que la priorité que nous affirmons donner à l'Afrique suffira à préserver le monde d'une situation qui empire de jour en jour et qui finira par exiger des sacrifices autrement plus importants que ceux qu'imposerait la prise en charge des problèmes tels qu'ils se posent actuellement ? Il n'est pas normal et il n'est pas juste que le continent africain demeure en marge de l'évolution du monde. Son développement ne peut en aucun cas se faire au détriment de la prospérité des autres continents. Bien au contraire, le développement de l'Afrique consoliderait cette prospérité, tant il est vrai que jamais la richesse ne sera en sécurité au milieu de la misère et du dénuement. Et comment la communauté mondiale pourrait-elle connaître la paix et la sécurité tant que l'une de ses parties les plus importantes stagne dans le sous-développement et ses conséquences les plus désastreuses ?

18.8 Je suis obligé d'arrêter là mon plaidoyer mais je vous prie, mes chers collègues, de bien croire que ces situations me préoccupent au plus haut point, comme je suis certain que c'est le cas de la plupart d'entre vous. Tirez-en les conséquences. Je vous remercie.

19.1 **Sra. Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala) *in extenso* :

Señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Director General, estimadas y estimados colegas: me uno a los oradores que me han precedido para agradecer al Director General los informes contenidos en los documentos 177 EX/4, EX/5 y EX/6, en los cuales nos detalla el cumplimiento de las decisiones del Consejo Ejecutivo y las resoluciones de la Conferencia General, y nos muestra los adelantos con relación a la Estrategia a Plazo Medio y al Programa y Presupuesto del presente bienio.

19.2 Es mi intención presentar algunos comentarios, específicamente sobre el trabajo realizado en los grandes programas, ya que ésta será la última vez que participe en una reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo de esta Organización.

19.3 Es evidente el reto que representan las metas establecidas con miras al logro de la educación para todos, y el esfuerzo que requiere la coordinación del trabajo intersectorial e interinstitucional, especialmente con los diversos organismos, fondos y programas de las Naciones Unidas, en la Sede, como en el terreno.

19.4 Por ello apreciamos la creación del Grupo Consultivo Internacional sobre Educación para Todos, a fin de fortalecer los procesos y mecanismos de la EPT,

con miras a la aplicación del Plan de Acción Global, y la estrategia en favor de la educación nacional.

19.5 Somos conscientes de los recursos financieros que exige la EPT y de que esos recursos, en los países en desarrollo, son insuficientes para el logro de las metas, por lo que expresamos nuestro apoyo a los múltiples esfuerzos que realiza la UNESCO para recabar fondos extrapresupuestarios. También apoyamos el llamamiento dirigido a los gobiernos para que, en sus políticas, programas y presupuestos, incorporen procesos de inclusión y equidad y tomen en cuenta las dimensiones culturales y los contextos indígenas, prioricen la educación, incrementen el porcentaje del PIB que se le destina e integren iniciativas de canje de deuda por educación con países desarrollados e instituciones financieras, incluyendo iniciativas exitosas de alfabetización y de educación para todos en sus programas de desarrollo.

19.6 En cuanto al presupuesto, es relevante mencionar que se espera una mayor transparencia, precisión, claridad y eficiencia en su formulación y ejecución, así como en la gestión de la información presupuestaria. En particular, se advierte que la desproporción entre los gastos de la administración y los gastos correspondientes a programas parece acentuarse en la nueva propuesta de la Secretaría. También nos preocupa el porcentaje del presupuesto destinado a actividades en la región.

19.7 Instamos al Director General a continuar su labor para optimizar la puesta en marcha del fondo de cooperación Sur-Sur para la educación y fomentar la cooperación Sur-Norte-Sur para la educación. Asimismo le pedimos que, a través de una reorientación estratégica, continúe desarrollando el Programa UNITWIN y de Cátedras UNESCO y le preste el apoyo necesario, enfocando y reforzando la transversalidad de sus acciones en el resto de los sectores de la UNESCO.

19.8 Observamos con interés la mesa redonda de ministros sobre educación y desarrollo económico prevista en la próxima Conferencia General, teniendo en cuenta que las poblaciones demandan una educación pertinente y de calidad, con objetivos prácticos y contextualizados y contenidos con prospectiva ocupacional, que facilitan la participación en el desarrollo social y económico, los procesos democráticos y la distribución del bienestar.

19.9 Señor Presidente, algunos temas son determinantes para el futuro de la paz y el desarrollo humano: los adelantos e innovaciones en materia de información y comunicación y sus aplicaciones para el control de los espacios aéreos, terrestres y marítimos; los nuevos descubrimientos en relación a la genética, la biotecnología y la gestión de los recursos naturales; la producción de energía; el calentamiento global y el control de la producción de carbono; y los adelantos tecnológicos en materia de robótica e informática.

19.10 Consideramos necesario continuar e incrementar los programas de fortalecimiento de las capacidades nacionales, la investigación y la promoción de foros como espacios de diálogo, y la creación de redes del conocimiento auspiciados por la UNESCO, propiciando una mayor participación de los países en desarrollo, teniendo en cuenta los conocimientos de los pueblos indígenas y las instituciones locales, gubernamentales y de la sociedad civil, y facilitando mejores resultados, impactos y compromisos formales para la aplicación y el cumplimiento de los acuerdos y recomendaciones que se

adopten, tal y como lo han programado el MAB y la iniciativa denominada "Unidos en la acción".

19.11 Guatemala ha apoyado el Programa sobre el Hombre y la Biosfera (MAB) ya que estamos convencidos de que es uno de los programas más emblemáticos de la Organización desde su creación en 1970, habiendo siempre demostrado su capacidad de adaptación a las diferentes circunstancias y retos planteados a través de los años. Por lo tanto, agradecemos la iniciativa del Gobierno español de organizar el Tercer Congreso Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera, que se celebrará en Madrid del 4 al 9 de febrero de 2008, y en el cual Guatemala cuenta participar activamente. Estamos seguros de que esta manifestación tan importante reforzará aún más la Red Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera. Sin embargo, queremos expresar nuestra gran inquietud por la proposición de la Secretaría de cambiar el nombre del Programa. El Programa MAB es conocido en todo el mundo, y darle un nuevo nombre llevaría a confusión y a la incompreensión del porqué de esta decisión. Por último, quisiera agregar que el nombre del Programa MAB evoca para todos el nombre de sus creadores dentro de la UNESCO, Michel Batisse y Francesco di Castri.

19.12 En el futuro, los cambios climáticos podrían relacionarse con las actuales causas de la migración; son éstos temas de reflexión que nos llevan a subrayar la necesidad de apoyar la creación de una Red de autoridades nacionales de apoyo a las personas migrantes víctimas de discriminación y xenofobia, que sería acogida en nuestra región, como un instrumento para poner en marcha las acciones necesarias para que, mediante la educación y las ciencias, se combata el racismo y todo tipo de discriminación.

19.13 Felicitamos al Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas por la reciente publicación de "La Filosofía, una escuela de libertad". Asimismo, instamos al Director General a continuar sus esfuerzos para que el Día Mundial de la Filosofía siga estando inscrito dentro de las actividades del sector como estrategia para el diálogo interregional. De igual manera, instamos a continuar con los procesos técnico-administrativos con miras a la elaboración de la convención para la defensa de los idiomas indígenas.

19.14 Estamos convencidos de que los Estados Miembros han tomado nota en sus programas para el año próximo de la proclamación por las Naciones Unidas de 2008 Año Internacional del Planeta Tierra y los aportes que la UNESCO podrá ofrecer, en sus esferas de competencia, para reconocer en los diferentes sectores la importancia de destacar acciones concretas para la salud y el adecuado manejo de la Madre Tierra.

19.15 Felicitamos al Director General por los resultados alcanzados en Jartum con motivo de la Asamblea de Jefes de Estado de la Unión Africana dedicada a la educación y a la cultura, y le instamos a realizar esfuerzos similares -particularmente en América Latina y el Caribe- que contribuyan a incorporar en los sistemas educativos contenidos, idiomas, conocimientos y las cosmovisiones de los Pueblos Indígenas y originarios del continente americano.

19.16 Apoyamos todos los esfuerzos que ha realizado el Director General a través del Grupo de Alto Nivel para la Alianza de Civilizaciones. La UNESCO debe asumir activamente, dentro de sus ámbitos de competencia, las responsabilidades que le han sido atribuidas en la declaración y plan de acción elaborado por el Grupo de

Alto Nivel, del que será alto representante el Presidente Sampaio. La UNESCO no puede escatimar fondos para una idea movilizadora que tiene como misión fundamental construir la cultura de paz a través del diálogo y el entendimiento entre las culturas, entre los pueblos, a escala internacional y nacional. Nadie, ningún país, ni sociedad por poderosa o pequeña que sea escapa al flagelo de la violencia.

(19.1) **Ms Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala) *in extenso*
(translation from the Spanish):

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished colleagues, I join previous speakers in thanking the Director-General for his reports in documents 177 EX/4, 177 EX/5 and 177 EX/6 on the execution of the decisions adopted by the Executive Board and the resolutions adopted by the General Conference, and on the progress achieved under the Medium-Term Strategy and the Programme and Budget for the current biennium.

(19.2) As I am participating in a session of UNESCO's Executive Board for the last time, I should like to make a few comments, particularly on the work carried out under the Major Programmes.

(19.3) There is little doubt of the challenge inherent in the objectives established to achieve education for all (EFA) and in the efforts needed to coordinate intersectoral and inter-agency action – particularly with the various United Nations organizations, funds and programmes – at Headquarters and in the field.

(19.4) We therefore welcome the International Advisory Panel on Education for All, which has been established to enhance EFA processes and mechanisms and thus implement the Global Action Plan and the strategy to promote national education.

(19.5) Aware of the financial resources needed for EFA and of the insufficiency of resources in developing countries for meeting the goals, we support UNESCO's efforts on many fronts to obtain extrabudgetary funds. We also endorse the call for governments to incorporate inclusive and equitable processes in their policies, programmes and budgets, to take cultural dimensions and indigenous contexts into account, to give priority to education while increasing its allocation as a proportion of GDP, and include debt swaps for education initiatives with developed countries and financial institutions, drawing on successful literacy and EFA initiatives, in their development programmes.

(19.6) In regard to the budget, it must be pointed out that greater transparency, precision, clarity and efficiency are expected both in drawing up and executing the budget, and in managing budgetary information. In particular, the lack of proportion between administrative expenditure and programme expenditure in the Secretariat's new draft seems to have widened. We are also concerned about the percentage of the budget that has been allocated for activities in the region.

(19.7) We urge the Director-General to continue his efforts to optimize the implementation of the South-South cooperation fund for education and to promote South-North-South cooperation in education. We also call on him to continue to develop the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, and to give it the necessary support, focusing and enhancing

cross-cutting activities in the other sectors of UNESCO.

(19.8) We note with interest the Ministerial Round Table on Education and Economic Development to be held during the General Conference, in view of the grass-root demand for quality, relevant education with practical, contextual objectives and content geared to a professional future and facilitating participation in economic and social development, democratic processes and the distribution of well-being.

(19.9) Mr Chairperson, some themes are crucial to the future of peace and human development, namely the advances in information and communication technology and their applications in the control of land, sea and air space, new discoveries in genetics, biotechnology and the management of natural resources, energy production, global warming and the control of carbon emissions and technological advances in robotics and computing.

(19.10) We believe that national capacity-building programmes, research and the promotion of forums for dialogue, and the establishment of knowledge networks under the auspices of UNESCO must be continued and enhanced, fostering greater participation by developing countries, taking into account the knowledge of indigenous peoples, local governmental and civil society institutions and facilitating improved outcomes, impacts and formal commitments to the application and fulfilment of agreements and recommendations adopted, in accordance with the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the Delivering as One initiative.

(19.11) Guatemala has supported the MAB Programme out of the conviction that, since its establishment in 1970, it has been one of UNESCO's most emblematic programmes, for it has always demonstrated its adaptability to the variety of circumstances and challenges that have arisen over the years. We therefore thank the Spanish Government for taking the initiative in holding the Third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Madrid from 4 to 9 February 2008, in which Guatemala intends to participate actively. We firmly believe that this important event will strengthen the World Network of Biosphere Reserves further. We should, however, like to express deep concern about the Secretariat's proposal to rename the Programme. The MAB Programme enjoys worldwide renown, and changing its name would lead to confusion and incomprehension as to the reason behind the decision to do so. Lastly, I should add that the name calls to mind that of its founders at UNESCO – Michel Batisse and Francesco di Castri.

(19.12) Climate change may in future be linked to the current causes of migration, all issues that provide food for thought as we stress the need to support the establishment of a network of national authorities to assist migrants who fall victim to discrimination and xenophobia. Such a network would be welcome in our region as a spur to action needed to combat, through education and sciences, racism and all forms of discrimination.

(19.13) We congratulate the Social and Human Sciences Sector on its recent publication of "Philosophy, a School of Freedom". We also urge the Director-General to pursue his efforts to ensure that World Philosophy Day will continue to be included in

the sector's activities as a strategy for interregional dialogue. Similarly, we call for technical and administrative endeavours to be pursued with a view to the drafting of a convention on the protection of indigenous languages.

(19.14) We have no doubt that Member States have noted in their diaries for the year ahead the United Nations proclamation of 2008 as International Year of Planet Earth and UNESCO's potential contributions in its fields of competence to winning recognition, in various sectors, of the importance of highlighting practical action taken to promote the health and proper treatment of Mother Earth.

(19.15) We congratulate the Director-General on the outcomes of the Summit of African Union Heads of State on Education and Culture held in Khartoum, and we urge him to make similar efforts – particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean – to contribute to the inclusion in education systems of content on and the languages, knowledge and world views of the indigenous people of the Americas.

(19.16) We fully support the efforts made by the Director-General through the High-Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations. UNESCO must actively discharge, within its fields of competence, the responsibilities assigned to the Organization in the declaration and action plan drawn up by the High-Level Group, whose appointed High Representative was President Sampaio. UNESCO may spare no expense in supporting an initiative whose principal mission is to build a culture of peace internationally and nationally through dialogue and understanding among cultures and peoples. No one, no country, no society, however powerful or small, has been left unscathed by the scourge of violence. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

20.1 **Ms Thacoor-Sidaya** (Mauritius) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Mr Chairperson, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, my dear colleagues, it is my privilege to address this Board one last time during the current tenure of office of Mauritius, before the renewal of the Board at the forthcoming session of the General Conference. I wish to thank you, Mr Chairperson, for the wisdom, clarity and dexterity with which you have presided over the meetings of the Board during the biennium now ending. Our heartfelt thanks also go to the other office-bearers of this august Board. Allow me also to commend the Director-General and his team for the amount and quality of work accomplished in order to present to us the necessary information for our consideration.

20.2 I must confess that when taking up my post at UNESCO I courageously plunged into the mass of documents the Secretariat sent me, secretly nurturing the idea that "... it will go better after a while ...". After two sessions of the Executive Board, I still receive tons of documents to read, but I now find them easier to digest than before. I guess it may be a question of getting used to it, but I prefer to think that the quality of the documents speaks for itself. A special thank you, therefore, to all those involved in the preparation, printing and distribution of the documents.

20.3 Taking the opportunity to address the current Board one last time, I wish to thank UNESCO heartily for the assistance it has made available to my country, and which has been instrumental in the training of staff and

participation in important meetings. Those forms of assistance, however modest they may seem, are indeed crucial for small countries like Mauritius. We hope that this fact is borne in mind when we discuss and recommend the C/4 and C/5 documents.

20.4 Mauritius is committed to providing quality education, and to making it accessible to all its citizens. Our only resource is our people. We want our young generation to better equip itself in order to sustain the fierce competition of a globalized world. Access to and use of new technologies are the driving forces that would make the difference. In the dynamics of such movement, we are bound to constantly re-invent a new future for this generation and for the generations to come, and higher education standards are the key to our future. We believe UNESCO has a key role to play in implementing quality education for all (EFA) in developing countries. It is a tall order, but together we shall overcome the obstacles and difficulties.

20.5 We welcome the appointment of the new ADG for Education. We wish him well as he takes the reigns of one of the most important sectors of UNESCO, if not the most important sector, and which has been at the centre of much turmoil recently. We would just like to welcome him and convey to him that there is much work to be done, and that we rely on his ability and wide experience in order to pull the whole Sector together so as to address pressing issues and looming deadlines.

20.6 We welcome the streamlined Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (C/5). We are aware of and thankful for the efforts put in by the Director-General and his team in order to perform this delicate balancing act. For our part, we would nevertheless have wished further focus on the two priority areas which are Africa and gender balance. However, we recognize that compromise is necessary in order to make things happen in the field... where it all matters!

20.7 As you are aware, small island developing States (SIDS) face unprecedented development challenges amidst concerns over the environment and their extreme vulnerability to the adverse effects of global climate change. Those factors are compounded by a harsh economic climate that puts more pressure on people living in small island developing States, among others, and whose future appears grimmer day by day. We at UNESCO should be able to do something about this. The SIDS group has already started discussions among the SIDS on practical measures that could be taken to address those specific concerns. The innovation would lie in the fact that the forum is open-ended, and would hopefully take into account the aspirations and hopes of the peoples themselves. We hope that our partners, including the UNESCO Secretariat, will assist us in an appropriate manner.

20.8 Culture is an important element of any society, all the more so for a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious country like Mauritius. We have gone a long way towards constructing the small rainbow nation of ours. We are aware that rainbows are but ephemeral, but we pride ourselves in thinking that the unique blend of civilization that started 300 years ago is carved out of rock and mixed with blood, sweat and tears.

20.9 Our ancestors have left us with a legacy that we are today very proud of and which we want to share with others. The Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site bears testimony to the suffering endured by one segment of the

rainbow nation. Likewise, Mauritius wishes to honour another segment of the Mauritian palette with the nomination of Le Morne site for inscription on the World Heritage List. Le Morne site is a symbol of resistance to slavery and the fight for freedom, a symbol not only for Mauritius but for the world at large. It represents the shared suffering of all those who experienced oppression in the form of the slave trade and slavery. We would appreciate the support of all in order to commemorate that part of our history. My country believes in the value and preservation of the cultural heritage of nations. To that end, Mauritius has contributed \$10,000 to the African World Heritage Fund. We call upon our brothers and sisters of the continent and elsewhere to join in that noble effort.

20.10 Mr Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, as we bow out of office, I wish to present to this Board the best wishes of the Government and people of Mauritius for the furtherance of the high ideals of UNESCO. Mauritius will certainly continue to play its role in that endeavour. Thank you.

21.1 **Sr. Michelini** (Uruguay) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señor Director General de la UNESCO, estimados colegas: esta reunión tiene la particular importancia de preceder a la 34ª reunión de la Conferencia General de la Organización, cuyos objetivos y metas se reflejarán en el proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2008-2009 a partir de las recomendaciones que este Consejo sugiera.

21.2 El desafío de llegar a acuerdos, lo más consensuados posibles, sobre los proyectos de programas y presupuestos, no debería ocultar el hecho de que desde la anterior Conferencia se han hecho algunos avances sustantivos. Éstos, desde mi punto de vista, han permitido a la UNESCO potenciar su función de foro privilegiado y especial del necesario diálogo entre los pueblos, reflejo de la diversidad cultural y al mismo tiempo de un denominador común, plasmado en la Constitución de la Organización.

21.3 Así, este Consejo Ejecutivo, como la 33ª reunión Conferencia General, han sabido llevar adelante una trascendente iniciativa, convertida en un instrumento internacional vigente, como es la Convención sobre la Protección y Promoción de la Diversidad de las Expresiones Culturales. Pese a los augurios negativos de algunos sobre esta idea, ya se están viendo sus resultados concretos, que demuestran tanto la importancia como la pertinencia de la iniciativa. Reiteramos una vez más nuestro deseo de que todos los Estados Miembros se sumen a ella y, sin ideas preconcebidas, se adhieran a este instrumento.

21.4 Es bueno recordar situaciones de especial significación abordadas por este Consejo que demuestran que la Organización ha desarrollado un papel rector, privilegiando el diálogo y la tolerancia. No obstante, cuestiones intrínsecamente delicadas como la libertad de expresión y su relación con el debido respeto a las creencias religiosas o sagradas de otros, y el progreso realizado en lo referente a la cuesta de acceso a la Puerta de los Magrebíes de la ciudad vieja de Jerusalén han demostrado que es posible abordar los temas más delicados y llegar a consensos productivos que subrayen lo que une a nuestros pueblos.

21.5 Nos consta que toda la región del grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC), que Uruguay ha tenido el orgullo de representar en la Mesa del Consejo,

trabajó en forma seria y responsable para que la UNESCO cumpla este rol fundamental.

21.6 Justamente, es en el marco del proceso de reforma del sistema de las Naciones Unidas -en el que, dicho sea de paso, el Uruguay ha sido uno de los países escogidos para llevar a cabo la experiencia piloto-, en el que la UNESCO debe ser percibida como un ámbito que contribuye decididamente a lograr un mundo en el que los problemas tan complejos que vivimos se aborden desde la perspectiva de la tolerancia, la búsqueda de la paz y la plena vigencia de los derechos humanos, sin mesianismos ni hegemonías de naturaleza alguna, que posibiliten el desarrollo de un planeta multilateral pacífico, ecuánime, tolerante y respetuoso del derecho internacional.

21.7 En este escenario, el diálogo sobre la civilización, la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la ética tienen un papel singular y fundamental. Así, es absolutamente coherente que la UNESCO apoye decididamente el "Diálogo entre civilizaciones" en el ámbito de las Naciones Unidas, aportando toda su experiencia en la materia.

21.8 Es cierto también que no sólo la palabra en estos foros conduce a mejorar la calidad de vida de nuestros pueblos. Por ello, reiteramos que la acción concreta enmarcada en los principios y propósitos de la UNESCO es fundamental, tanto la financiada con fondos presupuestarios como la que se financia con las contribuciones voluntarias.

21.9 Asimismo, y en el marco correspondiente a esta Organización en materia de defensa de los derechos humanos, en particular a aquéllos relativos a la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la no discriminación en materia de enseñanza, se propone un proyecto de decisión al Consejo para conmemorar el 60º Aniversario de la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos. Dicha propuesta no es simplemente una formalidad, sino que implica el seguimiento de un tema en el que la UNESCO ha tenido en celebraciones previas un rol activo. Es bueno recordar el plan de acción aprobado oportunamente, al que se debe dar seguimiento y que, en esta ocasión particular, requiere una adecuada preparación hasta el 10 de diciembre de 2008, centrándose específicamente en la realización de actividades a través de las oficinas regionales.

21.10 Reiteramos la importancia que asignamos al Programa de Participación, sin que ello nos impida ser concientes de la necesidad de perfeccionar sus mecanismos, otorgándole la mayor transparencia posible, y subrayando su carácter regional, en el marco del fortalecimiento de las comisiones nacionales y las relaciones con las organizaciones no gubernamentales a nivel local, regional y universal, incluidos los centros, clubes y cátedras vinculadas a la Organización.

21.11 Asimismo, saludamos los esfuerzos realizados en la ejecución del Programa Información para Todos y respecto de los problemas de acceso a la información y a la tecnología en la búsqueda de la Sociedad de la Información

21.12 La Educación "para todos a lo largo de toda la vida" debe continuar siendo un objetivo sustantivo y prioritario de la Organización. Allí donde no existe una mínima educación, las situaciones de pobreza, marginación y exclusión se agravan y profundizan. Por ello saludamos toda iniciativa que apunte a alfabetizar y destacamos en particular la aplicación del método "Yo sí puedo" que fue adaptado a las particulares características

de nuestra sociedad con resultados altamente satisfactorios.

21.13 La alfabetización básica es un prerrequisito, pero naturalmente no es suficiente para brindar a nuestros pueblos las herramientas para el desarrollo. Por ello quiero destacar tres hechos importantes que están sucediendo en mi país: el debate educativo, la asignación presupuestaria y el inicio de una política masiva de educación informática. En efecto, se ha llevado a cabo el más extenso, amplio y profundo debate en la historia de Uruguay basado en el diálogo, la tolerancia y la participación, para establecer las bases de una nueva Ley General de Educación. Asimismo, se ha iniciado la introducción masiva de la informática a nivel de educación primaria pública con vocación universal. Todo ello en el marco de un significativo refuerzo presupuestario de la educación en general.

21.14 En el mundo global en que vivimos, el racismo, la discriminación, la xenofobia y las formas conexas de intolerancia se expresan con mayor gravedad en las poblaciones migrantes. En ese sentido tenemos la plena convicción de que las experiencias de coaliciones de ciudades contra estos flagelos a nivel local han sido excelentes. Por ese motivo, Uruguay ha presentado un proyecto de decisión a la consideración del Consejo Ejecutivo, en el cual se busca aprovechar la experiencia de la UNESCO a nivel de los gobiernos locales para avanzar en la educación de derechos humanos de dichas comunidades, especialmente vulnerables, y se pide al Director General que incluya en el documento 34 C/5 disposiciones para la creación de una red, en el marco de una actividad que permita a dos años plazo trabajar en un plan piloto.

21.15 Sr. Presidente, no quisiera terminar estas palabras, en la medida que en este Consejo Ejecutivo finaliza mi mandato como Delegado de mi país en el ejercicio de la vicepresidencia, para agradecer sinceramente a los colegas de este órgano, a Usted personalmente y al conjunto de funcionarios y funcionarias que hacen posible el funcionamiento de la Organización, por la permanente y afable colaboración, como su compromiso que me permitió cumplir con la tarea que honrosamente se me asignó y desempeñé desde la primavera de 2005. A todos, muchas gracias

(21.1) **Mr Michelini (Uruguay) *in extenso***
(*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General of UNESCO, esteemed colleagues, this session is particularly important, preceding as it does the 34th session of the General Conference of this Organization, whose objectives and goals will be reflected in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 on the basis of the recommendations of this Board.

(21.2) The challenge of reaching agreements on draft programmes and budgets that are as consensual as possible should not obscure the fact that some substantial progress has been made since the previous session of the Conference. In my opinion, that progress has enabled UNESCO to strengthen its function as a key, special forum for the much-needed dialogue among peoples, a reflection of cultural diversity and at the same time of a common denominator, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Organization.

(21.3) This Executive Board, like the General Conference at its 33rd session, has proved itself capable of moving forward a highly significant

initiative which has become an operational international instrument, the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Despite the negative predictions of some regarding that idea, its practical results are already becoming apparent, showing both the importance and relevance of the initiative. We shall reiterate one more time our hope that all Member States will join the Convention and with no preconceptions adhere to this instrument.

(21.4) It is useful to recall situations of particular significance addressed by the Board that show that the Organization has played a leading role, making a priority of dialogue and tolerance. However, inherently sensitive matters such as freedom of expression and its relation to due respect for the religious and sacred beliefs of others, and the progress made regarding the Mughrabi ascent in the Old City of Jerusalem have shown that it is possible to address the most sensitive themes, and forge a productive consensus that underscores what unites our peoples.

(21.5) We must note that the entire region covered by the Latin America and Caribbean group, which Uruguay is proud to represent in the Bureau of the Board, has worked seriously and responsibly to ensure that UNESCO plays that fundamental role.

(21.6) Indeed, it is in the context of United Nations system reform, for which, incidentally, Uruguay has been selected as one of the pilot countries, that UNESCO should be seen as a forum that can make a decisive contribution to achieving a world in which the immensely complex problems we are experiencing may be addressed from the perspective of tolerance, the search for peace and full respect for human rights, without any kind of messianism or hegemony, making it possible to develop a multilateral, peaceful, equitable, tolerant world where international law is respected.

(21.7) In this scenario, dialogue about civilization, education, science, culture and ethics have a special and fundamental role. It is thus absolutely logical that UNESCO should steadfastly support the dialogue among civilizations within the framework of the United Nations, bringing to bear all its experience in the field.

(21.8) It is certain as well that not only what is said in these forums can lead to improvements in the quality of life of our peoples. Therefore, we reiterate that specific action, in line with the principles and purposes of UNESCO, is essential, both action financed from budgetary funds and that funded by voluntary contributions.

(21.9) Likewise, and in the framework of the Organization's defence of human rights, in particular those concerning education, science, culture and non-discrimination in education, a draft decision is being brought before the Board for the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This proposal is not a mere formality, but rather it involves following up a subject in relation to which UNESCO has played an active role in previous celebrations. It is useful to recall the plan of action, approved in timely fashion, which should be followed up and which on this particular occasion requires sufficient preparation by 10 December 2008, focusing especially on carrying out activities through the regional bureaux.

(21.10) We reaffirm the importance we attach to the Participation Programme, although this does not prevent us from being aware of the need to perfect its mechanisms, making it as transparent as possible and emphasizing its regional nature in the framework of strengthening the National Commissions and relations with non-governmental organizations at the local, regional and global levels, including the centres, clubs and Chairs connected to the Organization.

(21.11) We also welcome the efforts made to implement the Information for All Programme, and to address problems of access to information and technology with a view to establishing the information society.

(21.12) Lifelong education for all must continue to be a substantive and priority objective of the Organization. In places where there is not even a minimum of education, poverty, marginalization and exclusion become worse and more widespread. We therefore welcome any initiative aimed at literacy, and highlight in particular the application of the *Yo sí puedo* method, which has been adapted to the particular characteristics of our society with highly satisfactory results.

(21.13) Basic literacy is a prerequisite, but naturally it is not enough to provide our peoples with the tools for development. I should therefore like to highlight three important events that have taken place in my country: the education debate, the budget allocation, and the start of a mass policy of education in information technology. In fact, the most extensive, wide-reaching and profound debate in the history of Uruguay has taken place, based on dialogue, tolerance and participation, in order to lay the foundations for a new general law on education. Furthermore, the mass introduction of information technology at the level of public primary education with a universal vocation has started. All this has been in the framework of a significant budget increase for education as a whole.

(21.14) In the global world in which we live, racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance are finding expression in more serious ways regarding migrant populations. In this respect, we are wholly convinced that the experiences of coalitions of cities against these scourges at the local level have been outstanding. For that reason, Uruguay has submitted a draft decision for the consideration of the Executive Board, in which it seeks to make use of UNESCO's experience at the local government level to promote education for human rights in those especially vulnerable communities, and urges the Director-General to include in document 34 C/5 arrangements for the creation of a network, in the framework of an activity that would enable a pilot

22.1 **M. Yaï (Bénin) in extenso :**

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, puisque ce débat de politique générale est le dernier de l'exercice biennal, mes remerciements les plus sincères s'adressent d'abord au Président du Conseil exécutif, qui a toujours su conduire les travaux du Conseil dans une atmosphère empreinte de grande cordialité, en ménageant toujours d'extensives consultations entre les États membres sur les sujets brûlants, ce qui a invariablement conduit ce Conseil à d'heureux consensus. Il a également contribué à accroître la visibilité de l'UNESCO et sa pertinence au sein du

système des Nations Unies. J'en veux pour preuve le débat thématique d'hier et ceux qui l'ont précédé au cours de l'exercice biennal.

22.2 Je voudrais également remercier Monsieur le Directeur général pour sa présentation très claire des points, 4, 5, 6 et 25 de l'ordre du jour de cette session. J'y reviendrai. Je ne manquerai pas de remercier aussi le docteur Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan, président de la Conférence générale, qui tout au long de l'exercice, a su enrichir nos débats de ses paroles de sagesse et de poésie. Le Bénin fait siens les propos tenus, au nom de l'Afrique, par le représentant du Cameroun. Nous approuvons également le poignant plaidoyer pour l'Afrique du représentant de l'Algérie. Ce plaidoyer prend appui sur les réalités de notre continent.

22.3 Le Bénin a compris et approuve les démarches qui ont amené le Directeur général à nous proposer le nouveau plafond budgétaire de 631 millions de dollars des États-Unis. Comme beaucoup de pays, nous aurions naturellement préféré le scénario de 648,3 millions ; mais devant la « *réticence de certains gros contributeurs* » et pour nous rallier au consensus qui se dessine, nous recommandons d'adopter, sans trop de débats, le nouveau scénario proposé par le Directeur général, d'autant que ce dernier admet pouvoir faire fonctionner l'Organisation, fût-ce à un niveau minimal, avec ce budget. Ce qui fonde le consensus à l'égard de ce nouveau plafond, c'est que celui-ci « *brise le cycle infernal de la croissance nominale zéro imposée à notre Organisation durant trois bienniums* ». Le défi qui nous est lancé en la matière, c'est, une fois ce cycle infernal brisé, d'amorcer une nouvelle orientation budgétaire qui hisse les chiffres au niveau des ambitions de l'Organisation et nous amène à une croissance réelle soutenue. On voit donc que notre consensus, en fait, cache le risque d'un possible « *dissensus* » lors des sessions à venir.

22.4 Au moment où nous crions triomphalement, mais à mon sens, un peu trop prématurément, « *Unité du système des Nations Unies* » et « *Unité d'action* », l'UNESCO ne peut se rendre sur le terrain dépourvue de ressources adéquates. Il est à prévoir qu'elle serait alors vulnérable, fragile, peut-être même méprisée par d'autres partenaires. Ce scénario pessimiste apparaît plausible à la lecture du document 177 EX/51 relatif aux ressources extrabudgétaires.

22.5 Le Directeur général n'a cessé de donner, depuis six ans, des gages de bonne gouvernance. Nous n'avons plus aujourd'hui de bonnes raisons de ne pas opter pour une croissance budgétaire soutenue. Sans celle-ci, nous signerions nous-mêmes l'amointrissement, la déchéance et l'extinction programmée de l'UNESCO, au moment même où nous l'engageons dans un système des Nations Unies réformé. C'est à notre conscience que j'en appelle. Souvenons-nous des propos du Mahatma Gandhi que nous rappelait hier M. Pachauri.

22.6 S'agissant de cette réforme justement, le Bénin avait relevé, dans son intervention à la 176^e session de notre Conseil, un « *déficit de réflexion* ». En effet, nous pensons qu'en la matière il existe un amont et un aval et qu'il faudrait, simultanément, travailler aux deux. Notre action s'est pratiquement limitée à l'aval, sous la forme des projets pilotes. Nous nous réjouissons donc que le Directeur général ait pris l'initiative d'une réunion informelle avec ses collègues des autres agences et entités du système des Nations Unies et nous l'en félicitons. Le seul fait que cette initiative soit, de l'aveu du Directeur général, la première du genre, en dit long sur le

déficit de réflexion en amont dont nous parlons. Pour combler ce déficit, et éviter que les expériences pilotes dans les pays ne deviennent des isolats, il faudrait, au-delà et en plus des rencontres de chefs d'agence, orchestrer un « polylogue » de toutes les entités membres de la famille des Nations Unies sur leurs mandats et une possible redéfinition de ceux-ci ou une nouvelle cartographie des responsabilités, après un examen critique des pratiques de ces 50 à 60 dernières années.

22.7 Le Bénin remercie le Président du Conseil exécutif, d'avoir, par le choix des thèmes de nos débats thématiques, engagé l'UNESCO sur cette voie. Qu'il me soit permis, pour terminer, de réfléchir tout haut aux tâches qui nous attendent dans le domaine de l'éducation. Je m'appuierai surtout sur notre expérience en Afrique subsaharienne. Je pense qu'il ne fait plus de doute maintenant, même pour les plus optimistes, y compris le Bénin, que la plupart de nos pays n'atteindront pas les objectifs de Dakar en 2015. Mon propos n'est pas de nous convier à nous morfondre en d'inutiles jérémiades, mais de nous inviter à réfléchir aux moyens de rectifier le tir, pour être à même, au mois de décembre 2007 à Dakar, de déterminer un nouvel horizon pour les objectifs de l'EPT avec quelque chance de succès.

22.8 Nous avons insisté, avec raison, sur la formation des formateurs. C'est ainsi qu'est née l'Initiative pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne (TTISSA). J'en profite pour remercier S. E. l'Ambassadrice déléguée permanente des États-Unis d'Amérique, ma collègue et amie Mme Louise Oliver, d'avoir ranimé un flambeau allumé par les Africains il y a quatre ans et qui était sur le point de s'éteindre, du fait de l'incapacité d'un Secteur de l'éducation longtemps acéphale de prendre des mesures adéquates. Mme Oliver est l'auteur d'un projet de décision sur l'Initiative TTISSA que j'invite tous les amis de l'Afrique à soutenir.

22.9 Je voudrais par ailleurs attirer votre attention sur deux aspects au moins de l'Éducation pour tous qui n'ont pas fait l'objet de la réflexion minutieuse et approfondie qu'ils méritaient à Dakar en 2000 et qui, pour cette raison, se sont révélés à l'expérience être de sérieux écueils sur la voie de la réalisation des objectifs de l'EPT. Il s'agit du problème de la gratuité de l'enseignement primaire et de celui de l'introduction dans les programmes scolaires des langues maternelles africaines - puisque nous sommes des pays anciennement colonisés où l'enseignement a été dispensé dans une autre langue - et par conséquent du problème de l'enseignement bilingue ou multilingue (c'est-à-dire combinant la langue maternelle africaine et des langues non africaines) dans nos systèmes éducatifs. Je tiens pour certain que ni les objectifs de Dakar, ni ceux du Millénaire ne seront à portée de main si nous n'apportons pas une solution adéquate à ces deux problèmes.

22.10 L'UNESCO possède, en la matière, le savoir, les savoir-faire et une expérience d'au moins quatre décennies pour nous y aider. M. Burnett, le nouveau Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation, que nous félicitons, a l'expérience et surtout la détermination dont le Secteur a besoin pour accompagner les Africains dans l'accomplissement de ces nouvelles tâches. Qu'il soit assuré de notre soutien et de notre coopération. Je vous remercie.

23.1 **Ms Illnerová** (Czech Republic) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairperson, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, 60 years will soon have passed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a

key document for our Organization. It should make us speak wherever possible about the importance of human rights, about their universal character and their importance for today's global societies. We should propose that the young generations study and understand the concept of human rights, and that the media reflect their importance. But we should not forget that rights are accompanied by obligations and responsibilities. I come from a part of Europe where populations got rid of totalitarian regimes, thanks also to the defence of human rights, and I know by my life experience how strong those rights may be if taken seriously.

23.2 Another issue which seems to me crucial for UNESCO and its mission is the impact of climate change on demography, social structure change, and the preservation of cultural heritage, and we should exert all our energy on this problem. I am happy that yesterday's thematic debate was devoted to this issue, and I congratulate the Chairperson for the top quality of the guest speakers.

23.3 As a Member of the European Union my country associates itself with the statement made by Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

23.4 The Czech Republic now ends its four-year term on the Executive Board, which also gave us the responsibilities of Vice-Chairperson and Bureau member. Our ambassador and myself would like to thank all the colleagues from our electoral group for placing their confidence in us, and we hope that we have served this noble mission with devotion and in a strictly impartial way. I would also like to thank most cordially the Chairperson of the Board for his wise and ponderated way of leading the Board and the Bureau, giving everybody space and time for expression, always trying to find consensus and harmony.

23.5 In recent years, we have been witnessing change in the United Nations system, and we are keen to see UNESCO strengthened. With the ongoing reform, we wish UNESCO to be a modern, transparent, effective organization that knows how to attract the media's interest, and is better focused on its priority tasks, drawing on its comparative advantages and multisectoral structure. We support the Draft Medium-Term Strategy's emphasis on its rolling character. We will closely follow all the deliberations on its further adjustment, and look forward to a thorough discussion at the forthcoming session of the General Conference. We welcome the Director-General's proposal on the programme of the Organization for the two coming years, and welcome the new budget proposal, hoping it will meet all the programme priorities. In view of the limited resources, we consider it necessary for UNESCO to remain focused on its mandate.

23.6 Efficient execution of the programmes by the Secretariat requires an effective mode of evaluation of the outcomes. Much work has been done recently to make the Organization better prepared to incorporate principles such as results-based management. We welcome the fact that the Education Sector has its ADG again, who made an excellent impression on us during his presentation. My country has always provided strong support for Education Sector reform, and we do not wish it to be interrupted or delayed. We extend our support to reform in other sectors as well. Mr Chairperson, we all agree that education is an overall priority which requires the strongest budgetary allocation, as the primary tasks for UNESCO within the Millennium Development Goals are to be realized in this sector.

23.7 For the science sectors, we would have welcomed a better structured and more in-depth outcome of the deliberations that brought together experts of the sectors reviewed. We stress the importance of having internationally recognized scientific bodies embedded in the Organization, mentioning for example the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and its marvellous work. It is obvious today that the natural variability in climate change is clearly rooted in the oceans. Although a landlocked country, the Czech Republic conducts internationally respected oceanographical research. The quite recent establishment of an IOC Committee in our country enhanced the visibility of our national activities. As a scientist, I however find it necessary to stress that science alone will not solve all the problems such as global warming, poverty, etc. that mankind is facing. Our attitude towards the Earth, and our priorities and human behaviour should change as well.

23.8 UNESCO also has a specific role to play in promoting social science and philosophy as means of critical and rational reflection. We welcome the publication of the book *Philosophy, the School of Freedom* as well as activities in the context of the World Philosophy Day, considering the most recent meeting in Morocco a great success and looking forward to the next one to be held in Istanbul. And we are reflecting on how to make International Mother Language Day attractive to the public.

23.9 Mr Chairperson, in my country UNESCO is best known for its achievements in the field of culture, and we accompanied the birth of several initiatives. We believe that the normative activity of UNESCO in the cultural sphere has resulted in adopting universally important instruments which help the international community preserve all aspects of the cultural heritage of mankind. Our parliament is in the process of ratifying two recent instruments, and we would like to see the Organization equipped with an effective implementation structure, to help the conventions to effectively come into force.

23.10 Information and communication will also deserve more of our attention in the future as it results from the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. In view of our recent history, we deeply acknowledge the role of free access to information as an integral part of respect for human rights. That naturally means freedom of the press and the responsibilities involved. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

24.1 **Mme Hanna-El-Daher** (Liban) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, comme le proclame l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO : « Les gouvernements des États parties à la présente Convention, au nom de leurs peuples, déclarent que, la dignité de l'homme exigeant la diffusion de la culture et l'éducation de tous en vue de la justice, de la liberté et de la paix, il y a là, pour toutes les nations, des devoirs sacrés à remplir dans un esprit de mutuelle assistance ». Aux termes de l'article premier, « L'Organisation se propose de contribuer au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité en resserrant par l'éducation, la science et la culture, la collaboration entre nations ». C'est là le mandat premier et fondamental de l'Organisation, que celle-ci ne doit jamais perdre de vue. Pour le Président Bush, « La liberté est le chemin qui mène à une paix durable et le droit inaliénable de tout homme, de toute femme et de tout enfant » - et il a ajouté dans sa déclaration pendant la Semaine des nations captives « faire progresser la liberté est un impératif moral » (juillet 2007).

24.2 Mais si la paix est aussi l'absence de guerre, alors comme le dit le Dalai-Lama, « le désarmement extérieur passe par le désarmement intérieur, le seul vrai garant de la paix est en soi », un soi qui nécessite et réclame éducation. Et si la paix passe par la non-violence, alors cette semaine et ce Conseil sont de bon augure puisque le monde célébrait hier, 2 octobre, la naissance du Mahatma Gandhi, avocat génial et inspiré de la non-violence, et ce vendredi 5 octobre, nous célébrerons la Journée mondiale des enseignants - enseignants qui subissent tous les jours un peu plus la violence de ceux-là mêmes à qui ils s'efforcent d'apporter un bagage propre à éloigner les spectres de la violence et de la pauvreté, cercle infernal s'il en est. Mais quel avenir pour l'Éducation pour tous quand, par exemple, du 21 au 29 septembre, 14 films ou séries d'une violence inouïe et banalisée ont été diffusés aux heures de grande écoute sur les chaînes publiques d'une belle et grande démocratie comme la France ?

24.3 Monsieur le Président, en 2005, 43 millions d'enfants vivant dans des zones de conflit n'ont pas été scolarisés alors même que le cinquième objectif adopté par le Forum de Dakar se réfère explicitement aux droits des enfants dans les situations d'urgence ; cela est tout particulièrement préoccupant dans la région de l'Afrique subsaharienne et dans la région des États arabes, où 15 millions d'enfants ne sont pas scolarisés et côtoient 70 millions d'analphabètes. Seule l'UNESCO est à même de faire face à toutes ces situations en élargissant l'éducation familiale, l'éducation relative à l'environnement, l'éducation en matière de résolution pacifique et de prévention des conflits, la formation des futurs ou actuels décideurs politiques, ou l'éducation aux droits de l'homme et à la démocratie - autant de domaines, à quoi s'ajoutent encore l'eau, le sida, etc., où l'aide de la société civile et l'établissement d'un partenariat public-privé permettraient de libérer les fonds nécessaires à de tels efforts. L'Institut international de l'UNESCO pour la planification de l'éducation (IPE) prévoit d'entreprendre des recherches dans ce domaine dans son plan à moyen terme pour 2008-2013. Des rapports d'étape seraient souhaitables, l'expérience pouvant s'avérer fructueuse pour l'ensemble des systèmes éducatifs des pays en voie de développement.

24.4 La coopération Sud-Sud et Nord-Sud, ainsi que la conversion de la dette au profit de l'éducation doivent être des projets phares de l'Organisation, de même que les aides aux institutions éducatives dans les zones sortant d'un conflit et dans les territoires occupés en Palestine et en Syrie. Un effort spécial devrait être consenti pour accueillir le million et demi de réfugiés irakiens en Syrie et au Liban et assurer l'éducation de tous les jeunes. L'éducation est un sujet inépuisable. Aussi je voudrais m'arrêter un instant pour saluer la rapidité et la sagesse dont le Directeur général a fait preuve dans la nomination du nouveau Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation, et féliciter ce dernier et lui souhaiter plein succès dans sa nouvelle mission, en l'assurant du soutien de ma délégation.

24.5 Je voudrais aussi féliciter de tout cœur le Secrétaire du Conseil exécutif, qui hérite de la charge fort lourde du Secrétariat de la Conférence générale. Mais nous connaissons tous les capacités intellectuelles, organisationnelles et diplomatiques de M. Parsuramen. Enfin, la promotion au rang de sous-directeur général de M. d'Orville, qui est à tous égards, l'un des piliers de l'UNESCO, rend justice à l'intelligence et à la finesse avec lesquelles il a fait du Bureau de la planification stratégique le cœur des activités de l'UNESCO. Je voudrais le féliciter

et le remercier chaleureusement pour toute l'aide et le soutien qu'il nous a apportés.

24.6 De la planification à l'évaluation, il n'y a qu'un pas. Je voudrais féliciter le Directeur général pour les initiatives qu'il a prises dans ce domaine. L'évaluation permet une meilleure compréhension et donc une meilleure coopération entre les États et les différents secteurs d'activité. Elle permet aussi d'appréhender plus facilement les résultats des activités engagées par rapport aux coûts prévus dans le budget.

24.7 Le Liban, qui s'était rallié à l'option de la croissance réelle zéro, est satisfait par la nouvelle proposition du Directeur général correspondant à un budget de 631 millions de dollars, et espère que cette proposition rencontrera un large consensus. De même, le Liban souhaite une réelle synergie entre toutes les conventions relatives au patrimoine et la réussite du nouveau plan de restructuration à titre expérimental du Centre du patrimoine mondial. Le Liban, qui a bénéficié du retour de biens culturels pris au site d'Echmoun, salue le suivi de la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1970 ainsi que la mise en œuvre de la Convention internationale contre le dopage dans le sport, qui ne pouvait être plus opportune.

24.8 Le Jardin botanique du Coran, lié à la sauvegarde des savoirs locaux et autochtones ainsi qu'à la protection de la biodiversité, représente un projet qui interpelle et mériterait un rapport d'étape. Nous saluons également la proclamation de l'année 2008 comme Année internationale des langues visant à sensibiliser l'opinion à la protection des langues, qui sont la mémoire de l'humanité. Le problème de la disparition de certaines d'entre elles touche de près le Liban : on y utilise en effet le karchouni, une transcription arabe du syriaque, dont une communauté installée à Chypre au Moyen-Âge perpétue une version orale remontant à la nuit des temps et n'ayant pas ou plus dans la mémoire des hommes de support écrit.

24.9 Le Liban, attaché à l'Afrique par une vaste diaspora, salue les priorités de l'UNESCO que sont l'Afrique et l'égalité entre les sexes. Il se félicite du rôle moteur et de l'engagement de l'UNESCO dans la réforme de l'ONU. Ma délégation note avec satisfaction le grand nombre de colloques, de réunions et de conférences qui accroissent la visibilité de l'UNESCO, mais s'étonne qu'il n'en soit organisé pratiquement aucun dans la région des États arabes. Les grands programmes II et III, le changement climatique, les sociétés du savoir, la Journée de la philosophie, la décentralisation - de nombreux autres sujets, Monsieur le Président, intéressent le Liban mais le temps m'est compté, et grand est le rêve de paix qu'il nous faut réaliser. Comme le disait cependant Oscar Wilde « La sagesse, c'est d'avoir des rêves suffisamment grands pour ne pas les perdre de vue lorsqu'on les poursuit ». Sage je suis, sage est le Liban, sage est l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

25.1 **M. Youdi** (République démocratique du Congo)
in extenso :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, la République démocratique du Congo s'associe à l'intervention du Vice-Président du Groupe Afrique, à laquelle elle ajoute ce qui suit.

25.2 La République démocratique du Congo se félicite de la récente nomination de M. Nicholas Burnett au poste de Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation. L'importance

de ce Secteur exigeait à sa tête une personnalité ayant une expérience reconnue en matière de direction et de gestion. Cette décision contribuera certainement à restaurer la crédibilité de l'Organisation auprès des États membres et des bailleurs de fonds. Nous souhaitons à M. Burnett une carrière longue et fructueuse et l'assurons de notre soutien. Cette nomination intervient alors que notre continent compte encore quelque 38 millions d'enfants non scolarisés, soit la moitié des enfants non scolarisés dans le monde, sans parler de l'accès insuffisant à l'éducation, des problèmes liés à la médiocre qualité de l'éducation, aux redoublements, aux abandons en cours de cycle, à l'analphabétisme des adultes ainsi qu'à la pénurie d'enseignants qualifiés, ni des menaces liées à la pauvreté, aux conflits armés et à la pandémie du VIH/sida. On le voit, les enjeux et les défis en matière d'éducation qui attendent le nouvel ADG de ce Secteur se posent avec plus d'acuité en Afrique. Voilà pourquoi l'Afrique reste une priorité de l'Organisation. Encore faut-il que cette priorité se traduise de manière concrète dans ses programmes.

25.3 S'agissant du Secteur des sciences, nous avons grand espoir que le 3^e Congrès mondial des réserves de biosphère, qui aura lieu à Madrid du 4 au 9 février 2008, marquera un tournant décisif pour le MAB et le Réseau mondial des réserves de biosphère. Mon pays qui vient de participer aux travaux de l'atelier régional organisé sur la question à Cape Town, en Afrique du Sud, se prépare activement à participer, à un haut niveau, à ce Congrès. C'est ici pour nous l'occasion de remercier de tout cœur le Gouvernement espagnol pour son appui substantiel à la tenue de cette importante rencontre internationale.

25.4 Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la résolution 32 C/52 portant sur le renforcement de la coopération entre l'UNESCO et la République démocratique du Congo, nous remercions le Directeur général d'avoir bien voulu dépêcher en juin dernier une importante mission intersectorielle pour faire le point et mettre à jour le document de stratégie de coopération élaboré à l'issue de sa première visite officielle, en août 2003, dans notre pays.

25.5 Dans le Secteur de la culture, il y a lieu de noter que les cinq sites du patrimoine mondial de la République démocratique du Congo sont tous inscrits depuis plus de 10 ans sur la liste des sites en péril, du fait des conflits armés qui ont causé d'énormes préjudices dans nos aires protégées. En effet, non seulement les animaux et leurs habitats ont été détruits mais les infrastructures et les équipements sont endommagés. Bien plus grave encore, nous avons perdu une centaine de nos gardes durant la même période. À ce jour, les besoins pour assurer la survie de nos sites demeurent importants et la persistance de l'insécurité et du braconnage, les incursions des populations riveraines, la carbonisation, sont autant de menaces, aggravées par la pauvreté, auxquelles nous faisons face sans disposer de moyens suffisants.

25.6 Toutefois, mon pays se félicite de l'intérêt que le Comité du patrimoine mondial et l'Afrique portent à la situation de nos sites, auxquels vient d'être appliqué le mécanisme de suivi renforcé, ce qui a permis au Centre du patrimoine mondial de répondre à la demande de notre gouvernement en envoyant une mission d'enquête au Parc national des Virunga pour faire la lumière sur les raisons de l'abattage de cinq gorilles de montagne, espèce emblématique du Parc. Nous formulons l'espoir que l'intérêt suscité par nos sites se traduira par la mise à la disposition du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Kinshasa d'un spécialiste du programme qui sera chargé de suivre ces

dossiers et pourrait également être un interlocuteur privilégié d'autres partenaires de mon pays et de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de l'environnement. L'annonce de la tenue du forum sur l'état de nos sites qui a été demandé par le Comité du patrimoine mondial à Christchurch justifie notre satisfaction. Notre pays sera ainsi à même d'en assurer réellement la direction. Le souhait de mon gouvernement est que ces assises aient lieu à Kinshasa, ce qui permettra aux autorités nationales de mieux sensibiliser le peuple congolais à l'importance des sites non seulement pour la conservation de la planète mais aussi pour l'économie nationale. À ce sujet, nos remerciements vont à la Communauté française de Belgique et au Gouvernement de la Région wallonne qui, à travers le mécanisme de suivi renforcé, ont contribué au financement dudit forum. Nous remercions également l'Italie et la Fondation des Nations Unies de leur appui.

25.7 Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, la République démocratique du Congo forme l'espoir que la mise en œuvre du plan d'action pour la coopération UNESCO-Union africaine permettra à l'Afrique d'améliorer ses compétences dans le domaine des sciences et de la technologie et de favoriser ainsi le développement durable du continent. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

26.1 **Sr. Juan Cueva** (Ecuador) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente, señor Director General, distinguidos delegados: deseo en primer lugar, señor Presidente, expresarle mi felicitación por su liderazgo, que ha sido clave para el buen éxito del Consejo Ejecutivo en estos dos años.

26.2 Este reconocimiento es también para el Director General, quien ha efectuado una clara presentación de los principales desafíos que tiene ante sí la UNESCO y que requieren la prioritaria atención del Consejo, teniendo en cuenta, en particular, la próxima aprobación del Programa y Presupuesto para el bienio 2008-2009 y la Estrategia a Plazo Medio. Al respecto, el Ecuador desea destacar los siguientes puntos:

26.3 La república del Ecuador tiene un nuevo gobierno, presidido por Rafael Correa, que ha puesto énfasis en el carácter pluricultural y multiétnico de su población y en su deseo de salvaguardar y promover esa rica diversidad cultural. Una educación de excelente calidad para todos es la base misma del desarrollo económico y social de los pueblos, por lo que se busca que a ésta tengan acceso, en especial, los grupos marginados y las clases más desposeídas; a este efecto, se encuentra en plena aplicación el Plan Decenal de Educación 2006-2015, y será importante la continua cooperación de la UNESCO con sus Estados Miembros en esta trascendental esfera.

26.4 Expresamos nuestra complacencia por el nombramiento del nuevo Subdirector General de Educación y le alentamos a profundizar el proceso de reformas del sector a fin de que responda adecuadamente a las prioridades de los Estados Miembros de la Organización. Parece indispensable dar mayor importancia a lo que ocurre en el ámbito de la alfabetización y la educación en América Latina.

26.5 El Ecuador ha puesto también mucho énfasis en la educación ambiental, a fin de crear conciencia sobre el aprovechamiento racional de los recursos y la protección y conservación del medio ambiente. La UNESCO está llamada a darle cada vez más un contenido pragmático al Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de la Educación para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

26.6 En cuanto a la cultura, el Ecuador es parte de la Convención sobre la Protección y Promoción de la Diversidad de las Expresiones Culturales; será importante hacer esfuerzos para la implementación efectiva de este importante instrumento internacional a través de acciones y proyectos concretos. El rescate de las lenguas aborígenes es una tarea que le corresponde a la UNESCO.

26.7 Asignamos gran importancia a la aplicación de la Convención para la Protección del Patrimonio Mundial Cultural y Natural. El Centro de Patrimonio Mundial de la UNESCO debe ser permanentemente fortalecido para que pueda seguir cumpliendo cabalmente sus funciones, con directores especialistas para cada región, tal es el caso de América Latina y el Caribe.

26.8 Las Islas Galápagos, que pertenecen al Ecuador, fueron el primer lugar del mundo en ser inscrito en la Lista de Patrimonio Mundial. Problemas acumulados a lo largo de muchos años, y que el Gobierno actual está empeñado en resolver, llevaron a que las Islas Galápagos fueran inscritas en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial en Peligro en la pasada reunión del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial en Christchurch. El Gobierno del Ecuador viene trabajando en una estrategia integral de mejoramiento de la gobernabilidad de Galápagos y el fortalecimiento de las instituciones que tienen competencias en el manejo de las Islas, en el contexto de una estrategia de desarrollo ambiental y socialmente sostenible para los próximos años. En este ámbito, se han desplegado esfuerzos para establecer una agenda de desarrollo para las Islas Galápagos, incorporando a todos los actores involucrados, estrategia que busca la participación de la cooperación internacional.

26.9 Debo señalar, adicionalmente, que esto me lleva a destacar otro importante programa de la UNESCO, el Programa sobre el Hombre y la Biosfera al cual el Ecuador asigna una alta prioridad. Las Islas Galápagos fueron declaradas reserva de la biosfera y, en este contexto, se están desarrollando las conversaciones correspondientes con la División de Ciencias Ecológicas y Ciecias de la Tierra de la UNESCO para una creciente cooperación con el Ecuador.

26.10 Recientemente, también el Parque Nacional Podocarpus fue declarado reserva de la biosfera, a fin de proteger ecosistemas andinos y del bosque tropical amazónico.

26.11 Otro programa que tiene suma importancia para el Ecuador en la UNESCO es la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental que debe también ser continuamente fortalecida. La cooperación entre los Estados en el seno de la COI es notable, con miras a la observación de los océanos, las interacciones océano-atmósfera y el desarrollo de sistemas de alerta temprana contra desastres naturales. En septiembre de este año, Guayaquil fue sede de la 22ª reunión del Grupo Intergubernamental de Coordinación del Sistema de Alerta contra los Tsunamis y Atenuación de sus Efectos en el Pacífico.

26.12 Deseo, por otra parte, expresar la satisfacción del Gobierno del Ecuador por el nombramiento en mayo de este año del director titular de la oficina multipaíses de la UNESCO en Quito, señor Edouard Matoko, quien está dando renovado impulso a la labor de cooperación de dicha oficina con los países de la subregión andina.

26.13 En el contexto del proceso de descentralización que lleva a cabo el Director General, es conveniente que la UNESCO preste su apoyo permanente a la oficina

multipaís de Quito, dotándola de los recursos humanos y financieros necesarios para el cabal cumplimiento de su importante labor.

26.14 En cuanto a la contribución del Ecuador a la conservación del planeta Tierra, quiero destacar el hecho de que mi país ha encontrado un gigantesco yacimiento petrolero en la reserva natural Yasumí. Por tratarse de una zona de extraordinaria biodiversidad, el Ecuador no quiere tocar dicha reserva, pero necesita recursos, y por ello recurre al contexto internacional y en especial a los países industrializados, para que otorguen, siquiera parcialmente, las fuentes económicas que el Ecuador podría extraer de Yasumí. Este es un caso en que se puede pasar de las palabras a los hechos para evitar el calentamiento global, y conservar esta nave en la que todos navegamos, que se llama planeta Tierra y que es el único hogar del que disponemos.

26.15 Deseo terminar, señor Presidente, manifestando mi apoyo al deseo expresado muy acertadamente por la delegación de México, de que se haga el uso más eficiente posible de los recursos financieros de la UNESCO, privilegiando la ejecución de los programas en función de las prioridades de los Estados; en particular, apoyo la decisión de destinar más recursos al Programa de Participación, mediante el cual la UNESCO brinda una cooperación efectiva y directa a la ejecución de proyectos desarrollados por los Estados Miembros, en los ámbitos de la educación, la ciencia y la cultura. Mil gracias.

(26.1) **Mr Juan Cueva (Ecuador) *in extenso***
(*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, I should like first of all, Mr Chairperson, to congratulate you for your leadership, which has been the key to the successful work of the Executive Board over the last two years.

(26.2) My appreciation also goes out to the Director-General, who has made a clear presentation of the main challenges facing UNESCO and requiring the priority attention of the Board, particularly taking into account the forthcoming adoption of the Programme and Budget for the 2008-2009 biennium and the Medium-Term Strategy. On that matter, Ecuador wishes to draw attention to the following points.

(26.3) Ecuador has a new government, headed by Rafael Correa, who has laid stress on the multicultural and multi-ethnic character of its population, and on his desire to safeguard and promote this rich cultural diversity. A high-quality education for all is the very basis of the economic and social development of peoples, and it is for this reason that endeavours are being made to ensure that they have access to it, especially the marginalized and most underprivileged groups; to this end, the Ten-Year Educational Plan for 2006-2015 is being implemented, and UNESCO's continued cooperation with its Member States in this vital sphere will be important.

(26.4) We should like to express our satisfaction at the appointment of the new Assistant Director-General for Education, and we encourage him to carry the sector's reform process further in order to be responsive to the priorities of the Member States of the Organization. We believe it is essential to give greater importance to developments in the field of literacy work and education in Latin America.

(26.5) Ecuador has also placed strong emphasis on environmental education in order to raise awareness about the rational use of resources and the protection and conservation of the environment. It is UNESCO's duty to ensure that the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development is increasingly pragmatic in content.

(26.6) In respect of culture, Ecuador is a party to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions; efforts should be made to implement this major international instrument effectively through practical actions and projects. The safeguarding of indigenous languages is one of UNESCO's tasks.

(26.7) We assign great importance to the implementation of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre must be further strengthened so that it can continue to discharge its functions properly, with directors with specialist knowledge for each region, a case in point being Latin America and the Caribbean.

(26.8) The Galapagos Islands, which belong to Ecuador, were the first site in the world to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. As a result of problems that accumulated over the years, which the present government is endeavouring to resolve, the Galapagos Islands were placed on the World Heritage List In Danger at the most recent meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Christchurch. The Government of Ecuador has been working on a comprehensive strategy for improved governance of the Galapagos and the strengthening of the institutions responsible for managing the islands, in the context of an environmental and socially sustainable development strategy for the coming years. In this connection, steps have been taken to draw up an agenda for the development of the Galapagos Islands, incorporating all the actors involved – a strategy for which active international cooperation is sought.

(26.9) This leads me to highlight another important UNESCO programme, namely the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, to which Ecuador gives high priority. The Galapagos Islands have been declared a biosphere reserve and, in this context, related talks are being held with the UNESCO Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences for greater cooperation with Ecuador.

(26.10) Recently, Podocarpus National Park was also declared a biosphere reserve in order to protect Andean ecosystems and the Amazonian tropical forest.

(26.11) Another UNESCO programme that is extremely important for Ecuador is that of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), which should also be continually strengthened. Cooperation among States within IOC is of particular significance with regard to the observation of the oceans, ocean-atmosphere interaction, and the development of early warning systems against natural disasters. In September of this year, Guayaquil was the venue of the 22nd meeting of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

(26.12) Furthermore, I should like to express the satisfaction of the Government of Ecuador at the

appointment in May this year of the Director of the UNESCO Cluster Office in Quito, Mr Edouard Matoko, who is giving renewed impetus to that office's cooperation with the countries of the Andean subregion.

(26.13) In the context of the decentralization process that the Director-General is carrying out, it is appropriate that UNESCO should give continuing support to the Cluster Office in Quito, providing it with the necessary human and financial resources for the full accomplishment of its important work.

(26.14) With respect to Ecuador's contribution to the conservation of Planet Earth, I wish to draw attention to the fact that my country has discovered a huge oil field in the Yasumi Natural Reserve. Because it involves a zone of extraordinary biodiversity, Ecuador does not want to touch this reserve, but it needs resources, and is therefore turning to the international community and, in particular, to the industrialized countries, for economic assistance to offset, if only

partially, the income that Ecuador could derive from Yasumi. This is a case in which actions should replace words in order to avoid global warming and preserve this ship in which we are all sailing, which is called Planet Earth and is the only home we have.

(26.15) I should like to conclude, Mr Chairperson, by endorsing the wish very aptly expressed by the delegation of Mexico that the most effective use possible should be made of UNESCO's financial resources, giving pride of place to the execution of programmes based on the priorities of States; I particularly support the decision to allocate more resources to the Participation Programme, through which UNESCO cooperates directly and effectively in the implementation of projects developed by the Member States in the fields of education, science and culture. Many thanks.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

CINQUIÈME SÉANCE

Mercredi 3 octobre 2007 à 15 h 15

Président : M. Zhang
puis : M. Michelini
puis : M. Zhang

EXÉCUTION DU PROGRAMME (*suite*)

Point 4 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale (*suite*) (177 EX/4 Parties I et II et Corr. ; 177 EX/INF.7 ; 177 EX/INF.10 ; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev. ; 177 EX/INF.13 ; 177 EX/INF.15)

Point 5 : Rapport du Directeur général sur le suivi des décisions et résolutions adoptées par le Conseil exécutif et la Conférence générale à leurs sessions antérieures (*suite*) (177 EX/5 et Add. ; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev. ; 177 EX/INF.13)

Point 6 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre du processus de réforme (*suite*) (177 EX/6 Parties I et II ; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev. ; 177 EX/INF.13)

PROJET DE PROGRAMME ET DE BUDGET POUR 2008-2009 (34 C/5) (*suite*)

Point 25 : Examen du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2008-2009 (34 C/5) et recommandations du Conseil exécutif (*suite*) (34 C/5 2^e version Volumes I et II et Corr.-Corr.2 ; 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 et Add. ; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev. ; 177 EX/INF.13 ; 177 EX/INF.18)

1.1 M. Johnson (Togo) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, permettez-moi de joindre mes compliments à ceux des orateurs qui m'ont précédé. Chers collègues, je voudrais à cette présente session du Conseil, qui se situe à la veille de la 34^e session de la Conférence générale, souligner les points importants de notre parcours, en commentant la mise en œuvre des activités qui ont permis d'atteindre les résultats attendus. Le Conseil exécutif a été en mesure d'ajuster le tir chaque fois que des difficultés ou des obstacles imprévus avaient rendu difficile l'application des résolutions de la Conférence générale.

1.2 S'agissant du budget, nous souscrivons sans réserve à la position exprimée par le Cameroun au nom du Groupe africain, à savoir l'acceptation du plafond de 631 millions de dollars, étant entendu que le Secrétariat devra s'efforcer de compléter ces ressources par une mobilisation intensive de fonds extrabudgétaires destinés à financer les programmes prioritaires approuvés par la Conférence générale.

1.3 Dans le domaine de l'éducation, beaucoup a été fait, mais il reste encore beaucoup à faire si l'on veut réaliser les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT) en 2015. Pour y parvenir, il faudrait définir de manière claire les critères de sélection des pays devant bénéficier des activités pilotes conduisant à la formation qualitative des maîtres.

1.4 La nomination de M. Burnett au poste de Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation est bienvenue. Sa parfaite connaissance de l'Afrique sera un atout pour la mise en œuvre de programmes phares comme l'Initiative pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique subsaharienne (TTISSA), pour laquelle, je l'ai dit, la sélection des pays bénéficiaires devra être d'une transparence totale, ou le programme LIFE (Initiative pour l'alphabétisation : savoir pour pouvoir) consacré à

l'alphabétisation des adultes. En effet, la Conférence régionale de l'UNESCO pour l'alphabétisation en Afrique, tenue récemment à Bamako, au Mali, a montré que l'on ne pourra atteindre les objectifs de l'EPT que si un grand coup d'accélérateur est donné à la mise en œuvre de cette initiative.

1.5 Dans le cadre de la Décennie de l'éducation pour l'Afrique, l'enseignement scientifique et technologique et l'éducation physique et sportive sont des thèmes intersectoriels sur lesquels le Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation (ADG/ED) le Sous-Directeur général pour les sciences exactes et naturelles (ADG/SC) et le Sous-Directeur général pour les sciences sociales et humaines (ADG/SHS) doivent collaborer étroitement. Une collaboration tout aussi étroite doit s'établir entre le Secteur de l'éducation et celui de la culture aux fins de l'interface éducation-culture décidée par le Sommet de Khartoum. Dans ce cadre, le projet d'utilisation pédagogique de l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique doit être rigoureusement poursuivi.

1.6 Parmi les thèmes transversaux, la question de la culture de la paix devrait être renforcée, notamment dans les zones en situation de post-conflit. Comme l'a montré la Déclaration de Cotonou, adoptée par le Colloque international sur le dialogue entre les religions endogènes, le christianisme et l'islam, organisé au Bénin au mois d'août dernier, le continent africain ne peut connaître de développement durable que dans le cadre de sa lutte pour l'élimination de la pauvreté et ce, si la paix règne et que les problèmes sont résolus par la voie du dialogue, de la diplomatie préventive, de la négociation et du respect des droits de l'homme.

1.7 En ce qui concerne le changement climatique, le Togo souhaiterait que la Déclaration des chefs d'État et de gouvernement adoptée au Sommet de l'Union africaine d'Addis-Abeba en janvier 2007 soit prise en compte lors de la préparation du projet de stratégie de l'UNESCO dans ce domaine. Je vous remercie.

2.1 Mme Tan (Cambodge) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, il y a quelques mois, j'ai eu l'honneur de m'exprimer pour la première fois devant vous, ayant été désignée par Son Excellence Sok An, Président de la Commission nationale du Cambodge pour l'UNESCO et Vice-Premier ministre, comme suppléante du représentant du Royaume du Cambodge au Conseil exécutif. De nouveau, il m'est agréable de vous confirmer que vos travaux et leurs résultats sont suivis de près dans notre pays. Ils bénéficient, en effet, de la haute attention de Sa Majesté le Roi Norodom Sihamoni, de Son Excellence le Premier ministre Samdech Hun Sen, ainsi que du Gouvernement royal.

2.2 Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, alors que l'année 2007 s'achève, je me réjouis de vous annoncer que le dynamisme qui caractérise les efforts déployés dans notre pays ne s'est pas démenti. Dans un contexte d'augmentation des recettes de l'État et de stabilité des prix, la croissance économique devrait se maintenir à 9 %, tirée par des secteurs traditionnels comme l'agriculture, le textile et le tourisme, mais aussi par une forte expansion du secteur immobilier et des services financiers. Cette expansion s'accompagne cependant d'effets secondaires négatifs. Les problèmes liés aux inégalités sociales et aux menaces qui pèsent sur l'environnement, en particulier, sont plus présents que jamais. Conscient des dangers que ces écueils représentent pour le bien-être de la société et pour la

stabilité du pays, le Gouvernement royal accorde toute l'attention requise à la recherche de solutions appropriées. C'est dans ce contexte de croissance soutenue et d'apparition de nouveaux enjeux que nous avons progressé sur certains chantiers culturels et éducatifs, grâce à la coopération soutenue de l'UNESCO et de nombreux partenaires.

2.3 Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, vous le savez sans doute déjà, le Comité du patrimoine mondial, à sa 31^e session à Christchurch, en Nouvelle-Zélande, a annoncé son intention d'inscrire formellement le site sacré du Temple de Preah Vihear sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 2008, accédant ainsi à la demande du Royaume du Cambodge. Dans le même temps, le Comité a souhaité que le Cambodge progresse dans l'élaboration du plan de gestion du site. Le Gouvernement s'est donc mis à l'œuvre et, à l'heure où je vous parle, plusieurs visites d'experts ont déjà été effectuées sur place. En outre, le Gouvernement royal envisage de mettre en place un comité de coordination du type de celui qui joue un rôle essentiel pour la sauvegarde et le développement d'Angkor.

2.4 En ce qui concerne le site d'Angkor, nos préoccupations portent actuellement sur la meilleure réponse à apporter aux problèmes et enjeux nés de la forte croissance du tourisme dans la région. C'est dans cette optique que le groupe d'experts ad hoc du Comité de coordination d'Angkor a été renforcé en juin dernier, grâce à la désignation de trois experts dans le domaine du développement durable. Alors que le nombre annuel des touristes atteindra bientôt 2 millions, ces experts devront évaluer les projets de développement qui accompagnent la forte expansion de la région Siem Reap-Angkor et ce, en consultation avec l'UNESCO et les deux pays qui président le Comité - la France et le Japon.

2.5 Excellences, le Cambodge a récemment ratifié deux conventions : la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles et la Convention sur la protection du patrimoine culturel subaquatique.

2.6 Dans le domaine de l'éducation, le vote récent de la loi sur l'éducation et l'augmentation de 20 % du budget du Ministère de l'éducation nous ont permis d'atteindre un taux d'alphabétisation de 73 % et un taux de scolarisation de 92 % dans le primaire. Malgré ces chiffres, la situation n'est pas encore satisfaisante à nos yeux. Le taux d'abandon reste élevé dans le secondaire - 17 % en moyenne pour les premières années d'études -, et l'inégalité d'accès à l'éducation demeure préoccupante. Il faudra augmenter le nombre d'écoles et améliorer la qualité de l'enseignement et l'hygiène. Pour soutenir le Cambodge dans ses efforts, le Comité stratégique du Fonds catalytique de l'Initiative pour la mise en œuvre accélérée de l'éducation pour tous nous a accordé un don de 57,4 millions de dollars aux fins de la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement liés à l'éducation de 2007 à 2009. En collaboration avec l'UNESCO, plusieurs séminaires ont été organisés, notamment sur le thème de la gestion des centres d'apprentissage communautaires, comme moyen de promouvoir l'éducation non formelle, ou sur celui de l'éducation au service du développement durable.

2.7 Monsieur le Président, l'éducation pour la prévention du VIH/sida doit également retenir notre attention. Grâce à la mobilisation de tous les acteurs concernés - Gouvernement, partenaires internationaux, société civile -, le taux de prévalence a décliné, passant de 3 % en 1997 à 1,3 % en 2003, pour s'établir aujourd'hui à

0,9 % chez les adultes. Sur la base de ces chiffres, le Cambodge est aujourd'hui l'un des rares pays en développement en mesure de réaliser le sixième objectif du Millénaire visant à parvenir à endiguer la propagation du virus d'ici à 2015. Institution clé de la lutte contre ce fléau, le Ministère de l'éducation a développé une politique efficace incluant l'introduction de la prévention à la fois dans les programmes scolaires et dans les programmes de formation des enseignants.

2.8 Mesdames, Messieurs, chers collègues, d'autres progrès significatifs méritent d'être mentionnés. Ainsi, dans le domaine de la communication, un logiciel d'exploitation informatique en langue khmère a été mis au point avec l'aide de pays amis, de l'UNESCO et d'une ONG locale. Distribué gratuitement dans les écoles, ce logiciel permettra d'élargir l'accès des populations locales à l'informatique. S'agissant de l'information, le Gouvernement royal a célébré en mai dernier la Journée mondiale de la liberté de la presse, avec l'appui de l'UNESCO. Pour la première fois, cet événement remarquable a pu réunir le Ministère de l'intérieur, des représentants de l'opposition et les deux plus importantes associations de journalistes du Royaume. À cet égard, je suis également heureuse de vous annoncer que la liberté d'expression a fait un nouveau pas en avant avec la dépénalisation du délit de diffamation.

2.9 Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi, avant de conclure et de vous remercier vivement de votre attention, de souligner encore une fois que la voie du succès s'ouvre toujours pour nous sur le chemin de nouveaux efforts. Le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, tout en se félicitant des étapes déjà franchies, s'engage à poursuivre sa tâche avec détermination. Merci.

3.1 **M. Sokona (Mali) *in extenso*** :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames, Messieurs, au moment de m'adresser à vous dans le cadre de cette session, mes premières pensées vont au professeur Mamadou Lamine Traoré, ancien ministre de l'éducation nationale, représentant du Mali au Conseil exécutif et président de la Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO, qui nous a quittés le 21 juillet dernier. Le Mali a perdu, en sa personne, un acteur majeur du renforcement de la coopération entre l'UNESCO et mon pays. En effet, homme de conviction et fervent défenseur de la dignité africaine, il s'était pleinement investi, en harmonie avec l'UNESCO, dans la lutte pour l'éradication de l'analphabétisme sur le continent africain et l'avènement d'un monde plus juste et soucieux des valeurs de paix, de tolérance et de dialogue entre les peuples. Il avait souhaité ardemment que le Mali abritât les travaux de la Conférence régionale de l'UNESCO pour l'alphabétisation en Afrique et a suivi de près les préparatifs de cette rencontre jusqu'à ce que le destin en décide autrement. Je voudrais remercier l'UNESCO et tous ceux qui nous ont fait l'honneur de venir à Bamako pour participer aux travaux de cette conférence, dont la réussite lui tenait particulièrement à cœur.

3.2 Monsieur le Président, avec l'appui du Directeur général, à qui nous rendons hommage, la Conférence régionale pour l'alphabétisation, que mon pays a eu le plaisir d'accueillir du 10 au 12 septembre 2007, a mobilisé les plus hautes personnalités maliennes, parmi lesquelles le Président de la République et son épouse. Onze Premières Dames, auxquelles s'est jointe la représentante personnelle de Mme Laura Bush, ont

également apporté leur soutien à cette réunion, qui permettra certainement une intensification des actions d'alphabétisation en Afrique. Aussi me plaît-il, Monsieur le Président, de rappeler que cette Conférence régionale a adopté un texte dit « Appel de Bamako ». Puisque nous voici à mi-parcours de nos efforts par rapport à l'échéance de 2015, nous suggérons qu'une attention particulière soit prêtée à cet appel et que des mesures appropriées soient prises pour l'exécution et le suivi des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence.

3.3 Monsieur le Président, tout en demeurant solidaire des recommandations et résolutions du Groupe africain qui ont été exposées par le représentant du Cameroun et Vice-Président du Conseil exécutif, le Mali salue l'intérêt renforcé accordé à l'alphabétisation, qui représente pour des millions d'Africains une chance de participer véritablement à la vie sociale et économique de leur pays et d'échapper ainsi à l'ignorance et à la pauvreté.

3.4 Monsieur le Président, s'agissant des sciences, il est important de disposer de données fiables pour mener à bien la planification et l'évaluation des programmes de développement. C'est pourquoi le Mali soutient la mise en place de mécanismes durables de renforcement des capacités en Afrique, pour l'élaboration de statistiques sur le continent.

3.5 Dans le domaine de la communication, le Mali confirme le besoin d'améliorer les priorités stratégiques du Programme Information pour tous (PIPT) comme indiqué dans les conclusions de l'évaluation de ce programme. Il souhaite que ces plans permettent un meilleur accès des pays africains aux nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication (NTIC), par la fourniture de matériels et la création des conditions nécessaires à leur utilisation, notamment dans les zones rurales.

3.6 En ce qui concerne le suivi des instruments normatifs de l'UNESCO, le Mali apprécie les mesures proposées pour faciliter la rédaction des rapports périodiques, qui permettent de mesurer les progrès accomplis par les États dans les domaines concernés. Il se félicite en conséquence de la possibilité offerte aux États de bénéficier d'une assistance technique pour la rédaction de ces rapports.

3.7 Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Mali voudrait vous féliciter de la manière clairvoyante dont vous dirigez nos travaux, la présente session étant l'occasion pour vous d'un dernier coup de maître avant de passer le témoin, alors que le mandat du Mali au Conseil exécutif prend fin lui aussi. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

4.1 **Mr Paudel** (Nepal) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I wish to commend you, Mr Chairman, on your leadership, and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in the pursuit of your duties. I wish sincerely to thank the Director-General for his comprehensive statement and the UNESCO teams for drafting the C/4 and C/5 documents. My delegation would like to support the major thrusts and strategies reflected in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009. We hope that the proposed programme and budget prepared in the new scenario, if handled effectively, may contribute significantly to the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and education for all (EFA). Mr Chairman,

education is the foundation of the holistic development of both an individual and society. In its broadest sense, education is perceived as a human right. It is heartening to note that EFA has received attention from all quarters. We support the leading role of UNESCO in efforts to achieve EFA by 2015. The Global Action Plan on the EFA goals and the education-related MDGs are major works of UNESCO that should be supported by the results-oriented action plans at the regional and national levels. We believe that reform in the Education Sector is vital for the credibility of UNESCO. Within the context of the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012), and as part of a major global effort to mobilize international support for literacy, my country also supports the UNESCO regional conferences in support of global literacy.

4.2 Mr Chairman, Nepal supports the ongoing efforts of the international community for the United Nations reform process. Similarly, being a major United Nations specialized agency dealing with various important issues like education, the social and natural sciences, culture and communication, UNESCO should undergo timely reform to play an even greater role in the changed context. During the last session, we stressed that the programmes and projects of UNESCO at the country level should be based on the on-the-ground realities of the particular countries. It would be far better and more productive if we developed and followed different models in the areas of reform in UNESCO in order to ensure better performance with enhanced efficiency. In this regard, we must consider the outcomes of the global consultations with NGOs, INGOs, civil society, the private sector and experts. We should give due focus to the roles and responsibilities in the implementation of programmes and projects at the international, regional, subregional and national levels. Mr Chairman, Nepal has always emphasized the need for South-South cooperation. There exists a great deal of potential for South-South cooperation in the field of technical and scientific cooperation. The developing countries should explore all avenues of cooperation at both the government and private levels. We strongly endorse the attempts of UNESCO to develop a South-South cooperation programme in collaboration with the Group of 77 and China.

4.3 Mr Chairman, Nepal is a country rich in natural and cultural heritage, and we have several World Heritage Sites. The Government of Nepal is doing its utmost to preserve and renovate our heritage sites. We are grateful to UNESCO for its technical and financial support for the preservation of our cultural properties. I take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the World Heritage Committee for its decision to remove the Kathmandu Valley from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

4.4 Mr Chairman, we are aware that without equal and meaningful partnership with women, the problem of poverty and underdevelopment will not diminish. We also firmly believe that empowering women, ensuring gender equality, mainstreaming population control and enhancing family health and living standards will directly contribute to the alleviation of poverty and sustainable development. As called for by the 2005 World Summit Outcome document, we urge UNESCO to give more priority in its policy and country-level programmes to resolving the gender problem.

4.5 Mr Chairman, my delegation also supports the UNESCO-led Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Education (EDUCAIDS). In this regard, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to UNESCO for the awareness and

prevention kit that it has recently launched in Nepal to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, particularly among the under 40 age group, which is the most at risk. Since the education and awareness programmes provide a solid foundation for containing the pandemic, Nepal continues to seek increased assistance in these sectors from UNESCO.

4.6 Mr Chairman, after the successful people's movement of April 2005 and the signing of peace agreements that ended a decade-long conflict, Nepal has entered into a new era of democracy and peace. We have been going through post-conflict reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction. In the existing post-conflict situation in Nepal, the role of UNESCO's ideals has become more prominent and effective in institutionalizing peace through harmonized understanding and in fostering a culture of peace in and among different groups. We have to instil UNESCO's ideals of tolerance, collective efforts, respect for human rights and the sharing of achievements in each and every household in order to speed up our nation-building efforts and to achieve the set goals within the stipulated time frame. Moreover, it is very hard for countries in a post-conflict situation to achieve EFA and the MDGs qualitatively within the stipulated time frame due to resource constraints. On the one hand, they have to reconstruct their development infrastructures destroyed during the insurgency period, and on the other hand they have to address the ever-increasing aspirations of their peoples. It is harder to carry out these responsibilities simultaneously. Meeting these challenges necessitates an enhanced level of international support and assistance. In this regard, once again, my delegation would like to urge UNESCO to devise a special programme for the countries in post-conflict situations. Mr Chairman, I would like to inform you that we have already initiated some activities to institutionalize peace through ensuring fundamental human rights. To ensure the right to education and to achieve EFA and the MDGs, we are developing a school sector reform programme. The spirit of this programme is to empower local communities and to ensure educational governance through active and meaningful community contributions. The programme also aims to promote the capacity-building of the local community for planning, implementing and monitoring education programmes. It fosters educational decentralization, which will ultimately ensure the foundations for good governance in every sector of development. The significance of ethics and peace education in the present-day world is great. Realizing this fact, we are introducing ethics and peace education through school education. Nepal has also developed and implemented relevant policies and programmes to facilitate inclusive democracy with the ensured participation of disadvantaged indigenous, *dalit* and ethnic groups and women in each and every sector.

4.7 Mr Chairman, the thematic debate on the activities of UNESCO has provided new ideas and views about the future of UNESCO. In the United Nations system there is some overlapping of competencies, and a clear demarcation of the Organization's fields of action needs to be worked out. Mr Chairman, let me conclude with our unwavering commitment to making the Organization more relevant in order to face the challenges of the present-day world.

5.1 **Mr Lugujjo** (Uganda) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, the Ugandan delegation would like to acknowledge and appreciate the flexible and productive

way in which you, Mr Chairman, have steered the business of this Board. We also commend the Director-General for his commitment to the negotiation of a \$631 million budget ceiling for the next biennium. However, in spite of the convincing arguments in support of the budget, the provisions unfortunately may not be sufficient to achieve fully the overall objectives as outlined in the C/4 document. The budgetary cuts and adjustments are likely to affect adversely UNESCO's activities, especially in Africa.

5.2 Mr Chairman, my delegation endorses in totality the statement made by the distinguished representative of Cameroon, Vice-Chairperson for Africa, on behalf of the Africa region.

5.3 With regard to the education programme, my delegation endorses and appreciates the momentum already gained in education for all (EFA). While the achievements vary from country to country, there is no doubt that education in Member States has taken many strides ahead. In Uganda, for example, we have recorded up to about a 300% increase in enrolment. Unfortunately, this increase has not been matched by improvements in other areas such as infrastructure, teacher empowerment and teacher-pupil ratios, which have a fundamental impact on the quality of education. The same degree of success has not been achieved in non-formal education where literacy levels for women remain low. Mr Chairman, my delegation believes that for the quality of education to improve, we must address the question of teachers. This is why we support the efforts to strengthen the Teacher Training Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA). We hope that this initiative will be fast-tracked to enable all beneficiary States to access it if it must meaningfully contribute to the attainment of the EFA goals. While we back TTISSA, my delegation associates itself with the need to establish criteria for a two-yearly evaluation of the initiative as proposed by the distinguished representative of the United States of America. The initiative of the Director-General to set up an International Advisory Panel on EFA deserves every support. This will not only enhance and maintain momentum, but also provide a structured year-round consultation and follow-up process among the main EFA partners. Mr Chairman, dear colleagues, Uganda notes that UNESCO, through the UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS), is positioning itself strategically in the "developing as one" approach at country level. This, we hope, will bring the Organization to the main discussions on all issues within its mandate and to participate fully in the Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) processes, as well as to align its education programmes with national education policies, strategies and priorities.

5.4 Mr Chairman, let me to turn now to the area of science and engineering at UNESCO. As we look towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UNESCO should promote science, engineering and technology with a particular emphasis on applications of engineering sciences and technology, particularly in developing countries. The Eighth African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa (in January this year) put an emphasis on science, engineering and technology for wealth creation through innovation. If indeed Africa is a priority for UNESCO, this would be a good entry point to support the commitment of its leaders to their people in this area. The starting point for UNESCO, we suggest, could be to develop an "international engineering programme" here at UNESCO to cater for policy formulation, to mobilize

Member States and to guide capacity-building and the application of engineering education for poverty eradication.

5.5 My delegation notes that the budget for natural sciences is skewed towards personnel at the expense of activities. We recommend that this situation be reviewed in future programming so as to reverse this trend. Mr Chairman, calamities in the world have generally been attributed to natural disasters. This has certainly been the case in sub-Saharan Africa where, in addition to floods and droughts, wars have compounded the situation. In recent times, the Great Lakes region has experienced unprecedented severe droughts leading to reductions in water levels in the lakes and disastrous human and economic consequences. The current floods are now ravaging and devastating a number of countries in Africa. The droughts and floods experienced in Africa and the world at large are in part attributed to climate changes caused by indiscriminate environmental degradation and the over-exploitation of natural resources. My delegation therefore supports UNESCO's proactive moves to participate fully in the United Nations' global climate change strategy. UNESCO is well positioned to exploit its multidisciplinary mandate in order to contribute effectively to the strategy.

5.6 Mr Chairman, in the area of the social and human sciences, my delegation continues to endorse the Director-General's proposal on the bioethics subprogramme. Uganda has an active national bioethics committee, and the pertinent recommendations made at the recent session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) in Nairobi will be integrated into our national plans.

5.7 With regard to communication and information, Uganda has benefited immensely from the UNESCO Multipurpose Community Telecentre (MCT) pilot project that has empowered connectivity in rural areas.

5.8 Lastly, we would like to thank the Drafting Group that worked tirelessly to produce a balanced Draft Programme and Budget for 2009-2009. May I also thank all the distinguished delegates who have continued to support Africa in their deliberations at this session of the Executive Board. Thank you and God bless you.

6.1 **Mr Sukanaivalu (Fiji) in extenso:**

Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, distinguished colleagues, I am once again privileged to speak on behalf of my country, Fiji, and the other 16 Pacific Member States of UNESCO that I represent. Fiji and the Pacific agree that science and technology are critical drivers for achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication and, ultimately, peace and security as we work together towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals. We also note that the work planned for the next biennium is linked to the right to education and the right to information, with assistance to help developing countries enhance their capacity to deal with issues pertaining to environmental sustainability, management and protection, and the better use of applied research in the name of poverty eradication.

6.2 The Pacific Member States at their June 2007 regional consultation in Apia, Samoa, were informed in greater detail of the United Nations reform process and UNESCO's position with respect to that process. It was generally felt at the Pacific consultation that funding to the

Pacific made available under the regular programme was not sufficient to allow the subregional Apia Office to provide the support Member States needed in UNESCO's five areas of competence. While the amount allocated in the C/5 document to each region or sector was clear, the Pacific would like to see more emphasis on intersectorality.

6.3 In education, Mr Chairman, we agree that to be an effective leader, especially in education for all (EFA), UNESCO must have a strong Education Sector. We are now midway to 2015, the target date set in Dakar. Thank you, Mr Director-General, for seeing the Organization through the difficult and unsettling time in March this year at the departure of the Sector's Assistant Director-General, Mr Peter Smith. On the same note, the Pacific welcomes his successor, Mr Nicholas Burnett. Sir, we look forward to a fruitful time of working together with the Pacific. At the Pacific regional consultation, we delved into detail on how our Education Sector would focus plans to achieve proposed C/4 and C/5 document outcomes with the introduction of the UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS), which looks to be a promising tool for building a One United Nations education programme at the country level. In previous biennia, focus on EFA in the Pacific had been on supporting countries to develop their EFA national plans of action. Most of these plans have since been integrated into each country's strategic plan. This has resulted in the UNESCO Apia Office having to redirect its focus on EFA to ensure that in addressing their education strategic plans, they are, at the same time, addressing the EFA goals. The UNESCO Apia Office intends to focus more during the next biennium on encouraging countries to carry out the EFA mid-decade assessment in an effort to enable countries to establish baseline data which they can then use as a basis for monitoring progress in education in the context of national education sector development. The Pacific also understands that UNESS uses a bottom-up approach where UNESCO aligns its mandate to respond to country priorities and needs through identifying comparative advantage.

6.4 Mr Chairman, in the natural sciences the Pacific is thankful that while considering the ongoing review of Major Programme II, appropriate consideration has been given to the recommendations of the Overall Review Committee for Major Programmes II and III, the follow-up comments by the Director-General and the decision of the Board at its last session. We also note that natural sciences strategic programme objectives, together with the three biennial sectoral priorities, are to a large extent well aligned with our region's needs and aspirations.

6.5 In culture, our congratulations go to the Director-General and the Executive Board for ensuring that the strategic programme objectives have a more coordinated holistic approach, and that the field of heritage is perceived in its diversity – natural and cultural, moveable, and immovable, tangible and intangible – as in the Pacific, culture embraces all life and is understood through our cultural traditions. The Pacific still has the highest proportion of land and sea remaining under traditional indigenous ownership. The Pacific is committed to the implementation of its first ever Pacific 2009 World Heritage Action Plan. New Zealand hosted the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee in July this year where a fifth "c" for "community" was included in the strategic objectives recognizing the participation, values and expertise of indigenous peoples in all stages of the Convention for the Protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage. Another welcome initiative is the

endorsement to establish a Pacific World Heritage fund to protect the enormous wealth of cultural diversity and marine biodiversity across our third of the Earth's surface. A follow-up scoping exercise needs to be conducted to establish that fund. The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), has been embraced by the region since a meeting of Pacific education ministers endorsed UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development Framework in September 2006; it is efforts such as these that are made to ensure that culture is recognized as a central pillar of sustainable development. We thank New Zealand for its successful term as Chair of the World Heritage Committee and for hosting the 31st session in Christchurch earlier this year.

6.6 In communication and information, Mr Chairman, our programme objectives are to enhance universal access to information and knowledge, and to foster pluralistic free and independent media and infrastructures. The 17 Pacific Member States are geographically dispersed over vast expanses of the Pacific Ocean. These island communities experience poor or inappropriate levels of access to, and governance of, information for knowledge development. The Pacific Island Member States place great emphasis on the objectives of UNESCO's Major Programme V, to assist future achievements in the region relating to "building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication" and "enhancing universal access to information and knowledge."

6.7 Overall, Fiji and the Pacific see this 34 C/5 document as integrating UNESCO's response to widespread calls for a reform of the United Nations system, with its special emphasis on enhanced coherence and an unequivocal commitment to the agenda and international development objectives set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome document, guided by objectives enshrined in UNESCO's Constitution. And in the sentiments echoed at the last session of the Board, I repeat that we need, at this juncture, to remind ourselves of these duties, of the looming deadlines for the international development goals, and of the basic tasks for us to accomplish at this session. These are to ensure that the Organization is on track in its programmes and activities as we move into a new programme and budget cycle and a new Medium-Term Strategy. I thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Michelini (Uruguay) took the Chair.

7.1 **Mr Rachman (Indonesia) in extenso:**

Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate). *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). Mr Chairman, Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for us, for me, to be here again in the House. Indonesia has woven the net of cooperation through this House, and shared with you some thoughts on our common concern for a better future, continuous prosperity and durable peace. Indonesia appreciates the successful work of the Drafting Group under the co-chairmanship of the representatives of India and Nigeria, which has presented an excellent result for the Board's consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 and its recommendations. Indonesia agrees on the \$631 million budget ceiling, noting that we must put an extra effort into increasing extrabudgetary funding. Therefore, UNESCO must be more proactive in reaching

out to potential donors to establish partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

7.2 On education, our passion is to educate people from all walks of life and UNESCO has responded with relevant programmes including education for all (EFA), with the motto "learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to live together", so that we can believe that education is a key to durable peace. In compliance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and UNESCO standards, Indonesia has successfully implemented its nine-year compulsory programme nationwide. Indonesia has benefited from UNESCO's initiatives and assistance in upgrading education for at least 51 million elementary pupils, not counting senior high-school and tertiary levels. In this regard, our delegation has noted the measures taken by UNESCO regarding follow-up to the Jakarta Declaration and the right to basic education by undertaking and supporting research and studies on the legal framework for the financing of basic education from a comparative perspective. We hope that the creation of a UNESCO Chair on the Right to Education in each region could be finalized soon. We have to strengthen triangular South-North-South cooperation. One of the possibilities of such cooperation is to involve the G-8 countries in the process of E-9 countries combating illiteracy. Indonesia believes that direct involvement of the G-8 education ministers in the E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting next year in Bali will be very strategic and meaningful.

7.3 On culture, we would like to reaffirm our appreciation to UNESCO for consistently awarding World Heritage status both to natural and cultural heritage sites based on the quality and the historical contribution of the sites to humankind rather than just based on a popular vote. In this context, I wonder why the list of the new seven wonders of the world excludes Borobudur Temple and the Pyramids, just because the polling says otherwise. Therefore, we need more efforts to popularize and increase the visibility of the World Heritage status awarded by UNESCO. Indonesia is proud to have three cultural and four natural properties awarded world cultural heritage status by UNESCO, and two cultural crafts, namely *wayang* and *keris*, have been proclaimed as Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. In line with that, Indonesia would like to host the World Cultural Forum 2008 to be held in Bali as a celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the time when our people found their identity and determined to become a free nation. Culture is the soul of civilization, and civilization is the soul for peace and human dignity.

7.4 On the sciences, UNESCO needs to reinforce the role of its subsidiary organs, especially the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), in facing global challenges such as global warming, climate change and tsunamis. Indonesia believes that with science we shall be very strong, but without religion we shall be blind. We all know and are concerned about the most recent report and projections on climate change made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and about all the disastrous consequences that will befall humanity if we fail to act now. We cannot let this happen. We must therefore bring about a paradigm shift in the way we consume energy and the way we live. We hope the thematic debate convened here may contribute to the success of the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali this coming December.

7.5 On communication and information, Indonesia realizes that the use of ICTs in national development has produced great achievements in increasing progress in economic development in many countries. The geographic conditions of Indonesia, with 80% of the people living in rural areas, underscores the fact that communication and information technology is very important and a success factor for promoting the development of Indonesia. The development of culture, information and communication as well as science, should be directed to achieve durable peace in the world. Therefore, it highly requires EFA implementation to produce more people with greater tolerance and understanding, practising intercultural and interfaith dialogue to iron out differences and to resolve emerging conflicts. With different levels of development and various cultures and natural heritage, countries should be given more room to translate EFA into their down-to-earth interests. Education should not only mean formal education for intellectual capacities, but also, more importantly, for moral capacity and, moreover, for durable peace. This could be bridged by UNESCO by encouraging and assisting every Member State to act and implement all the standard-setting instruments and conventions appropriately that are geared to their needs. In order to respond to challenges in the United Nations reform process, UNESCO should be more democratic, less bureaucratic and more programme-oriented, and we should avoid politically driven practices. Finally, Mr Chairman, as this is my last involvement in a Board meeting, I wish the Board and UNESCO well in continuing to make excellent achievements in fulfilling its mandate to reach our ultimate dream of establishing and protecting peace on this continuously more complicated and dynamic planet. God bless UNESCO. Thank you very much. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you).

8.1 **Mr Bhumirat** (Thailand) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished Members of the UNESCO Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Director-General of UNESCO and to the Secretariat for their excellent and comprehensive preparation of the relevant meeting documents. I would also like to commend the Chairman for his democratic leadership and continued dedication to the work of the Executive Board. Since we are planning for the next biennium of the Medium-Term Strategy, it is crucial that at this session of the Board we plan what the Organization should focus on. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to address four issues concerning how UNESCO should emphasize its activities for the benefit of Member States in the next biennium.

8.2 First, I am happy to learn that education for all (EFA) will continue to be the highest priority over the next two years, and definitely until the year 2015, which is the year we intend to achieve our EFA goals. Even though in many countries, at this stage, primary education and lower secondary levels have almost been universalized, we are facing tougher challenges in bridging the gap of quality in education between different regions and localities. The quality issue is a great hurdle we must conquer and overcome. Mr Chairman, the achievement of compulsory education cannot be perceived by just the number of enrolments, as it has to ensure a satisfactory rate of attainment. If we are to expect basic education to pave the way for lifelong learning, leading our communities to a knowledge-based society, basic education must lay solid and prudent foundations. One

important variable that would help enhance quality is the reduction of administrative costs. In this era of rapid ICT advancement, we have seen hundreds of computer applications for education. ICTs are useful for both the teaching-learning process and for education management. However, it is a shame that despite heavy investment in ICTs, the costs of education management have not significantly gone down. Personnel expenditure still takes up almost 80% of the budget. In terms of student achievements, in Thailand's experience, we have to admit that we have not seen significant improvements from using ICTs as compared to the conventional methods. I am aware that it would not be fair to make a blunt comparison when investment in ICTs, particularly software, may not have reached the threshold to really make a true impact. In this matter, Mr Chairman, I would like to request UNESCO to play a leading role in harnessing ICTs for education, with roadmaps to ensure full utilization appropriate for countries at different stages of development.

8.3 Regarding my second point, I would like to touch on lifelong learning. Lifelong learning has been a philosophy of UNESCO for several decades. However, it seems that this strategy of lifelong learning is overshadowed by the formal schooling system. If we analyse budget allocation in our country, it is obvious that over 95% of the budget is allocated to formal education. This might be because formal education is more concrete and tangible. Educators can have systematic planning and curriculum design in advance. In contrast, the promotion of non-formal and informal education has been taken for granted and remains low-profile. In driving towards a knowledge-based society, we need to move the whole society together. Within the population, pupils and students in the formal systems represent about one quarter of the population, but we invest 95% of the education budget in this group. Meanwhile, we spend the residual 5% for three-quarters of the total population. In this reality, how can we expect education to play a role in leading to a harmonious and prosperous society. Mr Chairman, in this context of rapid change in social, economic, technological and environmental terms, I would like to request UNESCO to be more aggressive in promoting lifelong learning by conveying the importance of more balanced resource allocation. In this aspect, I would like to refer to the "no child left behind" policy of the United States of America, and to add a lifelong learning flavour so that no one, regardless of age, gender and social status, is neglected.

8.4 My third point concerns education and economic development. It is true that investing in education has economic implications. Education no longer reflects just social status, but has an obligation to generate income. This means that education has to relate to the world of work. Looking at the statistics, it is clear that the social trends do not coincide with the aims and objectives of education in the economic domain. Enrolments at upper secondary or high-school level, which is the crossroads to higher education, show that the majority of students prefer to study in general courses in order to prepare for academic studies at university. Even though governments in many countries prefer to promote a higher proportion of vocational courses, it has not been welcomed by students and parents. Mr Chairman, perhaps we, with the leadership of UNESCO, need to rethink and redesign the way vocational education is organized in order to overcome existing problems and to help improve the status of technical and vocational education and training.

8.5 My final point is that we all admit there has been a rapid deterioration of most of the natural resources on our planet, and we are aware that this will have a high impact on the lives of future generations. The deterioration of natural resources has led to an imbalance in ecological systems and has detrimental effects on our lives. However, I strongly believe that we will find the best solutions to make a better world. UNESCO as the United Nations agency dealing with education should play a central role in educating people on how to develop our society in a more sustainable way. The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) is timely and will help UNESCO mobilize the strength of our partners who can address the various issues through education. I am delighted to inform the Executive Board that Thailand will continue to give its full support to UNESCO on education for sustainable development-related activities. In closing, I would once again like to thank you, Mr Chairman, and the Director-General and the Secretariat for your contribution to the work of the UNESCO Executive Board. Thank you for your attention.

9.1 **Mr Said** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
in extenso:

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, my delegation wishes to extend its thanks to the Director-General for his comprehensive written report and his clear and informative oral introduction to our debate on items 4, 5, 6 and 25. On the Programme and Budget, we welcome the emphasis that has been placed throughout the programme on UNESCO's priorities of Africa and gender equality, and on the priority groups of least developed countries, small island developing States, and the most vulnerable segments of society, including indigenous peoples. I should like to thank the Director-General for his generous proposal of a budget ceiling of \$631 million with the aim of achieving consensus. We would have preferred the Director-General's earlier core scenario budget of \$648 million, but we recognize that others have concerns about a zero real growth budget, so we will join the consensus position in support of the Director-General, provided that this reduced budget does indeed allow UNESCO to meet its commitments. In recommendation 3 of 33 C/Resolution 92, the General Conference decided that "the programme and budget should be presented to Member States in a format providing detail up to the level of programme actions and the staffing resources required to implement them". We hope that this will be fully reflected in document 34 C/5, and we agree with those Member States that have said that staff and administrative costs must be reduced. Such a high level of costs for central services is simply unacceptable. We share the concerns expressed yesterday by the representative of Mexico regarding the need for a budget which follows the principles of transparency, efficiency and rationalization. We do not understand the rationale behind the increase in travel expenses, the \$2 million reduction in the budget for the Participation Programme and the adverse effect on the pilot projects under South-South cooperation, to give but a few examples. We need to know what support would be cut for pilot projects, and on what basis. We favour the Mexican proposal to reduce the budget for travel expenses and to restore the budget of the Participation Programme. While I am talking about the Participation Programme, I should like to thank those countries that have abstained from making proposals in favour of least developed countries. We are indeed very grateful to the Director-General for his announcement regarding a new

system which will make more funds available for poorer countries.

9.2 Mr Chairman, education remains my government's priority as we regard it as the key to poverty reduction, economic sustainability and social stability. We welcome UNESCO's success, in the context of the United Nations reform process, in establishing its leading role in education and in implementing the Global Action Plan on Education for All. We look forward to increased capacity-building for quality education and for achieving literacy goals through important initiatives such as the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE), and including the follow-up to the UNESCO regional conferences in support of global literacy.

9.3 With regard to culture, we welcome the Director-General's outline proposals for restructuring the World Heritage Centre, in particular the establishment of a steering group to ensure an intersectoral approach, and we believe this is a matter for the Director-General to decide upon. We cannot stress enough the importance of increased capacity-building for sustainable tourism which is crucial for small islands such as ours.

9.4 Concerning the sciences, my delegation supports those Member States that have pointed to the need to ensure that the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has sufficient funds to enable it to carry out its very important activities. This is a particularly valid request in the light of our discussions on climate change yesterday afternoon. We had an excellent debate. We know the causes of climate change, we know the disastrous results for our planet, and we know the remedies. Now we need to be decisive and to act promptly. Finally, we would like to extend our grateful thanks to our Chairman for his leadership, guidance, determination and patience over the last two years; and instead of a bouquet of flowers, I should like to present him with three valuable minutes. Thank you.

١٠,١ السيد موسى حسن (رئيس المؤتمر العام) النص الكامل:
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم. سيدي الرئيس، معالي المدير العام، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، أصحاب السعادة السفراء المندوبين الدائمين، سيداتي، سادتي، يقول أحد الخبراء إنه حتى الصداقة تحتاج إلى موهبة للحفاظ عليها. وعلى الرغم من ذلك، تظل ثمة حقيقة من الصعب تغافلها وهي العشرة والفيض من الذكريات التي تبقى. هذا و"قيمة كل امرئ ما يحسن" كما تعلمنا من القول المأثور. فإن ذكرياتي معكم مليئة بالمحبة والمعرفة الإنسانية. لقد تبادلنا الحديث، وأحياناً النظرات والابتسامات طوال الوقت الذي جلسنا فيه معاً، وإنني لأمل أن تتواصل معرفتنا بعضنا ببعض وأن نعمل معاً، سيدي الرئيس والمدير العام وجميع أعضاء المجلس. واسمحوا لي بالنسبة لي وبصفتي رئيساً للمؤتمر العام، أن أعبر عن الفرصة التي أتاحت لي خلال العامين الماضيين. فقد حضرت اجتماعات بدعوات كريمة من الدول الأعضاء وشاركت في أنشطة مميزة نظمت في إطار تنفيذ برامج اليونسكو في الدول الأعضاء. وشعرت مثل سلفي البروفسور أموليفاً بأن وجود اليونسكو في الميدان هو وجودها الحقيقي، والوجود على أراضي الدول الأعضاء يعزز مصداقية اليونسكو في التصدي لشكالات السلام والتعليم والفقير والبيئة. وسأطرق في ما يلي لبعض مشاركاتي في هذه الاجتماعات والأنشطة.

١٠,٢ المؤتمر العالمي حول الديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان في العالم العربي، القاهرة: أول زيارة عمل قمت بها وساهمت عملياً في مداولات أنشطتها كانت إلى القاهرة بجمهورية مصر العربية لحضور المؤتمر العالمي حول الديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان في العالم العربي، وكان ذلك

في كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٥. وقد جاء في إحدى فقرات إعلان القاهرة بهذه المناسبة: "إذا كان للديمقراطية مرتكز واحد - وهي ليست كذلك - فلن يكون هذا المرتكز إلا حقوق الإنسان. فحقوق الإنسان لا تعني فقط ما يتبادر للأذهان من حقوق مدنية وسياسية، إنما تعني في جانبها الآخر الحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية والحق في التنمية".

١٠,٣ اجتماع اللجان الوطنية العربية، أبو ظبي: خلال كلمتي في هذا الاجتماع أشرت إلى أن المطلوب من هذا الاجتماع هو توضيح أولويات المنطقة العربية على أن نضع نصب أعيننا بناء قدرات شعوب منطقتنا لمواجهة تحديات العولمة لنستعد للمشاركة المنتجة الفاعلة من خلال رؤية عربية حول البرنامج والميزانية والاستراتيجية بغية ضمان استجابتها لتحديات التنمية المستدامة في المنطقة العربية وقضايا المرأة واندماجها بصورة أفضل في المجتمع.

١٠,٤ اجتماع لجنة التراث العالمي، في فلنوس، ليتوانيا: في هذا اللقاء شددت على أنه ينبغي لنا أن نأخذ بعين الاعتبار ما لكل حضارة من خصائص تعبر عنها المعالم التراثية في العالم، وكلها غنية ومتنوعة، كما هو الحال في ليتوانيا، وهي تدفعنا إلى التقارب فيما بيننا من خلال التعرف عليها لأنها تتكون من قيم تشترك فيها كافة الثقافات.

١٠,٥ مهرجان صور الشرق الأوسط، كوبنهاغن، الدنمارك: قمت بالإشادة بهذا اللقاء الذي يأتي في الوقت الذي نحن بأمس الحاجة فيه إلى تعميق التأمل في مفهوم الحوار في عصر الأزمات التي يشهدها العالم اليوم. وتعتبر مشاركة الفنانين بفنهم وتفاعلهم مع الفنون الأخرى بدون قيود اللغة أفضل أسلوب لتعزيز الأبعاد الإنسانية والسلمية للحوار. وإننا نستطيع، عن طريق هذا المهرجان، أن نعمق الفهم للمستوى الثقافي لمنطقة الشرق الأوسط وأن نزيل الأحكام الخاطئة عنه.

١٠,٦ مؤتمر المبادرة الدولية بشأن الترسب، الخرطوم: تناولت في هذا المؤتمر العلاقة بين السكان والبيئة والتنمية للحد من الكوارث الطبيعية التي تسببها المياه. وأشرت إلى أن ٩٥٪ من الكوارث الطبيعية هي أحداث متصلة بالمياه، وأن العدد الكبير منها ناجم عن سوء استخدام الأراضي، بالإضافة إلى أن توزيع السكان وتوزيع المياه غير متكافئين. لذلك، فإن خسائر البلدان النامية المتأثرة بالكوارث الطبيعية المرتبطة بالمياه تعادل خمسة أضعاف الخسائر التي تصيب البلدان المتقدمة لنفس الأسباب.

١٠,٧ يوم الفلسفة العالمي، الرباط: إن الفلسفة باللغة اليونانية هي حب الحكمة ("فيلوصوفيا"). ولطالما أدت الفلسفة دورا هاما في العالم في جو من التسامح الديني والفكري، لأن الفلسفة تعني البحث عن المعرفة الحقيقية ومحو الأفكار الخاطئة. كما أنه لا يمكن أن تتقدم البشرية في عالم يعمل فيه العلم بمعزل عن الدواعي الأخلاقية. والفلسفة علم ممتع له خصوصية مميزة وهو مصدر متعة غامرة. يقول فولتير عن الفلسفة: "إن علم ما بعد الطبيعة يستأن يرتاض فيه العقل وإنه لألذ من الهندسة، فلا نعاني ما نعانیه فيها من الحساب والقياس، بل نحلم فيه حلما لذيذا".

١٠,٨ الدورة الأولى للجنة الدولية لصون التراث الثقافي غير المادي، الجزائر: إن الحفاظ على التراث الثقافي غير المادي يحقق أهدافا أخرى تسعى اليونسكو لبلوغها وهي المساهمة في إنعاش الصناعات الثقافية. ويمكن تحقيق هذه الأهداف عن طريق تشجيع الإبداع الفني وتنمية الملكات الفنية للمجتمعات، وبخاصة الأجيال الجديدة من أبنائها، وذلك بمشاركة السكان الذين ينتجون إبداعا فنيا ليعبر عن هويتهم بالتعاون والتضامن على الصعيدين الإقليمي والدولي.

١٠,٩ مؤتمر تحديات محو الأمية في المنطقة العربية، الدوحة: أشرت في كلمتي بهذه المناسبة إلى التحديات التي يواجهها التعاون الدولي والتي تكمن في توفير التعليم للجميع باعتباره أحد العناصر الرئيسية لتحقيق الاستقرار والشعور بالأمان في عالم تتسع فيه الهوية الشاسعة بين من ينعمون بثراء شديد ومن يعانون من فقر مدقع، وأوضحت أن توفير التعليم للجميع يحتاج إلى ستة مليارات دولار فقط في العام، وأن هذا المبلغ يبدو ضئيلا في عالم ينفق حوالي ثلاثمائة مليار دولار على الإعلانات وينفق مبلغا أكبر منه بكثير على الأغراض العسكرية والسجائر، رغم أن الاستثمار في التعليم أعمق الاستثمارات أثرا في تهيئة البشر للعيش معا في حين أن الحرمان منه يركي مشاعر الحقد وثقافة العنف. ويقول في ذلك العلامة العربي مالك بن أنس "وإذا منع العلم عن العامة، فلا خير فيه للخاصة".

١٠,١٠ مؤتمر القيادة العالمية، واشنطن، الولايات المتحدة: في هذا المؤتمر أشرت إلى الاختلاف في قراءة الأوضاع العالمية، الذي يؤثر سلبيا على عملية إيجاد الحلول الجذرية للمشكلة المتمثلة في غياب الحريات السياسية وغياب العدالة والحد الأدنى من المساواة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية من جهة، وفي انتشار الإرهاب والعنف من جهة أخرى.

١٠,١١ مؤتمر التفاعل بين الثقافات، سان بطرسبرغ، الاتحاد الروسي: أتيت لي في هذا المؤتمر مناسبة أخرى للتأكيد على أهمية مثل هذه اللقاءات التي ترمي إلى بناء طريق للعيش المشترك. وقتلتها بصراحة إن قناعات البعض أمثال صموئيل هنتنغتون، صاحب نظرية صدام الحضارات، وبرايين بيدهام الكاتب في صحيفة الإيكونوميست، والمؤلف بول كيندي، الذين يعتقدون بأن الصراع التقليدي بين الإسلام والغرب عائد إلى الواجهة، إنما تعود إلى اقتناعهم بأن معظم الدول العربية والإسلامية لم تصل بعد إلى القرن الحادي والعشرين وبأن قيم العدالة والديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان مقتصرة على ثقافتهم فقط. هذا نابع من الجهل بالثقافات الأخرى. ويكفي أن نشير إلى عكس اعتقادات هؤلاء وإلى ما يراه الكاتب النرويجي هيوبور نسريد الذي يقول: "لا نجد ما يبرر الادعاءات القائلة إن الديمقراطية والإسلام لا يلتقيان، وهي ادعاءات لا تخالف الحقيقة فقط، بل تمثل خطرا لأنها تدعم الخطاب القائم على التصادم".

١٠,١٢ مؤتمر تعزيز الأخلاقيات ومكافحة المنشطات في الرياضة، تونس: شتان بين ما أريد للرياضة أن تكون وحال الرياضة الآن، فالألعاب التي كانت مرتبطة عضويا بالأخلاق فقدت بعضا من صفاتها الرياضية بسبب التوجه نحو تحويل الرياضة إلى صناعة اقتصادية رابحة. ودخل اللاعبون بورصة الأسعار إذ تعدى سعر بعضهم المليون من الدولارات بينما بقيت جائزة نوبل الأدبية - وهي أرقى جائزة في العالم - في حدود المليون دولار.

١٠,١٣ مؤتمر وزراء التعليم في الاتحاد الأفريقي، جوهانسبورغ، جنوب أفريقيا: سيداتي، سادتي، أفريقيا قلب العالم. ومن بطن هذه القارة خرج الإنسان. ولطالما كانت أفريقيا ولا تزال تمثل أولوية لليونسكو. كما أن تعاون المنظمة مع الاتحاد الأفريقي يولي اهتماما بالغا. فعلى الرغم من تزايد عدد الأطفال الملتحقين بالتعليم الابتدائي، ما زالت الفتيات والأطفال القاطنون في المناطق الريفية والنائية، والأطفال الرحل وذوو الاحتياجات التعليمية الخاصة يمثلون تحديات صعبة لا يمكن التغلب عليها بدون قيام المانحين بدعم المرافق النظامية للتعليم والتدريب والمساعدة التقنية.

١٠,١٤ مكانة أوزبكستان في الحضارة الإسلامية، وإعلان طشقند عاصمة للثقافة الإسلامية: كل الثقافات تنتج عن عملية تاريخية تتطور وتختلف آثارا. وإن تلافينا في طشقند يحمل بذاته مغزى إنسانيا كبيرا.

فهذه الأرض شهدت تمازج الأديان والتقاليد؛ وتعتبر نموذجا لحوار الحضارات الذي بدأ منذ نشأة التاريخ في هذه المنطقة ولا يزال قائما حتى اليوم. كما إن مهارة صناعة الورق التي اشتهرت بها مدينة سمرقند، حيث كان ينتج الورق السمرقندي الشهير، لدليل على الاهتمام بالعقول التي كانت تسعى من أجل تبادل المعرفة أمثال الزمخشري والنقشبندى والإمام البخاري.

١٠،١٥ الدورة الثانية للجنة الدولية لصون التراث غير المادي، طوكيو، اليابان: إن التراث غير المادي يعتبر من لذات الحياة. وتمثل الموسيقى أهم أوجه هذا التراث "لأن كل الفنون تنبثق إلى معانقة الموسيقى" كما يقول الفنان والتر بارتر. فالإيقاع الموسيقي لغة ابتكرها الإنسان للتعبير عن إحساسه بالإيقاعات الباطنة لانفعالاته وعواطفه ومشاعره، وإن نضج هذا الحس وتطوره يرتبط بمدى ما يبتكره ويطوره من أدوات، وبضرورة المشاركة في صيانتها والاستمتاع به كجزء من حياة البشر ومصدر لنموهم الاجتماعي والروحي. هذا هو التراث غير المادي.

١٠،١٦ سيداتي، سادتي. إلى جانب ذلك، انتهزت فرصة وجودي في هذه الدول لزيارة مكاتب اليونسكو، حيث التقيت مع المدراء والموظفين في هذه المكاتب. وقد وجدت فيهم الإيمان الراسخ بأداء مهمتهم وتمسكهم بأهداف اليونسكو. ولكن وجدت أيضا أنهم يعانون من مشاكل مهنية واجتماعية عديدة. إن معظم موظفي هذه المكاتب يشكون من عدم تعيينهم في وظائف ثابتة، فأغلبهم يعملون بعقود مؤقتة ولسنوات طويلة دون تعديل مما يؤثر على معيشتهم اليومية ومستقبلهم المهني... لذلك فإنني أأمل أن تهتم بهم الأمانة إذا أردنا أداء ناجحا للامركزية.

١٠،١٧ أما أنا شخصيا، فتعلمت الكثير وتعرفت عن قرب على ثقافة هذه الشعوب والبلدان. وخرجت بفوائد عديدة على حد قول الإمام علي: "في الأسفار خمس فوائد: تفرج هم، واكتساب معيشة، وعلم، وأداب، وصحية ماجد". وأود هنا أن أؤكد أن عمل رئيس المؤتمر العام لا يقتصر على الأسابيع الثلاثة التي يترأس خلالها دورة المؤتمر العام، وإنما هو عمل يستمر طوال فترة مهامه إذا ما وجد الدعم من الدول الأعضاء والأمانة، ويمكن أن يؤدي دورا أساسيا في التقريب والتضامن بين الدول الأعضاء التي يمثلها والأمانة العامة. وإنني سعيد بأن هذا قد تم بفضل التعاون الذي أبداه المدير العام. سيداتي، هذا ما وددت أن أوضحه حول مشاركاتي في أنشطة الدول الأعضاء والمنظمة. أما هنا في المقر، فقد شاركت في الكثير الكثير من الندوات والمؤتمرات، وليس لدي ما يكفي من الوقت لذكرها.

١٠،١٨ ولا يسعني، وأنا أصل إلى ختام تقريرتي، إلا أن أعبر لجميع المسؤولين في الدول التي زرتها ولديري وموظفي مكاتب اليونسكو عن الامتنان والتقدير على حسن الاهتمام وحفاوة الاستقبال والضيافة والكرم النابعة من الأصالة الأخلاقية لجميع هذه الشعوب. ولا يكتمل الشكر دون أن أقدمه إليكما، سيدي الرئيس، وسيدي المدير العام، على التضامن والتفاهم اللذين اتسمت بهما علاقتنا، واللذين يعتبران مثلا رائعا لأسلوب العمل بين الهيئات الثلاث لتأدية رسالة اليونسكو. وإليكم أصدقائي، أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، كل التقدير والاحترام والشكر، وإلى أمانة المجلس التنفيذي، وعلى رأسهم السيد بارسورمان، وإلى جميع أعضاء الأمانة فردا فردا. وأخص بالذكر أعضاء مكتب المؤتمر العام القليلي العدد، الكثيري العمل، وإلى المترجمين الفوريين والتحريريين.

١٠،١٩ وأختم كلمتي بقول اللورد باكون. يقول: "ليس ما يجعل الناس أصحاء أقوىاء هو ما يأكلون، وإنما ما يهضمون، وليس ما يجعلهم أغنياء هو ما يربحون وإنما ما يدخرون، وليس ما يجعلهم

علماء هو ما يقرأون وإنما ما يتذكرون ويستوعبون، وليس ما يجعلهم أفاضل أو أتقيا ما يتصدقون به أو يتظاهرون، وإنما ما يعملون". شكرا جزيلاً.

(10.1) **M. Musa Hassan** (Président de la Conférence générale) *in extenso* (traduit de l'arabe) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs et délégués permanents, Mesdames et Messieurs, un expert a dit qu'il fallait être doué même pour préserver une amitié. Il est toutefois difficile de faire abstraction des moments partagés et du flot de souvenirs qu'on en garde. Comme le dit l'adage : « La valeur de l'être humain tient à ses actes ». Mes souvenirs de mes relations avec vous sont riches en amitié et en expérience humaine. Nous avons dialogué et parfois échangé des regards et des sourires tout au long de la période que nous avons passée ensemble. Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général et vous tous, membres du Conseil, j'espère que nous continuerons à faire connaissance les uns les autres et à travailler ensemble. Permettez-moi, à titre personnel et en ma qualité de Président de la Conférence générale, de m'attarder sur les occasions qui m'ont été offertes au cours de ces deux dernières années. À l'aimable invitation d'États membres, j'ai assisté à des réunions et participé à des activités spécifiques organisées dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des programmes de l'UNESCO dans les États membres. Comme mon prédécesseur, M. Omolewa, j'ai senti que la véritable place de l'UNESCO était sur le terrain et que sa présence sur le territoire des États membres renforçait sa crédibilité dans la lutte pour surmonter les problèmes liés à la paix, à l'enseignement, à la pauvreté et à l'environnement. Je me propose de passer en revue certaines des réunions et des activités auxquelles j'ai participé.

(10.2) Conférence internationale sur la démocratie et les droits de l'homme dans le monde arabe, Le Caire : La première visite de travail que j'ai effectuée et au cours de laquelle j'ai concrètement pris part aux discussions sur les activités s'est déroulée au Caire, en République arabe d'Égypte, où j'ai assisté à cette conférence en décembre 2005. Dans la Déclaration du Caire, adoptée à cette occasion, on peut lire ce qui suit : « Si la démocratie n'avait qu'un seul fondement - et tel n'est pas le cas - cela ne pourrait être que les droits de l'homme. Les droits de l'homme ne s'entendent pas seulement des droits civils et politiques, qui viennent aussitôt à l'esprit, mais aussi des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels ainsi que du droit au développement ».

(10.3) Réunion des commissions nationales arabes, Abou Dhabi : dans l'allocution que j'ai prononcée à cette réunion, j'ai indiqué que celle-ci devait aider à clarifier les priorités de la région arabe. La principale préoccupation doit être de renforcer les capacités des peuples de la région pour qu'ils puissent faire face aux défis de la mondialisation et apporter une contribution productive et effective fondée sur une vision arabe du programme, du budget et de la stratégie, l'objectif étant de leur permettre de relever les défis du développement durable dans la région arabe, d'aborder la question de la femme et de veiller à ce que celle-ci soit mieux intégrée dans la société.

(10.4) Réunion du Comité du patrimoine mondial, Vilnius, Lituanie : lors de cette réunion, j'ai souligné que nous devons tenir compte des caractéristiques des différentes civilisations telles qu'illustrées par les éléments emblématiques du patrimoine mondial. Ces caractéristiques, qui sont toutes riches et variées, comme en Lituanie, nous poussent à nous rapprocher les uns des autres en approfondissant leur connaissance car elles sont fondées sur des valeurs communes à toutes les cultures.

(10.5) Festival « Images du Moyen-Orient », Copenhague, Danemark : je me suis félicité que l'on ait organisé cette rencontre à un moment où nous avons le plus grand besoin d'approfondir notre réflexion sur le concept de dialogue, en cette période de crise que traverse le monde aujourd'hui. La participation d'artistes, chacun avec son art interagissant avec les autres, sans barrière linguistique, est le meilleur moyen de consolider les dimensions humaines et pacifiques du dialogue. Grâce à ce festival, nous pouvions faire mieux connaître le niveau culturel de la région du Moyen-Orient et éliminer les jugements erronés formés à ce sujet.

(10.6) Conférence sur l'Initiative internationale relative à la sédimentation, Khartoum : durant cette conférence, j'ai évoqué la relation qui existait entre la population, l'environnement et le développement s'agissant de la mitigation des catastrophes naturelles causées par l'eau. J'ai précisé que 95 % des catastrophes naturelles étaient liées à l'eau, et qu'un grand nombre d'entre elles étaient imputables à la mauvaise utilisation des terres ainsi qu'à une répartition déséquilibrée de la population et de l'eau. C'est pourquoi, les pays en développement touchés par des catastrophes naturelles ayant un rapport avec l'eau subissent cinq fois plus de pertes que les pays développés frappés par des catastrophes dues aux mêmes causes.

(10.7) Journée mondiale de la philosophie, Rabat : le mot « philosophie » vient du grec « philosophia », qui signifie l'amour de la sagesse. La philosophie joue depuis longtemps un rôle important à l'échelle mondiale, dans un climat de tolérance religieuse et intellectuelle, car la philosophie a pour objet la recherche de la connaissance réelle et l'élimination des idées erronées. L'humanité ne peut pas progresser dans un monde où la science est coupée de la morale. La philosophie, science captivante aux caractéristiques particulières, procure un immense plaisir. À son sujet, Voltaire a dit que la science qui va au-delà de la nature est un jardin qu'explore l'esprit. C'est une discipline plus délectable que la technique car elle ne nous inflige pas les souffrances du calcul et des mesures ; au contraire, elle nous plonge dans un rêve délicieux.

(10.8) Première session du Comité intergouvernemental de sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel, Alger : la préservation du patrimoine culturel immatériel permet d'atteindre d'autres objectifs poursuivis par l'UNESCO, notamment la relance des industries culturelles. On peut réaliser ces objectifs en encourageant la création artistique et en développant la propriété artistique au profit des populations, en particulier les nouvelles générations, et ce avec la participation des personnes qui produisent des créations artistiques pour exprimer leur identité, dans un cadre de coopération et de solidarité régionales et internationales.

(10.9) Conférence sur les défis de l'alphabétisation dans la région arabe, Doha : dans l'allocution que j'ai prononcée à cette occasion, j'ai fait référence aux défis qu'il fallait relever grâce à la coopération internationale, notamment la réalisation de l'Éducation pour tous, une des principales conditions à remplir pour garantir la stabilité et instaurer un sentiment de sécurité dans un monde marqué par l'énorme fossé séparant les très riches des plus démunis. J'ai fait observer que six milliards de dollars par an suffiraient pour assurer l'Éducation pour tous, un montant extrêmement faible dans un monde qui consacrait environ 300 milliards de dollars à la publicité et où le secteur militaire et l'industrie de la cigarette représentaient des sommes beaucoup plus importantes. Or, c'est l'investissement dans l'éducation qui produit les effets les plus profonds en ce qu'il prépare les êtres humains à vivre ensemble, alors que l'absence d'éducation suscite l'amertume et engendre la culture de la violence. À ce sujet, le savant arabe Malek ibn Anas a dit : « L'éducation ne peut pas profiter à une minorité quand la majorité en est privée ».

(10.10) International Leadership Conference, Washington, États-Unis d'Amérique : lors de cette conférence, j'ai appelé l'attention sur la divergence de vues concernant la situation mondiale, qui compromettrait la recherche de solutions radicales aux problèmes posés par l'absence de libertés politiques, de justice et d'un minimum d'égalité économique et sociale, d'une part, et par la propagation du terrorisme et de la violence, d'autre part.

(10.11) Conférence sur l'interaction entre les cultures, Saint-Petersbourg, Fédération de Russie : cette conférence m'a donné une autre occasion de souligner l'importance de ces rencontres, qui visent à tracer la voie de la coexistence. J'ai déclaré ouvertement que les convictions de certains, tels que Samuel Huntington, père de la théorie du choc des civilisations, Brian Beedham, journaliste à « The Economist », et l'auteur Paul Kennedy, qui estimaient que le conflit traditionnel entre l'islam et l'Occident refaisait surface, tenaient au fait que, selon eux, la plupart des pays arabes et islamiques ne vivaient toujours pas au XXI^e siècle et que les valeurs de la justice, de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme étaient l'apanage de leurs cultures. Cette position dénotait une méconnaissance des autres cultures. À ce sujet, l'auteur norvégien, Herbjørnsrud, qui ne partage pas les convictions des personnes susmentionnées, a dit : « Rien ne justifie les allégations selon lesquelles la démocratie et l'islam seraient incompatibles. Ces allégations sont non seulement fausses, mais aussi dangereuses car elles confortent le discours fondé sur l'affrontement ».

(10.12) Conférence sur la promotion de l'éthique et la lutte contre le dopage dans le sport, Tunis : l'idée que je me fais du sport est aux antipodes de ce qu'est le sport aujourd'hui. Les disciplines dont l'éthique faisait partie intégrante ont perdu certaines de leurs caractéristiques sportives en raison de la transformation du sport en une activité économique lucrative. Les joueurs sont inscrits à la bourse des prix et certains d'entre eux valent des millions de dollars, alors que le prix Nobel de littérature, la plus haute distinction au monde, s'élève à un million de dollars environ.

(10.13) Conférence des ministres de l'éducation de l'Union africaine, Johannesburg, Afrique du Sud :

Mesdames et Messieurs, l'Afrique est le cœur du monde. L'être humain est sorti des entrailles de ce continent. L'Afrique est depuis longtemps une priorité de l'UNESCO, qui attache une grande importance à la coopération avec l'Union africaine. Malgré l'augmentation du nombre d'enfants scolarisés dans l'enseignement primaire, les filles et les enfants vivant dans les zones rurales ou reculées, les enfants déplacés ainsi que ceux qui ont des besoins éducatifs spéciaux représentent des défis majeurs qui ne pourront être surmontés que si les donateurs appuient les systèmes d'éducation, de formation et d'assistance technique.

(10.14) Place de l'Ouzbékistan dans la civilisation islamique, et proclamation de Tachkent capitale de la culture islamique : toutes les cultures sont le fruit d'un processus historique qui évolue et laisse des traces. Le fait de se rencontrer à Tachkent revêtait en soi une grande signification humaine. Cette terre, qui a vu se mélanger religions et traditions, illustre le dialogue entre les cultures, qui remonte au début de l'histoire dans cette région et qui s'y poursuit encore aujourd'hui. L'art de la fabrication du papier qui a fait la renommée de la ville de Samarkand - le célèbre papier de Samarkand - témoigne de l'intérêt que l'on portait aux esprits qui s'efforçaient de diffuser le savoir, comme Al-Zamakhchari, Al-Nackchabandi et l'imam Al-Boukhari.

(10.15) Deuxième session du Comité intergouvernemental de sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel, Tokyo, Japon : le patrimoine immatériel est un des plaisirs de la vie. La musique est l'élément le plus important de ce patrimoine « car tous les arts essaient de s'unir à la musique », comme le disait l'artiste Walter Barter. Le rythme musical est une langue que l'être humain a créée pour exprimer les rythmes cachés de ses sensations, de ses émotions et de ses sentiments. La maturité et le développement de ce sens sont liés à la création et à la mise au point des instruments, et il est nécessaire d'écouter cette forme d'expression et de contribuer à sa préservation en tant qu'élément de la vie des êtres humains et source de développement social et spirituel. C'est cela le patrimoine culturel immatériel.

(10.16) Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai mis à profit ma présence dans ces pays pour visiter les bureaux de l'UNESCO et rencontrer leur directeur et leur personnel. J'ai vu en eux une foi inébranlable en leur mission et un attachement aux objectifs de l'UNESCO. J'ai également vu qu'ils souffraient de nombreuses difficultés professionnelles et sociales. La plupart des membres du personnel de ces bureaux se plaignent de ne pas avoir été nommés à des postes permanents et travaillent depuis de longues années avec des contrats temporaires, sans aucune évolution, ce qui n'est pas sans conséquences pour leur vie quotidienne et leur avenir professionnel. C'est pourquoi, j'espère que le Secrétariat s'occupera d'eux, une condition préalable au succès de la décentralisation.

(10.17) À titre personnel, j'ai beaucoup appris au contact direct des cultures de ces peuples et de ces pays. J'en ai retiré de nombreux avantages car, comme l'a dit l'imam Ali : « Le voyage a cinq avantages : il chasse les soucis, procure un moyen de subsistance, enrichit le savoir, permet d'acquérir de bonnes manières et amène à rencontrer des êtres remarquables ». Je tiens à préciser ici que les fonctions du président de la Conférence générale ne

se résument pas aux trois semaines durant lesquelles il dirige les travaux de cette assemblée. Il poursuit son action tout au long de son mandat avec l'appui des États membres et du Secrétariat, et il peut jouer un rôle essentiel en favorisant le rapprochement et la solidarité entre les États membres qu'il représente et le Directeur général. J'ai eu le plaisir de remplir mes fonctions avec la coopération du Directeur général. Mesdames et Messieurs, voilà ce que je voulais dire concernant ma participation aux activités des États membres et de l'Organisation. Au Siège, j'ai également pris part à un très grand nombre de colloques et de conférences, mais le temps me manque pour les passer en revue.

(10.18) Alors que j'arrive à la fin de mon rapport, je tiens à exprimer à tous les responsables des pays que j'ai visités, ainsi qu'aux directeurs et au personnel des bureaux de l'UNESCO, ma gratitude et mon estime pour la grande attention qu'ils m'ont accordée, leur accueil chaleureux, leur sens de l'hospitalité et leur générosité, qui témoignent de la noblesse de caractère de tous ces peuples. Je tiens également à vous remercier, Monsieur le Président et Monsieur le Directeur général, pour la solidarité et la compréhension dont vous avez fait montre et qui illustrent parfaitement la façon dont les trois organes font en sorte que l'UNESCO s'acquitte de son mandat. Je veux exprimer mon estime, mon respect et mes remerciements à mes amis, les membres du Conseil exécutif, à l'équipe du secrétariat du Conseil exécutif, dirigée par M. Parsuramen, et à tous les membres, sans exception, du Secrétariat de l'Organisation. Je tiens à citer en particulier les fonctionnaires, peu nombreux mais très actifs, qui assistent le Bureau de la Conférence générale, ainsi que les interprètes et les traducteurs.

(10.19) En conclusion, je voudrais citer Lord Bacon, qui a dit : « C'est ce que nous digérons, et non ce que nous mangeons, qui nous rend sains et forts ; ce que nous économisons, et non ce que nous gagnons, qui nous rend riches ; ce que nous retenons et assimilons, et non ce que nous lisons, qui nous rend érudits ; et c'est ce que nous faisons, et non ce que nous croyons ou laissons croire, qui nous rend pieux et vertueux ». Merci.

Mr Zhang resumed the Chair.

11.1 **The Chairman *in extenso*:**

Thank you very much, President Musa bin Hassan. I wish, on behalf of all the Board Members and myself, to convey our sincere appreciation to you for your very deep and very thoughtful and enlightening statement in the context of this general debate. Your statements, as always, provide us with a lot of food for thought, and I am confident that your reflections, your visions will guide us in our activities and missions in the coming years. President Musa, we have always felt very privileged to benefit from your wisdom, your experience and your support for our Board's work. Yes, we know that your speeches are not only so deep and thoughtful, but also express your heartfelt feelings; we all feel that very strongly. You are right: two years is not a long time in the history of humankind. And yet these two years have seen all of our Board Members together with our Secretariat, led by the Director-General, working together day and night. We have shared our thoughts; we have shared our concerns; we have also shared our joy. We have debated, sometimes differing but always working for convergence instead of divergence, sacrificing principles so as to finally reach a consensus. I still remember, when you mentioned

the three organs, the solidarity where each plays its own role according to its mandate in this Organization but all work together. Your words remind me of the times in my office with you, Mr Matsuura and I, we three discussing a very tough issue and how to handle it, each representing one of the organs but all of us committed to working together for the fundamental benefits of this Organization, to achieving a consensus to tide us over the difficulty. Apart from that, we also discussed the future of this Organization. We appreciate so much your commitment, your leadership, your wisdom and your support for our Board's work. We will always remember that. So I will ask my Board Members and all the ladies and gentlemen here, our colleagues, to express our sincere thanks again to you, President Musa bin Hassan.

(Applause)

11.2 Dear colleagues, between yesterday and today, we have heard a total of 54 speakers as well as very pertinent interventions on items 4, 5, 6 and 25 of our agenda. The Director-General will give his response to your statements in the general debate tomorrow morning. At this time, let me express my gratitude to each of you. Your interventions have been very conducive to the success not only of our session, but also of our Organization in the long run. And you have also demonstrated excellence in time management, offering succinct comments useful to the Director-General and his senior staff, who are all here listening to you. The quality of the interventions, the relevance of your reflections and the pertinence of your questions are examples of our collective will to build a brighter and more reliable future for our Organization and its Member States.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Item 42: Submission of nominations for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the 34th session of the General Conference (177 EX/INF.3)

12. **The Chairperson** recalled that the General Conference, in accordance with Rule 26 of its Rules of Procedure, would elect a President and not more than 36 Vice-Presidents for its 34th session. Regarding the post of President, the only candidature received had been that of H.E. Mr George Anastassopoulos, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Greece to UNESCO. In the absence of a request for a vote by secret ballot, as provided in Rule 54, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, he took it that the Board agreed to recommend the nomination of Mr Anastassopoulos for the office of President of the 34th session of the General Conference.

13. *It was so decided.*

(Applause)

14.1 **The Chairperson** congratulated Mr Anastassopoulos on his unanimous nomination. He was certain that the General Conference would benefit from his wisdom and his sense of responsibility and leadership, and that his strong commitment to UNESCO's objectives would enable him efficiently to assume the duties and responsibilities associated with that high position.

15.1 **M. Anastassopoulos** (Grèce) adresse au Président et aux membres du Conseil ses remerciements les plus sincères et les plus chaleureux pour avoir choisi de proposer sa candidature à la présidence de la Conférence générale. Il remercie également le Président pour la gentillesse de ses propos à son égard. Il déclare avoir bien conscience des problèmes, des défis et des

difficultés auxquels l'UNESCO doit faire face, mais être déterminé à lutter pour que celle-ci occupe toute sa place dans un monde où elle est encore parfois méconnue - à tort si l'on considère ce qu'elle a déjà accompli.

15.2 Continuing in English, he said that while UNESCO might have had its problems and weaknesses, there were things that it had done well. It only had itself to blame if a general lack of awareness and appreciation of those things had deprived it of public support. Efforts had been made to rectify the situation, with varying degrees of success. But more needed to be done. He hoped that everyone would pull together in a further attempt to give the Organization the place it deserved.

١٦ قال السيد موسى حسن (رئيس المؤتمر العام) إن الدورة القادمة للمؤتمر العام هامة من حيث توقيتها وجدول أعمالها، وإن اختيار سعادة السفير جورج أناستاسوبولوس رئيساً للمؤتمر العام سوف يشارك في إنجاح أعمال هذه الدورة. فإن الصفات العالية التي يتمتع بها وأخلاقه الرفيعة وخبرته الواسعة في القيادة، بالإضافة إلى حبه للمنظمة، كلها عوامل للنجاح في إدارة المؤتمر العام ومواصلة العمل طوال العامين القادمين. وهنأ السفير أناستاسوبولوس تهنئة حارة على ترشيحه على هذا المنصب الهام.

(16) **M. Musa Hassan** (Président de la Conférence générale) souligne l'importance de la prochaine session de la Conférence générale, en raison du moment où elle se déroulera et de son programme de travail. Le choix de S. E. M. Georges Anastassopoulos comme Président de la Conférence générale contribuera au succès des travaux de cette session. Ses éminentes qualités, sa haute moralité, sa vaste expérience des fonctions de direction et son attachement à l'Organisation sont autant de gages de succès pour la Conférence générale et de la continuité des actions durant les deux années à venir. Il félicite chaleureusement M. Anastassopoulos pour sa nomination à ce poste important.

17. **The Director-General** congratulated Mr Anastassopoulos on his nomination, and said that it would certainly be endorsed by the General Conference. His knowledge of the Organization, his experience as a politician at both the national and European levels, and his qualifications in journalism and communication stood him in good stead for such a demanding and rewarding position. Furthermore, his wise guidance would help the Conference deal with the many critical items on its agenda at the forthcoming session, not least the adoption of UNESCO's new Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4).

18.1 **Ms Oliver** (United States of America) (Vice-Chairperson for Group I) added her congratulations to those of the previous speakers, not only as Vice-Chairperson of Group I, which had originally proposed the nomination, but also on behalf of the other electoral groups, whose support had been unanimous. As a lawyer, a journalist, a published author, a long-standing member of the European Parliament and the current Chairperson of Group I, he had the intellectual skills and diplomatic experience to do an excellent job representing all of UNESCO's Member States. With his strong support for the Organization's mission, he would bring energy and enthusiasm to his new responsibilities, and would prove a fitting successor to the outgoing President of the General Conference.

18.2 Turning to Mr Musa Hassan, she expressed her admiration and gratitude for his dedicated and skilful

service to the Organization during his time in office. He had helped to build a strong sense of camaraderie among its Member States, and to resolve the various challenges it had faced over the previous two years. She thanked him for having shared his poetry and wise men's sayings with them and, moreover, for having begun to include the sayings of wise women.

19. **Mr Anastassopoulos** (Permanent Delegate of Greece to UNESCO) thanked the various speakers for their kind words, and said that he looked forward to seeing their words of support materializing in the days ahead.

20. **The Chairperson** informed the Board that as far as candidatures for the offices of Vice-Presidents of the General Conference were concerned, the electoral groups had suggested the following list: Group I: Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany and United States of America; Group II: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Serbia; Group III: Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Honduras, Saint Lucia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); Group IV: Afghanistan, Australia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines; Group V(a): Cameroon, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, Seychelles and Zambia; and Group V(b): Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Qatar and Syrian Arab Republic. He recommended that the Board agree to the list being submitted to the General Conference.

21. *It was so decided.*

(Applause)

22. **The Chairperson** congratulated the Members nominated to become Vice-Presidents of the 34th session of the General Conference. The fact that the nominations had been unanimous demonstrated the full confidence of their fellow Member States in their ability to represent them in the Conference's work, and he thanked the Vice-Chairpersons of the Board and the Chairpersons of the regional groups for having helped achieve the consensus. He recalled that the Nominations Committee would submit to the General Conference the list of nominations for the posts of its President and Vice-Presidents in accordance with Rule 35 of its Rules of Procedure.

Item 43: Submission of nominations for the offices of Chairpersons of the commissions and committees of the 34th session of the General Conference (177 EX/INF.4)

23.1 **The Chairperson** was pleased to inform the Board that a consensus had been reached on the list of nominations for the offices of Chairpersons of the seven commissions and three committees of the 34th session of the General Conference. He extended his heartfelt thanks to the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the electoral groups for their tremendous work, and praised the ever-greater sense of responsibility shown by every Member State involved. In particular, he thanked the Ambassadors of Belgium, Slovakia and Yemen and their respective governments for their cooperation and generosity in consenting to withdraw their original, highly qualified, candidatures in the interests of achieving the desired consensus, and he invited the entire Board to show its appreciation with a round of applause.

(Applause)

23.2 He asked the Board to approve the following list of nominations to be recommended to the General Conference: PRX Commission (general questions, programme support and external relations) – Ms Salwa

Siniora Baassiri (Lebanon); ED Commission (education) – Mr Ricardo Henriques (Brazil); SC Commission (natural sciences) – Mr Eriabu Lugujjo (Uganda); SHS Commission (social and human sciences) – Mr Július Oszlányi (Slovakia); CLT Commission (culture) – Mr Javad Zarif (Islamic Republic of Iran); CI Commission (communication and information) – Mr Frédéric Riehl (Switzerland); ADM Commission (finance and administration) – Mr Olabiyi Yaï (Benin); Legal Committee – Mr Toshiyuki Kono (Japan); Credentials Committee – Ms Ina Marčiulionytė (Lithuania); Nominations Committee – Mr Abdulsalam Mohamed Al-Joufi (Yemen).

24. *It was so decided.*

25.1 **The Chairperson** congratulated all those nominated and wished them success in their work.

25.2 On the matter of representation of the Executive Board at the General Conference, especially in its subsidiary organs – pursuant to 156 EX/Decision 5.5, paragraph 6.C, subparagraphs (b) and (c), and in accordance with Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference – the Bureau had proposed that any of the Board's Vice-Chairpersons, even a non-Board Member, be considered eligible to represent it, by mutual consent, at meetings of the SHS and CLT Commissions.

26. *It was so decided.*

27. **El Sr. Michelini** (Uruguay), hablando en calidad de Vicepresidente por el grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, dice que sólo quiere dejar constancia de la satisfacción del GRULAC por el acuerdo sobre las presidencias de los comités y comisiones de la Conferencia General en su 34ª reunión, y agradecer sobre todo al grupo de Estados Árabes, y en particular al Yemen, su buena disposición para encontrar una solución consensuada.

(27) **M. Michelini** (Uruguay), en sa qualité de Vice-Président pour le Groupe de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes, déclare qu'il souhaite seulement faire part de la satisfaction du GRULAC en ce qui concerne l'accord qui s'est dégagé au sujet des présidences des comités et des commissions de la Conférence générale à sa 34^e session, et remercier surtout le Groupe des États arabes, et en particulier le Yémen, pour la volonté de trouver une solution consensuelle dont il ont fait preuve.

28. **The Secretary** said that the Chairperson of the Headquarters Committee had not been included in the list of nominations because his mandate was due to continue through to the end of the 34th session of the General Conference.

DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2008-2009 (34 C/5) *(continued)*

Item 25: Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5), and recommendations of the Executive Board *(continued)* (34 C/5 2nd version Volumes I and II and Corr.-Corr.2; 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 and Add.; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev.; 177 EX/INF.18)

29. **The Chairperson** recalled that pursuant to 176 EX/Decision 25, the Executive Board had authorized the Drafting Group on documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5, in its current composition, to reconvene after the 176th session in order to complete its work on bringing draft document 34 C/5 into line with the provisions of the amended draft document 34 C/4. The Drafting Group had held three separate meetings from 11 to 13 June, on 6 and 7 July

and on 26 September 2007, and he invited the Co-Chairpersons, the representatives of India and Nigeria, to present their report.

30.1 **Ms Mukherjee** (India) (Co-Chairperson of the Drafting Group on documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5) was pleased to report that the Drafting Group had completed a full reading and review of the draft resolutions contained in document 34 C/5 at three intensive and productive meetings from 11 to 13 June, on 6 and 7 July, and on 26 September 2007. The Drafting Group had worked a total of 47 hours, in an atmosphere of total confidence and good faith, and its efforts to ensure greater coherence between document 34 C/5 and the amended document 34 C/4 had culminated in the publication of a second version of the former (34 C/5 2nd version). The resulting comprehensive set of recommendations and amendments were presented in document 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1, which featured the novel initiative of including the expected outcomes in each draft resolution. Every single programme issue had been resolved, including the potentially tricky matter of the ratification of conventions. The last remaining unresolved problem, concerning biennial sectoral priority 1 in Major Programme IV relating to the 1972 World Heritage Convention, had been dealt with at the final meeting on 26 September, at which the Drafting Group had succeeded in finding consensus wording both for the resolution and the corresponding expected results, as contained in document 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 Add. Once amended by the Board, documents 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 and Add. would be reproduced as document 34 C/6 Add. to be submitted to the General Conference for its consideration.

30.2 Before handing over the oral presentation to her Co-Chairperson, she indicated that the square brackets around the paragraph at the end of each draft resolution denoted unresolved matters concerning budgetary, not programmatic, aspects. She suggested that in order to remove them, the Board might need to take a decision on the budget ceiling, which had not been discussed by the Drafting Group.

31.1 **Mr Omolewa** (Nigeria) (Co-Chairperson of the Drafting Group on documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5) said that the current report represented the collective thinking of all 18 Member States assembled for the three sessions of the Drafting Group, and he thanked those countries that had initially had reservations as to the value of the meetings for their understanding and cooperation. The documents before the Board reflected clearly the amount of networking and partnership and trust-building that had taken place, and he expressed the Drafting Group's appreciation of the overwhelming commitment and enthusiasm of the Secretariat, led by the Director-General, the energetic work of the Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) and his very able team, and the patience of the Assistant Directors-General who had been present at the meetings to offer their helpful advice whenever required. He also thanked the interpreters, many of whom had worked much longer than planned, and all those behind the scenes whose input, although not normally visible, had been extremely helpful.

31.2 Given that the Drafting Group had resolved every programmatic problem, that consensus had prevailed throughout its deliberations, that the various changes reflected the needs and priorities of each electoral group, and that the budget ceiling had not been discussed, he hoped that the Board would adopt the entire text unanimously, without debate. In so doing, not only would it be arriving at a decision at an almost unprecedentedly early stage, but it would also be reconfirming its trust in

the 18 Members that had continued to meet for longer than any other drafting group, working day and night in open and transparent cooperation with the Secretariat before the entire observer community.

32.1 **The Chairperson** thanked the Co-Chairpersons of the Drafting Group for their concise and convincing report. He commended them on their strong leadership and dedication in steering the Drafting Group skilfully towards a consensual text within the designated time limit. It had been a sterling performance underpinned by the cooperation and excellent contributions of the 18 Members representing the various electoral groups, which could be proud of them for having managed to accomplish such a tough, time-consuming and challenging task.

32.2 As the Drafting Group had successfully addressed all of the many complex issues on its agenda in the course of extensive open-ended discussions among the 18 Members representing every electoral group – with contributions from the observers from Permanent Delegations and the valuable support of the Secretariat, led by the Director-General, and the Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning and his team – he sincerely hoped that the Executive Board would act on the recommendation of the representative of Nigeria and unanimously adopt documents 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 and Add. by consensus.

33. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the Programme and External Relations Commission) admitted that leaving the matter of the budget ceiling unresolved in document 176 EX/PLEN/DR.1 had created an unusual situation. Seconded by the representative of Indonesia, he proposed that the unanimously agreed figure of \$631 million be incorporated into the current draft decision so as to improve the framework of forthcoming discussions in the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission.

34. **El Sr. Miranda Ortiz** (México), tras felicitar a los copresidentes del Grupo de Redacción y elogiar los frutos de su trabajo, suscribe la propuesta del representante de Noruega y Presidente de la Comisión PX, entendiendo que para todos está claro que el tope presupuestario debe situarse en 631 millones de dólares. Partiendo de esta base, la Comisión FA podrá examinar más eficazmente los distintos rubros del proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto.

(34) **M. Miranda Ortiz** (Mexique), après avoir félicité les coprésidents du Groupe de rédaction et loué le fruit de leur travail, approuve la proposition du représentant de la Norvège et du Président de la Commission PX, étant donné qu'il est évident pour tous que le plafond budgétaire doit être de 631 millions de dollars. Sur cette base, la Commission FA pourra examiner plus efficacement les différentes rubriques du Projet de programme et de budget.

35. **M. Yaï** (Bénin) (Président de la Commission financière et administrative), invité par le Président à faire connaître son point de vue, déclare qu'en sa qualité de Président de la Commission FA, il se bornera à entériner la décision que les membres du Conseil, qui sont aussi membres de sa commission, auront prise. Il suggère cependant que le Président de la Commission PX soumette par écrit l'amendement qu'il propose afin que le Conseil puisse se prononcer à ce sujet.

36. **The Secretary** suggested, in the light of the proposal by the Chairperson of the PX Commission, that the following new paragraph be added after paragraph 1

of document 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1: “Recommends that the General Conference adopt a budgetary ceiling of \$631 million for the biennium 2008-2009”. He drew attention to the fact that document 34 C/6, once adopted, would be going directly to the General Conference, not to the FA Commission for further examination. As the Board had already agreed to the \$631 million scenario, that was the figure that would be submitted to the General Conference in the C/6 document.

37. **Mr Kusi-Achampong** (Ghana) said that the FA Commission must be given a clear indication of whether formerly approved budget appropriations would be amended or not in the light of the newly agreed ceiling.

38. **Ms Mukherjee** (India) (Co-Chairperson of the Drafting Group documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5) said that the Group of Experts, when considering document 34 C/5, had intended to include the figure of \$631 million, as suggested by the Chairperson of the PX Commission. However, a few members of the Group of Experts had felt it more appropriate to wait until the Executive Board had had the chance to discuss the new budget scenario proposed by the Director-General in a plenary debate. That was why its report to the FA Commission had mentioned the figure, but had left a blank space in its final paragraph. She fully endorsed the Chairperson of the PX Commission’s proposal, as it would help address the very question raised by the representative of Ghana. Many of her colleagues believed that the appropriations needed reviewing because they had been based on a scenario providing \$17 million more. If the Board approved the current proposal, it must ensure that the figure appear in the Group of Experts’ report to the FA Commission.

39. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) appealed to the representatives taking part in the forthcoming FA Commission deliberations on adjusting budget appropriations to the newly agreed ceiling to bear in mind the needs of those that depended most on UNESCO’s support, i.e. the post-conflict and least developed countries. Cooperation efforts in the shape of the assistance appreciated by the populations and governments of those countries – not necessarily in terms of money, as no sum would be enough to meet their needs fully – must not be disrupted.

40. The Chairperson assured the representative of Afghanistan that his words had been heard, and that the whole Organization would work together to that end. It was his duty as Chairperson of the Executive Board to strive to consolidate the links and close working relations between all 192 of UNESCO’s Member States, large or small, rich or poor, and to enforce the United Nations principle of ethics and equity in intergovernmental cooperation.

٤١ شكر السيد العواضي (اليمن) كلا من سفيرة الهند وسفير نيجيريا وكذلك الفريق الذي أعد مشروع القرار هذا. وأعرب عن أمله في أن يتم إقراره في إطار من التوافق، وفقا لما دعا إليه رئيس المجلس التنفيذي. كما أيد إدراج العبارة التي دعا سفير النرويج ورئيس لجنة البرنامج والعلاقات الخارجية إلى إضافتها، بحيث يقدم مشروع القرار إلى المؤتمر العام مباشرة بوصفه قرارا اتخذ في جلسة عامة..

(41) **M. Alawadhi** (Yémen) remercie l’Ambassadrice de l’Inde et l’Ambassadeur du Nigéria, ainsi que le Groupe de rédaction qui a établi le projet de décision et espère que celui-ci sera adopté par consensus, comme l’a demandé le Président du Conseil exécutif. Il est favorable, à l’instar de l’Ambassadeur de la Norvège et du

Président de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures, à ce que la phrase mentionnée par ce dernier soit ajoutée au projet de décision pour que ce projet soit soumis directement à la Conférence générale en tant que décision adoptée en plénière.

42. **The Director-General** explained that he had proposed the new budget ceiling of \$631 million for the next biennium out of a strong desire to create a consensus among Member States, both at the Executive Board and at the General Conference. He certainly would welcome further discussions at future sessions of both bodies on how to apportion the \$631 million. But for the time being he was pleased that the Board intended to approve it by consensus, thus avoiding the kinds of divisions seen at other United Nations agencies when they voted on budget levels. He asked those who were unhappy about the new scenario to accept the consensus, and thanked them for their understanding and cooperation. After all, the figure in question represented nominal growth of 3% to 4%, which was good news for the Organization.

43. **The Chairperson** said that if he saw no objection he would take it that the Board wished to adopt documents 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 and Add., amended to include the budget ceiling figure of \$631 million, as proposed by the Chairperson of the PX Commission, so that the Drafting Group’s recommendations on the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 could be submitted to the General Conference in the shape of document 34 C/6 Add.

44. *It was so decided.*

(Applause)

45. **El Sr. Gamboa** (Colombia) dice que, con el mismo espíritu que ha intervenido el representante del Afganistán, Colombia desea pronunciarse en defensa de la lengua española. A juzgar por la segunda versión del documento 34 C/5 y el Corrigendum que la acompaña, uno de los ámbitos que se verían penalizados por la reducción del tope presupuestario sería el de la traducción al español, cosa que para su país es motivo de inquietud. Las lenguas, al igual que el clima, pueden verse deterioradas por la contaminación, que en este caso provendría de eventuales faltas de ortografía o redacción. Tras formular el deseo de que las cosas no lleguen a tal extremo, insiste en la conveniencia de que este asunto sea examinado por la Comisión FA.

(45) **M. Gamboa** (Colombie) déclare que, dans le même esprit que celui de l’intervention du représentant de l’Afghanistan, la Colombie souhaite s’exprimer en faveur de la défense de la langue espagnole. À en juger par la deuxième version du document 34 C/5 et par le Corrigendum qui l’accompagne, l’un des domaines qui serait pénalisé par la réduction du plafond budgétaire serait celui de la traduction vers l’espagnol, ce qui représente une source d’inquiétude pour son pays. Les langues, à l’image du climat, peuvent être détériorées par une pollution qui, dans leur cas, serait engendrée par d’éventuelles fautes d’orthographe ou de rédaction. Après avoir exprimé le souhait que les choses n’en arrivent pas à cette extrémité, l’orateur insiste sur le fait qu’il conviendrait que la Commission FA examine ce point.

46. **Ms Mukherjee** (India) (Co-Chairperson of the Drafting Group on documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5) conveyed the Drafting Group’s feeling that the experience

of the previous few months had shown that the increasing complexity of administrative and budgetary processes and other such factors had rendered it impossible for drafting groups to continue coming up with sound C/4 and C/5 documents in meetings held during sessions of the Executive Board. She suggested that the Board seriously consider a new approach involving larger groups or formalized intersessional meetings, for example, and that an item on the matter be included in the agenda of a forthcoming session of the Board or meeting of the Special Committee.

47. **The Chairperson** thanked the Co-Chairperson of the Drafting Group for her remarks. They would be noted and submitted to the Board at its forthcoming spring session for its due consideration. Furthermore, he encouraged the Chairpersons of other committees and commissions to continue submitting other such suggestions likely to help make the necessary changes to enhance the collective efforts of the three organs and, hence, to enable UNESCO to continue to adapt and to grow ever more efficient and relevant in the future.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (continued)

Item 39: Revised provisional agenda of the 34th session of the General Conference (177 EX/39)

48. **The Director-General** invited the Acting Secretary of the General Conference to introduce the item.

49. **M. Millward** (Secrétaire p. i. de la Conférence générale), rappelant que le Conseil exécutif est appelé à fixer l'ordre du jour provisoire révisé de la Conférence générale sur la base du document 34 C/1 Prov., de la liste des questions supplémentaires et de ses propres décisions à la présente session, résume la teneur du document 177 EX/39 et renvoie les membres du Conseil aux paragraphes pertinents et au projet de décision figurant dans ce document.

50. **The Chairperson** said that if there was no objection, the revised provisional agenda of the 34th session of the General Conference as contained in document 177 EX/39 would be considered adopted.

51. *It was so decided.*

Point 40 : Addendum au projet de plan pour l'organisation des travaux de la 34^e session de la Conférence générale (177 EX/40)

52. **M. Millward** (Secrétaire p. i. de la Conférence générale) renvoie les membres du Conseil au document 177 EX/40, qui contient un projet de décision relatif aux propositions concernant la répartition des questions supplémentaires entre les différents organes de la Conférence générale.

53. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the Programme and External Relations Commission) said that his country fully agreed with the draft decision contained in paragraph 3 of document 177 EX/40. However, he had noted that while the draft C/5 document figured on the agenda of the PX Commission, the draft C/4 document did not. His delegation believed it important to have a seamless link between the two documents in the PX Commission's discussions throughout the General Conference, and that it would be wise to add the draft C/4 document to its agenda so as to help enrich the discussions and improve the end results regarding the adoption of both documents. The Secretariat had assured

him that it was technically feasible to do so, and he requested the Board to consider his proposal.

54. **The Director-General** confirmed that the proposal of the Chairperson of the PX Commission was entirely feasible.

55. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) strongly endorsed the proposal of the Chairperson of the PX Commission.

56. **The Chairperson** said that in the absence of any objections he would consider that the draft decision contained in paragraph 3 of document 177 EX/40 could be adopted together with the proposed amendment that draft document 34 C/4 be included as an item in the agenda of the PX Commission at the 34th session of the General Conference.

57. *It was so decided.*

Point 41: Lieu de la 35^e session de la Conférence générale (177 EX/41)

58. **M. Millward** (Secrétaire p. i. de la Conférence générale) informe le Conseil qu'aucune proposition n'ayant été reçue concernant le lieu de la 35^e session de la Conférence générale, il est proposé de recommander que cette session se tienne à Paris.

59. **The Chairperson** took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 177 EX/41.

60. *It was so decided.*

Point 44: Admission à la 34^e 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 non gouvernementales (177 EX/44 et Add.)

61. **M. Sayyad** (Sous-Directeur général pour les relations extérieures et la coopération) informe le Conseil que 52 organisations internationales non gouvernementales entretenant des relations opérationnelles avec l'UNESCO, 7 fondations et institutions similaires et 3 autres organisations internationales non gouvernementales ont demandé à participer à la 34^e session de la Conférence générale en qualité d'observateurs. Il précise également au Conseil que toutes ces ONG sont invitées à participer, en marge de la Conférence générale, au Forum de la société civile qui se tiendra le 25 octobre prochain.

62. **The Chairperson**, seeing no objection, considered the draft decision contained in paragraph 9 of document 177 EX/44 adopted.

63. *It was so decided.*

RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES

Item 60: Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO (177 EX/60)

64. **The Chairperson** recalled that the Board had considered the matter at hand at each session immediately preceding a session of the General Conference since 1989.

65. **The Director-General** said that he had little to add to the overview of UNESCO's activities in support of the Palestinian people and their institutions in the current

biennium as presented in document 177 EX/60. Due to the acute situation on the ground, those activities had been focused on direct assistance of a more humanitarian nature to the Palestinian people, providing, *inter alia*, educational opportunities for some 19,000 students. He thanked the Saudi committee for having partnered UNESCO in making the support available. As the international community was currently re-engaging with the Palestinian Authority, UNESCO looked forward to reviving consultations with the Authority at the highest level so as to actively contribute to the strengthening of its institutions in UNESCO's fields of competence.

66. **The Chairperson** said that if there were no objections he would consider the draft decision contained in paragraph 4 of document 177 EX/60 adopted.

67. *It was so **decided**.*

PRIVATE MEETINGS

Announcement of the private meetings held on Monday 1 October 2007

68. **The Secretary** read out the following statement:

“At the private meeting held on Monday, 1 October, the Executive Board considered item 3 of its agenda ‘Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board (177 EX/PRIV.1)’.

In accordance with Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Director-General informed the Board of the decisions taken since the 176th 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. He also discussed various issues arising out of the Sector reforms.”

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

SIXIÈME SÉANCE

Jeudi 4 octobre 2007 à 10 h 15

Président : M. Zhang

GENERAL MATTERS (*continued*)

Item 61: Thematic debate: Facing the multidisciplinary challenges of knowledge societies and global climate change: UNESCO's contribution to United Nations reform at the regional and country levels (*continued*) (177 EX/INF.6)

1.1 **The Chairperson *in extenso*:**

Dear friends, I am very pleased that so many of you expressed your satisfaction with the thematic debate on climate change and the building of knowledge societies. I believe that we owe a debt of gratitude to our outstanding guest speakers, His Excellency Mr Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister of State, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Planning of France, Mr José Mariano Gago, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal, Mr Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and Mr Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

1.2 Their brilliant interventions have given us many reasons for satisfaction. One of them is the recognition, by all of them, that UNESCO is more than ever relevant and essential to address the emerging challenges of climate change and knowledge societies. We heard His Excellency Mr Borloo underline the fundamental contribution and role of UNESCO for sustainable development. His Excellency Mr Jose Mariano Gago underlined UNESCO's many roles, in particular to promote higher education and research, and real quality science education. Mr Hamadoun Touré highlighted the very good working relations and complementarity of UNESCO and ITU in the area of new information and communication technologies and the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society. We heard Mr Pachauri's most appreciated presentation. Mr Pachauri underlined that UNESCO's work in education and in science, including the social and human sciences, is at the core of the international struggle against the negative effects of climate change.

1.3 I believe that the recognition of UNESCO's abiding relevance in today's world, by so many distinguished high-level speakers, is most appropriate at a time when this Board is considering the next Programme and Budget and Medium-Term Strategy. It should serve as a call to more action by UNESCO, in the areas of climate change and knowledge societies, in all our fields of competence, building on our unique capacity to act in an interdisciplinary fashion, and in cooperation with a broad range of partners.

1.4 Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, the debate focused on two policy areas – knowledge societies and climate change – where UNESCO has been making specific contributions over years and indeed has taken a leadership role among United Nations organizations at the global, regional and country levels. In an era of globalization, old problems appear in the guise of new, more complex challenges at large, global scales, which necessitate different phases of responses and interventions. On the one hand, humankind is entering the era of knowledge societies, with all the benefits that these can bring. On the other hand, humankind, through its

activities and patterns of behaviour, risks generating catastrophes that threaten its very survival.

1.5 These issues are bound to become components of joint United Nations action at the national level and the United Nations country teams, among them UNESCO, will be called to support governments in their own efforts. Here, the United Nations system as a whole must assume their responsibilities – to deliver effectively, coherently and with high quality.

1.6 The subjects of knowledge societies and global climate change are interdisciplinary in nature and fall within the specific sphere of competence of several organizations of the United Nations system. How can UNESCO as a specialized agency, through its sectoral competences and in an intersectoral manner, respond to national development priorities in these fields while contributing to an enhanced coherence of the United Nations system – which is a prime objective in the current phase of United Nations reform? A Secretariat background paper (177 EX/INF.6) informed the debate of the Board.

1.7 The Board was able to concentrate on the strategic significance of the notion of knowledge societies for all countries undergoing globalization. Unless countries pursue quality education for all (EFA), unless countries respect cultural diversity, unless countries promote universal access to information and knowledge, and uphold freedom of expression in all spheres, the conditions for economic and social advancement will not be in place. The debate linked the quest for knowledge societies with UNESCO's prime role in climate change: building a knowledge base through scientific research and monitoring.

1.8 UNESCO has the advantage of being able to mobilize its five domains under one roof – under One UNESCO – in the service of Member States and international cooperation. Multidisciplinarity and intersectorality must be more than catchwords.

1.9 During its thematic debate, the Board received the Minister of State, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Planning of France, Mr Jean-Louis Borloo, and was privileged to receive introductory presentations and to have an exchange of views with Mr Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Mr Hamadoun Touré, the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Mr José Mariano Gago, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal and Chairman of the European Union Council of Ministers of Education.

1.10 There was agreement that with climate change, the world is facing the very first collective challenge faced by the entire planet. The debate yielded a number of conclusions and recommendations, including the following: UNESCO is making fundamental contributions to sustainable development and the building of knowledge societies. It needs to progress further in this direction. Given its multidisciplinary competences as evidenced by education for sustainable development (ESD) or the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) on a tsunami warning and mitigation system, it has a particular legitimacy.

1.11 Climate change is a defining challenge of our time. The international debate on climate change demonstrated the political power inherent in assembling scientific information in a credible manner and of disseminating it widely. We need to move from

information for the brain and the specialists towards information for ordinary people appealing to the heart, as Mr Borloo suggested.

1.12 UNESCO plays and needs to continue playing a major role in the international network of generating scientific information. Producing reliable scientific data and information and making such information available to the public throughout the world – supported by education, information tools and a host of information resources. Special attention needs to be paid to the role of knowledge residing with indigenous people with their inherent respect for Mother Earth.

1.13 UNESCO has steadily refined its capacity as an international benchmarking organization through various global reports and studies. This should be continued and mature into an indispensable function of longer-term relevance, especially in the context of climate change.

1.14 At the country level and especially in developing countries, which are ill-equipped to withstand the negative impact of climate change, the focus must be on upgrading knowledge, research capacities, and the generation and sharing of knowledge indispensable for development.

1.15 Furthermore, both with respect to climate change and in general, UNESCO should stimulate the formation of international platforms for science-based independent evaluations and promote international cooperation and exchanges, both between North and South and through South-South cooperation.

1.16 In order to respond to climate change, a mix of adaptation and mitigation will be crucial. UNESCO, with its multidisciplinary competences, with its decentralized network of country offices and other networks, with its World Heritage Centre (WHC), to address the impact on natural and cultural common public goods, and above all, with its capacities in the education field, is not only well-placed, but enjoined to launch effective action.

1.17 Changes in attitudes and behaviour as well as in lifestyle will be absolutely crucial for climate change and for knowledge societies – and here education must play a strategic role. It can make an enormous difference in various respects: moral and value education, influencing attitudes, behaviours and consumption patterns, choice of energy options.

1.18 One key component of knowledge societies, namely quality education, will be in high demand when popularizing adaptation and mitigation measures. Education for sustainable development (ESD) will thus need to assume centre stage in UNESCO's response to climate change. Budgetary allocations for ESD by governments and UNESCO should be doubled and tripled, and they will pay for themselves in a relatively short period of time. There is nothing more effective than expenditure in education.

1.19 There must also be a push for real and good-quality science education for all (EFA) within the context of compulsory education; this should be complemented by networking of teachers and students through project work, a proximity to experimental work, and sharing at the global level.

1.20 The social sciences are crucial for behavioural changes, and UNESCO should focus better on the social sciences to design action relevant for coping with climate change. We need to link the geophysical aspects with social science aspects, and we should promote in particular social science research.

1.21 UNESCO should also initiate an international debate on how to use science and technology for different solutions.

1.22 Given its considerable convening power, UNESCO is well placed to stimulate an intellectual reflection on ethics and equity in the context of climate change.

1.23 Consideration must also be given to effective environmental governance arrangements – nationally and internationally. Innovations like the French Grenelle Environment Forum approach will be required to bring together stakeholders with a view to developing a broad-based national policy.

1.24 The Director-General will prepare a comprehensive strategy for UNESCO action on climate change, which will be shared with governing bodies and governments.

1.25 Various suggestions were made for joint efforts and activities, including with IPCC, which will need to be pursued.

1.26 This is a summing-up of our tentative conclusions, prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat and also the Vice-Chairpersons and the three Moderators. I notice that so many of you have contributed to this endeavour. This morning, at our Bureau meeting, the thematic debate was also discussed, and all think that it has been a success, which should be carried forward with improvements. Let me try to sum up very roughly and in a preliminary form the Bureau's suggestions for our Board's follow-up action. The Bureau collectively suggests that this kind of activity really reflects the competitive advantage and core competence of this Organization. Nevertheless, the question of how to select a core topic as a theme for the debate and select the speakers needs to be examined thoroughly and closely linked to the Board's main mandate. Secondly, the Board appreciates the 20 minutes of questions and answers for each of the keynote speakers, and also thinks that in the future it could be more focused on one topic. Also, some suggest that in order to make it a more thorough debate, a format of back-and-forth, particularly in the period of the general debate should be more encouraged, instead of more statements in the general debate period. Among ourselves the Board Members can have a more back-and-forth debate, and in order to facilitate that, when we invite speakers, we may also consider speakers with different points of view in finding solutions. The Board feels that, as an intellectual organization, this kind of activity is welcome. The Secretariat already holds its "Sixty Minutes to Convince" events every Tuesday, and some similar kind of debate might be organized by the Board or might also be proposed to the Secretariat to organize in the relevant fields. Thirdly, it is suggested that this kind of debate is really a genuine debate, so the result should not be just within this Board Room, but should go beyond it to become more inclusive of the Organization's Members including the regional bureaux, National Commissions and other relevant institutions, so that when the Board makes a decision, it has a more firm and consensual basis. New technology can be used, such as teleconferencing: we have already put our debate on the website. Those are the suggestions given by the Board and our conclusions. I invite you, Board Members and delegations who have an interest in this, to give your comments or suggestions for further improvements, and I will, as last time, write a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon. Thank you so much for these tentative conclusions from the thematic debate. Now I'd like to give the floor to

the Director-General for his reply to your statements during the general debate.

EXÉCUTION DU PROGRAMME (suite)

Point 4 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale (suite) (177 EX/4 Parties I et II et Corr. ; 177 EX/INF.7 ; 177 EX/INF.10 ; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev. ; 177 EX/INF.13 ; 177 EX/INF.14 ; 177 EX/INF.15 ; 177 EX/INF.17)

Point 5 : Rapport du Directeur général sur le suivi des décisions et résolutions adoptées par le Conseil exécutif et la Conférence générale à leurs sessions antérieures (suite) (177 EX/5 et Add. ; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev. ; 177 EX/INF.13 ; 177 EX/INF.14)

Point 6 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre du processus de réforme (suite) (177 EX/6 Parties I et Add. et Add.2 et II ; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev. ; 177 EX/INF.13 ; 177 EX/INF.14)

PROJET DE PROGRAMME ET DE BUDGET POUR 2008-2009 (34 C/5) (suite)

Point 25 : Examen du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2008-2009 (34 C/5) et recommandations du Conseil exécutif (suite) (34 C/5 Volumes 1 et 2 2^e version et Corr.-Corr.2 ; 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 et Add. ; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev. ; 177 EX/INF.13 ; 177 EX/INF.14 ; 177 EX/INF.18)

Réponse du Directeur général au débat général (suite)

2.1 Le Directeur général in extenso :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai écouté attentivement vos interventions dans le cadre de ce débat général, dans lequel s'est intercalé l'intéressant débat thématique organisé hier, à l'initiative du Président Zhang, sur « La construction des sociétés du savoir et le changement climatique ». Ce débat d'envergure, que Monsieur le Président vient de résumer, aura eu le mérite de mettre en perspective l'action de l'Organisation et d'en souligner le caractère polyvalent et multidisciplinaire, qui lui confère un avantage comparatif indéniable face à la complexité des grandes questions du moment.

2.2 Cette mise en perspective de notre action, je l'ai également retrouvée dans de nombreuses interventions dans lesquelles vous avez tenu à réaffirmer votre attachement à la coopération multilatérale et votre volonté d'améliorer les modalités de fonctionnement et la gouvernance de notre Organisation, afin de lui donner les moyens de répondre à sa mission.

2.3 Vous avez été unanimes à vous rallier à ma proposition en faveur d'une enveloppe budgétaire de 631 millions de dollars. Comme je l'ai dit hier, je me réjouis que l'esprit consensuel de notre Organisation, qui fait notre force, ait été soigneusement préservé. Cette large adhésion me rend l'espoir de desserrer quelque peu le carcan budgétaire dans lequel l'Organisation se trouve enserrée depuis trop longtemps, et qui la prive paradoxalement des moyens de répondre aux hautes ambitions que vous avez pour elle. J'y vois une confiance renouvelée dans ma gestion, dans l'efficacité et la crédibilité du Secrétariat, et dans les efforts incessants de réforme interne consentis au prix de sacrifices considérables.

2.4 Certes, il reste encore beaucoup à faire, et ces efforts doivent se poursuivre et s'étendre à nos programmes et à nos structures opérationnelles, afin de

nous permettre de nous inscrire efficacement, sans perdre notre spécificité d'institution spécialisée, dans la vaste entreprise de rationalisation mise en chantier à l'échelle du système des Nations Unies.

(Le Directeur général poursuit en anglais)

2.5 Mr Chairman, against this background, many of you encouraged me to pursue the ongoing **reform process**, building on what has been accomplished over the past eight years. I fully agree that we should always strive for greater relevance, efficiency and credibility. Streamlining the Secretariat's structures and management procedures so as to ensure that results are achieved in an accountable and transparent manner is of utmost importance. To this end, I have required all senior managers and programme specialists to be trained in results-based management.

2.6 I also fully agree with those speakers who have emphasized the importance of **evaluation**. You will recall that in my reform agenda I quickly established a strong Office of Internal Oversight with a dual mandate of internal audits and evaluations. Much has been accomplished since then, under the firm leadership of Mr John Parsons. Indeed, my proposed programme and budget (34 C/5) has benefited from a range of internal evaluations. Looking forward, I have presented to this session an updated and revised 34 C/4 evaluation plan and I hope you will endorse it.

2.7 Let me add a few words about the **use of consultants** by the Secretariat, although the DDG already organized an Information Meeting on this subject. I think that, for an Organization like UNESCO, with so many fields of competence, this is a legitimate and cost-effective modality. The Executive Board at its 176th session recognized the contribution made by consultants to the successful delivery of UNESCO's programme, providing specific technical advice both at Headquarters and in the field, or in Member States, intergovernmental or international non-governmental organizations.

2.8 However, I do acknowledge that efforts need to be enhanced to improve geographical representation in the hiring of consultants. In this regard, the Bureau of Human Resources Management (HRM) has undertaken a review of the Organization's policy, taking into account the best practices of other international organizations. A new mechanism is currently being developed to disseminate more widely information on consultant opportunities as well as to establish rosters of potential candidates to achieve a better distribution by gender and regional group. The performance of consultants will be systematically evaluated so as to improve the overall quality of resources used by UNESCO.

2.9 Turning to the issue of reinforcing **accountability** and a culture of responsibility within the Secretariat, I wish to assure you that I pay personal attention to this matter. Clear tables of delegated authority and accountability setting out clear responsibilities for managers have been developed. I certainly agree that any derogation of authority must go hand in hand with strengthened accountability.

2.10 Lastly, allow me to express my satisfaction at your positive reaction to my progress report on the implementation of the **External Auditor's** recommendations concerning UNESCO's procurement procedures. By reinforcing the role and independence of the Comptroller and of administrative officers, as documented in document 177 EX/53, I am strengthening the Organization's control

framework and ensuring accountability and transparency in the procurement process.

2.11 Mr Chairman, I was grateful for your comments echoing the importance for UNESCO to continue its engagement in the United Nations reform process and in the “Delivering as One” pilot countries – and for that matter in all developing countries – and by your support of the proactive role I have taken in this regard. I wish to assure you that I shall continue working for a common approach of the specialized agencies. This, however, must not lead to a division among the United Nations organizations as a whole. Rather, as I said in my opening speech, I was encouraged by the positive atmosphere prevailing between the specialized agencies and the United Nations funds and programmes I recently witnessed in New York, and I will further work towards this end. I am convinced that UNESCO, given its core competencies, is an increasingly effective actor within the United Nations family. This is why I shall continue to align UNESCO’s activities with the important agenda of United Nations reform and country priorities.

2.12 Many of you welcomed the results of the first phase of the **review of the decentralization strategy**, and highlighted the importance of linking the strategy to current United Nations reform. As many have rightly pointed out, UNESCO’s effective involvement in United Nations country-level reform can only be achieved through an efficient decentralization. Indeed, it was for this very reason that I had advanced the review of our decentralization strategy which was initially foreseen for 2008-2009. I have taken due note of all suggestions made regarding the Task Force’s in-depth review of UNESCO’s decentralized system and structure, to take place during its second phase, after the General Conference. Notably, the Task Force will further consolidate its work on accountability, field staff profiles and competencies.

2.13 The United Nations approach in the context of “Delivering as One” is country by country, whereas UNESCO’s decentralization structure is basically regional and subregional, given our limited resources, although we do have field offices in a number of key countries. Nevertheless, we must recall that our active participation in “Delivering as One” pilot countries – like Pakistan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Mozambique – is made possible because of our field presence there. Many Board Members, in particular from developing countries, expressed their appreciation of UNESCO field offices (namely cluster offices and national offices) in their countries. However, the delegate from Norway expressed the need to strengthen regional bureaux.

2.14 In order to propose possible long-term adjustments to the current decentralized structure, the Task Force will have to examine how UNESCO should align itself with the United Nations approach, taking into account the availability of resources. In reviewing the structure of our field network, the Task Force will consider a range of alternative measures to our current system of field offices for ensuring UNESCO’s active engagement in joint United Nations programming, notably in countries where we have no presence. This will include the temporary assignment of staff to the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s office and greater staff rotation. The Task Force will also consider the impact on the Organization’s programme management cycle and the decentralization of programme resources with the ultimate aim of better responding to national priorities and integrating our work in joint programming exercises. As I noted in my Introduction, it will be necessary to explore several cost-estimated options for a sustainable field

structure, which will reinforce the Organization’s leading role in its fields of competence. Further to your request, I will regularly report to the Board on the development of the Task Force’s work.

2.15 Mr Chairman, with regard to the next C/5 document, several Member States share the sentiment that further efforts need to be made to improve the **budget ratio** between programme and administration costs. The Organization’s budget has been globally stable in value, which implies reductions in volume, while the workload of the Organization, reflecting the growth in extrabudgetary contributions, has significantly increased. The increase in extrabudgetary contributions places a burden, not only on programme sectors, but also on support services. I have therefore concluded that it is no longer possible to make cuts in staff in these areas.

2.16 We should understand that in an “intellectual” organization such as UNESCO, staff is an essential modality for programme implementation. If the same number of posts is maintained the budgetary cost will necessarily increase, reflecting the salary increases and statutory adjustments decided in New York for the entire United Nations system.

2.17 Thus, in a less than real growth budget, it is not unusual for the relative weight of staff costs to increase more than appropriations for activities. You must understand what you are requesting me to do: that is, reinforcing the programme and professionalism, while reducing the staff contributing to programme implementation, is simply contradictory by nature. I have told you repeatedly in this context that we have reached the limit. And here I wish to recall what was said by the Algerian representative, and I quote in French: *“Je veux assurer Monsieur le Directeur général de ma sympathie, certainement partagée par les membres du Conseil, pour ces exercices d’une acrobatie tout à fait particulière au cours desquels il doit concilier des exigences contradictoires et toujours produire plus avec des moyens plus réduits.”*

2.18 Furthermore, I have underlined the fact that I never benefited from specific appropriations to lead the Organization’s reform process. I can no longer bring significant improvements without carrying out investments leading to potential rationalization. These investments are, by definition, accounted for under administration. If you continue to ask me to further reduce support services, while no longer having any margin of manoeuvre to reduce recurrent workload without affecting programme implementation, the proposed investments will be reduced and the reform process will slow down.

2.19 In spite of the above – and in spite of three biennia of zero nominal growth budgets – the staff-to-activities ratio remains identical in document 34 C/5 to that in document 30 C/5, at 59.2%. This ratio compares favourably with that of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for example. For OECD, the ratio reaches 66.7% for 2006. That is, nearly 8% higher than in UNESCO. In FAO, for the current biennium, it is established at 65%. Again, this is much higher than ours.

2.20 With respect to **administrative costs** in general, these too have also been decreased progressively since the 30 C/5 budget. However, this effect is masked by the fact that administration has had to absorb the reimbursement of the Belmont Plan, amounting in the present biennium to more than \$13 million.

2.21 Some of you have criticized the level of resources allocated to **travel**. Staff travel on mission, whether for participants or for staff members, is closely related to programme activities, and is an essential modality for programme implementation. There is therefore no budget allocated per se. Any call for reduction in this modality would be tantamount to having to undergo cuts in programme implementation. It must be borne in mind that mission travel is an integral element for achieving such goals as enhancing collaboration with organizations of the United Nations system and strengthening the decentralization system, and can only be partially offset by recourse to new management tools, such as video-conferencing.

2.22 In the interest of budgetary transparency, efforts were made in draft document 34 C/5 to align the travel budget estimates with the actual level of expenditure recorded in previous biennia. Thus, the indicative level of mission travel of \$32.7 million in the \$631 million budget scenario should be compared with actual expenditures of \$33.7 million in document 32 C/5, and an estimate of real expenditures of \$34.5 million in the current biennium, reflecting that the travel expenditure has been more or less the same over the past several biennia.

2.23 The indicative ratio of expenditures relating to staff and delegates travel as compared with the overall 34 C/5 budget of \$631 million is in the order of 5.2%. This percentage is lower than that of OECD, which was 6% in 2006, while OECD has a smaller geographical coverage and serves only some 30 Member States. As regards FAO, the ratio is estimated at 4.8% for the current biennium. But we must remember that FAO has 88 field offices, whereas UNESCO has only 53. We are operating with no less transparency than any other organization in this regard. As I said, our workplans for the next C/5 document will include detailed travel plans. However, many Organizations do not even publish such travel plans. Let me once again stress that UNESCO operates with more transparency than others. Therefore, when Member States ask the United Nations system to be coherent, I would also like to ask Member States to be coherent with regard to the United Nations system.

2.24 This notwithstanding, I am aware of the need to control and monitor travel costs. I am taking a number of measures to keep costs down, including greater use of internet booking and prioritizing travel. I have always argued that we must make efforts to cut costs, but not at the expense of programme implementation.

2.25 I acknowledge the concerns expressed by some Member States regarding the **allocation** within this budget envelope. Several Member States have indicated they may make proposals for adjustments in the FA Commission. If it is only to propose a transfer of money within major programmes, I would be prepared to examine it. However, I would strongly caution against going too far in this direction, lest other Member States be encouraged to make other proposals which, collectively, could call into question the consensus that lies at the heart of the revised proposal for a \$631 million budget. In this regard, may I reaffirm the critical importance of UNESCO's activities in the area of anticipation and foresight, in order to respond effectively to emerging global challenges. The Twenty-First Century Talks and Dialogues, in particular, help the Organization to strengthen its core function as a laboratory of ideas, as well as to reinforce intersectorality and interdisciplinarity. They have also contributed significantly to enhancing the Organization's visibility.

2.26 Several delegates have also asked that the use of **intersectoral platforms** in document 34 C/5 be further explained. I have included the indicative allocation of funds by Sector platform, in addition to indicating the expected results. As regards their modalities, we are currently working on the detail of how best to implement each intersectoral platform, using one of the three approaches outlined in Volume 2 of document 34 C/5. My preference would be for the pooled fund concept, as this would allow for the strategic integration of each sector's contribution and ensure that concerted and dynamic action be taken. The C/5 Drafting Group recommended in 177 EX/PLEN/DR.1 Add. that I report to the Board at its 179th session on the implementation of the intersectoral platforms, including their funding, and I will gladly do so.

2.27 Mr Chairman, I have taken good note of your concerns regarding the decrease in the budget of the Participation Programme, and the proposal to reinforce these funds. The Secretariat has endeavoured to ensure that the eventual decrease in the budget will not harm developing countries – in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) – which are the programme's priority targets.

2.28 In the recent past, I have asked OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries to refrain from submitting requests, and 16 countries have responded positively. In document 34 C/5, I have decided to enlarge the number of countries requested to refrain from submitting requests to all those with a per capita GDP of over \$10,000 per annum, as indicated in my written introduction. A total of 45 countries would be asked to refrain under this new criteria. Grants to these 45 countries in this biennium amounted to approximately \$1.2 million. If we can use that as a guide, we would expect the allocation to LDCs and other developing countries to remain level in the following biennium, despite the overall budget reduction of \$1.2 million. I would therefore like to repeat my call to those rich countries with a per capita GDP of over \$10,000 per annum to refrain from making requests to the Participation Programme.

2.29 Mr Chairman, let me now turn to the specific concern raised by the Ambassador of Serbia, regarding what he called the relationship between the "four" organs of UNESCO. While there are frequent references made by many Member States to questions of "double governance", and I am sympathetic to those concerns, it nevertheless has to be said that the conventions adopted by the UNESCO General Conference and its organs are not legally speaking part of UNESCO's governing organs. It might thus be somewhat misleading to refer to a "fourth organ" of UNESCO, despite UNESCO's parentage. The conventions that are in force and their organs have a separate and distinct status from that of UNESCO's organs, and cannot be considered as part and parcel of UNESCO, with which of course they share a lot of things, including the secretariat for the conventions.

2.30 True, most of the conventions have mandated the secretariat of UNESCO to serve as the secretariat of the convention and its organs, financed by regular and extrabudgetary resources, and this has been accepted by UNESCO's Member States acting through the General Conference. However, this operational link does not bring the organs of such conventions under the authority of the organs of UNESCO, nor does it transform them into, legally speaking, a "fourth" organ of UNESCO. If necessary, the Legal Adviser will elaborate further on this.

2.31 Mr Chairman, I am greatly satisfied with the unanimous support to my proposal for more action in favour of **Africa**. This priority has been built into all programme components and is visibly reflected for each Major Programme in document 34 C/5. As you are aware, UNESCO aims at building upon the sustained efforts we have made in assisting African countries. In the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and through the successive African Union (AU) summits that were devoted to UNESCO's themes, the Organization has jointly worked with the Heads of State and Government of this continent to formulate policy decisions and action plans in the priority areas of education, culture, science, technology and scientific research.

2.32 Now policies exist, as well as action plans. What is urgently needed is action. In spite of many difficulties, African countries themselves are making serious efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the education for all (EFA) Dakar goals and the implementation of the science and technology plan of action. But, as many speakers have emphasized, the funding of these initiatives is a constant, urgent concern. While UNESCO is not a funding agency, I have tirelessly advocated for greater aid to Africa, in particular for EFA. While much more needs to be done, there are positive signs that the international community is moving in the right direction. Let me cite the China-Africa Summit, the forthcoming European Union (EU) /Africa Summit, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) IV, and the G8 Summit as examples. I hope that these processes will generate substantive financial assistance for NEPAD programmes.

(The Director-General continued in French)

2.33 Monsieur le Président, de même que pour l'Afrique, vous êtes nombreux à vous être prononcés en faveur d'une action affirmée en faveur de **l'égalité entre les sexes**, qui constitue également un grand axe prioritaire pour toute la période de la Stratégie à moyen terme. Ces priorités apparaissent clairement dans chaque grand programme du 34 C/5 et je veillerai à ce qu'elles soient concrètement prises en compte dans les actions engagées, particulièrement au niveau des pays.

(Le Directeur général poursuit en anglais)

2.34 Mr Chairman, I do not need to repeat that achieving **education for all** is, and will remain, UNESCO's top priority. Many speakers have spoken of EFA, and all have emphasized the long way we still have to go. Our commitment is steadfast, both to global leadership and coordination, and to assisting national efforts to achieve the Dakar goals.

2.35 Closely related to the global coordination of EFA, is UNESCO's leadership of the **United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) (2005-2014)**. I agree fully with Japan that we must enhance interaction between EFA and ESD at the operational level. "Education and sustainable development" has been chosen as one of the main themes of the upcoming Education Ministerial Round Table, precisely to identify good policies in this field.

2.36 It is clear from Tuesday's thematic debate that ESD is taking on even greater importance within the context of global climate change. We will need to think hard about the direction we are taking, and how we can better integrate climate change into the DESD agenda. Promoting ESD is a huge responsibility, and it can only be achieved through broad-based partnership. Portugal has pointed to the importance of dialogue with the private

sector. This is something UNESCO is working hard to strengthen, both to enhance advocacy for ESD, and to expand training and workforce education on sustainability issues.

2.37 Many of you have welcomed the **UNESCO Education Sector Support Strategy (UNESS)** as a very useful planning tool. It is helping UNESCO both to strengthen its responsiveness to Member States' needs and priorities, and to build closer synergy with other development partners.

2.38 I totally agree with the importance many Board Members have given to **South-South cooperation**, in particular in education. In this regard, let me draw your attention to the holding of the 7th meeting of the nine high-population countries – the E-9 – in Bali, in March 2008. The E-9 initiative is not only an important mechanism for South-South cooperation in the field of EFA. It is also helping to stimulate reflection on the methods of triangular cooperation, whereby donor funding could be used to mobilize the expertise and human resources of the E-9 in support of low-income countries, in particular LDCs.

2.39 With regard to the **UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)**, I wish to assure you that additional resources will be provided to the Institute in the \$631 million scenario to organize the 48th session of the International Conference on Education, to be held in Geneva in November 2008. The Conference's theme, "Education for inclusion", takes us to the very heart of the EFA agenda. Bringing together all the education ministers of the world, ICE should play a pivotal role in shaping the debate on inclusive education, helping to identify proven public policies for reaching society's most marginalized and vulnerable groups. Nevertheless, I must point out that we will need additional funds, as we did last time.

2.40 If necessary, further information on UNESCO's three EFA flagship initiatives – the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE), the Teacher Training Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA) and EDUCAIDS – will be provided by ADG/ED in the PX Commission.

2.41 Mr Chairperson, let me now turn to the science programmes, beginning with the overall review of **Major Programmes II and III**. I was heartened by your positive comments regarding the outcomes of the review and thank you for them. The recommendations in the Committee's report and my comments on them have been integrated into the new Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4). They will be implemented over its three corresponding programme and budget documents, beginning with document 34 C/5. The Implementation Plan submitted to the General Conference in document 34 C/13 is, therefore, a transition document. It endeavours to slowly but gradually phase in a new way of working. Subsequent C/5 documents will go further. I am pleased to note that several Member States agreed with me that the Overall Review Committee's recommendation to establish a scientific advisory council needs a more comprehensive analysis. In particular, we have to take into account the prerogatives of UNESCO's governing bodies and the mandates of the scientific boards of the intergovernmental scientific programmes (ISPs). I should add that I would be hesitant to create what may be called a "fifth organ", to borrow the terminology of the Serbian Ambassador.

2.42 Regarding **climate change**, I was gratified to hear you endorse the importance of this issue and of UNESCO's involvement, especially in monitoring. I have outlined a number of our actions, including our

international efforts, in my written introduction. The strategy for climate change, which we are now preparing, will be enriched by the main trends and messages that emerged from the Chairman's thematic debate. I intend to organize an information meeting for Permanent Delegates in November in order to share this strategy with Member States.

2.43 I have noted the numerous references to the **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme's** biosphere reserves and their importance for meeting the 2010 target for slowing biodiversity loss. These learning laboratories for sustainable development are a useful tool for monitoring climate change and contribute to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). I myself certainly share the concern expressed by many Member States about the proposal to change the name of the MAB Programme.

2.44 I am equally gratified by the appreciation expressed for the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)** and the success of its actions. The new Medium-Term Strategy endeavours to further integrate its activities with those of the science programmes and of the Organization at large. This is already the case for climate and disaster preparedness, for example. Sensitive to the appeals to increase IOC's regular programme resources, I have made several provisions for such an increase – albeit modest – in document 34 C/5. It is the only programme in the Sector to benefit in this way. I am also proposing that we look more seriously into how we can integrate IOC's action at the country level in UNESCO's field offices.

2.45 Emphasis was put on the need to retain the priorities fixed by the African Union in UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the **Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) for Science and Technology in Africa**. A plan of action for UNESCO's participation in the implementation of the CPA has been proposed to the current session of the Board, as requested by the Africa group. UNESCO's contributions will target specific areas set out in the AU/NEPAD Plan, addressing the decisions of the African Heads of States and Governments and the Addis Ababa Declaration. In particular, I have proposed flagship projects in the areas referred to in the Declaration for immediate action during the forthcoming biennium.

2.46 Several delegates from the **SIDS** countries underlined the particular vulnerabilities of SIDS, including the dual challenges of climate change and globalization. UNESCO will continue to mobilize capacities house-wide in follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and Strategy, especially through the emerging Intersectoral platform modality. I have visited a number of SIDS – including almost all of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries – in order to discuss with political leaders how to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation with them. I must express my surprise that I am often the first Director-General of UNESCO to visit these countries. Based on my personal experience, I intend to pay special attention to UNESCO's SIDS strategy and its implementation.

(The Director-General continued in French)

2.47 Monsieur le Président, s'agissant **des sciences sociales et humaines** à l'UNESCO, je tiens d'emblée à dire l'importance de leur rôle pour penser en particulier, comme cela été souligné avec force lors du débat thématique, la dimension sociale et éthique du changement climatique.

2.48 D'autre part, j'ai pris bonne note de l'attention toute particulière qu'un grand nombre d'États membres

souhaitent apporter à la célébration du **soixantième anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme**. D'ores et déjà, suite à deux réunions de travail organisées au mois de septembre dernier avec les délégations intéressées, un plan d'action intersectoriel a été préparé, qui pourra être discuté lors de cette session du Conseil exécutif. L'UNESCO, sous réserve des fonds extrabudgétaires qui lui seront alloués, fera donc tout son possible pour donner la plus grande visibilité à la célébration de cet anniversaire, en coopération étroite avec le Haut Commissariat aux droits de l'homme. Au-delà, je suis convaincu, comme nombre d'États membres, qu'il faudra saisir cette occasion pour poursuivre une réflexion nécessaire à la fois sur les « droits émergents » et des questions aussi prioritaires que l'éducation aux droits de l'homme et la liberté d'expression.

2.49 Par ailleurs, s'agissant des questions d'éthique et de droits de l'homme, je suis heureux de constater, à l'unisson de nombreux États membres, que la **Convention internationale contre le dopage dans le sport** continue de faire l'objet d'un intérêt et soutien constants de la part des États membres. À ce jour, 65 États ont ratifié la Convention, et 9 États ont déjà apporté des contributions financières au Fonds pour l'élimination du dopage dans le sport, confirmant ainsi avec force la validité de notre mandat dans un domaine éthique au cœur des priorités de la communauté internationale.

2.50 Enfin, je suis heureux de constater qu'un grand nombre de membres du Conseil ont souligné la contribution des sciences humaines et sociales au travail de l'UNESCO sur des questions aussi diverses et essentielles que l'éducation à la tolérance, le développement social, les migrations, les discriminations. Je rejoins entièrement ce point de vue, et souhaite que l'UNESCO, notamment dans le cadre de son programme intergouvernemental **MOST** et de sa plate-forme régionale de forum des ministres du développement social, qui connaît un succès grandissant, continue de renforcer la coopération internationale politique et scientifique dans ces différents domaines.

2.51 Monsieur le Président, faisant écho à notre débat en séance privée, vous avez été nombreux à vous féliciter de mes propositions concernant le **Centre du patrimoine mondial**, suite aux recommandations de l'audit de gestion du Centre. Je pense notamment au nécessaire renforcement de ses fonctions permanentes destinées à servir efficacement la mise en œuvre de la Convention, à l'exploration de modalités novatrices pour remédier à la situation précaire de certains personnels affectés à des fonctions essentielles à travers la création de postes financés par des sources budgétaires multiples, ou encore à l'expérience pilote pour l'Organisation que pourrait constituer la mise en place d'une comptabilité analytique pour le Centre.

2.52 Je suis également heureux de la satisfaction exprimée concernant la mise en place d'un **mécanisme de suivi renforcé** dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la Convention du patrimoine mondial, qu'il s'agisse de la Rampe des Maghrébins dans la Vieille Ville de Jérusalem ou des sites de la République démocratique du Congo. Je souhaite à cet égard vous informer que je me propose d'organiser une réunion en novembre prochain à Kinshasa, sous la coprésidence de l'UNESCO et du PNUE, ainsi que du Président Kabila, pour envisager les modalités de notre action commune.

2.53 J'ai également été sensible aux interventions sur l'importance de promouvoir la **synergie entre les différentes conventions** au service de la diversité

culturelle, et notamment celles de 1972, 2003 et 2005. J'en suis moi-même un ardent défenseur. C'est pourquoi il me semble nécessaire d'analyser avec beaucoup d'attention la question du Centre du patrimoine mondial, afin de veiller à favoriser la synergie non seulement entre le Secteur de la culture et celui des sciences, mais également au sein même du Secteur de la culture. De même, je partage le souhait de nombre d'entre vous que les Conventions de 2003 et de 2005 connaissent dans un proche avenir le même caractère universel que la Convention de 1972, et qu'elles soient dotées des ressources humaines et financières nécessaires à cet effet. J'ai fait tout mon possible, dans le cadre du scénario budgétaire proposé, pour les préserver des coupes. Je me réjouis de savoir que ces instruments pourront compter sur votre appui renforcé, notamment le Fonds de la diversité culturelle, qui sera formellement institué à l'occasion de la prochaine réunion du Comité de la Convention de 2005, ou encore le Fonds africain du patrimoine mondial.

2.54 Vous avez également tenu à réaffirmer votre attachement au **multilinguisme**, et vous vous êtes félicités de la création d'une Équipe intersectorielle afin d'assurer la synergie de tous les secteurs de programme pour traiter de cette question. En référence à l'intervention du représentant de la Hongrie, je tiens à l'assurer que l'UNESCO entend prendre au sérieux son rôle de chef de file pour la célébration de l'Année internationale des langues en 2008. À ce titre, une stratégie concertée et intersectorielle est en voie d'élaboration. Afin de souligner l'importance des langues non seulement pour la culture et l'éducation mais aussi pour un nombre très important de domaines ayant trait au développement durable, le slogan « Les langues, ça compte ! » (« Languages Matter ! ») va être diffusé à grande échelle.

2.55 Enfin, toujours dans le domaine des langues, la République bolivarienne de Venezuela a rappelé la décision de la dernière session du Conseil exécutif concernant « une étude préliminaire des aspects techniques et juridiques d'un éventuel instrument normatif international sur la protection des langues autochtones et des langues menacées d'extinction ». Je suis heureux de porter à votre connaissance que le Secrétariat a d'ores et déjà entrepris la rédaction d'un avant-projet d'étude, qui sera discuté et finalisé dans le cadre d'une réunion d'experts incluant également des représentants de peuples autochtones. La date de la tenue de cette réunion est liée à la disponibilité de fonds extrabudgétaires. Des démarches que nous espérons fructueuses ont été entreprises dans ce sens. Un rapport sera soumis à cet égard à votre prochaine session.

2.56 À cet égard, je voudrais attirer votre attention sur la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones, très récemment adoptée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies après des années de négociations, et dans laquelle l'UNESCO s'est étroitement impliquée. Cette Déclaration proclame d'une part, d'une manière générale, le droit des peuples autochtones à revivifier, utiliser, développer et transmettre aux générations futures leur langue « et leur système d'écriture » (article 13); elle proclame d'autre part, de manière plus spécifique, leur « droit d'établir et de contrôler leurs propres systèmes et établissements scolaires où l'enseignement est dispensé dans leur propre langue, d'une manière adaptée à leurs méthodes culturelles d'enseignement et d'apprentissage » (article 14), ainsi que le droit d'établir « leurs propres médias dans leur propre langue » (article 16). C'est une étape

extrêmement importante dont nous devons tous nous féliciter.

2.57 Vous avez été également nombreux à vous féliciter de la création de la **plate-forme intersectorielle pour le dialogue** inscrite dans le 34 C/5, notant le rôle transversal de cette question. Vous avez également salué la mise en place de l'Équipe spéciale sur le dialogue entre les cultures, et souligné l'importance d'instaurer une coopération étroite avec l'Alliance des civilisations. Comme je l'ai précisé dans mon introduction écrite, nous entretenons les meilleures relations avec l'Alliance, qui considère l'UNESCO comme un partenaire de premier plan. L'UNESCO est d'ores et déjà mobilisée pour la première conférence de haut niveau qui se déroulera à Madrid en janvier prochain, et à laquelle je participerai personnellement. L'Organisation sera également représentée à la réunion de la société civile et des partenaires de l'Alliance qui se déroule demain et après-demain à New York.

(Le Directeur général poursuit en anglais)

2.58 Mr Chairman, several Member States have underscored the importance of **freedom of expression** as a fundamental human right, which UNESCO is called upon to promote as the only United Nations agency with a mandate in this field. UNESCO will take advantage of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2008 to continue actively to raise awareness of the key role freedom of expression plays in promoting democracy and peace. This will certainly be the main theme of the Press Freedom Day symposium to be held in Mozambique on 3 May 2008.

2.59 I was also pleased to hear the importance you attach to UNESCO's efforts to promote the **safety of media professionals**, the theme of this year's World Press Freedom Day Conference in Colombia. The Medellín declaration adopted lays the ground for a wide range of measures to improve the safety of journalists and punish crimes against them. UNESCO stands ready to ensure the appropriate follow-up.

2.60 Many representatives underscored the importance of UNESCO's active participation in the follow-up to the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**. Indeed, the sector's programmatic orientations as defined in documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 take the WSIS outcomes fully into account. I firmly agree with the representative of South Africa, who highlighted the role **ICTs and media can play regarding climate change**. This too was an important message of yesterday's thematic debate.

2.61 Mr Chairman, several delegates have raised concerns regarding the use of the six languages on the UNESCO Internet portal. I am pleased to confirm that the Secretariat, and in particular the Bureau of Public Information (BPI), has been working in the last two years to develop a multilingual and comprehensive website for the Organization, with a common visual and technical platform. Similar harmonization work is being done with field offices. This work has resulted in an undeniable success for UNESCO's Internet site: in four years, the number of pages viewed per month has quadrupled, to reach today more than six million monthly. This makes it one of the most visited Internet sites of the United Nations system.

(The Director-General continued in French)

2.62 Monsieur le Président, je partage également tout à fait les préoccupations de l'Ambassadrice de France

concernant l'usage du français sur le site Internet de l'Organisation. Cette préoccupation est d'ailleurs partagée par d'autres délégations en ce qui concerne l'utilisation des autres langues officielles de l'Organisation. En effet, un effort important reste à faire pour rendre les contenus disponibles en espagnol, arabe, russe et chinois. Les contraintes budgétaires auxquelles nous devons faire face ne sont pas étrangères au retard pris. C'est la raison pour laquelle un transfert budgétaire de 740 000 dollars a été récemment effectué pour assurer une meilleure prise en compte du multilinguisme sur le site Internet. Je profite de cette occasion pour remercier l'Arabie saoudite pour sa généreuse contribution extrabudgétaire d'un million de dollars qui nous permettra d'accroître la diffusion sur notre site Web de documents en langue arabe.

2.63 À propos de nos **publications**, BPI a entrepris un travail en profondeur avec les secteurs pour s'assurer que les propositions de publication sont bien en phase avec les priorités du programme, et pour les intégrer dans le plan de communication, dont elles constituent un élément à part entière. L'une des lignes d'action prévues dans le 34 C/5 consiste à établir des indicateurs de satisfaction et d'impact pour les différents supports d'information. Par ailleurs, les auditeurs externes ont entrepris en juin dernier un audit sur l'ensemble de nos publications payantes et non payantes ; le rapport vous sera présenté à votre session du printemps.

2.64 L'utilisation du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO est également un sujet auquel, comme vous tous, j'attache une importance particulière et qui comporte un certain nombre d'aspects juridiques. Notre emblème est certainement un élément important pour la visibilité de l'Organisation, mais au-delà de l'aspect visuel et graphique, il engage notre crédibilité et notre réputation. Depuis plus de deux ans, les États membres, les organes directeurs et le Secrétariat travaillent ensemble sur cette question complexe. Lors de la dernière Conférence générale, il a été décidé de mettre en pratique, à titre expérimental, des directives. Un rapport sur le bilan de cette période probatoire sera présenté à la prochaine Conférence générale.

(Le Directeur général poursuit en anglais)

2.65 Mr Chairman, in response to concerns raised by a number of Member States about the need for a new efficient resource mobilization strategy based on the principle that extrabudgetary contributions should reinforce regular programme priorities, I would recall that in 2006, the Executive Board endorsed a new "Action Plan presented by the Secretariat for improving the management of UNESCO's extrabudgetary funds". The Action Plan not only responds directly to the need to adopt a more efficient and coherent approach in the way we mobilize extrabudgetary funds, but also to our approach to the programming, monitoring and implementation of extrabudgetary funds.

2.66 With regard to **unspent balances** from the regular programme, as the Board is clearly aware, I report to the Board and the General Conference as part of the audited and interim financial statements. Under the financial regulations, unspent balances are normally returned to Member States after discharging past legal obligations. On occasion and when other financial sources are not available to cover large unexpected expenditure or when a major project outside of our normal operations occurs, I have asked the General Conference through the Executive Board to suspend the Financial Regulations and utilize the unspent balance for a specific purpose.

The Executive Board has been understanding in the past and agreed with my requests.

2.67 As you are aware, the Belmont Renovation Plan for Headquarters Buildings was put together some years back. At the time of establishing the budget, the Plan envisaged only a minimal cost increase, which is now found to be insufficient to cover the large increase arising from the construction cost rises experienced in the host country. It is to cover such costs that I proposed to this session of the Board to allow me to utilize the unspent balances of \$3.7 million from the 2004-2005 budget. \$3.7 million of unspent balance amounts to less than 1% of the total budget and it is not unusual to find such a level in a budget of \$610 million over a two-year period.

2.68 I can assure Board Members that management continuously reviews the level of expenditure within the Organization on a regular basis to make sure that the level of expenditure and programme execution is as close to the total regular budget as possible at the end of each biennium.

(The Director-General continued in French)

2.69 Monsieur le Président, en ce qui concerne les **instituts et centres de catégorie 2 placés sous l'égide de l'UNESCO** plusieurs d'entre vous ont reconnu que ces centres constituaient un atout pour l'action et la visibilité de l'Organisation. Néanmoins, d'autres se sont inquiétés de leur « prolifération » et de leur éventuel impact sur les ressources administratives et financières de l'Organisation, et ont demandé une amélioration des mécanismes redditionnels de ces centres, ainsi qu'une évaluation rigoureuse de leurs résultats et de leur adéquation avec les objectifs du Programme. C'est pourquoi je vous propose, dans le document 177 EX/29, les éléments d'une stratégie qui répondent en bonne partie à vos préoccupations : j'espère qu'après les avoir examinés, vous serez en mesure de soumettre à l'approbation de la Conférence générale une stratégie exhaustive, qui viendra compléter utilement les critères adoptés à la 33^e session pour l'établissement et le fonctionnement de ces instituts et centres de catégorie 2.

2.70 Monsieur le Président, je crois avoir été assez long, sans avoir peut-être répondu à l'ensemble des points évoqués au cours de ce débat aussi riche que stimulant. J'aurai certainement l'occasion de préciser certaines des questions au cours de l'échange que nous allons avoir dans quelques instants, étant entendu que de nombreux aspects seront traités en profondeur dans les commissions, et qu'il sera répondu aux questions d'intérêt national dans un contexte bilatéral.

2.71 Je souhaiterais peut-être souligner, pour conclure, et comme je vous en ai d'ores et déjà fait part à l'issue de notre débat hier soir, combien je me réjouis d'avoir reçu de votre part, et de manière consensuelle, l'expression de votre soutien. À travers, bien sûr, votre position unanime sur le plafond budgétaire. Mais aussi à travers la très jolie métaphore de la tarte aux pommes utilisée par l'ambassadeur du Japon. Quel meilleur gage de confiance, en effet, que de rejeter la microgestion et de demander, en confiance, à ce que j'applique, dans l'intérêt de tous et en suivant vos lignes directrices, les recettes qui me semblent les plus appropriées pour délivrer les résultats attendus ? J'en terminerai donc là pour l'instant, Monsieur le Président, et vous remercie de votre attention.

3. **The Chairperson** thanked the Director-General for his sincere, frank and detailed answers not only to the general remarks and constructive views expressed by

Board Members in the more than eight hours of general debate, but also to the particular questions raised by them.

4.1 **M. Moscato** (Italie), après avoir remercié le Président pour les conclusions pertinentes qu'il a tirées du débat thématique, et le Directeur général qui, dans sa réponse aux États membres du Conseil, s'est montré particulièrement attentif aux problèmes qu'ils avaient soulevés, rappelle que, dans sa propre intervention, il avait souligné que les 21 millions de dollars supplémentaires accordés étaient, pour l'essentiel, destinés à couvrir les dépenses de personnel plutôt qu'à financer des activités. Néanmoins, il comprend fort bien la position du Directeur général, souvent placé devant des demandes contradictoires.

4.2 Au sujet du débat thématique, le représentant de l'Italie se félicite de la création de l'Équipe spéciale sur le changement climatique mondial, particulièrement bienvenue dans la perspective de la réunion spéciale sur le climat qui doit se tenir à Bali au mois de décembre et à laquelle l'UNESCO se doit d'apporter une contribution substantielle.

5. **Mr Rachman** (Indonesia) said that he wished to address three matters. First, what provisions were there, he asked, to improve relations with Member States and empower National Commissions so as to improve programme implementation at the grass-roots level? Secondly, regarding media relations, he noted that UNESCO had many programmes that were invisible to society, which made it difficult to show that the Organization was useful. Finally, he asked whether UNESCO was alert to the possibility of participating in international conferences held by other international organizations and governments, for instance on climate change?

6. **Mr Lakatos** (Hungary) agreed with the representative of Indonesia regarding the importance of cooperation with National Commissions. Speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations, he appealed for increased funding for the important work carried out by the Secretariat's Section for Non-Governmental Organizations.

7.1 **Mr Sukanaivalu** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the 17 Pacific Member States, said that the UNESCO Apia Office was doing a good job advancing UNESCO's mission, for instance by bringing together the ministers of education of the subregion, and it was to be hoped that the Office would be favourably considered in the decentralization process. The Member States in question were particularly vulnerable to climate change. Therefore the importance of, for example, an effective tsunami early-warning system and the inclusion of disaster preparedness in curricula could not be overstated. Another major challenge to small island developing States (SIDS) was communication because the use of information and communication technologies was hampered by the lack of relevant infrastructure in the islands, and especially in rural areas, and the digital divide also affected education.

8.1 **The Director-General** said that he appreciated the understanding of his concerns regarding the staff costs ratio expressed by the representative of Italy. He reminded the Board that UNESCO was developing a strategy on climate change, and said that he intended to hold an information meeting in November 2007 on that subject. In that context, particular attention was being paid

to SIDS. A comprehensive tsunami early-warning system had been in operation since 1965 in the North Pacific, and it would need to be extended to cover the Pacific island Member States, which were already being assisted in capacity-building in that respect. He had been pleased to hear that the recently-strengthened UNESCO Apia Office was performing well – that was partly attributable to its Director and the support he received from the Member States, and was an illustration of the importance of having high-quality senior managers and other staff in the field.

8.2 He agreed with the representative of Indonesia that National Commissions were a crucial element in ensuring the success of the decentralization policy, and it might be useful to develop new guidelines on cooperation with them. They also had a key role to play in developing cooperation with non-governmental organizations, which were also major partners of the Organization. He was grateful to the Chairperson of the NGO Committee for his sterling work in encouraging closer ties between UNESCO and the NGO community.

8.3 When referring to media relations, it was impossible to overlook the contribution of the late Torben Krogh in reinvigorating the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). UNESCO stressed press freedom, but the quality of media professionals was just as important, and even more extrabudgetary funding was needed to finance training programmes.

9. **Mr Wole** (Ethiopia) warned against the risk of decreasing efficiency as staff became over-cautious in applying the new guidelines and regulations, however necessary they were to reinforce accountability. Furthermore, as staff training was being strengthened, he would like to know how its effectiveness was evaluated, particularly regarding essential, day-to-day activities where such training was most needed.

10. **Mr Kondo** (Japan) asked about recruitment and training for the new posts to be established in the field. New staff would need to be inculcated with loyalty to the Organization, and staff being transferred from abolished posts at Headquarters would need to be able to rely on a fair rotation policy. He endorsed the remarks of the representative of Italy about the staff costs/administrative costs ratio. Finally, he would like to hear from the Legal Adviser about the concept of the four organs of UNESCO, bearing in mind, of course, that what was legally possible was not always politically desirable.

11. **M. Essanzo** (Congo) félicite le Président du Conseil exécutif pour la dextérité et la sagesse avec lesquelles il conduit les travaux. Au nom de son pays, il remercie les membres du Conseil de l'accueil qu'ils ont réservé, à la session précédente, au Président du Congo, M. Denis Sassou-Nguesso, alors Président en exercice de l'Union africaine, partageant avec lui les préoccupations de l'UNESCO sur le monde à venir. Se référant à la métaphore du pâtissier qui a été proposée par le représentant du Japon au cours du débat général, M. Essanzo encourage le Directeur général à aller de l'avant, sans jamais oublier la priorité accordée à l'Afrique, et l'assurance du soutien plein et entier de son pays, dont le mandat au Conseil est sur le point de s'achever.

12.1 **Le Directeur général** remercie le représentant du Congo de ses paroles d'encouragement qui seront entendues par l'ensemble du Secrétariat.

12.2 Continuing in English, he said that programme delivery was an important concept in staff evaluation. Staff training was indeed essential, and that was why he had

created a training fund. It was true to say that an effective and dynamic rotation policy was indispensable. At present, staff were reluctant to leave Paris, but a new clause in staff contracts should facilitate the staff mobility that was vital to successful decentralization. Before the Legal Adviser could add to the discussion on the “four organs”, he reminded the Board that as Director-General he was responsible for providing the secretariat for conventions.

13.1 **Mr Yusuf** (Legal Adviser) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, there are perhaps political and legal aspects to these issues. Knowing Ambassador Najman of Serbia and his profound knowledge of UNESCO and of its institutions, I am quite sure that when he referred to the fourth organ he was speaking figuratively, and perhaps was trying to convey a political message. But the legal situation is completely different, and, as was already pointed out by the Director-General, there are only three organs in UNESCO, and Article III of the Constitution makes that extremely explicit. It says: “The Organization shall include a General Conference, an Executive Board and a Secretariat.” Those are only three as far as I can count; I do not see a fourth one.

13.2 With respect to the conventions, and the organs that have actually been established by the conventions, these organs are now assuming an increasing importance in the galaxy of UNESCO’s organs and institutions, and here I am talking of UNESCO in the sense of the world of UNESCO, not UNESCO as the institution with the three organs. I think that a distinction needs to be made there also, very clearly, between the conventions and the organs which they create or establish, and UNESCO as the institution that was created by the Constitution to which I just referred. Because the UNESCO Constitution is also a treaty, so there is the UNESCO Constitution, which is a self-contained treaty, and there are the other treaties which are concluded under the auspices of UNESCO, and which we call the conventions. The States Parties to the conventions, and the conventions themselves allow that, do not have to be Members of UNESCO, so the membership of these treaties and the treaty bodies does not necessarily coincide with the membership of UNESCO. So that is one important factor which of course differentiates the two.

13.3 The second difference is that the States Parties to the conventions establishing such organs create a system of accountability of the organs, and the organs are accountable only to those States Parties, and they are not therefore accountable to UNESCO. If you take any of the committees, those committees are accountable to the conference of States Parties, and of course in some cases the convention itself says that the committee or the States Parties will make a report to the General Conference of UNESCO, but the real accountability is to the States Parties, not to UNESCO in general.

13.4 Thirdly, the organs that are established by a convention are legally distinct and separate from the organs established by the Constitution of UNESCO; they are not subsidiary to them, they are not subservient to them, and they are not subordinate to them. They are totally independent from them. So I think that this might clarify the relationship between these organs and the organs established by the UNESCO Constitution. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

14. **El Sr. Ángel Correa** (Colombia) pregunta cómo podría la UNESCO hacer llegar a las poblaciones de los países pobres, que carecen de acceso a computadores y por tanto a Internet, la información sobre los problemas

del cambio climático a través de los medios de comunicación de masas. Pregunta además cómo podría hacerse participar a la Sección de Bioética en el análisis del cambio climático, a fin de que esta cuestión no se aborde únicamente desde una perspectiva política y técnica. Por otra parte, agradece al Director General su mención de Medellín, y expresa el respaldo de Colombia a todos los esfuerzos de la UNESCO en materia de libertad de prensa. Felicita, por último, al nuevo Subdirector General de Educación por su designación y pide que se recupere el tiempo que haya podido perderse y se acelere el proceso encaminado a lograr la Educación para Todos.

(14) **Mr Ángel Correa** (Colombia) asked how UNESCO could use the mass media to bring information on climate change issues to those living in the poorer countries, who lacked access to computers and consequently to the Internet. How could the Bioethics Section be involved in climate change analysis to ensure that the question was not addressed solely from a political and technical point of view? He thanked the Director-General for mentioning Medellín. Colombia supported all the Organization’s efforts in the area of press freedom. Finally, he congratulated the Assistant Director-General for Education on his appointment, and urged that any lost time be made up for and that efforts to achieve education for all (EFA) be accelerated.

15. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) said, first, that he was not alone in disagreeing with the justification given by the Director-General for cutting the Participation Programme. Secondly, the E-9 initiative had been described as the best platform for South-South cooperation, but it should be borne in mind that there were 123 other countries in the South ready and willing to cooperate. Thirdly, he was pleased that UNESCO was increasingly involved in the issue of languages, and wondered whether that could not provide the subject-matter for the next thematic debate. Fourthly, he had not heard the Director-General refer to countries in post-conflict situations. Were they not among the highest priorities of the Organization? His own country had been attacked and destroyed, and the international community had a moral responsibility to assist it.

16. **M. Seghrouchni** (Maroc) se félicite de la mise en place de plates-formes intersectorielles, dont il a noté que le Secrétariat s’employait à préciser les modalités de fonctionnement, et souhaite savoir comment seront établies les allocations budgétaires, ou si celles-ci sont déjà arrêtées.

17.1 **The Director-General** said that climate change was an issue that the United Nations Secretary-General himself had fully taken on board. As he had already said, UNESCO would need to act within the United Nations system, and that applied to contact with the media too.

17.2 The E-9 initiative was an important instrument of South-South cooperation, but by no means the only one; it took many forms which all needed promoting. The Special Account for voluntary contributions and funds from the regular budget should help advance such cooperation.

18. **Mr Barbosa** (Deputy Director-General), replying at the invitation of the Director-General, said that the budgets for intersectoral platforms in document 34 C/5 were indicative, and would probably be increased when they were finalized after completion of the work plans. As requested, the Director-General would report thereon to the Board at its 179th session.

19.1 **Ms Marčiulionytė** (Lithuania) asked whether it would be feasible to put the consultant database on the Intranet; it would be far more complicated to issue it in a hard copy form. The Participation Programme was crucial to the visibility of UNESCO, and should not be reduced. She urged the Director-General to ensure that answers to Member States' requests under the Participation Programme were communicated well before the end of the biennium.

19.2 With regard to the guidelines on the use of the logo, she had been more concerned about the rules, or lack of rules, governing graphic design as a whole, that was, the graphical depiction of all emblems and logos of the Organization, as designers were told that authorization was not required to use them. A brand book was needed to regularize the situation.

20. **M. Santer** (Luxembourg) rappelle que tous les participants au débat thématique ont souligné l'importance de l'éducation dans le domaine du changement climatique, et demande s'il n'y aurait pas lieu, dans le cadre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable, de charger le Réseau du système des écoles associées de l'UNESCO (RéSEAU), auquel le Luxembourg a montré son attachement en organisant en 2005 une réunion de coordonnateurs, d'élaborer et d'encadrer un projet phare international consacré à ce thème crucial. Ce réseau, qui compte plus de 7 000 écoles dans le monde, pourrait en effet contribuer à sensibiliser les jeunes, objectif primordial puisque ce sont les responsables de demain. Le projet phare devrait bien entendu être doté de moyens ambitieux - l'enjeu est tel qu'on ne saurait se contenter d'une simple mallette pédagogique.

21. **El Sr. Miranda Ortiz** (México) considera importante favorecer una mayor participación de los Estados Miembros en los programas, proyectos y actividades de la UNESCO. Para que pasen a ser actores, no deberán limitarse a solicitar recursos financieros, sino que todos deberán tomar parte decididamente en la puesta en práctica de sus mejores experiencias. De ahí la conveniencia de reorientar el Programa de Participación para que deje de constituir una mera herramienta de asistencia y se convierta en un instrumento de promoción de proyectos de cooperación Sur-Sur y Norte-Sur.

(21) **Mr Miranda Ortiz** (Mexico) said that it was important to foster greater participation of the Member States in the Organization's programmes, projects and activities. To become full participants, Member States should not limit themselves to requesting financial resources, but should all play a decisive role in the implementation of their most effective experiences. It would therefore be appropriate to transform the Participation Programme from a simple assistance tool into an instrument for the promotion of South-South and North-South cooperation projects.

22.1 **The Director-General** said that he had never denied the strategic importance of the Participation Programme, which should ideally help National Commissions in developing countries, with a special emphasis on least developed countries and SIDS, which was why he had proposed that high-income countries refrain from submitting requests. He paid tribute to India which, although not a high-income country, had decided not to submit any requests and rely on other funding sources. He failed to see why the limited resources available should go to helping the National Commissions of rich countries. That was why he had introduced the new

system, which was the second plank of a dual strategy to rationalize the Participation Programme, the other aspect being efforts to make it more transparent and efficient. He agreed that the Secretariat should endeavour to improve communication with Member States on the status of Participation Programme requests.

22.2 Graphic design was treated in the same way as logos. His colleagues could explain in greater detail in a bilateral meeting with the representative of Lithuania. Her idea of placing the consultant database online would be examined carefully. He agreed with the representative of Mexico that representatives of Member States should be more closely involved with the Organization's activities, although it should be said that UNESCO already did more in that regard than, for instance, international organizations in Geneva.

22.3 Poursuivant en français, le Directeur général souscrit aux propos du représentant du Luxembourg concernant l'importance stratégique des écoles associées et indique son intention de demander au nouveau Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation d'étudier plus avant la manière dont le Secteur de l'éducation pourrait mieux mettre à profit ce réseau mondial.

23. **Mr Briseid** (Norway) said that he understood the Director-General's argument about the need for expenditure on staff and administration, but many Board Members in the general debate had been more concerned about the perceived imbalance between administrative and programme costs specifically in relation to the additional \$21 million, and that ratio should be reviewed. He understood that travel was essential for an international organization. It should be considered however not only in terms of saving money and time, but in terms of climate change as well, as air travel was one of the worst culprits in that regard.

24. **Ms Oliver** (United States of America) said that in each topic of thematic debate, only one view, that of the speaker, had prevailed. That was problematic in that the Director-General had claimed that the debate would be used to focus UNESCO's action. It would have been far more useful to have two speakers with opposing views on such a complex issue. The Organization had limited resources, and she wished to know how it would envisage reducing its operations if it decided to increase its commitment to the very fashionable area of climate change. Although the Director-General said that education was a top priority, he had said little about the extremely important December meeting in Dakar of the EFA High-Level Group. Her country would be most uncomfortable if climate change was to become a dominant theme throughout the Organization's programmes. She sought reassurance that UNESCO would not reduce its commitment to its previously agreed priorities, and would continue to use its limited resources to strengthen its already existing climate-related programmes, such as the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and continue to engage in capacity-building in basic science, engineering and technology, which benefited post-conflict countries and the developing world, and were also related to climate change.

25. **M. Iten** (Suisse) se félicite de ce que le thème retenu pour le débat thématique ait permis à l'UNESCO de jouer son rôle de laboratoire d'idées, dont il regrette cependant que, dans le Secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles, en particulier, et s'agissant d'autres domaines prioritaires, une bureaucratie croissante le relègue au second plan. Certes l'Organisation dispose de plusieurs

organes intergouvernementaux, mais leurs mandats sont par trop cloisonnés. M. Iten demande au Directeur général comment celui-ci entend remédier au caractère à son sens insuffisant de la contribution de fond de l'UNESCO à l'activité scientifique, qui est - le sigle de l'Organisation en témoigne - l'un des champs essentiels de sa mission.

26.1 **The Director-General** said that he could reassure the representative of the United States that the priorities contained in the C/4 and C/5 documents would continue to be the guiding principles of the Organization. He had repeatedly said that education, and in particular education for all (EFA), was the top priority, as demonstrated by the budget and staff allocated to the Education Sector. UNESCO was developing its strategy on climate change, and must act within the United Nations system. On education, it had a leadership role within the United Nations system, so its approach on the two issues was quite different.

26.2 He was doing his best to reduce travel costs, and it should be borne in mind that further savings were indeed possible. With regard to the budget ceiling, he recalled that \$631 million was a reduction from \$648 million. It did not leave room to cut staff costs, and indeed many Member States had accepted the logic behind his refusal to cut them any further.

26.3 Répondant en français au dernier point soulevé par le représentant de la Suisse, dont il déclare partager le souci d'améliorer l'efficacité et la visibilité de l'action de l'UNESCO dans le domaine des sciences, le Directeur général observe que tel était l'objectif principal de l'examen d'ensemble des deux grands programmes relatifs aux sciences. Pour atteindre cet objectif, ajoute-t-il, le Secrétariat aura besoin de l'étroite collaboration de tous les États membres.

27. **Mr Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that with regard to the United Nations reform process, it was important to strengthen UNESCO's influence at the implementation stage, as well as the planning stage, and to consider a strategy to achieve that. Member States needed to build capacities in order to absorb technical and financial assistance, in particular regarding education for all (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals. With regard to staffing and staff costs, he asked whether Member States, the recipients, were satisfied with the present staffing situation and service delivery by UNESCO. How could under-utilized staff be put to best use? Finally, was there a connection between unused funds and travel? It might become necessary to put a moratorium on staff travel.

28. **La Sra. López** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela) considera que la creación de un sistema de redes de comunicación de los institutos de categoría 2, que responden a imperativos nacionales y regionales, redundaría en beneficio de todos los países, al permitirles intercambiar experiencias en sus respectivas esferas de competencia, con la meta común de alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Agradece al Director General sus respuestas a las preguntas de Indonesia, el Afganistán y Hungría sobre la función de las comisiones nacionales en todos los programas, así como su compromiso al respecto. Por otra parte, comparte con Colombia su preocupación por la cuestión de la utilización de las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación en las políticas de sensibilización sobre el deterioro del medio ambiente, el cambio climático y sus consecuencias para las generaciones presentes y futuras. Ese proceso de educación, en particular sobre los problemas que preocupan a todos desde la más temprana edad, se

podría iniciar por medio de las Escuelas Asociadas, en una estrategia en la que cabría contar también con la participación de los institutos de categoría 2.

(28.1) **Ms López** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that setting up a communication network among category 2 institutes which met national and regional needs would benefit all countries by enabling them to exchange experience in their respective fields of competence with the common aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). She welcomed the Director-General's replies to the questions raised by Indonesia, Afghanistan and Hungary on the role of the National Commissions in all the Organization's programmes. and his commitment in that respect. She endorsed Colombia's query about the idea of using information and communication technologies in campaigns to raise awareness about environmental degradation, climate change and its consequences for present and future generations. Such an educational process, in particular in relation to problems that affected all individuals from the youngest age, could be launched by the Associated Schools Project Network as part of a strategy in which category 2 institutes could also participate.

29. **Mr Maynard** (Saint Kitts and Nevis) said that he was very interested in the intersectoral platforms, which did seem to have the small island developing States as priorities. However, he sought assurance that projects under the previous cross-cutting themes, such as the Youth PATH (Youth Poverty Alleviation through Tourism and Heritage) programme, launched in his country in 2005 in the presence of the Director-General, and which had had a considerable impact on young people in the Caribbean, would find a place in document 34 C/5. The National Commissions were essential to United Nations reform. Were there, he asked, initiatives to enhance them in document 34 C/5? Finally, with regard to the many activities relating to the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade, how did UNESCO envisage collating and evaluating the wealth of information emerging in that context?

30.1 **The Director-General** said that there had indeed been many events regarding the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade, ranging from ceremonies in Ghana and the United Kingdom to the events held in the Caribbean. UNESCO was continuing to discuss how to deepen reflection in the context of the Slave Route project. The Youth PATH programme was certainly an important project for several countries and it would continue.

30.2 Replying to the representative of Sri Lanka, he said that UNESCO was actively taking part in the elaboration and implementation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks/Common Country Assessments (UNDAF/CCA), and no longer remaining aloof from them. Once again, he would reiterate that effective programme delivery and formulation could not take place without staff travel, although it should be possible to reduce the costs to some extent, for instance by making best use of the Organization's 53 field offices. Lastly, he heartily agreed with the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's comments on category 2 centres.

31. **M. Sayyad** (Sous-Directeur général pour les relations extérieures et la coopération), intervenant à la demande du Directeur général, assure le représentant de Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis que les crédits alloués aux

commissions nationales au titre du Programme ordinaire n'ont subi aucune coupe. C'est le seul poste budgétaire que le Directeur général a veillé à épargner. De plus, 1 116 000 dollars ont été alloués au titre du Programme de participation, au renforcement des capacités des commissions nationales au cours de l'exercice biennal. Cet effort sera poursuivi.

32. **Mr Ramalho Ortigão** (Portugal) said that some of the meetings of the expert group involved in the overall review of Major Programmes II and III had been open to Permanent Delegations and that had proved most enlightening. He asked whether the Director-General would consider opening up some meetings of the various task forces he had established, on climate change, for instance, to Permanent Delegates. He considered that it would be useful to hold an information meeting for Permanent Delegates with the new Assistant Director-General for Education after the General Conference, so that they could be brought up to speed on the latest developments in the education for all (EFA) agenda, the implementation of the EFA Global Action Plan, the Dakar meeting of the EFA High-Level Group, and the work of the EFA Advisory Panel.

33. **Mr Lugujjo** (Uganda) said that he hoped that the Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology in Africa would not experience the same fate as the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action, which had been a beautiful document, but ultimately not applied. UNESCO needed to act in visible ways, ensuring that equipment was delivered, teachers trained and science managers trained.

34. **Mme De Kerdaniel** (Saint-Vincent-et-les Grenadines) relève dans le nouveau scénario de 631 millions de dollars une diminution importante des crédits alloués, au titre du grand programme I, aux axes d'action 1 et 4, qui ont trait respectivement à la coordination des priorités du système des Nations Unies en matière d'éducation et la mise en place de partenariats solides, et au développement des capacités à l'appui des efforts nationaux visant à la réalisation des objectifs de Dakar. Toute réduction des crédits ayant des répercussions dans un certain nombre de pays, elle souhaite savoir sur quelle base ces coupes seront réparties, compte tenu de ce que des pays bénéficiaires sont sur le point d'aboutir dans le domaine de l'alphabétisation, ou la réalisation d'autres objectifs très importants, et dans quelle mesure le Plan d'action global en sera affecté. Notant d'autre part que le Corrigendum fait état au sujet de l'axe d'action 1 d'une baisse de l'appui apporté aux projets pilotes relatifs à la coopération Sud-Sud, elle demande ce qui justifie une telle mesure alors que quatre de ces projets pilotes n'ont pas encore commencé ; et si la baisse affectera les points de contact régionaux ou s'opérera à un autre niveau.

35.1 **The Director-General** said that the presence of Member States in task force meetings would be like representatives of UNESCO attending cabinet meetings in Member States. The expert group reviewing Major Programmes II and III was intergovernmental, and had needed to act transparently. He had renewed his instructions to the Assistant Directors-General that in such circumstances they were to include representatives of Member States. However, he could not ask Member States to attend internal meetings, which was essentially what the task forces were – the three organs needed to remain separate.

35.2 He fully agreed with the representative of Uganda that the mistakes of the past must not be repeated. In reply to the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, he recalled that the previous Assistant Director-General for Education had argued forcefully, and quite rightly, that more staff were needed, it was simply impossible to continue to cut staff further, in particular staff in the field. He could accept programme cuts if he must, because they could always be compensated for by extrabudgetary funding, but that was not possible for posts. So, although there were cuts in the Education Sector budget, posts would nevertheless be created at Headquarters and in the field.

36.1 **Mr Burnett** (Assistant Director-General for Education) said that as it was the first time that he was taking the floor in a Board meeting in his new capacity, he would take the opportunity to express his gratitude for the many words of congratulation he had received upon his appointment.

36.2 Education for all was the priority for the Education Sector, as indeed it had been his own personal priority throughout his career. The Dakar meeting of the EFA High-Level Group was the next step of many towards reaching the EFA goals, and it was fitting that it should take place in Africa, which was the greatest priority and where expectations were high. He would look carefully at assigning funds made available through the main lines of action. The precise amounts would become clearer when resources had been allocated and work plans developed. What was most important was to ensure that it all went to helping the 70 million children who were out of school, and the 800 million adults who were functionally illiterate.

37. **The Director-General** said that he would contemplate holding an information meeting on education for all earlier than usual, before the meeting of the EFA High-Level Group instead of after it, as that meeting was taking place later than usual, in mid-December.

38. **The Chairperson** thanked the Board Members for their pointed, direct and succinct contributions, and the Director-General and his team for the productive and useful question-and-answer session.

GENERAL MATTERS (*continued*)

Item 61: Thematic debate: Facing the multidisciplinary challenges of knowledge societies and global climate change: UNESCO's contribution to United Nations reform at the regional and country levels (*continued*) (177 EX/INF.6)

39. **Ms Mukherjee** (India) informed the Board that the Asia and the Pacific group had prepared a draft decision on item 61 which would be circulated without delay.

40. **The Secretary** said that it had been proposed that the draft decision prepared by the Asia and the Pacific group should be considered at the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions.

41. **The Chairperson** endorsed the proposal for the new draft decision on item 61 to be examined by the PX and FA Commissions at their joint meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

SEPTIÈME SÉANCE

Mercredi 10 octobre 2007 à 10 h 20

Président : M. Zhang

Announcement concerning the return of Singapore to UNESCO

1. **The Director-General** *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. It is my great pleasure and pride to announce the return of Singapore to UNESCO after 22 years of absence. As you know, in 1984 and 1985 the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Singapore left this Organization, arguing that they were disenchanted with the way it was managed at the time. Now they have all returned: the United Kingdom in 1997, the United States of America in 2003, and this week, on 8 October, Singapore. Singapore has enjoyed observer status since 2005, during which time it has participated in various UNESCO activities, encouraged by the trends of reform. We saw in London on Monday reaffirmation of this new trust when Singapore deposited its instrument of acceptance to become UNESCO's 193rd Member State. This marks a decisive step towards the universality that is UNESCO's great strength and social legitimacy. Every new accession serves to strengthen the bonds of multilateralism, opening the way for a more effective global response to the increasingly complex challenges of our time. Yesterday, I had the pleasure of receiving the new Permanent Delegate of Singapore to UNESCO, Ms Tan Lian Cho. On that occasion, I expressed my confidence that Singapore would make a rich and diverse contribution in all of UNESCO's areas of competence. Unfortunately, Ms Tan could not be with us today. However, I know you will join me in extending to her and to her delegation a very warm welcome. On 17 October, during the 34th session of the General Conference, the head of the Singapore delegation, Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister of State for Education and Manpower, will officially raise the flag of Singapore alongside those of UNESCO's other 192 Member States. Thank you very much.

2. **The Chairperson** said that the entire Executive Board was delighted at the very good news, and he extended a warm welcome on his and the Board's behalf to the Government and the people of Singapore on their return to the UNESCO fold. It was a further step towards the true universality of having every country belong to an organization whose 193-State membership now ranked as the joint largest of any United Nations specialized agency, alongside that of the World Health Organization. Singapore had never ceased believing in UNESCO's ideals of building peace in the minds of human beings through education, science, culture, communication and information. He looked forward to its participation in the deliberations of the forthcoming session of the General Conference.

3. **Mr Macedo Soares** (Brazil) said that his country welcomed Singapore very warmly on its return to UNESCO. As for the albeit neutral remark regarding the reason for the departure of Singapore, the United States of America and the United Kingdom some 20 years earlier, he reminded Members of the Board that the Organization was being managed at the time by an especially illustrious predecessor of the current Director-General, Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, an eminent African personality from Senegal, to whom he paid tribute.

4. **M. Yaï** (Bénin) accueille avec joie le retour de Singapour au sein de l'Organisation et loue l'action du

Directeur général, qui ne ménage aucun effort pour rendre à l'UNESCO sa dimension véritablement universelle. S'associant à la déclaration du représentant du Brésil, il rend hommage à M. Mbow et, sans vouloir revenir sur les raisons qui avaient pu inciter certains États membres à quitter l'UNESCO, se dit d'avis que la responsabilité éventuelle de ce départ devrait être imputée à l'ensemble de l'Organisation et non à celui qui la dirigeait à l'époque.

5. **El Sr. Michelini** (Uruguay), expresándose en nombre del grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, se suma a las manifestaciones de satisfacción por la reincorporación de Singapur a la UNESCO.

(5) **M. Michelini** (Uruguay) se joint, au nom du Groupe de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes, aux orateurs qui ont exprimé leur satisfaction du retour de Singapour à l'UNESCO.

6. **Mr Omolewa** (Nigeria) thanked Singapore for returning to UNESCO and helping fulfil its dream of being a genuinely universal institution. He congratulated the Director-General for his unwavering commitment to bringing the world together in the true spirit of dialogue of the founders in 1945. He further thanked the representative of Brazil for paying tribute to Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow who had been one of the Organization's most distinguished Directors-General, and who stood for everything one might expect from an institution like UNESCO. As for what had originally prompted the departure of Singapore, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, he said that the matter should be set aside until such time as the Organization had conducted the comprehensive research needed to learn the lessons and prevent history from repeating itself in the future.

7. **Ms Shi** (China) joined the previous speakers in welcoming Singapore back to the UNESCO fold, in paying tribute to the achievements of former Director-General Mr M'Bow, and in stressing the need to continue pursuing and showing respect for diversity and dialogue within the Organization.

8. **Ms Mukherjee** (India), speaking as Chairperson of the Asia and the Pacific group, said that she too was delighted at the return of Singapore to UNESCO, which made it even more of a truly international Organization. At the same time, she joined the representative of Brazil in paying tribute to Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, whom she had had the privilege of meeting when working as a junior secretary to the Permanent Delegate of India. She recalled how developing countries at the time had seen him as a great son of Africa, a man bringing vision and leadership to the Organization. Not everybody might have agreed with his style of work or his actions, but he had embodied the best traditions of UNESCO as an intellectual forum, tackling such key issues as media misrepresentations and what he saw as the need for a new world information and communication order underpinned by the findings of the MacBride report, *Many Voices, One World*.

9. **Mr Wirakartakusumah** (Indonesia) said that the return of Singapore meant that the entire Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was now in a position to participate fully in UNESCO. He congratulated all those that had played a part in bringing it back to the Organization, and joined the previous speakers in paying tribute to Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow.

10. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) said that he was delighted to see both UNESCO and the Asia and the Pacific group reinforced by the return of a country that could contribute

enormously to the fulfilment of the Organization's objectives. He congratulated the people of Singapore on what he described as the right decision, and thanked the Director-General for striving to ensure that an ever-increasing share of the world's population was represented at UNESCO. With respect to the former Director-General Mr M'Bow, he had had the honour and pleasure of working under him as a member of his staff. He admired him as a knowledgeable thinker, and was grateful to him for all that he had achieved for the Organization.

١١ رحبت السيدة بناني (المغرب) ترحيبا حارا بعودة سنغافورة إلى اليونسكو، وضمت صوتها إلى صوت من سبقوها في تهنئتها بعودتها إلى المنظمة. وقالت إن تهنئة سنغافورة تمثل، في الواقع، تهنئة لليونسكو كذلك، لأن انضمام عضو جديد أو عودة عضو من أعضاء المجتمع الدولي إلى المنظمة إنما يمثل عيدا لجميع الأعضاء. كما هنأت المدير العام وشكرته على الجهود التي بذلها في هذا الصدد. وضمت، من ناحية أخرى، صوتها إلى صوت الذين أشادوا بالمدير العام الأسبق لليونسكو، وذلك انطلاقا من انتمائها إلى أفريقيا، واستنادا إلى العطاء الجدير بالاحترام الذي قدمه إلى المنظمة خلال فترة إدارته لها.

(11) **Mme Bennani** (Maroc) se réjouit vivement du retour de Singapour à l'UNESCO, et se joint aux précédents orateurs pour féliciter cet État à cette occasion. De fait, les félicitations adressées à Singapour s'adressent aussi à l'UNESCO, car l'adhésion d'un nouveau membre ou le retour d'un membre de la communauté internationale à l'Organisation représente une fête pour tous les membres. Elle félicite également le Directeur général et le remercie des efforts qu'il a déployés à cet égard. Par ailleurs, en tant que fille de l'Afrique, elle se joint à ceux qui ont rendu hommage à l'ancien Directeur général de l'UNESCO pour ce qu'il a donné à l'Organisation - et qui mérite le respect - durant son mandat.

12. **M. Mboui** (Cameroun) se réjouit d'apprendre que Singapour va rejoindre la grande famille de l'UNESCO et tient à féliciter le Directeur général des efforts qu'il a déployés pour permettre ce retour. Faisant écho aux commentaires du représentant du Brésil, il s'associe, au nom du Groupe africain, à l'hommage rendu à M. Mbow et rappelle combien celui-ci a été une figure emblématique pour les intellectuels africains de la deuxième génération.

13. **M. Rahal** (Algérie) dit que, comme les orateurs qui l'ont précédé, il se réjouit de la décision de Singapour de réintégrer l'UNESCO car celle-ci ne peut accomplir valablement sa mission que si elle est une organisation réellement universelle. Il espère d'ailleurs que ce souci d'universalité amènera le Conseil exécutif à recommander à la Conférence générale d'accueillir en son sein le peuple palestinien, qui n'a toujours pas trouvé sa place dans le concert des nations. Sans vouloir rouvrir le débat sur les raisons qui ont pu motiver le départ de trois États membres, il souligne qu'une organisation aussi complexe que l'UNESCO ne pourra jamais prétendre à la perfection et que, malgré toute la bonne volonté de ceux qui la dirigent, elle prêtera toujours à la critique. Évoquant les liens d'amitié étroits qui l'unissent à M. Mbow, il tient à rappeler combien celui-ci s'était investi au service de l'Organisation.

14. **Mr Kondo** (Japan) enthusiastically welcomed the news that Singapore was rejoining UNESCO. He said that the return of Singapore, like that of the United States of America before it, had been due to their full recognition

and appreciation of the Director-General's commendably tireless ongoing efforts to reform the Organization, and was a visible reminder of the positive aspects of reform, which had tended to be obscured by a blinkered focus on problems and shortcomings.

15. **Ms Oliver** (United States of America) extended a very warm welcome to Singapore on behalf of Group I, and said that she looked forward greatly to working with that country. She congratulated the Director-General; knowing how hard he had worked to bring her own country back to UNESCO after a 19-year absence, she was certain that he must have worked equally hard to secure the return of Singapore. In addition, she reserved an especially warm welcome on behalf of the women ambassadors of UNESCO for the Permanent Delegate of Singapore, Ms Tan Lian Cho.

16. **Mr Lakatos** (Hungary) said that having witnessed many years previously, in a junior capacity, the regrettable events surrounding the withdrawal of certain Member States, he wished to endorse every word of the statement by the representative of Japan.

17. **Mr Fillis** (South Africa) congratulated Singapore on its return to the UNESCO global family, and echoed the sentiments expressed by the distinguished representatives paying tribute to a great son of Africa, Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow.

18. **M. Raoux-Cassin** (France) se félicite du retour de Singapour, rendu possible grâce aux efforts inlassables du Directeur général, et souligne qu'il appartient désormais à l'Organisation de démontrer, par ses résolutions, qu'elle a une portée véritablement universelle. Il rend lui aussi hommage au grand homme de savoir qu'est M. Mbow.

19. **Mr Al Khalifa** (Bahrain) welcomed the return of Singapore to UNESCO, and said that the presence of that fellow island State would render the Organization's deliberations all the richer.

20. **Mr Kusi-Achampong** (Ghana) (Vice-Chairperson for Africa) joined the earlier speakers in welcoming Singapore back to the UNESCO fold and in paying tribute to Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, who had done a great deal for the West Africa subregion as a minister of state and for UNESCO as a former Director-General. He commended the current Director-General on having continued his predecessor's good work, and on achieving the results reflected in the news he had just delivered to the Board.

21.1 **The Director-General** said that he had an enormous amount of respect for his predecessors, not least Mr M'Bow, with whom he had developed a personal friendship since he had taken office.

21.2 Poursuivant en français, le Directeur général insiste sur l'amitié et l'immense respect qu'il a pour M. Mbow et précise que les remarques qu'il a formulées ne visaient nullement celui-ci. Il rappelle qu'il a invité M. Mbow à l'UNESCO pour célébrer le 60^e anniversaire de l'Organisation, et qu'il a posé établir un panneau des photos des anciens Directeurs généraux dont celle des trois Directeurs généraux encore vivants - M. Mbow, M. Mayor et lui-même - à l'entrée de la Direction générale. Il invitera M. Mbow prochainement à visiter cette nouvelle installation.

22.1 **The Chairperson** assured the Board that all of the speakers' sincere tributes would be passed on to Mr M'Bow. He stressed the importance of recognizing and appreciating the work and vision of UNESCO's founders

and former Directors-General, Presidents of the General Conference and Chairpersons of the Board, and he thanked the current Director-General for his continuing efforts to reform and enhance the Organization. UNESCO's greatest strength and value stemmed, of course, from its endeavours to build peace in the minds of human beings. The key to that was unity, and he had been impressed and enlightened by the way in which Board Members had done their best to work together to make it more relevant, more visible and more capable of tackling the global challenges and fulfilling its core missions. Setting aside their inevitable differences of opinion, they had sought common ground in order to meet the expectations of the peoples of the world that really needed them; and their efforts were bearing fruit, as reflected in the appreciation of UNESCO expressed during his recent meetings with the African Union. He called on all to look to the future and to continue moving forward together at the 34th session of the General Conference and within the overall framework of the United Nations reform process, working as one to achieve consensus.

22.2 When the United Kingdom and the United States of America had returned to UNESCO, they had received a warm-hearted welcome. In that same spirit, he invited the Board to do likewise for its 193rd Member. Its representatives had yet to arrive, but the voice of the Board would travel across land and sea to the island State of Singapore on a warm round of applause.

(Applause)

Organization of work (continued)

23. **The Chairperson** informed the Board that the PX and FA Commissions had completed all but one of their respective agenda items for the joint report to be presented by their Chairpersons the following day. If he saw no objection he would take it that the Board agreed to allow the PX Commission to reconvene in order to conclude its deliberations on agenda item 71 "Creation of a network of national authorities to support migrants who are victims of discrimination and xenophobia" at a meeting to be held after that afternoon's plenary debate.

24. *It was so decided.*

25. **The Chairperson** said that the Chairpersons of the PX and FA Commissions had requested the Board's permission to reconvene in order to examine agenda item 17 "Report by the Director-General on the preparation of a draft declaration of principles relating to cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War" at a joint meeting to be held immediately after the PX Commission meeting on item 71. If he saw no objection he would take it that their request had met with the Board's approval.

26. *It was so decided.*

PRIVATE MEETINGS (continued)

Announcement concerning the private meeting held on Wednesday 10 October 2007

27. **The Secretary**, at the invitation of the Chairperson read out the following announcement:

"At the private meeting held today, the Executive Board considered item 32 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."

ADOPTION DES PROJETS DE DÉCISION RECOMMANDÉS AU CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF

Comité sur les conventions et recommandations (CR) : rapport et projets de décision recommandés au Conseil exécutif (177 EX/74)

Point 33 : Protocole instituant une Commission de conciliation et de bons offices chargée de rechercher la solution des différends qui naîtraient entre États parties à la Convention concernant la lutte contre la discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement : candidatures et rapport du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations à ce sujet (177 EX/33 et Add. et Corr.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 3 du document 177 EX/74

28. **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil) (Président du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations)
in extenso :

Monsieur le Président, s'agissant du point 33, relatif aux élections à la Commission de conciliation et de bons offices, le Comité a pris note de la seule candidature présentée, pour l'instant, par un État partie au protocole (le Portugal) pour les trois sièges vacants restant à pourvoir lors des élections qui auront lieu pendant la prochaine session de la Conférence générale. Dans sa décision, qui figure au paragraphe 3 de son rapport (document 177 EX/74), le Comité recommande au Conseil exécutif de transmettre cette candidature à la Conférence générale et prie le Directeur général de transmettre à celle-ci toute autre candidature qu'il pourrait recevoir avant l'ouverture de la 34^e session. Je vous remercie.

29. *Le projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 3 du document 177 EX/74 est adopté.*

Point 35 : Suivi de l'application des instruments normatifs de l'UNESCO (177 EX/35 Parties I et II)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 5 du document 177 EX/74

30.1 **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil) (Président du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations)
in extenso :

Monsieur le Président, le 28 septembre 2007, le Comité a examiné le point 35 de l'ordre du jour. Il a ainsi repris l'examen entrepris voici déjà quatre sessions sur le renforcement du premier volet du mandat du Comité, relatif à l'application des textes normatifs de l'UNESCO pour lesquels aucun mécanisme institutionnel spécifique n'est prévu. Ce faisant, les membres du Comité ont poursuivi les deux tâches que le Conseil lui avait confiées à sa 171^e session, à savoir : établir, à l'intention du Conseil, des propositions en vue de nouvelles procédures spécifiques pour le suivi de l'application des conventions et recommandations de

l'UNESCO pour lesquelles aucun mécanisme institutionnel spécifique n'est prévu, l'examen des rapports des États ayant été confié au Comité CR, et élaborer un modèle de principes directeurs harmonisés pour les conventions dont le suivi est assuré par le Comité CR.

30.2 En ce qui concerne la première tâche, le Comité était saisi du document 177 EX/35 Partie I, dans lequel le Secrétariat, conformément à la décision prise par le Conseil à sa dernière session, avait révisé sa proposition de procédure par étapes pour le suivi des conventions et des recommandations aux fins duquel il n'a été prévu aucun mécanisme spécifique. Après avoir amendé cette proposition de procédure par étapes, les membres du Comité ont recommandé au Conseil le projet de décision portant sur cette Partie I du document relatif au point 35, qui figure au paragraphe 5 du document 177 EX/74, suivi de son annexe exposant cette nouvelle procédure.

31. *Le projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 5 du document 177 EX/74 est adopté.*

32. **The Director-General** expressed his profound appreciation of the work of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) and the Board in strengthening the Organization's monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO Conventions and recommendations. The adoption of the new specific multistage procedure had been a milestone in that regard. The next step would be to boost the capacity of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs (LA), with the \$631 million budget ceiling scenario helping create the required new posts.

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 6 du document 177 EX/74

33.1 **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil) (Président du Comité sur les conventions et les recommandations)
in extenso :

En ce qui concerne la Partie II du document 177 EX/35, relatif au point 35, le Comité a repris à cette session son examen des propositions du Secrétariat concernant les principes directeurs qui seront envoyés aux États pour les guider dans la rédaction de leur rapport. À l'issue du débat et après avoir discuté des propositions élaborées par le Secrétariat, les membres du Comité ont adopté un cadre de principes directeurs qui sera dorénavant utilisé pour les trois conventions suivantes : la Convention concernant la lutte contre la discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement de 1960, la Convention concernant les mesures à prendre pour interdire et empêcher l'importation, l'exportation et le transfert de propriété illicites des biens culturels de 1970 et la Convention sur l'enseignement technique et professionnel de 1989.

33.2 La décision proposée par le Comité figure au paragraphe 6 du document 177 EX/74, suivie de son annexe contenant le cadre de principes directeurs. Je me permets, Monsieur le Président, de féliciter les membres du Comité, ainsi que le Conseil exécutif, d'avoir réussi dans ces conditions - car nous allons adopter, je l'espère, le projet de décision pertinent - à mener à bien la tâche que leur avait confiée la Conférence générale. Voilà maintenant deux ans que nous travaillons sur les deux volets de notre mandat, à savoir les communications reçues des États membres et le suivi des conventions et recommandations, et je pense que le Conseil exécutif a accompli là un pas en avant, sous votre présidence, pendant le présent exercice biennal. Nous venons d'entendre Monsieur le Directeur général, qui nous a assuré que le Secrétariat s'emploierait à mettre en œuvre la décision que nous venons d'adopter

concernant la Partie I du document 177 EX/35 et celle que nous allons, je l'espère, adopter concernant sa Partie II. Je vous remercie.

34. *Le projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 6 du document 177 EX/74 est adopté.*

Point 36 : Résultats de la septième Consultation des États membres sur l'application de la Convention et de la Recommandation concernant la lutte contre la discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement (1960) (177 EX/36)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 8 du document 177 EX/74

35.1 **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil) (Président du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations)
in extenso :

Le Comité a examiné ce point, qui traite des résultats de la septième Consultation des États membres sur l'application de la Convention et de la Recommandation concernant la lutte contre la discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement (1960). Comme vous le savez, ces textes ont pour objet non seulement d'éliminer la discrimination dans l'éducation, mais aussi de faire adopter des mesures visant à promouvoir l'égalité des chances et de traitement dans ce domaine ainsi que d'assurer à tous l'accès à un enseignement de qualité.

35.2 Le représentant du Secteur de l'éducation, M. Kishore Singh, a indiqué que la présentation analytique des 51 rapports reçus des États membres était le résultat d'une consultation préparée sur la base des principes de la Convention de 1960 (c'est-à-dire la non-discrimination et l'égalité des chances en matière d'éducation) et reflétait les défis permanents auxquels étaient confrontés les États membres pour donner plein effet à la Convention et à la Recommandation concernant la lutte contre la discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement.

35.3 Le débat au sein du Comité a été riche et interactif. Les États membres ont marqué leur appréciation de cette présentation analytique et souligné l'importance de la Convention et de l'application de ses principes. Les membres du Comité ont insisté sur la nécessité que les États membres, même s'ils ne sont pas parties à la Convention, veillent à ce que leur appareil législatif et leur système éducatif en respectent les dispositions. Au cours des discussions, les membres du Comité ont apporté une attention toute particulière à l'action normative de l'UNESCO, qui était conforme aux obligations découlant de la Convention de 1960. Quelques États membres ont exprimé leur intention de ratifier la Convention en raison de sa portée.

35.4 Des inquiétudes ont été exprimées quant au faible taux de réponse des États. Le débat a abordé un grand nombre de questions concernant la procédure de consultation, la nécessité d'accroître l'efficacité des mécanismes de suivi, l'assistance technique à fournir pour l'établissement des rapports et le suivi à donner à la septième Consultation. Ont été évoquées aussi d'autres questions relatives à la périodicité des rapports et leur synchronisation avec la consultation des États membres en ce qui concerne la mise en œuvre des conventions et des recommandations dans le domaine de l'enseignement.

35.5 Plusieurs autres thèmes ont été abordés au cours des débats, notamment la lutte contre l'exclusion sociale, la promotion de l'éducation interculturelle, la

scolarisation des filles, la formation des enseignants, les droits des minorités et l'éducation des enfants roms. Des opinions divergentes ont été exprimées quant aux normes à atteindre, aux statistiques utilisées dans les rapports et aux indicateurs permettant d'évaluer l'avancement de la mise en œuvre de la Convention.

35.6 Le débat a aussi couvert les actions prévues aux fins de l'organisation, dans le cadre de la 34^e session de la Conférence générale, d'une réunion des États parties à la Convention à laquelle participeront également les autres États membres de l'Organisation. Les membres du Comité ont souligné l'importance de cette réunion qui sera l'occasion pour les États membres d'échanger données d'expérience et approches nationales.

35.7 Le texte de la décision proposée par le Comité concernant ce point 36 figure au paragraphe 8 du document 177 EX/74.

36. **Mr Lugujo** (Uganda) said that the figure of 94 Member States having ratified the Convention in 47 years was too broad to help identify the real problems at the local level, and that those problems would become clear only if the report detailed the number that had ratified on a region-by-region basis.

37. **The Chairperson** thanked the representative of Uganda for his suggestion and said that in the absence of any further comments he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 8 of document 177 EX/74.

38. *It was so decided.*

Point 37 : Rapport des 5^e et 6^e sessions du Groupe conjoint d'experts UNESCO (CR)/ECOSOC (CESCR) sur le suivi du droit à l'éducation (novembre 2006 et mai 2007) (177 EX/37)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 11 du document 177 EX/74

39.1 **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil) (Président du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations)
in extenso :

Le Comité a examiné le point 37, concernant le rapport des cinquième et sixième réunions du Groupe conjoint d'experts UNESCO (CR)/ECOSOC (CESCR) qui se sont tenues à Paris en novembre 2006 et en mai dernier à Genève. Ces réunions, qui avaient pour thème le droit à l'enseignement primaire gratuit pour tous, avaient abouti à des recommandations du Groupe conjoint.

39.2 L'Ambassadeur Ramalho Ortigão du Portugal, membre du Groupe conjoint d'experts et Président de la sixième réunion de ce Groupe, a exposé aux membres du Comité CR les grandes lignes de ce rapport et présenté les différentes recommandations du Groupe conjoint d'experts (reproduites au paragraphe 22 du document 177 EX/37). Sa présentation a été suivie par l'intervention du représentant du Bénin, l'Ambassadeur Yaï qui, en sa qualité de membre du Groupe conjoint d'experts, a rappelé l'importance des mesures que les États membres étaient invités à adopter en faveur de l'Éducation pour tous.

39.3 Les débats ont mis en relief la question de l'obligation pour les États d'universaliser l'accès à l'enseignement primaire gratuit. Les membres du Comité ont cependant insisté sur les difficultés rencontrées par certains États pour garantir la qualité de l'enseignement primaire compte tenu de leurs ressources limitées, tout en

soulignant que la coopération et l'assistance internationale étaient cruciales dans ce domaine. Ils ont accueilli positivement l'idée formulée au paragraphe 16 du document 177 EX/37 qui tend à modifier le Traité de l'OMPI sur le droit d'auteur (1996) afin de faciliter l'accès aux manuels scolaires et aux matériels d'apprentissage.

39.4 M. Kishore Singh, secrétaire du Groupe conjoint d'experts, a répondu aux questions du Comité et lui a fourni de nombreux éclaircissements. S'agissant de l'ensemble des recommandations faites par le Groupe conjoint d'experts, il a été rappelé que le Secrétariat devrait donner suite à celles d'entre elles qu'il considérerait les plus appropriées pour la mise en œuvre du droit à l'éducation.

39.5 Le projet de décision proposé par le Comité concernant ce point figure au paragraphe 11 de son rapport.

40. **Mr Peay** (United States of America) drew attention to a grammatical error in paragraph 6 of the draft decision, where the word "request" should be corrected to read "requests".

41. **The Chairperson** said that if he saw no objection he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 11 of document 177 EX/74.

42. *It was so decided.*

Point 38 : Examen par le Conseil exécutif du nouveau rapport des États membres et des autres États parties sur les mesures prises en application de la Convention concernant les mesures à prendre pour interdire et empêcher l'importation, l'exportation et le transfert de propriété illicites des biens culturels (1970) (177 EX/38)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 14 du document 177 EX/74

43.1 **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil) (Président du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations)
in extenso :

Le Comité a procédé à cet examen vendredi dernier 5 octobre en vue de la distribution - un peu tardive - du document pertinent. Après une présentation détaillée du document 177 EX/38 par la Sous-Directrice générale pour la culture, qui était secondée par M. Levi-Strauss, chef de l'unité compétente du Secrétariat, les membres du Comité se sont penchés sur le projet de décision, qui contenait également un projet de résolution à l'attention de la Conférence générale à sa 34^e session. À cet égard, les membres du Comité se sont interrogés sur les autres modalités d'examen des rapports, en dehors du cadre de la Conférence générale, mentionnées au paragraphe 5 du projet de résolution recommandé à la Conférence générale à sa prochaine session. La Sous-Directrice générale pour la culture a précisé que le Secrétariat désignait par là les travaux en cours du Comité CR sur le suivi de l'application des instruments normatifs de l'UNESCO, que nous avons examinés au titre du point 35, tout en estimant nécessaire qu'une réflexion plus approfondie soit engagée sur l'élaboration de modalités d'examen venant compléter les procédures existantes, pour ce qui est bien entendu de cette convention particulière.

43.2 Le projet de décision proposé par le Comité en ce qui concerne ce point figure au paragraphe 14 du document 177 EX/74 ; il comprend 12 paragraphes, dont le dernier - le douzième - contient le texte du projet de

résolution que le Conseil exécutif est invité à recommander à la Conférence générale.

44. *Le projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 14 du document 177 EX/74 est adopté.*

45. **The Chairperson** thanked the Chairperson of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) for the quality and clarity of his report, and he congratulated him on having skilfully and tactfully steered the CR Committee through the complex tasks entrusted to it over the previous two years under its dual mandate of monitoring the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments, and examining alleged violations of human rights in the Organization's fields of competence. He further thanked the Temporary Chairperson and Members of the CR Committee for their hard work and dedication, and the Legal Adviser and the Secretariat, led by the Director-General, for their valuable support.

46. **El Sr. Miranda Ortiz** (México), tras declarar que para su país ha sido un verdadero placer trabajar en el Comité CR bajo la presidencia del Sr. Macedo Soares, alaba la experiencia, paciencia y espíritu de conciliación de que éste ha hecho gala en su labor al frente del Comité. Elogia asimismo las cualidades del Asesor Jurídico y el trabajo del personal de la Secretaría, sin cuyas respectivas aportaciones el Comité no hubiera podido cumplir satisfactoriamente su cometido.

(46) **M. Miranda Ortiz** (Mexique), après avoir déclaré que travailler au Comité CR sous la présidence de M. Macedo Soares avait été un véritable plaisir pour son pays, loue l'expérience, la patience et l'esprit de conciliation dont ce dernier a fait preuve à la tête du Comité. Les qualités du Conseiller juridique et le travail du personnel du Secrétariat sont également dignes d'éloges ; sans les contributions de l'un et de l'autre, le Comité n'aurait pu remplir convenablement sa fonction.

47. **El Sr. Moscato** (Italia) suscribe las elogiosas palabras con que el representante de México se ha referido al Presidente del Comité CR, el Asesor Jurídico y la Secretaría. A su juicio, la labor del Comité CR reviste gran importancia porque toca a un aspecto central del mandato de la UNESCO, a saber, el respeto de la dignidad de las personas. Pero además es muy delicada desde el punto de vista jurídico, y en este sentido la sabiduría del Sr. Macedo Soares ha sido primordial para llegar a resultados que califica de muy satisfactorios.

(47) **M. Moscato** (Italie) approuve les propos élogieux tenus par le représentant du Mexique à l'endroit du Président du Comité CR, du Conseiller juridique et du Secrétariat. Le travail du Comité CR revêt à ses yeux une importance d'autant plus grande qu'il touche à un aspect central du mandat de l'UNESCO, à savoir le respect de la dignité des personnes. Ce travail est de surcroît très délicat d'un point de vue juridique ; aussi la sagesse de M. Macedo Soares a-t-elle été essentielle pour l'obtention de résultats que M. Moscato juge très satisfaisants.

48. **M. Janyška** (République tchèque) rend hommage au travail accompli par le Président du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations, M. Macedo Soares, et par le Conseiller juridique, M. Yusuf. La République tchèque considère que le Comité est une instance très importante de l'UNESCO car ses activités, qui ont trait à la défense des droits de l'homme, s'inscrivent dans le cadre de la mission la plus noble de l'Organisation.

49. **La Sra. Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala) se suma a las manifestaciones de agradecimiento por la labor del Sr. Macedo Soares, cuyo talante hizo del Comité CR un espacio privilegiado de aprendizaje y conciliación entre los países interesados y, desde luego, entre sus representantes. Felicita asimismo al Asesor Jurídico y la Secretaría, y en especial a los traductores, por la calidad de su trabajo. Tras alegrarse de que la UNESCO siga cumpliendo su misión, en particular en sus ámbitos de competencia, formula el deseo de que todos los países logren vivir en paz.

(49) **Mme Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala) se joint aux orateurs qui ont exprimé leur reconnaissance pour le travail de M. Macedo Soares, qui a su faire du Comité CR un espace privilégié d'apprentissage et de conciliation pour les pays concernés et, partant, pour leurs représentants. Elle félicite également le Conseiller juridique et le Secrétariat, et en particulier les traducteurs, de la qualité de leur travail. Après avoir constaté avec satisfaction que l'UNESCO continue de s'acquitter de sa mission, en particulier dans ses domaines de compétence, elle formule le vœu que tous les pays parviennent à vivre en paix.

50.1 **M. Yaï** (Bénin) s'associe aux orateurs qui l'ont précédé pour remercier le Président du Comité. Il souligne les efforts remarquables qu'a déployés M. Macedo Soares pour rétablir l'équilibre entre les deux fonctions du Comité, à savoir d'une part l'examen des communications relatives aux droits de l'homme et d'autre part le suivi des conventions et recommandations.

50.2 Il remercie par ailleurs le Secrétariat d'avoir mis des interprètes à la disposition des groupes de travail, évitant ainsi que leurs membres non anglophones se trouvent marginalisés lors de débats sur des décisions particulièrement délicates.

51. **M. Attar** (Algérie) loue l'exquise urbanité avec laquelle M. Macedo Soares a dirigé les travaux du Comité, surtout dans les cas épineux. L'autorité dont il a su faire preuve, sans jamais verser dans l'autoritarisme, a rendu possible de solides consensus.

52. **Ms Haile-Mikael** (Ethiopia) thanked the Chairperson of the CR Committee, the Legal Adviser, the Secretariat and the interpreters for their crucial contribution to the success of the Committee's report.

53. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan), speaking as the representative of a country that had suffered greatly from human rights violations, said that it had been an honour to have worked as a member of one of the Executive Board's most important committees, and he commended the intelligence, efficiency and kindness of the CR Committee's Chairperson and the Legal Adviser.

54. **La Sra. Bennani** (Marruecos) se suma a los parabienes dedicados al Presidente del Comité CR por la sabiduría y maestría con que ha sabido cumplir su delicada misión, que cobra aún más importancia en vísperas de la conmemoración del sexagésimo aniversario de la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos. El Sr. Macedo Soares ha obrado con inteligencia y eficacia para restablecer el equilibrio entre las dos funciones básicas del Comité CR, una de las cuales estaba poco menos que olvidada. Concluye felicitando también por su trabajo a la Secretaría y al Asesor Jurídico.

(54) **Mme Bennani** (Maroc) se joint aux félicitations adressées au Président du Comité CR pour la sagesse et la dextérité avec lesquelles il a su s'acquitter de sa délicate mission, qui revêt une

importance toute particulière à la veille de la célébration du soixantième anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme. M. Macedo Soares s'est employé avec intelligence et efficacité à rétablir l'équilibre entre les deux fonctions fondamentales du Comité CR, dont l'une était quasiment tombée dans l'oubli. Mme Bennani félicite également, pour conclure, le Secrétariat et le Conseiller juridique de leur travail.

55. **M. Johnson** (Togo) adresse à son tour ses félicitations au Président du Comité et à toute son équipe.

56. **Mr Peay** (United States of America) said that his delegation fully subscribed to all the statements of commendation voiced by other speakers.

57. **El Sr. Michelini** (Uruguay) declara que el grupo de América Latina y el Caribe se ha sentido muy bien representado por el Sr. Macedo Soares y suscribe las elogiosas palabras que le han dedicado los oradores precedentes.

(57) **M. Michelini** (Uruguay) déclare que le Groupe de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes s'est senti très bien représenté par M. Macedo Soares et approuve les paroles élogieuses que les précédents orateurs ont eues à son égard.

58. **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil) (Président du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations) remercie du fond du cœur les membres du Conseil qui ont eu des paroles généreuses à son endroit. Il adresse également ses remerciements au Directeur général et au Conseiller juridique, M. Yusuf, ainsi qu'aux membres du secrétariat du Comité, Mme Dupuy et ses collaborateurs, Mmes Cavicchioli, Muller et Hazboun et MM. Trasancos et Da Silva. Enfin, au nom du Comité, il remercie le Président du Conseil pour son appui et sa confiance.

59. **The Chairperson** reiterated his thanks to all involved in the crucially important work of the CR Committee and invited the Board to give them a round of applause.

(Applause)

Comité sur les organisations internationales non gouvernementales (ONG) : rapport et projet de décision recommandé au Conseil exécutif

Point 57 : Relations avec les organisations internationales non gouvernementales, les fondations et institutions similaires (177 EX/67)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 22 du document 177 EX/76

60.1 **M. Lakatos** (Hongrie) (Président du Comité sur les organisations non gouvernementales)
in extenso :

Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai eu le privilège et le plaisir de conduire les débats du Comité sur les organisations internationales non gouvernementales. Cette session était la dernière d'un biennium qui aura marqué, je l'espère, une avancée dans la coopération de l'UNESCO avec les ONG et surtout offert une visibilité accrue à ces partenaires de choix au sein de tous les secteurs de l'Organisation. La session s'est tenue sur deux jours, les 27 et 28 septembre 2007, au cours desquels nous avons examiné le point 57 : « Relations avec les organisations internationales non gouvernementales ».

60.2 Le Président de la Conférence générale, dans son intervention, a souligné le rôle essentiel des ONG

dans les domaines d'action prioritaires de l'Organisation ainsi que la nécessité de coopérer avec les partenaires non gouvernementaux pour la mise en œuvre des programmes de l'UNESCO. Le représentant du Directeur général, M. Ahmed Sayyad, ADG/ERC, a rappelé notre constante détermination à œuvrer en faveur d'une réelle culture de partenariat et a mentionné à cet effet la tenue d'un Forum international de la société civile à l'occasion de la Conférence générale. La participation à cette session des membres du Comité, de la Présidente du Comité de liaison ONG-UNESCO, des points focaux ONG de chaque secteur de programme et des représentants de plus de 60 ONG entretenant des relations officielles, alliée à la richesse des présentations auxquelles nous avons assisté, a souligné l'importance de la coopération avec ces partenaires et de notre processus de revitalisation.

60.3 Les débats se sont déroulés de façon ouverte et spontanée. Ils ont confirmé la volonté des États membres et du Secrétariat d'instaurer un dialogue régulier avec les ONG en vue d'une meilleure intégration aux activités de l'Organisation. Mais ils ont aussi montré la nécessité de la pleine participation de la société civile aussi bien à l'élaboration des programmes qu'à leur mise en œuvre. Enfin, Monsieur le Président, ces débats ont surtout montré que les ONG ont besoin de moyens pour nous aider à mener à bien nos actions, et que nous devons faire tout ce qui est en notre pouvoir pour accroître ces moyens, soutenir les activités des ONG et renforcer leurs capacités.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

60.4 Dear colleagues, following the opening, the Chief of the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations (ERC/RPO/NGO) and the Secretary of our Committee presented the assessment of and prospects for the work of the Committee on NGOs since the launching of the revitalization process. I hope that the Committee's future orientations will foster cooperation with NGOs in this new and innovative manner.

60.5 Mr Erdelen, Assistant Director-General (ADG) for Natural Sciences, and Mr Khan, ADG for Communication and Information, described the cooperation of their respective sectors with NGOs. Their presentations highlighted the magnitude and quality of cooperation with NGOs and reminded us of the significant contribution of NGOs to UNESCO's work.

60.6 The round table on the role and place of NGOs in developing countries, opened by the Deputy Director-General, Mr Barbosa, provided an opportunity to share the experiences of actors at different levels, and highlighted the importance and diversity of NGOs' action in developing countries. All of the participants and panellists in this discussion stressed the importance of intersectoral approaches in those countries and the role of NGOs in the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and UNESCO's overarching objectives. In this view, the role of National Commissions was identified as central. Capacity-building for local NGOs was also repeatedly identified as a necessity, together with the improvement of their means. In this view, one Member State proposed to establish a fund to support the activities and capacity-building of NGOs, which was generally welcomed by members of the Committee.

60.7 On the second day of the Committee, the panellists of the open forum on UNESCO's action in cooperation with NGOs in small island developing States (SIDS) presented their experiences and suggestions for good practice in the field. The forum highlighted the

important role of NGOs and the need to act collectively and efficiently, notably by engaging in discussions with governmental partners. It was also stressed that interactions between the public sector and NGOs in technical cooperation is very important to generate synergy and sustainability, and especially to impact public policies.

60.8 In the framework of the revitalization of the Committee, I invited the Permanent Delegates of Japan and Bulgaria, as well as a representative from an NGO, to present a brief account of the second ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which took place in Tokyo from 3 to 7 September. They put particular emphasis on the decisions taken with regard to the participation and involvement of NGOs in the implementation of the Convention. In the same context, the NGO focal point of the Education Sector and a representative from an NGO presented the outcomes of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA), entitled "Midway to 2015: Reaching the unreached", that took place in Dakar in September 2007.

60.9 On the afternoon of the second day, Mr Sayyad presented the part of document 177 EX/57 concerning the renewal for six years of UNESCO's relations with the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA). The Committee followed the recommendations of the Director-General on this matter.

60.10 Regarding the draft decision, the Committee adopted amendments to take into account the debates of this session, modifying paragraphs 4 and 8 and introducing new paragraphs 5 and 6. The amended draft decision that you will find in paragraph 22 of document 177 EX/76 is now submitted for your approval.

(The speaker continued in French)

60.11 Vous le voyez à travers ce rapport et les différents comptes rendus de réunions auxquelles sont associées les ONG, ce Comité revitalisé est devenu un espace de dialogue, mais également la vitrine du travail des ONG et de leur contribution à l'action de l'UNESCO. À maintes reprises, les États membres de ce Comité, avant sa revitalisation, avaient souhaité être informés des actions concrètes mises en œuvre par et avec les ONG afin de réaliser nos objectifs. À maintes reprises, il avait été reproché à ce Comité son caractère trop administratif et répétitif.

60.12 En organisant des débats thématiques auxquels ont participé des représentants des États membres du Comité, et parfois d'États non membres, des membres du Secrétariat au Siège et hors Siège, ainsi que des partenaires non gouvernementaux de l'UNESCO, nous avons ancré ce Comité dans la réalité et lui avons offert la possibilité de véritablement améliorer la coopération de l'UNESCO avec les ONG en offrant une visibilité nouvelle au travail de nos partenaires. Une visibilité nouvelle que tous les États membres ont encore récemment appelée de leurs vœux. En invitant les ADG des Secteurs, nous avons couvert, au cours des différentes sessions de ce

biennium, l'ensemble des secteurs de programme de l'UNESCO et démontré la vitalité et l'importance de la collaboration avec les acteurs non gouvernementaux.

60.13 Nous avons pu traiter de thèmes essentiels tels que l'Éducation pour tous, la participation des jeunes et des ONG de jeunesse aux travaux de l'UNESCO, la coopération régionale et la coopération avec les commissions nationales, un thème récurrent et central dans la mise en relief de l'un des avantages comparatifs de l'UNESCO : ses liens privilégiés avec la société civile.

60.14 Monsieur le Président, grâce à votre soutien, à celui de l'ensemble de nos collègues et aux représentants des ONG, ces sessions du Comité ont été un succès. Je tiens à vous en remercier tous et je souhaite sincèrement que cette dynamique nouvelle soit entretenue à l'avenir. Les nouveaux membres de ce Comité qui seront élus après la Conférence générale devront mesurer l'ampleur du défi qui se présente. J'espère qu'ils souhaiteront poursuivre les efforts engagés, afin de nous permettre à tous d'échanger, de discuter d'expériences diverses et de trouver ainsi, ensemble, les moyens de poursuivre la revitalisation de ce Comité mais aussi, et surtout, de la coopération de l'UNESCO avec les ONG. Nous améliorerons ainsi, j'en suis sûr, l'action de cette grande Organisation sur le terrain et sa visibilité auprès des populations.

60.15 J'espère ardemment que cette culture de partenariat, que nous avons appelée de nos vœux dans le Rapport sexennal et que l'on retrouve dans la prochaine Stratégie à moyen terme et dans le Projet de programme et de budget pour le prochain exercice biennal, ne sera bientôt plus un objectif à atteindre mais une réalité tangible pour l'UNESCO.

60.16 Avant de conclure, permettez-moi de remercier très chaleureusement les membres du Comité, les représentants de la communauté des ONG et le Comité de liaison ONG-UNESCO. Je souhaiterais aussi remercier les dirigeants et tous les membres du Secrétariat qui nous ont aidés pendant ces deux années. Je remercie le Directeur général, le Président du Conseil exécutif, le Président de la Conférence générale, les ADG ; je remercie particulièrement de leur concours M. Massalha, et naturellement, notre Secrétaire, Mme Marie-Ange Théobald ainsi que tous les membres de la section des ONG, les points focaux ONG des secteurs de programme. Enfin, je remercie les interprètes, les traducteurs et l'ensemble du personnel des services techniques qui, par leur travail, ont permis au Comité d'accomplir sa tâche dans des conditions optimales. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

61. **The Chairperson** thanked the Chairperson of the NGO Committee for his concise report and for the commendable work he and his Committee had undertaken over the previous two years. He proposed that the adoption of the draft decision contained in paragraph 22 of document 177 EX/76 should take place at the afternoon meeting.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

HUITIÈME SÉANCE

Mercredi 10 octobre 2007 à 15 h 15

Président : M. Zhang

Organization of work

1. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the Programme and External Relations Commission) informed the Board that the informal open-ended working group chaired by the Temporary Chairperson of the PX Commission, had arrived at a consensual text on item 17 “Report by the Director-General on the preparation of a draft declaration of principles relating to cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War”, which would considerably facilitate the work of the joint meeting of the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission and the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission scheduled after the PX Commission meeting that would follow the current plenary meeting. He was grateful for the constructive efforts of the working group and its Chairperson, and commended the spirit of consensus that had prevailed.

2. **The Chairperson** expressed his appreciation to the Chairperson of the PX Commission and its Temporary Chairperson on behalf of the Board and the Director-General. The agreed text would be considered at the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions to be held following the PX Commission meeting on item 71 “Creation of a network of national authorities to support migrants who are victims of discrimination and xenophobia”. He further thanked all Board Members for displaying a spirit of dialogue and mutual understanding, thus paving the way for a successful General Conference.

ADOPTION OF DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (*continued*)

Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO): report and draft decision recommended to the Executive Board (*continued*) (177 EX/76)

Item 57: Relations with international non-governmental organizations, foundations and similar institutions (177 EX/57)

Draft decision contained in paragraph 22 of document 177 EX/76 (*continued*)

3. **Mr Perera** (Sri Lanka) thanked the Chairperson of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) for his excellent report. He said that there was a need to examine more closely the activities of the various NGOs. In certain Member States, no account had been provided of those activities which, in some instances, had been called into question. Furthermore, the National Commissions in the various Member States were called upon to perform many activities, but not all the National Commissions had the capacity to support all the activities required, which included working with the various programme committees, monitoring standard-setting instruments, providing the link with the NGOs, and so forth. Taking into account the fact that not only UNESCO, but also many other United Nations agencies, collaborated closely with NGOs, and in the light of the provisions of the One United Nations reform, the reference to triangular cooperation between NGOs, field units and National Commissions in paragraph 5 of the draft decision contained in paragraph 22 of document 177 EX/76 was too restrictive. He therefore suggested deleting “triangular” and amending the rest of the

sentence to read “cooperation with field units, National Commissions for UNESCO and the United Nations Country Teams, including stronger networking mechanisms for proactive partnerships within the context of the United Nations reforms, enhanced decentralization and greater intersectorality”. In paragraph 6, he proposed that the words “together with the review of the methodologies for cooperation with NGOs and the United Nations Country Teams, in order to support the” be inserted between “a fund” and “the activities”.

4. **Mr Peay** (United States of America) said that the amendments proposed by Sri Lanka were acceptable to his delegation. Firmly endorsing the activities performed by NGOs in support of the work of UNESCO, the United States of America heartily commended the Chairperson of the NGO Committee on his devotion to ensuring a proper role for NGOs in the work of the Organization. Referring to paragraph 4 of the draft decision, he considered inappropriate the word “associating”, which he suggested replacing with “involving”.

5. **La Sra. López** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela) agradece al Sr. Lakatos, así como a todo su equipo, el extraordinario impulso que ha dado, con su presidencia, al Comité de las ONG. Apoya la modificación propuesta por el representante de Sri Lanka, respecto a la que hace, no obstante, una precisión: su Gobierno considera que las ONG deben surgir desde la base de la comunidad y en función de sus necesidades y, como instancias legítimas de la organización de los pueblos, contribuir a los objetivos de democratización y “desconcentración” de la gestión pública. Ahora bien, la UNESCO debería aprovechar en mayor medida la extraordinaria labor de otras entidades con las que colabora, como las comisiones nacionales, las Escuelas Asociadas y las Cátedras UNESCO.

(5) **Ms López** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) thanked Mr Lakatos and his entire team for the significant impetus given to the NGO Committee under his chairmanship. While supporting the amendment proposed by the representative of Sri Lanka, she drew attention to her government’s view that NGOs should be grassroots entities serving the needs of the community and, as legitimate bodies set up by the peoples, helping to democratize and “deconcentrate” the management of public affairs. However, UNESCO should take more advantage of the remarkable work of the other bodies with which it collaborated, such as the National Commissions, Associated Schools and UNESCO Chairs.

6. **Ms Vatsyayan** (India), appealing for comments of a general nature to be held until after the Board had finished amending the draft decision, said that she endorsed the amendments proposed by the United States of America and Sri Lanka. With regard to paragraph 7 of the draft decision, she suggested that “genuine” be deleted, since it implied the existence of a non-genuine culture.

7. **The Director-General** said that if the Board were to accept the amendment proposed by Sri Lanka regarding paragraph 6, to which he had no objection, more time would be required for the preparation of the document by the Secretariat, to allow for the additional consultations with the United Nations Country Teams. Accordingly, he proposed replacing the “179th session” of the Board with the “180th session”.

8. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) seconded the proposals made by the representative of Sri Lanka and, understanding the concerns expressed by the Director-

General, agreed with his suggestion to replace the “179th session” with the “180th session”.

9. **Mr Lakatos** (Hungary) (Chairperson of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations) recalled that he had invited Board Members, including those not represented on the NGO Committee, to take part in its work, in view of the importance of the items addressed at the thematic debate, which included cooperation with NGOs in the developing countries. The NGO Committee meeting held on the first day had been attended by 179 participants, and he expressed his appreciation to the representative of Sri Lanka and the Director-General for showing a spirit of compromise while exercising caution in the conduct of the debate. The revitalization of the work of the Committee had begun two years earlier, and much work remained to be done over the next biennium. Particularly commending the amendments to the draft decision proposed by the representatives of the United States of America and India, he also congratulated the representative of Sri Lanka for his valuable contribution, and hoped that his delegation would join the Committee in future, so that he might also participate in the preliminary discussions.

10. **The Secretary** said that the amendments proposed to the draft decision were the following: in paragraph 4, “associating” would be replaced by “involving”; in paragraph 5, “triangular” would be deleted, and the rest of the sentence would read “cooperation with field units, National Commissions for UNESCO, and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) including stronger networking mechanisms for proactive partnerships within the context of United Nations reform, enhanced decentralization and greater intersectorality”; in paragraph 6, “179th session” would be replaced by “180th session”, and “establishment of a fund” would be followed by the words “together with the review of the methodologies for cooperation with NGOs and United Nations Country Teams, in order to support the activities and build the capacities of NGOs in developing countries”; and in paragraph 7, “genuine” would be deleted.

11. **The Chairperson** took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 22 of document 177 EX/76, as amended.

12. *It was so decided.*

13. **Mr Perera** (Sri Lanka) welcomed the invitation of the Chairperson of the NGO Committee to join the Committee, and said that he appreciated the Committee’s excellent work.

14. **The Chairperson** congratulated the Chairperson of the NGO Committee, its Temporary Chairperson and all the members of the Committee on their commendable work. NGOs played a crucial role in enhancing the visibility of the Organization and, through his innovative approach over the previous two years, despite limited resources, the Chairperson of the NGO Committee had successfully revitalized the Committee, making it a real forum for exchange, ensuring that the voices of civil society were heard, and strengthening the culture of partnership.

15. **Ms Vatsyayan** (India) expressed her appreciation to the Chairperson and members of the Committee for their very sensitive handling of the complex network of NGOs and the revitalization of the Committee. She stressed the important role of NGOs as a bridge between the Executive Board, the Secretariat and the programme sectors. The achievements of NGOs should be considered in relation to the various disciplines, rather

than in relation to the developed world versus the developing world, since they could cut across social, economic or political divisions and address problems relating to the environment, sustainable development, education and the intangible heritage. She also highlighted the potential for NGOs to act as bridges of communication between government and grassroots civil society. That was essential, for instance, in the context of education for all, especially in the non-formal sector, and of the prevention of the illicit export of cultural property, to ensure the continuity of the intangible heritage. She seconded the call for more regular reporting of the activities of NGOs, for example, through the *UNESCO Courier*.

16. **Mr Omolewa** commended the Chairperson of the Committee on his excellent report, and thanked the Committee for ensuring that the NGO community was effectively represented at UNESCO, in view of its essential role in national development. That innovative approach, based on the principles of inclusion and partnership, would further promote the work of the Organization. The current status of the Committee – which had previously been threatened with extinction – was testimony to the able leadership of its Chairperson.

17. **El Sr. Michelini** (Uruguay) expresa el reconocimiento del Uruguay al Presidente del Comité de las ONG por el importante papel que ha desempeñado en su revitalización y se muestra convencido de que ese agradecimiento es compartido por todos los miembros del GRULAC.

(17) **Mr Michelini** (Uruguay) expressed the appreciation of Uruguay to the Chairperson of the NGO Committee for the important part he had played in revitalizing the Committee and was convinced that much gratitude was shared by all members of the Latin America and the Caribbean group.

18. **Mr Kondo** (Japan) said that he had been invited to the NGO Committee to share with its members the outcome of the second ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Tokyo, which he had had the privilege of chairing, although Japan was not one of its members. Convinced of the importance of the horizontal network of experts and individuals in managing the intangible heritage of the world, he endorsed the comments made by the representative of India in that respect. He expressed his admiration for the remarkable stewardship of the Chairperson of the NGO Committee and his dedication to enhancing cooperation with NGOs.

19. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) said that both international and national NGOs played a tremendous role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and had been fully involved in the social, economic and political life of Afghanistan over the past five years, through their participation, *inter alia*, in the development of the new Constitution. Moreover, NGOs had contributed significantly to achieving the mission of UNESCO since its foundation. In his capacity as Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China, he had had the opportunity to participate in the work of the Committee, and had thus been able to emphasize the role of NGOs as an effective bridge between government officials and civil society, and to draw attention to ways in which they could contribute to fruitful action within the context of South-South and South-North cooperation.

20. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) said that although Norway was not a member of the NGO Committee, he had followed its work closely, and was indebted to the

Chairperson of the Committee for his excellent work to revitalize cooperation with NGOs.

21.1 **Г-н Титков** (Российская Федерация) благодарит Председателя и отмечает, что делегация Российской Федерации приветствует усилия Комитета по неправительственным организациям, возглавляемого уважаемым представителем Венгрии г-н Локатошем, по совершенствованию методов работы Комитета в целях активизации и повышения качества диалога между государствами-членами, неправительственными организациями и Секретариатом ЮНЕСКО. Он подчеркивает, что другого альтернативного пути у ЮНЕСКО нет, учитывая растущую роль международных неправительственных организаций и других институтов гражданского общества в решении современных мировых проблем, в том числе в деле достижения всеобъемлющих целей Организации. Оратор обращает внимание на важность улучшения коммуникации и обмена информацией, в частности о тех НПО, с которыми ЮНЕСКО поддерживает официальные отношения и, особенно, тех, с которыми планирует установить такие отношения, в том числе с указанием стран, где эти организации имеют свои филиалы и представительства.

21.2 Российская Федерация полностью разделяет мнение о необходимости сделать особый акцент на развитии сотрудничества с НПО развивающихся стран, но при этом хотела бы отметить и необходимость не забывать неправительственные организации, работающие в странах с переходной экономикой, в том числе в тех государствах, которые ранее входили в состав Советского Союза. И те, и другие имеют, в общем-то, схожие проблемы, и те, и другие нуждаются в содействии со стороны международного сообщества в их становлении и укреплении и в поддержке их стремления к развитию партнерского сотрудничества с ЮНЕСКО. Оратор подчеркивает, что необходимо воздерживаться от формалистского подхода к оценке деятельности НПО как развивающихся стран, так и НПО, действующих в государствах с переходной экономикой; необходимо воздерживаться от применения к ним излишне завышенных требований при принятии решений по вопросам установления с ними официальных отношений, в том числе консультативных.

(21.1) **Mr Titkov** (Russian Federation) thanked the Chairperson and said that the delegation of the Russian Federation welcomed the efforts of the NGO Committee, under the leadership of the distinguished representative of Hungary, Mr Lakatos, to improve the working methods of the Committee in order to encourage and improve the quality of the dialogue between Member States, non-governmental organizations and the UNESCO Secretariat. There was no alternative path for UNESCO, given the growing role of international non-governmental organizations and other institutions of civil society in solving modern global problems, including the attainment of the Organization's wide-ranging objectives. He drew attention to the importance of improving communication and the exchange of information, in particular about those NGOs with which UNESCO maintained formal relations, and especially those with which it was planned to establish such relations, indicating the countries where those organizations had branches and representatives.

(21.2) The Russian Federation fully shared the view that there was a need to emphasize the development of cooperation with NGOs from developing countries, but wished nevertheless to point also to the need not to forget non-governmental organizations working in countries with economies in transition, including in those States that had previously been part of the Soviet Union. They all had, generally speaking, similar problems, and they all needed assistance from the international community in establishing and strengthening themselves in support of their aspirations to develop cooperation as partners with UNESCO. It was essential to refrain from a formalistic approach to assessing the action of NGOs from developing countries and those working in States with transitional economies; it was essential to refrain from making unrealistically high demands of them when taking decisions as to whether to admit them to formal relations, including consultative relations.

22. **Ms Ali** (Pakistan) commended the leadership of the Chairperson of the NGO Committee and the substantive work of the Committee. NGOs played a particularly significant role in developing countries, and expanding cooperation with civil society and improving capacity-building of NGOs was central to UNESCO's work. NGOs played a major role in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, in working for peace, raising awareness of gender issues and human rights, providing advocacy for protection of fundamental human rights, and in the area of culture. In many developing countries where the state system was too weak to deliver the needs of the population, NGOs played a crucial role, by providing an alternative view, innovative approaches and cost-effective delivery. They also acted as watchdogs for the people on public policy and the implementation of legislation and international conventions and covenants. Not only international NGOs, but also national NGOs, deeply rooted in indigenous communities, should be involved in UNESCO's programmes. Her delegation welcomed the proposal to add a second day of work for the Committee, and hoped that its contribution would increasingly become an integral part of the Organization's agenda.

23. **Mme Meziani** (Maroc) souhaite féliciter M. Lakatos qui, en dynamisant le Comité dont il avait la charge et en associant à ses travaux des représentants des ONG, a ouvert des perspectives très prometteuses.

24. **Mme Medegan** (Bénin) loue les efforts déployés par M. Lakatos pour instaurer durablement une culture de la coopération avec les ONG et la société civile, qui est sans doute ce qui fait le plus défaut dans les efforts de l'UNESCO pour associer les États membres à la mise en œuvre du programme. Le Bénin lui sait gré de son souci d'atteindre ceux qui sont hors de portée.

25. **Mr Perera** (Sri Lanka) suggested that a letter should be sent to all the Member States commending the excellent work of the Chairperson of the NGO Committee and its members.

26. **The Chairperson** said that the Board would give serious consideration to that proposal which, provided it were not faced with any objections by Member States, would be taken up.

27. **The Director-General** joined the Chairperson and Members of the Board in paying tribute to the Chairperson of the NGO Committee and all its members for revitalizing the Committee. He congratulated Mr Lakatos on the series of important meetings he had

held with NGOs and members of civil society, which had contributed to revitalizing UNESCO's relationship with NGOs and civil society, and had had a positive impact on the workshops, conferences and other concrete activities in all of UNESCO's fields of competence. A series of regional meetings had been held, for instance, on literacy, in which NGOs had played a crucial, active role. The importance of NGOs in the area of the cultural heritage had also been rightly emphasized. The revitalized relationship with NGOs must continue to be reflected in a concrete way, and the Secretariat would seriously endeavour to do so. In reference to the draft decision just adopted, he was particularly grateful to the Board for approving his recommendation in paragraph 9 to renew, for the next six years, formal associate relations with the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA). Regrettably, WFUCA had split into two groups, as a result of which their official relationship with the Organization had been suspended in the past four years. Significant efforts to reunite the Federation having proved successful, the time was now appropriate to renew that relationship, taking into account the essential role of the network of over 4,000 UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations throughout the world.

28. **The Chairperson** commended the Director-General's commitment to maintaining the revitalized relationship with NGOs and his successful efforts to reunite WFUCA. As non-governmental bodies representing civil society, NGOs were not always provided with sufficient resources and support, therefore the constructive suggestions made by Member States were highly appreciated. He reiterated the Board's gratitude for the work achieved by the Chairperson and members of the NGO Committee.

(Applause)

Comité spécial (SP) : rapport et projets de décision recommandés au Conseil exécutif (177 EX/75)

Point 31 : Suivi de la résolution 33 C/92 concernant les relations entre les trois organes de l'UNESCO (177 EX/31 Rev.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 3 du document 177 EX/75

29.1 **Mme Hanna-Ei-Daher** (Liban) (Présidente du Comité spécial) *in extenso* :

Je voudrais tout d'abord souhaiter la bienvenue et adresser mes vœux de succès à Singapour et remercier le Directeur général pour les efforts incessants qu'il déploie afin d'accroître la visibilité et l'universalité de cette Organisation qui nous est chère.

(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)

29.2 This being said, allow me, Mr Chairperson, dear colleagues, to tell you that I have the honour to report on the very active and rich meetings of the Special Committee during this session of the Executive Board. They were held as follows: Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 September 2007 (all-day), Friday 28 September 2007 (afternoon), and Friday 5 October 2007 (lunch time). There were two agenda items on the timetable of work which, with your permission, Chairperson, I would like to present separately, namely item **31** "Follow-up to 33 C/Resolution 92 concerning relations between the three organs of UNESCO" (177 EX/31) and item **46** "Report by the Executive Board on its own activities in 2006-2007, including its methods of work" (177 EX/46 Part I).

29.3 Generally speaking, members of the Special Committee plus some 20 observers were present at the meetings, and participated in the debates. Pursuant to Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Committee elected the very able Ms Elizabeth Morris of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as its Temporary Chairperson, and the distinguished representative of Uganda, Professor Eriabu Lugujjo was unanimously elected Temporary Chair for the afternoon meeting of Friday 28 September 2007. The Director-General was represented by the Secretary of the Executive Board, Mr Parsuramen, in addition to the Secretary of the General Conference, Mr Millward, the Director of the Office of the Director-General (ODG), Ms Longworth, the Director of the Office of Internal Oversight (IOS), Mr Parsons, the Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), Mr Hans d'Orville and the Legal Adviser, Mr Yusuf, who were all available to answer questions on various issues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their presence (often), and their support (always).

29.4 As for item **31** "Follow-up to 33 C/Resolution 92 concerning relations between the three organs of UNESCO" (177 EX/31), I would like to remind you that I had to remind the members that the Special Committee would have to complete its work for the biennium in examining recommendation 8, followed by a review of the report on all the recommendations from the list given in 33 C/Resolution 92 pertaining to the Executive Board, namely: recommendations 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 22. I then invited the Secretary of the Executive Board (representing the Director-General) to introduce the item. The Secretary of the Executive Board noted that 33 C/Resolution 92 concerning the relations between the three organs of UNESCO contained several recommendations. Recommendations 2 to 25 were examined during the course of the biennium by the working group set up by the President of the General Conference, and by the Special Committee. The tasks of these two groups were to examine the issues pertaining to the implementation of the said recommendations by the respective parties, namely, the General Conference, the Executive Board, and the Director-General. The various recommendations have been implemented to various degrees in the last 21 months, and document 177 EX/31 reports on the status of implementation. In addition to document 177 EX/31, he noted that the Special Committee would need to make reference to document 34 C/19, the report of the President of the General Conference concerning the recommendations contained in 33 C/Resolution 92, particularly those that have been implemented by the General Conference. Finally, he indicated that document 34 C/19 was, in fact, a combined report on the implementation of 33 C/Resolution 92 by the General Conference, the Executive Board, and the Director-General, illustrating that the three organs were indeed "working together".

29.5 As for the Special Committee, I would like to remind you of the main issues, especially those concerning item **31**, recommendation 8. If you allow me, I will not read out the whole recommendation because it would be too long; I will just point out the main decision. In recommendation 8, if I may remind you, the General Conference "Decides that UNESCO should use its convening power better in order to make the General Conference a more interesting meeting place, and be better suited to allow new inputs to its programmes, for instance through the organization of thematic debates" and "Also decides that the general policy debate should be organized differently (...) using innovative means. (...) During the General Conference, one or several ministerial

round tables could continue to be held; furthermore, other innovative, interactive discussions could be held with a view to promoting 'real' dialogue/networking among Member States." The debate on recommendation 8 brought out the following points: better networking/dialogue opportunities are being organized notably through experimentation with interactive sessions and side events in the framework of the official exhibition. With regard to making the General Conference a more interesting meeting place in the future, while continuing to focus all discussions throughout the General Conference on the key priority areas of the Organization, the following should be taken into account: (1) ensure that General Conference activities focus on policy-relevant debates, thus enabling better decision-making; (2) ensure earlier involvement of the Executive Board with a view to the preparation of the ministerial round tables in order to receive Member States' guidance; (3) decide on possible topics for thematic debates after discussion in the Executive Board and possibly use publication of relevant policy reports as the basis for discussion (such as the *EFA Global Monitoring Report* and the *UNESCO World Report*); in the future: preparation of the Round Table might be improved by: (a) further and earlier consultation among Member States on the themes; and (b) providing timely background material, including making the list of participants available earlier.

29.6 Having worked through the biennium on the 13 recommendations contained in 33 C/Resolution 92 and pertaining to the work of the Executive Board, allow me to report briefly on them. In recommendation 6, the General Conference "*Decides*", in short, "that guidelines for new simplified criteria for the submission of draft resolutions to the General Conference relating to the C/5 document should be recommended by the Executive Board for the development of criteria by the Legal Committee of the General Conference". Members offered no additional comments on this recommendation, and noted that the status of implementation reached after the 176th session of the Executive Board reflects the current situation, namely that by 176 EX/Decision 35, the Executive Board decided to recommend to the General Conference (in line with the contents of the report of the President of the General Conference on this recommendation) to maintain the current criteria for the 34th session of the General Conference.

29.7 Recommendation 7: "Consistent with the relevant Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, [the General Conference] *decides* on reducing the number of agenda items for the General Conference with a view to focusing discussions on the key priorities of the Organization". Debate on this issue did not result in a formal recommendation. It emerged that the number of items in the agenda of the General Conference is in part difficult to reduce because of statutory requirements relating to its role as the supreme governing body, and the sovereign right of Member States to introduce and discuss items on the agenda of the General Conference as they wish.

29.8 In recommendation 10, the General Conference "*Decides* that the functioning of the commissions and committees of the General Conference should be made more flexible with a view to ensuring more dialogue, (...) as well as the incorporation of the results of such debates into the C/4 and C/5 documents". It "*Requests* that the Executive Board, in its preparation of the agenda for the General Conference, (...) apply a more innovative approach". It was noted that the Executive Board is taking this recommendation into consideration in the preparation

of the agenda and timetable of work of the General Conference. Further details are given in the report by the President of the General Conference concerning this recommendation.

29.9 In recommendation 13, the General Conference "*Decides* that there should be improved reporting from the Executive Board to the General Conference on programme implementation in accordance with Article V.6(b) of UNESCO's Constitution, including the Board's evaluation of the individual programmes, and their possible discontinuation; *Further decides* that this reporting should address the work, role, functioning and relevance of UNESCO's category 1 institutes and of its various intergovernmental programmes". The Special Committee noted that, fully aware of the linkages between 33 C/Resolution 92, recommendation 13 and 33 C/Resolution 78 to improve the reporting of the Executive Board to the General Conference, the Board had undertaken for the first time to prepare a report on the implementation of the Programme and Budget. This first report focuses on the format and type of information needed for the Executive Board to fully carry out its assessments. This report also includes concrete recommendations in order to fulfil recommendation 13 for the 35th session of the General Conference. In preparation of the report, the Executive Board analysed the current methods of results reporting in UNESCO, and noticed both improvements as well as ongoing shortcomings during the 2006-2007 biennium.

29.10 In recommendation 14, "Consistent with the relevant Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, [the General Conference] *recommends* that the number of agenda items of the Executive Board be reduced, and the decision-making process be enhanced; *Also recommends* that an increasing number of agenda items be identified for 'taking note' only by the Executive Board; *Furthermore recommends* that detailed annotations be provided for each agenda item in order to facilitate debate and decision-making in the Board". The following were highlighted: (i) the number of agenda items is still increasing; (ii) with regard to the issue of "taking note only", the Bureau, at the 175th session of the Executive Board, identified five items for which it recommended adoption of a decision without discussion, in conformity with Article 14, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure. It was stressed that "without discussion" is a more appropriate term than "taking note". During the 176th session, the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission considered five items without debate (except for the proposed decision), and the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commission examined one item without debate; (iii) detailed annotations are already provided since the 174th session of the Executive Board, and this practice will continue. Rule 14 is considered as being sufficient and there is no need for it to be amended.

29.11 In recommendation 15, the General Conference "*Recommends* that the Executive Board consider that the general debate on the Director-General's report on programme implementation be reinforced by interactive sessions of dialogue among Members of the Board and the Director-General". This recommendation has been fully implemented. The Director-General's written introduction to the general debate is already available several days in advance and his actual speech is distributed immediately after delivery and issued as an information document for the question and answer session that follows the general debate. Pursuant to 175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 9, the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Director-General have

endeavoured, at each session of the Executive Board, to ensure a more interactive general debate on the execution of the programme, allowing for direct dialogue between Member States, the Director-General, the Assistant Directors-General and the Directors of Central Services.

29.12 In recommendation 16, the General Conference “*Recommends* that the Executive Board consider the holding of thematic debates both inside and outside the formal sessions of the Board, and *also requests* the Executive Board to ensure that the debates are related to UNESCO’s programme activities (...)”. At its 175th session, the Board held a thematic debate “UNESCO as a specialized agency of the reformed United Nations system: Challenges, roles, and functions at the global, regional and country levels”. The Executive Board then adopted 175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 10 in order to continue with the implementation of this recommendation. In 175 EX/Decision 23, the Executive Board “*Invites* the Chairperson of the Executive Board to continue to arrange a thematic debate once a year, ensuring that the debate is related to UNESCO’s programme activities, and provides for an actual exchange of opinions among the Member States, with a view to contributing to the work of the Executive Board”. In conformity with the mentioned decision, the Board has held another thematic debate at its 177th session on “Facing the multidisciplinary challenges of knowledge societies and global climate change: UNESCO’s contribution to United Nations reform at the regional and country levels”. Members commented on the need for better up-front consultation regarding the identification of topics suitable for thematic debates at UNESCO. It also seems desirable to have substantive background documents made available in advance. But they commended the tenor of both these thematic debates.

29.13 In recommendation 17, the General Conference “*Recommends* that the Executive Board review with the Director-General how the debates on staffing issues could be carried out in a more effective manner, and further recommends that the Executive Board consider the abolition of the private sessions of the Executive Board, unless motivated by reasons of confidentiality”. The results of the consultations held by the Chairperson of the Board, in document 175 EX/INF.5, show widely varied views, and the Executive Board took the following decision, 175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 11: “*Decides* to examine the criteria required for private meetings with a view to limiting the use of private meetings to items where confidentiality is strictly necessary”. The Special Committee recommends that the Executive Board might schedule an agenda item at the 179th session to formally determine the criteria for holding private sessions with reference to Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

29.14 In recommendation 18, the General Conference “*Recommends* that, while maintaining the present structure and division of functions between the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) and the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA), the Executive Board should pursue greater harmonization between the PX and FA Commissions and a more rational, efficient and less costly division of functions, leading to a more orderly, rule-based and transparent form of decision-making”. Consultations were held by the Chairperson of the Executive Board (again, document 175 EX/INF.5), and consequently, the Executive Board agreed, upon the proposal of the Chairs of both the PX and FA Commissions, to hold, on an experimental basis, a joint meeting of these two commissions, with eight and five items examined at the 175th and the 176th sessions of the Board, respectively. The Bureau of the Executive Board will

continue to identify items (to be approved by the plenary), which might be discussed in joint meetings of the PX and FA Commissions. The Special Committee recommends that the Executive Board undertake a review of the experience of holding joint meetings of these two commissions at its 180th session. Further, that items which are considered in both commissions individually must be treated by the commissions with a strict respect for their respective mandates.

29.15 In recommendation 19, the General Conference “*Recommends* the following measures concerning the committees of the Executive Board: (i) the Special Committee (SP) should meet only as needed and for the time necessary to fulfil the duties required of it by the Executive Board; (ii) the role of the NGO Committee should be revitalized and focused on the role and contribution of NGOs to the work of UNESCO”. Recommendation 19 (i) is being appropriately implemented. For instance, the terms of reference of the Special Committee have already been amended (at the 173rd session of the Board), to ensure that the Committee meets only as needed and for the time necessary to fulfil the duties required of it by the Executive Board. It met during the 175th and 176th sessions of the Executive Board to continue examining the follow-up to 33 C/Resolution 92 – Relations between the three organs of UNESCO. Furthermore, 174 EX/Decision 20 authorized the Chairperson of the Executive Board, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Special Committee, to identify future items that fall within the Special Committee’s terms of reference for examination at future sessions. It will meet again during the 177th session of the Executive Board, according to 176 EX/Decision 29, paragraph 6, and it was to follow up on the work on 33 C/Resolution 92. Concerning recommendation 19 (ii), the Executive Board adopted 174 EX/Decision 31, paragraph 7 which reads as follows: “*Decides*, with respect to the improvement of the methods of work of the NGO Committee, to consider putting in place, in further meetings, the mechanisms contained in the following Plan of Action: (a) organize a series of thematic round tables on the involvement of NGOs in the main lines of thrust of UNESCO’s action on the basis of Committee members’ suggestions for possible topics; (b) give further impetus to the involvement of youth in the work of NGOs; (c) establish an open forum for presentations by Members of the Committee, NGOs and invited guest speakers on “good practices” and lessons learned at the regional, national and local levels for outreach to and partnership with the NGO community; (d) use the preparation of the sexennial report 2001-2006 as a qualitative tool for the revitalization of the Committee; (e) strengthen coordination and cooperation between NGOs and the National Commissions”. I am pleased to report that the above actions have all been implemented, and the Special Committee highly commended the work of the NGO Committee and its revitalization in the very able and dedicated hands of its President, Ambassador Lakatos of Hungary.

29.16 In recommendation 20, the General Conference “*Requests* the Executive Board to review its working methods in order to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, and to report on the results thereof to the General Conference at its 34th session for information”. The recommendation is being implemented on an ongoing basis, and the Executive Board has taken 175 EX/Decision 23, in which, in paragraph 14, it: “*Further requests* the Chairperson of the Executive Board to report to the General Conference at its 34th session on the results of the Executive Board’s efforts to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness.” The Board has taken several measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the various committees and groups: the NGO Committee, the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) and the Special Committee.

Furthermore, the Executive Board identified the need to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the working methods of the various committees and drafting groups, by first of all reviewing the experience acquired during the previous biennia, and by adopting improved processes where necessary. For example, the Board might decide to conduct a review of the functioning of the Group of Experts on Financial and Administrative Matters. The Board needs also to review the time frame for its work in the preparation of the C/5 and C/6 documents and the work of the Drafting Group, as well as deciding on a mechanism for the preparation of the new format of reporting by the Board to the General Conference.

29.17 In recommendation 22, the General Conference “*Recommends* that the Executive Board be enabled to lend its assistance to the Director-General (...) in situations of international crisis or disaster that call for an emergency response by UNESCO. In practice, the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Director-General already consult regularly concerning actions to be taken in emergency situations. In 175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 12, the Executive Board “*Requests* the Chairperson of the Executive Board to examine, in consultation with the Director-General, how the Executive Board may lend its assistance in situations of international crises or disasters which call for emergency response by UNESCO in the framework of United Nations actions”; this is therefore being implemented as and when required.

29.9 The Committee concluded that the various recommendations have indeed been implemented to varying degrees, and that it is necessary that the implementation of those recommendations that are still outstanding be continued in the 2008-2009 biennium, particularly recommendation 8. Proposals for a draft decision with regard to item 31 were then debated and are recommended to the Executive Board by the Special Committee. A major point in the proposed draft decision is the request to the Chairperson of the Executive Board to present the revised report as document 34 C/19 Rev. on its behalf to the 34th session of the General Conference. The proposed draft decision is at your disposal, Mr Chairperson.

30. **Mme Levasseur** (Canada), intervenant à la demande du Président de la Commission FA, qui a dû s’absenter, au sujet du suivi de la résolution 33 C/92 concernant les relations entre les trois organes de l’UNESCO, appelle l’attention du Conseil sur le fait que la recommandation 9, qui s’adresse principalement au Président de la Conférence générale, comprend une deuxième partie s’adressant au Conseil exécutif. La Conférence générale n’ayant pas précisé que le suivi de cette recommandation devrait être confié au Comité spécial, on ne s’est avisé de celle-ci que la veille, lors de l’examen par la Commission FA du document 177 EX/45, qui présente une nouvelle procédure en vertu de laquelle il appartient désormais au Conseil exécutif, et non plus à la Conférence générale, d’examiner les communications reçues des États membres invoquant les dispositions de l’article IV.C, paragraphe 8 (c), de l’Acte constitutif relatif au droit de vote. Étant donné que cette nouvelle procédure aurait nécessité un certain travail de préparation de la part du Conseil, la Commission FA a été contrainte, comme indiqué dans son rapport, de renvoyer la question à la Conférence générale pour sa session à venir.

31. **The Chairperson** said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 3 of document 177 EX/75.

32. *It was so decided.*

Item 46: Report by the Executive Board on its own activities in 2006-2007, including its methods of work (177 EX/46 Part I).

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 177 EX/75

33.1 **Ms Hanna-El-Daher** (Lebanon) (Chairperson of the Special Committee) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. On item 46 Part I: this is the report by the Executive Board on its own activities in 2006-2007, including its methods of work, and it is contained in document 177 EX/46 Part I. The Chairperson of the Executive Board addressed the Special Committee before the start of the debate. He thanked the Special Committee for the work it has been doing during the biennium and introduced the document pertaining to the item, and requested the Committee to consider: (1) providing constructive comments for improving the report of the Executive Board; (2) the best way to merge Parts I and II of the report, Part I being the report of the Executive Board on its own activities, and Part II being a report on its assessment of the implementation of the programme, keeping in mind that this is the first time that the Board will be addressing such a report; and (3) how best to present the final report to the General Conference at its 34th session, on behalf of all Board Members. The Special Committee considered, among other details, whether we should have two reports, 177 EX/46 Parts I and II; whether they should be presented first to the Executive Board and then to the General Conference as two reports, or whether the two parts should be merged into one report, with Part I being converted into an introduction; or whether Part I should form the basis of the introduction used by the Chairperson of the Executive Board to introduce Part II, which will be the report of the Executive Board prepared in response to 33 C/Resolution 92 (recommendation 13); and whether 177 EX/46 Part I is a report by the Chairperson or whether it is a report by the Executive Board.

33.2 Some conclusions were reached by the Special Committee on item 46 Part I. In addressing the above issues, the following points were advanced: that, legally, 30 C/Resolution 81 did not give the format of the Executive Board’s report, and that the Board itself could therefore decide on what format to adopt – only oral, or written supported by oral presentation; that the Chairperson of the Special Committee should hold further consultations with the Chairperson of the Executive Board concerning how best to proceed with the finalization of 177 EX/46 Part I; and that 177 EX/46 Part I be considered a “transitional” document in the process of moving from the traditional manner of the Board reporting on its activities, to a more “results-based” report. It was then decided to examine the report on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis, with members indicating broad areas of comments (as opposed to detailed editing and amendments) to be taken into account in updating the report. The meeting then proceeded to do this until close to 9 p.m. – we have a habit of doing that now. The Secretariat was then requested to incorporate the amendments indicated by the Special Committee into the report. It was agreed to reconvene the Special Committee meeting on the afternoon of Friday 28 September to continue with the work on document 177 EX/46 Part I. At the start of the meeting of Friday 28 September 2007, it was agreed that 177 EX/46 Part I was to be a written report, albeit in a much reduced length. The meeting then proceeded to complete its debate of the document, making relevant proposals to be taken into account in revising the document by the Secretariat, which was done. Proposals

for a draft decision with regard to item **46** Part I were then debated, and are recommended to the Executive Board by the Special Committee, and, Mr Chairperson, you have in front of you the proposed draft decision on item **46** Part I for your consideration. Thank you.

34. The Chairperson said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 4 of document 177 EX/75.

35. *It was so decided.*

36. **The Chairperson** expressed his sincere appreciation to the Chairperson of the Special Committee for her very comprehensive report. He also thanked the Temporary Chairpersons and members of the Committee. The Special Committee had confirmed its invaluable role in providing advice to the Board. The Board, the Director-General and the President of the General Conference attached considerable importance to item **31**, and the Special Committee had contributed significantly to improving the relations between the three organs of UNESCO through advances in the formulation of recommendations in that regard. With regard to item **46**, he noted the Committee's strong sense of teamwork and remarkable efforts to reconcile the need for continuity, on the one hand, and the requirement for the Board to submit to the General Conference a report in two parts – including a new part on the assessment of programme implementation – on the other hand. He further thanked the Chairperson of the Special Committee for coordinating the informal working group set up to draft the report by the Board on the implementation of the programme, since the group's pioneering work had set the standard against which all future reports would be based. The Chairperson of the Committee had indeed made the Special Committee special.

(Applause)

37.1 **Ms Hanna-El-Daher** (Lebanon) (Chairperson of the Special Committee) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. I wanted to thank you very much for your very kind words towards me – they are shared, of course, by all the members of the Committee and all the members of the working group. I would like, if you would allow me, to thank the Temporary Chairpersons, the distinguished representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ms Morris, and the distinguished representative of Uganda for their support. I would also like to thank my colleagues the members of the Special Committee for their cooperation, informative contributions, and the very excellent team spirit demonstrated both in the sessions and in the various discussions, and for their unfailing support all through the biennium. My thanks also go to the various non-Special Committee members who honoured us with their attendance and their helpful and interesting interventions. As well as that, I would like to thank and wish success to all the colleagues who will be leaving the Board, but will nevertheless stay with us with the imprint they left on us.

37.2 Allow me also to thank the representatives of the Director-General, the Secretary of the Executive Board, Mr Parsuramen, and the Secretary of the General Conference, Mr Millward, for their unfaltering support. My deep thanks go to the secretary of the Special Committee, Mr Wright, who deserves a special hand, and his team for their support in making the work of the Committee a success, for the kind and efficient help they gracefully afforded me, and for their availability at all times. I would also like to thank the room and document attendants, and the interpreters, whom I have worked very hard because I

switched from one language to the other without any notice. But since I do not know if the occasion will arise at another time, allow me, Mr Chairperson, to thank you wholeheartedly in my name and on behalf of all the members of the team of the Special Committee for your support and your confidence in our ability to render the Special Committee a worthwhile committee, and most of all, for your lessons in harmony, your example in the building of consensus, your stewardship, your wisdom and the courtesy of a great leader using, rather than his own beautiful and musical language, a language easier for most of us to follow. For all this and for much more, *xiexie*, thank you.

38. **Mme Bennani** (Maroc) loue le sens de l'écoute, la patience et l'amabilité de Mme Hanna-El-Daher qui, malgré le caractère particulièrement difficile et délicat de sa tâche, a su souder tous les membres du Comité et créer une ambiance cordiale sans rien sacrifier des résultats. Elle souligne à cet égard que le Comité a mérité son nom à plus d'un titre puisque, seul organe du Conseil à avoir une femme à sa tête, il en a désigné une seconde au poste de vice-président.

39. **El Sr. Michelini** (Uruguay) da las gracias a la Presidenta del Comité Especial por su detallado informe, convencido asimismo de que el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, representado en dicho órgano por su Vicepresidenta, valora muy positivamente el gran esfuerzo y trabajo realizado en temas tan delicados.

(39) **Mr Michelini** (Uruguay) thanked the Chairperson of the Special Committee for her comprehensive report, being also convinced that the Latin America and the Caribbean group represented in that body by its Vice-Chairperson, highly appreciated the considerable effort and work that had gone into addressing such sensitive issues.

40. **Mr Perera** (Sri Lanka), commending the work of the Chairperson of the Special Committee, suggested writing a letter of appreciation to the governments of the Chairpersons of all the commissions and committees.

41. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) said that the Special Committee had addressed very important issues, and he commended its Chairperson on her able leadership and open-mindedness in reaching conclusions which he believed to be essential for the Organization.

42. **Mr Kusi-Achampong** (Ghana) thanked the Chairperson of the Special Committee for her dedication to the work of the Committee. Having chaired the Committee at a previous session, Ghana had learned more under the current chairmanship of Ms Hanna-El-Daher. The importance of the Committee could not be overemphasized, and his delegation looked forward to its continued existence as one of the Board's subsidiary bodies.

43. **The Director-General**, drawing attention to the very difficult and important task of the Special Committee, in particular in the context of 33 C/Resolution 92, expressed his admiration for the way in which the Chairperson of the Special Committee had steered its discussions. Referring to recommendation 8, particularly with regard to the reorganization of the general policy debate, he said that he was in favour of discussing further ways of improving the debate. Although the recommendation included taking into account best practices of other intergovernmental organizations, he had not observed any particularly recommendable practices in that respect. For instance, he had recently participated in one of the panels of the United Nations High-Level Event on Climate Change. He had been

disappointed to note that instead of engaging in interactive discussions, participants had merely read out a series of statements, the substance of which was nonetheless very important. With regard to the general policy debate of the General Conference of UNESCO, he highlighted the constant improvements that had been made and the efforts of the President of the General Conference to develop new ideas in that regard, while acknowledging that there was

still room for improvement and innovation, thus calling for collective reflection over the next two years.

44. **Ms Amatavivat** (Thailand) highly commended the Chairperson and Temporary Chairpersons of the Special Committee on their excellent report, and thanked the Chairpersons of all the commissions and committees on their work.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

NEUVIÈME SÉANCE

Jeudi 11 octobre 2007 à 10 h 20

Président : M. Zhang

ADOPTION DES PROJETS DE DÉCISION RECOMMANDÉS AU CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF (*suite*)

Réunion conjointe de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures (PX) et de la Commission financière et administrative (FA) : rapport et projets de décision recommandés au Conseil exécutif (177 EX/77 et Add.)

Point 17 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'élaboration d'un projet de déclaration de principes concernant les objets culturels déplacés en relation avec la Seconde Guerre mondiale (177 EX/17)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 2 du document 177 EX/77 Add.

Point 26 : Observations du Directeur général sur les évaluations entreprises au cours de l'exercice 2006-2007 (177 EX/26)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 2 du document 177 EX/77

Point 27 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la version mise à jour et révisée du plan indicatif d'évaluation proposé pour le 34 C/4 (2008-2013) (177 EX/27)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 3 du document 177 EX/77

Point 28 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre de la stratégie et l'évolution de la situation générale des prix UNESCO (177 EX/28)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 4 du document 177 EX/77

Point 46 : Rapport du Conseil exécutif sur sa propre activité en 2006-2007, y compris ses méthodes de travail (177 EX/46 Partie II) (Rapport sur l'exécution du 33 C/5 avec indication des résultats obtenus lors de l'exercice biennal précédent (34 C/3))

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 5 du document 177 EX/77

Point 61 : Débat thématique : Face aux défis multidisciplinaires des sociétés du savoir et du changement climatique mondial, contributions de l'UNESCO à la réforme des Nations Unies au niveau régional et au niveau des pays (177 EX/INF.6)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 6 du document 177 EX/77

1.1 **M. Yaï** (Bénin) (Président de la Commission FA) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est avec grand plaisir que je vous présente aujourd'hui le rapport des travaux menés à la 177^e session du Conseil exécutif par la réunion conjointe de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures et de la Commission financière et administrative, que j'ai eu l'honneur de coprésider pour la troisième fois avec mon ami et collègue Einar Steensnæs, président de la Commission PX. Conformément à l'ordre du jour approuvé par le Conseil exécutif à ses séances plénières, la réunion conjointe a examiné six points et a tenu à cette fin quatre séances - deux le samedi 6

octobre, une autre le lundi 8 et une dernière le mercredi 10 octobre 2007.

1.2 Monsieur le Président, je tiens aussi à rendre hommage à tous nos collègues des deux commissions, qui n'ont pas ménagé leurs efforts et ont pris part à nos débats de manière très constructive. La qualité des interventions, l'esprit de mutuelle compréhension, de dialogue et de consensus qui ont caractérisé nos travaux et qui font maintenant partie de ce que l'on peut appeler le patrimoine immatériel du Conseil exécutif, nous ont permis de mener à bien nos délibérations sur tous les projets de décision qui vous sont recommandés dans les documents 177 EX/77 et Add.

1.3 Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, je tiens également à louer le travail effectué en amont par le Groupe d'experts des questions financières et administratives qui, conformément à son mandat, s'était réuni auparavant (du 26 au 28 septembre) afin d'examiner, d'un point de vue évidemment strictement technique et sous leurs aspects administratifs et financiers, les points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de notre réunion conjointe. Les travaux du Groupe d'experts ont permis à celle-ci de délibérer avec une efficacité accrue, en s'appuyant sur le rapport de qualité qui lui avait été transmis. Je fais ici référence au document 177 EX/FA/EG.

1.4 Ma présentation consistera en un bref résumé des questions les plus importantes qui ressortent de nos délibérations. Au terme de cette présentation, le Conseil souhaitera peut-être, sous votre autorité, Monsieur le Président, adopter globalement les projets de décision figurant dans les documents 177 EX/77 et Add. Si vous en êtes d'accord, Monsieur le Président, je vais maintenant passer en revue les points qui ont été examinés par la réunion conjointe.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

1.5 I will now present item 26 "Comments by the Director-General on evaluations undertaken during the 2006-2007 biennium" (177 EX/26). The representative of the Secretariat introduced this item, which covers the findings and recommendations from two evaluations – the Information for All Programme (IFAP) and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). The representative of the Secretariat briefly highlighted some of the key achievements and challenges in the reports as well as some cross-cutting issues common to both. He noted that actions were already being taken by the Secretariat in response to many of the evaluation report recommendations. The Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information (ADG/CI), the Director of UIS and the current IFAP Chairperson were then given the floor. They each made short presentations outlining the specific steps that were being taken in response to the evaluation report recommendations.

1.6 Member States welcomed both evaluations, drawing attention to their strong role in improving programme implementation and results focus. They stressed the importance of monitoring the follow-up to evaluation recommendations. In their comments on the evaluation of UIS, Member States expressed satisfaction of the work of UIS and commended the evaluation. However, they noted that positive evaluations may raise expectations for activities to be extended but without corresponding increases in budget. Clearly, the UIS budget needs to be adequate for it to carry on its good work, and there is a need to secure extrabudgetary funds. They also supported the evaluation's findings that the Governing Board should strengthen its role in strategic

priority setting. Their attention was drawn to the value of a focus on educational quality at the primary level and they noted that the quality of teachers and associated indicator work is also important. UIS was also encouraged to develop qualification frameworks and associated indicators. However, there were concerns regarding the attention given to indicators, as they need to show the reality on the ground and not duplicate other work. The Member States also encouraged UIS to strengthen its online statistics to improve the timeliness of information.

1.7 On IFAP, the Member States welcomed the steps being taken by the Secretariat and the Chair of IFAP to address the many challenges cited in the report through the ongoing strategic planning exercise. Member States recognized the report's findings on the important role and challenges associated with the IFAP National Committees, and called for strategies to improve and strengthen their role. There were divergent views on whether IFAP should play a lead role in developing new standard-setting instruments. Lastly, structural problems such as infrequent meetings of the Council and the challenges associated with limited resources available to IFAP were highlighted.

1.8 Member States emphasized the importance of proper follow-up to the evaluation report recommendations, and requested information about the current practice in this regard. The representative of the Secretariat described the practice whereby management submits an action plan at the completion of each evaluation. Each action plan identifies the management unit responsible for its implementation, and includes a clear timetable for the completion of each action. In order to improve transparency vis-à-vis Member States, the Secretariat reports on progress in the EX/4 report (80% of evaluations show follow-up as noted in paragraph 103 of 177 EX/4) and in the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) annual report. One recent innovation is that the College of ADGs will meet quarterly to discuss the progress being made in the follow-up to evaluation recommendations, and decide what actions, if any, are necessary to improve implementation of the action plans.

1.9 In response to Member States' concerns about some weaknesses identified in IFAP, the representative of the Secretariat expressed his confidence that the evaluation of IFAP would be used in a similarly strong and constructive way. The Director of UIS thanked Member States for their comments, and noted that they would be taken into account in strengthening UIS' efforts in educational quality and data. The draft decision was approved with amendments.

1.10 May I now turn over to my friend, Einar, who will present the next item. Einar, please.

2.1 **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the PX Commission) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Olabiyi. Dear colleagues, the joint meeting was called upon to examine item 46 Part II on the report by the Executive Board on the implementation of the current programme and budget (33 C/5) together with the results achieved in the previous biennium (34 C/3). This report was prepared by the working group set up by the Chairperson of the Executive Board on the basis of the decision taken by this Board at its last session. As an introduction, the Secretary of the Board and the coordinator of the working group, Ms Samira Hanna-El-Daher, the distinguished delegate of Lebanon, provided the joint meeting with a comprehensive overview of the actions taken and the methods followed by the working group in order to

prepare the report. According to the working group, the report on the performance of the programmes could be greatly improved through presentation in tabular format showing the results achieved against the expected results, as displayed in the reporting templates prepared by the group. Ten representatives took the floor during the debate. There was general appreciation for the working group's efforts in producing a concise and constructive report which represents a significant step towards ensuring better reporting in the future, and many expressed their gratitude to Ms Hanna-El-Daher personally for her role in accomplishing the tasks entrusted to the working group. It was recognized that the report had broken new ground, and had successfully identified how to undertake the assessment in an improved manner. On the basis of a proposal put forward by the working group, the joint meeting approved the draft decision included in paragraph 5 of the written report, which recommends that the General Conference should adopt a resolution that invites the Executive Board and the Director-General to take further steps towards improved reporting on the performance and implementation of programmes.

2.2 I wish to point out that some Member States noted the importance of ensuring a clear delineation between the responsibilities of the governing bodies of UNESCO, emphasizing that the integration of conclusions of ad hoc programme reviews in regular programme planning cycles should take place after due examination by the General Conference.

2.3 I should also mention that at the end of our work on this item, referring to the specific mention in the proposed draft decision on the System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results (SISTER) and information on the results achieved at country level, the Secretariat wished to remind the delegates that the information contained in SISTER is accessible to Member States only up to the level of the main lines of action.

2.4 Dear colleagues, I now come to the end of my summary of this item, and I pass the floor to my esteemed co-Chair and friend Olabiyi Yaï for him to present to you the summary of discussions on item 27.

3.1 **Sr. Yaï** (Benin) (Presidente de la Comisión FA) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente: tengo el placer de presentar en español el punto 27, último de nuestra reunión conjunta PX/FA, "Informe del Director General sobre la versión actualizada y revisada del plan indicativo de evaluación del 34 C/4 (2008-2013)". El representante de la Secretaría presentó este punto, recordando la discusión que tuvo lugar durante el último Consejo, en la que los Estados Miembros pidieron a la Secretaría que presentase una versión revisada y puesta al día de la propuesta de plan de evaluación de las funciones de la UNESCO. El representante de la Secretaría comunicó a la Comisión que la Secretaría había llevado a cabo dicho análisis. A continuación puso de relieve las siguientes modificaciones efectuadas en el documento: la evaluación de las funciones de la UNESCO ha sido integrada en la evaluación de los objetivos estratégicos del programa del documento C/4; se ha modificado el plazo para llevar a cabo las seis evaluaciones de los objetivos estratégicos del programa, pues éstas se efectuarán en 2009 y no en 2008; y se ha incluido la evaluación de las políticas y métodos de contratación de la UNESCO, como había solicitado el Consejo Ejecutivo en su 176ª reunión.

3.2 Los Estados Miembros acogieron con satisfacción el plan de evaluación revisado, juzgando que refleja el debate del Consejo. El nuevo documento ofrece un enfoque más holístico para informar sobre los resultados alcanzados durante el periodo de la Estrategia a Plazo Medio. Se apoyó la evaluación de los objetivos estratégicos del programa, mediante la cual se pueden analizar las cinco funciones de la Organización, y el que se haya añadido la evaluación de la política de contratación. La evaluación de los objetivos estratégicos del programa fue percibida como una manera acertada de vincular los objetivos con los resultados, y también se reforzó el uso de los resultados de la evaluación de cara a la planificación y la programación. Los Estados Miembros apelaron a una cooperación estrecha entre BSP e IOS a fin de optimizar el ciclo de programación de la Organización. Globalmente, insistieron enérgicamente en la importancia de la evaluación y destacaron que es imprescindible que todo el proceso sea independiente y cuente con los recursos financieros adecuados. El representante de la Secretaría aportó aclaraciones sobre el presupuesto y se refirió al Anexo V del documento 34 C/5, el cual contiene información sobre el presupuesto.

3.3 Respecto a los componentes individuales del plan, los Estados Miembros valoraron que la Organización se haya propuesto hacer un examen de sus capacidades para ejecutar su mandato. Asimismo se discutió el papel de la metaevaluación en 2012 y el plazo adecuado para informar sobre la planificación. Durante el debate varios Estados Miembros preguntaron si el término "metaevaluación" en 2012 quiere decir una nueva evaluación, y plantearon su utilidad para el futuro C/4. Tras varias discusiones al respecto, se pusieron de acuerdo en que el término "metaevaluación" significa un resumen de las evaluaciones de los objetivos estratégicos del programa realizadas en el pasado. Los Estados Miembros reconocieron la importancia de esta tarea, tras las aclaraciones del representante de la Secretaría, que explicó que consistía esencialmente en un sumario de las evaluaciones de los objetivos estratégicos del programa, del que pueden extraerse lecciones para la planificación del próximo C/4. Sin embargo, hubo consenso en que se abandonara el uso del término "metaevaluación".

3.4 Al apoyar fuertemente la evaluación como herramienta de información para la preparación de políticas, los Estados Miembros tomaron en cuenta el propio papel del Consejo Ejecutivo y debatieron sobre cómo sus Miembros deberían mantenerse totalmente al corriente del proceso de evaluación sin por ello comprometer su necesaria independencia. Globalmente se señaló que la mejora en la transmisión de las conclusiones al Director General y después al Consejo Ejecutivo sirve para mantener líneas de responsabilidad claras en el seno de la Organización. El proyecto de decisión fue adoptado con modificaciones. Cedo la palabra a mi amigo Einar para que continúe con los puntos 28, 46, 61 y 17. Muchas gracias.

(3.1) **M. Yaï** (Béni) (Président de la Commission FA) *in extenso* (traduit de l'espagnol) :

Monsieur le Président, j'ai le plaisir de présenter en espagnol le point 27, dernier de notre réunion conjointe PX/FA, libellé « Rapport du Directeur général sur la version mise à jour et révisée du plan indicatif d'évaluation proposé pour le 34 C/4 (2008-2013) ». Le représentant du Secrétariat a présenté ce point en rappelant le débat qui avait eu lieu à la dernière session du Conseil, au cours de laquelle les États membres avaient demandé au Secrétariat de leur soumettre une version révisée et

mise à jour de la proposition de plan d'évaluation des fonctions de l'UNESCO. Le représentant du Secrétariat a informé la Commission que le Secrétariat avait mené à bien cette tâche, mettant ensuite l'accent sur les modifications suivantes apportées au document : l'intégration de l'évaluation des fonctions de l'UNESCO dans l'évaluation des objectifs stratégiques de programme du document C/4 ; la prorogation du délai pour mener à bien les six évaluations des objectifs stratégiques de programme, qui seront donc réalisées en 2009 et non en 2008 ; l'inclusion d'une évaluation de la politique et des méthodes de recrutement de l'UNESCO, comme l'avait demandé le Conseil exécutif à sa 176^e session.

(3.2) Les États membres ont accueilli avec satisfaction le plan d'évaluation révisé, estimant qu'il reflétait les discussions du Conseil. Le nouveau document présente de manière plus globale les résultats obtenus au cours de la période couverte par la Stratégie à moyen terme. Les États membres ont approuvé l'évaluation des objectifs stratégiques de programme, qui permet d'analyser les cinq fonctions de l'Organisation, et l'ajout de l'évaluation de la politique de recrutement. L'évaluation des objectifs stratégiques de programme a été perçue comme un moyen judicieux d'associer les objectifs aux résultats ; de plus, l'utilisation de ses conclusions en vue de la planification et de la programmation avait été renforcée. Les États membres ont appelé à une coopération étroite entre BSP et IOS afin d'optimiser le cycle de programmation de l'Organisation. Dans l'ensemble, ils ont vigoureusement insisté sur l'importance de l'évaluation, et ont souligné qu'il était indispensable que le processus se déroule en toute indépendance et soit doté de ressources financières adéquates. Le représentant du Secrétariat a fourni des éclaircissements concernant ces ressources, se référant à l'Annexe V du document 34 C/5 qui contient des informations budgétaires.

(3.3) En ce qui concerne les différents éléments du plan d'évaluation, les États membres ont apprécié à sa juste valeur le fait que l'Organisation se soit proposé de procéder à un examen de ses capacités pour s'acquitter de son mandat. De même, il a été débattu du rôle de la méta-évaluation prévue pour 2012 et du délai approprié pour donner des informations concernant la planification. Au cours de la discussion, plusieurs États membres ont demandé si le terme de « méta-évaluation » en 2012 signifiait une nouvelle évaluation et se sont interrogés sur l'utilité de celle-ci pour le futur C/4. Après plusieurs échanges de vues à ce sujet, ils ont convenu que le terme de « méta-évaluation » désignait une synthèse des évaluations antérieures des objectifs stratégiques de programme. Les États membres ont reconnu l'importance de cette tâche après avoir entendu le représentant du Secrétariat expliquer qu'il s'agissait essentiellement d'une synthèse des évaluations des objectifs stratégiques de programme dont des enseignements pourraient être tirés pour la planification du prochain C/4. Il y a eu cependant un consensus en faveur de l'abandon du terme de « méta-évaluation ».

(3.4) En appuyant fermement l'évaluation comme outil d'information au service de l'élaboration des politiques, les États membres ont pris en considération le rôle du Conseil exécutif lui-même et ont débattu de la manière dont ses membres devraient se tenir pleinement informés du processus

d'évaluation sans pour autant compromettre sa nécessaire indépendance. Dans l'ensemble, il a été constaté que l'amélioration de la transmission des conclusions au Directeur général, puis au Conseil exécutif, permettait de maintenir une claire définition des responsabilités au sein de l'Organisation. Le projet de décision a été adopté avec des amendements. Je cède à présent la parole à mon ami Einar qui va poursuivre avec les points **28**, **46**, **61** et **17**. Je vous remercie.

4.1 **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the PX Commission) *in extenso*:

Members of the Board, the next item examined by the joint meeting was item **28** regarding the implementation of the strategy and the development of the overall situation with regard to UNESCO prizes. After a brief presentation by the representative of the Director-General and the Rapporteur of the Group of Experts, the joint meeting proceeded without debate and approved the draft decision as set forth in paragraph 4 of the written report submitted for your consideration.

4.2 Nevertheless, some speakers wished to express satisfaction and thank the Secretariat for the steps taken to simplify, organize and streamline UNESCO prizes. This is an ongoing transition process, which includes negotiations with the donors and is expected to result in further realignment of existing UNESCO prizes. One Member State, stressing the importance of UNESCO prizes for promoting the visibility of the Organization, urged that the criteria for abolishing existing prizes be clarified and that the efficiency of the administration and management of the prizes be improved.

4.3 Dear colleagues, as you are aware, item **61** concerning the thematic debate on facing the multidisciplinary challenges of knowledge societies and global climate change: UNESCO's contributions to United Nations reform at the regional and country levels, was added to the agendas of the two commissions at the request of the plenary as a follow-up to the Board's extensive and rich debate on this issue. Since the thematic debate in plenary had engaged deeply in the issues and challenges of climate change, the joint meeting focused on the decision-making part of the item and considered, as a basis, the proposed draft decision submitted by several countries of the Asia and the Pacific (ASPAC) region. I should add that several speakers expressed thanks to the ASPAC countries for taking the initiative to follow up on this extremely important thematic debate, while a concern was expressed that the submission of a draft decision on a subject taken up by the thematic debate might change the spirit of the latter and might transform it into a platform with a particular agenda.

4.4 Considering the significance of the issue for the international community, it was possible to arrive at a consensual agreement on the future actions of the Organization to contribute to the global efforts addressing climate change, based on its mandate and competencies. The draft decision recommended to you and included in paragraph 6 of the written report therefore addresses the main findings and concerns set forth during our deliberations on the issue and asks, in particular, the Director-General to continue contributing to the global efforts on climate change through all of UNESCO's competencies and requests him to present UNESCO's draft strategy on climate change to the Executive Board at its 179th session.

4.5 Before concluding, I should mention here a concern expressed during the examination of this item, which could apply also to other items on the agenda of our commissions, about the increasing tendency to make exceptions to the rule regarding the timeframe for the submission of documents to the Board for its deliberations. As far as item **61** is concerned, the two commissions had a chance to postpone the discussion of the draft decision to allow the members of the commissions to familiarize themselves with the proposal tabled.

4.6 Mr Chairperson, thanks to your understanding and cooperation, the joint meeting was permitted to hold a final meeting yesterday in order to deal properly with item **17** on the preparation of a draft declaration of principles relating to cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War, and to allow the parties concerned to explore the possibility of agreeing on a text. Following the many consultations and exchanges among Member States, including informal meetings, an open-ended working group was set up by the Chairperson of the Executive Board with a view to listening to all concerns. Under the leadership of the Ambassador of Canada, Mr Gilbert Laurin, this group worked very effectively with an open, constructive and consensual spirit which allowed Ambassador Laurin to present to the Commission the draft decision included in the addendum of the written report, which was approved by the Commission by consensus and without debate.

4.7 Some Member States took the floor after the adoption of the draft decision to thank Ambassador Laurin for his great determination in finding a consensus on such an important issue, and also thanked all Members of the Board for their commitment to finding consensus, confirming once more the spirit of this Organization and, if you allow me to quote the distinguished delegate of Japan, "its unique ability to bridge the unbridgeable". I wish to join these views and applaud the spirit of cooperation and all the efforts deployed to lead us to a consensus on this item. If the spirit of this Organization could be copied in other national and international fora that are so important for so many people, I think this could really make a tremendous difference.

4.8 Finally, Mr Chairperson, I was informed of the concern expressed by some Members of the Board about a possible procedural flaw in the decision recommended due to the fact that only the Director-General can convene an intergovernmental meeting of experts. There is, I trust, room to amend the draft decision slightly to address this concern. Perhaps, with your permission, the Legal Adviser may assist us and clarify this issue later, when we consider the relevant decision.

4.9 Mr Chairperson, dear colleagues, this brings us to the end of this report, and indeed, to the end of our work as a joint meeting of the two commissions. I must say that the joint meeting, which is the third arrangement in this biennium, is simply an attempt to streamline the work of the Board and increase its efficiency. Like any arrangement, it is not perfect and could greatly benefit from improvements in the future, but one thing that I can say for certain is that the joint meeting of the two commissions reflects and is designed to address a concern that we all share about the indivisibility of programmatic and financial/administrative aspects on some of the items under the Board's consideration. Therefore, looking back on our experience, we, as the Members of the Board, should continue to reflect on possible modalities to better deal with items under the

Board's consideration that have closely intertwined programmatic and financial implications.

4.10 I would now like to express my sincere gratitude to my dear friend and colleague, Ambassador Olabiya Yaï, the Chairperson of the FA Commission, for sharing with me the honour of chairing the joint meeting of the two commissions. I would also like to thank the members of the two commissions, as well as the members of the Group of Experts and its Chairperson, for their hard work and their unflinching adherence to the true spirit of dialogue and cooperation. And, on behalf of our two commissions as a whole, on my own behalf as well as in the name of the Chair of the FA Commission, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those persons who have facilitated the smooth completion of our work, including the interpreters, whose indefatigable endeavours have made our multilingual discussions possible, the translators, the room clerks, the technical assistants, the Secretariat of the Executive Board and the Secretariats of the PX and FA Commissions for helping us in the successful accomplishment of our duties as Chairs. Mr Yaï, is there anything that you would like to add? Thank you.

5.1 **The Chairperson** thanked Mr Yaï and Mr Steensnæs for their excellent presentations, and congratulated them on the way in which they had conducted the joint meeting. Entrusted with the examination of six items on the Board's agenda, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions had accomplished its task successfully and efficiently.

5.2 He reminded the Board that pursuant to Rule 47 of its Rules of Procedure, it would adopt the entire set of draft decisions as a whole, unless a Member State requested that a specific decision be adopted separately. Purely editorial changes should be communicated to the Secretary of the Board, who would ensure that they were taken into account.

6. **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil), souhaiterait obtenir des éclaircissements au sujet du paragraphe 4 du projet de décision relatif au point 28, dont le texte lui paraît peu intelligible pour quiconque n'a pas participé aux débats de la réunion conjointe.

7. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the PX Commission) said that in the draft decision on item 28, the Director-General was being asked to continue his efforts to implement the strategy and develop the overall situation with regard to UNESCO prizes, as indicated in the title of the item.

8. **The Director-General** asked for the draft decisions on items 46 and 17 to be examined separately.

9. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the PX Commission), speaking on his own behalf and on behalf of Mr Yaï, the Chairperson of the FA Commission, endorsed the Director-General's request.

10. **The Chairperson** said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Members of the Board wished to adopt the draft decisions contained in documents 177 EX/77 and 177 EX/77 Add. as a whole, with the exception of the draft decisions on items 46 and 17.

11. *It was so decided.*

Item 28: Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the strategy and the development of the overall situation with regard to UNESCO prizes (177 EX/28)

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 177 EX/77

Item 46: Report by the Executive Board on its own activities in 2006-2007, including its methods of work (177 EX/46 Part II)

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 177 EX/77

Item 17: Report by the Director-General on the preparation of a draft declaration of principles relating to cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War (177 EX/17)

Draft decision in paragraph 2 of document 177 EX/77 Add.

12.1 **The Director-General**, drawing attention to the draft decision on item 46, said that the Organization had made steady progress in improving the transparency of reporting to Member States on its programmes, in particular through SISTER, where the information was broken down according to main lines of action. As it stood, the draft decision invited him to ensure that information contained in SISTER, including results achieved at the country level, was accessible to Member States. While country-level results might be reported through SISTER in the future, the Organization was not currently in a position to do so. He therefore proposed that paragraph 6(iii) of Part II of the draft decision be amended to read: "ensure that all the information contained in SISTER is complete and up to date, and continues to be accessible to Member States up to the main line of action level to serve as a reliable source of reference, in particular being coherent with statutory reports EX/4 and C/5, and to explore possibilities for adapting the existing architecture of SISTER to allow it to show in future results at the country level".

12.2 Turning to paragraph 6(iv) of the draft decision, which invited him to conduct regular impact reviews of UNESCO's programmes, he added that because such reviews were so costly, only a few of them had been planned under the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009. If the Organization wished to conduct more impact reviews, it would need more extrabudgetary funds to do so.

13. **Mr Landymore** (United Kingdom) said that if country-level information could not be provided immediately through SISTER, that gap might be satisfactorily filled in other ways. For example, in his introductory remarks to the Executive Board at the start of its 177th session, the Director-General had mentioned that the Organization would soon be producing country plans which would describe its work at the country level. Furthermore, now that UNESCO was being included in joint United Nations country programming, information about the Organization's country-level activities would be provided by the corresponding United Nations reports. He therefore had no objection to the Director-General's proposed amendment.

14. **El Sr. Miranda Ortiz** (México) se felicita por las palabras del Director General sobre la continua mejora del nivel de transparencia en la Organización, el perfeccionamiento de SISTER y la elaboración de SISTER 2. Es muy de agradecer que el Director General haya comunicado al Consejo que ni los Estados Miembros ni las delegaciones permanentes pueden acceder todavía a las prestaciones de SISTER, que es el instrumento básico de control administrativo de la Organización, pero que podrán hacerlo más adelante.

(14) **M. Miranda Ortiz** (Mexique) se félicite des informations fournies par le Directeur général sur l'amélioration constante de la transparence au sein de l'Organisation, le perfectionnement de SISTER et l'élaboration de SISTER 2. Il convient de le remercier d'avoir fait savoir au Conseil que, si ni les États membres ni les délégations permanentes ne peuvent, pour l'heure, accéder aux services de SISTER - principal instrument de contrôle administratif de l'Organisation -, ils pourront le faire dans le futur.

15. **El Sr. Macedo Soares** (Brasil) dice que la cuestión no le parece problemática, pues en el inciso iii) del párrafo 6 no se establece un plazo definido, y en cualquier caso es algo que tiene que ver más bien con la organización del trabajo. Observa, por otro lado, que ningún Miembro del Consejo ha pedido que se trate un punto por separado, y que de todas formas la Secretaría estaba presente en la reunión donde se examinó el punto 46. En este sentido, pregunta al Presidente del Consejo por qué se están examinando por separado los proyectos de decisión correspondientes a los puntos 17 y 46.

(15) **M. Macedo Soares** (Brésil) déclare que la question ne lui paraît pas poser de problème, puisque l'alinéa (iii) du paragraphe 6 ne fixe pas de délai précis et qu'en tout état de cause cela a davantage à voir avec l'organisation du travail. Par ailleurs, il fait observer qu'aucun membre du Conseil n'a demandé qu'un point soit examiné séparément et qu'en outre, le Secrétariat était représenté à la séance au cours de laquelle le point 46 a été examiné. Il demande donc au Président du Conseil pourquoi les projets de décision afférents aux points 17 et 46 sont examinés séparément.

16. **Ms Mukherjee** (India), endorsing the statement by Brazil, said that according to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, only a Member State could request that a specific decision be adopted separately. She hoped that the Secretariat's request to have two items examined separately would not set a precedent.

17. **The Chairperson** recalled that before submitting the Director-General's request for separate treatment of items 46 and 17 to the Board, he had asked the Chairpersons of FA and PX for their opinion. The Chairperson of PX, speaking on his own behalf and on behalf of the Chairperson of FA, had endorsed the request.

18. **Г-н Каламанов** (Российская Федерация) разделяет озабоченность представителей Индии и Бразилии. Учитывая, что консенсус был найден и ни одно из государств не выразило претензий к тексту, в соответствии с процедурой необходимо вначале принять документ и только вслед за этим выслушать разъяснения Секретариата и Генерального директора. Председатели комиссий передают полномочия членам Исполнительного совета, которые отвечают за рассмотрение и утверждение документов.

(18) **M. Kalamanov** (Fédération de Russie) partage les préoccupations des représentants de l'Inde et du Brésil. Puisqu'un consensus a été trouvé et qu'aucun État n'a élevé d'objection à propos du texte, il faut donc, conformément à la procédure en vigueur, commencer par adopter le document, et ce n'est qu'ensuite que l'on écoutera les explications du Secrétariat et du Directeur général. Les présidents des commissions cèdent leurs prérogatives aux

membres du Conseil exécutif, à qui il appartient d'examiner et d'adopter les documents.

19. **The Director-General** said that he had submitted his proposed amendment to paragraph 6(iii) of the draft decision on item 46 to the Bureau, which had endorsed it. As to the draft decision on item 17, a technical point, which would not affect the substance in any way, needed to be corrected.

20. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the PX Commission), supported by the representative of Benin, said that the Board had two options in relation to item 46: it could amend the draft decision in question or simply take note of the Director-General's proposed amendment. With regard to item 17, the Board would need to consult the Legal Adviser.

21. **Mr Kondo** (Japan) said that the Board had decided to examine items 46 and 17 separately. Any objection to the Secretariat's request for separate consideration of those items should have been raised before the decision had been made.

22. **M. Mboui** (Cameroun) confirme que le point 46 a fait l'objet d'une communication du Directeur général devant le Bureau, lequel avait convenu de porter cette question à l'attention des membres du Conseil en séance plénière.

23. **The Chairperson** said that the Bureau had indeed endorsed the Director-General's proposed amendment to the draft decision on item 46.

24. **The Director-General**, turning to item 17 "Report by the Director-General on the preparation of a draft declaration of principles relating to cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War", said that the Intergovernmental Experts Meeting referred to in the draft decision on item 17 did not exist as a standing body, and so could not be reconvened as such. The aim of the draft decision was to give him the authority, through the General Conference, to convene another meeting of intergovernmental experts. He proposed, therefore, that in paragraph 3(a) of the draft decision, the words: "that it invite the Intergovernmental Experts Meeting" be replaced by the words: "that it invite the Director-General to convene a meeting of intergovernmental experts".

25. **Ms Mukherjee** (India) asked the Legal Adviser whether the meeting of intergovernmental experts referred to in the Director-General's proposed amendment would be comprised of the same experts as the meeting held in March 2007, at which time it had been agreed that the group would meet again to pursue its work.

26. **Mr Yusuf** (Legal Adviser) said that the use of the wording "the Intergovernmental Experts Meeting" in the draft decision as it stood gave the impression that the meeting was a standing body, which was not the case. Such meetings were convened by the Director-General, on the authorization of the General Conference. At its 33rd session, the General Conference had invited the Director-General to convene an intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of drawing up a draft declaration of principles. The meeting to be convened in the future would have the same status as the earlier one.

27. **Г-н Каламанов** (Российская Федерация) выражает удовлетворение по поводу разъяснений, представленных Генеральным директором и юрисконсультантом, и отмечает, что у Российской Федерации не имеется более возражений по поводу этой технической поправки.

(27) **M. Kalamanov** (Fédération de Russie) se déclare satisfait des explications fournies par le Directeur général et par le Conseiller juridique, et fait savoir que la Fédération de Russie ne s'oppose plus à cette correction technique.

28. **The Chairperson** said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to take note of the Director-General's proposed amendment to the draft decision on item 46.

29. *It was so decided.*

30. **The Chairperson** said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to amend the draft decision on item 17, as proposed by the Director-General.

31. *It was so decided.*

32. **The Director-General** said that he intended to increase the number of countries, which currently stood at 10, for which country plans would be published. UNESCO was far ahead of other United Nations agencies when it came to providing work plans at the main line of action level to its Member States. In fact, one might even say that in the marathon of transparency, UNESCO was the top runner, even though it might always run even faster! Some agencies did not even share work plans with their Member States, or if they did, the plans were not so detailed as those provided by UNESCO.

33. **The Chairperson** said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decisions contained in documents 177 EX/77 and 177 EX/77 Add., as amended.

34. *It was so decided.*

Déclaration après l'adoption des projets de décision recommandés par la réunion conjointe des Commissions PX et FA

35. **M. Iten** (Suisse) déclare que son pays se félicite du projet de décision relatif au point 17 qui vient d'être adopté et est favorable à la tenue d'une nouvelle réunion intergouvernementale d'experts destinée à finaliser le projet de déclaration de principes. De fait, la Suisse a l'intention de contribuer une nouvelle fois au projet en mettant à la disposition du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO une somme de 10 000 dollars aux fins de l'organisation de la réunion l'année suivante.

36.1 **The Chairperson** said that the Board would take note of the Director-General's proposed amendment concerning item 46 but would not actually amend the corresponding draft decision. The draft decision on item 17 would be amended as agreed.

36.2 He thanked Mr Yaï and Mr Steensnæs and congratulated them for the way in which they had conducted the work of the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions. Pursuant to 33 C/Resolution 92 "Relations between the three organs of UNESCO" and 175 EX/Decision 23, it had been decided to hold joint meetings of the two commissions on a trial basis with a view to improving the working methods of the Board and promoting more holistic, orderly and transparent decision-making. The first joint meeting had been held at the 175th session of the Board, and given its satisfactory results, it had been decided to hold joint meetings at the 176th and 177th sessions. In the future, the Board would need to assess the effectiveness of the practice in order to determine whether such joint meetings were useful.

(Applause)

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m. and resumed at 12.30 p.m.

Commission financière et administrative (FA) : rapport et projets de décision recommandés au Conseil exécutif (177 EX/78)

Point 4 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale (177 EX/4 Partie II et Corr. (Tableau de bord), 177 EX/INF.12 Rev., 177 EX/INF.13, 177 EX/INF.14, 177 EX/INF.15)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 2 du document 177 EX/78

Point 5 : Rapport du Directeur général sur le suivi des décisions et résolutions adoptées par le Conseil exécutif et la Conférence générale à leurs sessions antérieures (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/5 et Add. et Add.2, 177 EX/INF.12 Rev., 177 EX/INF.13, 177 EX/INF.14)

Point 6 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre du processus de réforme (177 EX/6 Partie I et Add. et Add.2 et Partie II, 177 EX/INF.12 Rev., 177 EX/INF.13, 177 EX/INF.14)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 4 du document 177 EX/78

Point 9 : Rapport d'étape du Directeur général sur la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable (2005-2014) (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/9)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 5 du document 177 EX/78

Point 10 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création d'un institut en partenariat pour l'environnement et le développement (IPED) à Trieste (Italie) en tant qu'institut de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/10)

Point 11 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création, à l'Université Charles Sturt (Australie), d'un centre international PHI sur l'eau pour la sécurité alimentaire en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/11)

Point 13 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création à Guilin (Chine) d'un centre international de recherche sur le karst en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/13)

Point 15 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création au Pakistan d'un centre régional de recherche sur la gestion de l'eau dans les zones arides en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/15)

Point 16 : Rapport du Directeur général sur un plan d'action concernant la participation de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre des décisions et de la Déclaration du Sommet de l'Union africaine sur la science, la technologie et la recherche scientifique pour le développement (janvier 2007) (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/16)

Point 21 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création en Chine d'un institut de formation et de recherche sur le patrimoine mondial pour la région Asie-Pacifique en tant qu'institut de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/21)

Point 24 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création, à Manama (Royaume de Bahreïn), d'un centre régional pour les technologies de l'information et de la communication en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/24)

Point 25 : Examen du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2008-2009 (34 C/5) et recommandations du Conseil exécutif (34 C/5 Projet, 2^e version et Corr. et Corr.2, 177 EX/INF.12 Rev., 177 EX/INF.13, 177 EX/INF.14, 177 EX/INF.18)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 13 du document 177 EX/78

Point 29 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre des directives et critères régissant les instituts et centres de catégorie 2 adoptés dans la résolution 33 C/90 (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/29, 177 EX/INF.9, 177 EX/INF.16)

Point 30 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la réorientation du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brasilia (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/30)

Point 45 : Recommandation du Conseil exécutif concernant les communications reçues des États membres invoquant les dispositions de l'article IV.C, paragraphe 8 (c), de l'Acte constitutif, ainsi que les droits de vote (177 EX/45 et Add. et Add.2)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 16 du document 177 EX/78

Point 47 : Rapport financier et états financiers intérimaires concernant les comptes de l'UNESCO au 31 décembre 2006 pour l'exercice financier se terminant le 31 décembre 2007 (177 EX/47)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 17 du document 177 EX/78

Point 48 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la situation effective de tous les plans de paiement convenus entre l'UNESCO et les États membres ayant des arriérés de contributions (177 EX/48 et Add.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 18 du document 177 EX/78

Point 50 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la répartition géographique et l'équilibre entre les sexes au sein du personnel du Secrétariat (177 EX/50)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 19 du document 177 EX/78

Point 51 : Rapport d'étape du Directeur général sur les ressources et les activités extrabudgétaires (177 EX/51)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 20 du document 177 EX/78

Point 52 : Rapport du Directeur général sur les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes sur les audits déjà effectués (177 EX/52)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 21 du document 177 EX/78

Point 53 : Rapport du Directeur général sur les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre de la décision 176 EX/39 et des recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes sur les politiques et procédures d'achat de l'UNESCO (177 EX/53)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 22 du document 177 EX/78

Point 54 : Rapport du Commissaire aux comptes sur la gestion du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brasilia (177 EX/54)

Point 55 : Rapport du Directeur général, en coopération avec le Comité du Siège, sur la gestion de l'ensemble des bâtiments de l'UNESCO (177 EX/55)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 24 du document 177 EX/78

Point 56 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre du Programme de participation et de l'aide d'urgence (177 EX/56)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 25 du document 177 EX/78

Point 66 : Proposition concernant la création à Itaipú Binacional d'un centre international d'hydro-informatique pour la gestion intégrée des ressources en eau en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/66)

Point 67 : Proposition concernant la création à Zadar (Croatie) d'un centre régional d'archéologie sous-marine en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/67 et Add.)

Point 68 : Proposition concernant la création à Saint-Domingue (République dominicaine) d'un centre sur l'eau pour le développement durable en Amérique centrale et dans les Caraïbes, en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/68 et Corr. et 177 EX/INF.11)

Point 69 : Proposition concernant la création, à la Bibliothèque présidentielle Olusegun Obasanjo d'Abeokuta, dans l'État d'Ogun (Nigéria), d'un institut pour la culture africaine et la compréhension internationale, en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/69)

Point 70 : Activités de commémoration du 40^e anniversaire de la création de la cité internationale d'Auroville (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/70 et Add. et 177 EX/INF.11)

Point 71 : Création d'un réseau d'autorités nationales d'appui aux migrants victimes de discrimination et de xénophobie (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/71 et 177 EX/INF.11)

Point 73 : Célébration du 60^e anniversaire de la déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme (Aspects administratifs et financiers) (177 EX/73)

37.1 **M. Yaï (Bénin) (Président de la Commission financière et administrative) *in extenso* :**
Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif,
Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues,

Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand plaisir de vous présenter en ce jour le rapport des travaux de la Commission financière et administrative, que j'ai eu l'insigne honneur de présider pour la quatrième et dernière fois, à la 177^e session du Conseil exécutif. Conformément à l'ordre du jour approuvé par le Conseil exécutif à ses séances plénières, la Commission a examiné trente-sept points de l'ordre du jour. Pour ce faire, elle a tenu sept séances, qui se sont échelonnées du jeudi 4 au mardi 9 octobre.

37.2 Je souhaiterais, au nom de mes pairs, remercier très sincèrement M. Brian Figaji (Afrique du Sud), président temporaire de la Commission financière et administrative, pour l'excellence de sa prestation et son indéfectible disponibilité, non seulement au cours de cette session mais aussi pour l'ensemble des quatre sessions qui ont jalonné le biennium. Monsieur le Président, je voudrais aussi rendre un vibrant hommage à tous nos collègues, qui ont participé aux débats de manière très constructive.

37.3 Le souci de ne point faillir à notre tâche nous a souvent conduits à passer toutes les questions relevant de notre mandat au peigne fin. Les discussions ont souvent donné lieu à des débats très animés mais elles se sont toujours terminées par d'excellentes propositions. La qualité des interventions et des contributions, l'esprit de mutuelle compréhension et de dialogue et, comme je le disais tantôt, l'esprit de consensus qui est maintenant devenu un élément du patrimoine immatériel de ce Conseil, nous ont permis de parvenir à un accord sur tous les projets de décision que nous vous recommandons et qui figurent dans le document 177 EX/78. Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de préciser que dix-huit des trente-sept points que nous avons examinés ont été transmis à la Commission PX, qui est chargée des questions relatives au programme.

37.4 Je voudrais rendre hommage et exprimer ma gratitude au Groupe d'experts qui, une fois de plus, avec maestria, a accompli la tâche qui lui avait été confiée par le Conseil. Conformément à son mandat, ce Groupe s'est réuni du 26 au 28 septembre pour examiner, d'un point de vue strictement technique et sous leurs aspects administratifs et financiers, les points qui figuraient à notre ordre du jour. Les travaux du Groupe - je fais ici référence au document 177 EX/FA/EG - ont permis à la réunion conjointe de gagner en efficacité. Monsieur le Président, il me plaît de louer plus particulièrement la contribution de M. Abdellatif Bennani (Maroc), président du Groupe d'experts, qui s'est remarquablement acquitté de sa tâche. Chacun des membres du Groupe d'experts a été désigné comme rapporteur pour un ou plusieurs des points examinés par le Groupe. Chaque expert a donc présenté pendant les séances le point qui lui était assigné afin de le soumettre à l'analyse des membres de la Commission financière et administrative. Cette méthode de travail a été appréciée de tous et s'est révélée fructueuse.

37.5 Au cours de ses délibérations, notre Commission a bénéficié de la présence de S. E. M. David Hamadziripi, ambassadeur de la République du Zimbabwe et président du Comité du Siège, ainsi que de celle de M. Philippe Séguin, commissaire aux comptes de notre Organisation.

37.6 Ma présentation, comme cela est désormais la tradition, consistera en un résumé des questions les plus importantes qui ressortent des délibérations de la Commission. Au terme de cette présentation, et avec votre permission, Monsieur le Président, je proposerai au

Conseil de bien vouloir adopter l'ensemble des projets de décision qui figurent dans le document 177 EX/78.

37.7 Si cela vous agrée, donc, Monsieur le Président, je vais maintenant passer en revue les points qui ont été examinés, en commençant par le point 4 « Rapport du Directeur général sur l'exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale ». À cet égard, la Commission s'est penchée sur deux questions majeures. La première avait trait aux virements entre lignes budgétaires, pour lesquels le Conseil était invité à donner son accord de principe sans avoir été informé, à ce jour, de l'origine exacte des ressources qui seraient dégagées. La seconde concernait le niveau très élevé des dépenses afférentes à certains articles budgétaires, notamment les voyages.

37.8 En ce qui concerne la réaffectation des 2 % des ressources allouées aux grands programmes en vue d'atteindre les objectifs en matière de participation de l'UNESCO aux activités menées au niveau national au titre de « l'unité d'action des Nations Unies », la représentante du Secrétariat a rappelé que cette modalité de mise en œuvre n'était pas prévue au moment de la préparation du 33 C/5, et que la nécessité de réallouer une part des crédits pour financer les activités visant à expérimenter le nouveau concept était apparue postérieurement à l'approbation du C/5. Il a été également noté que, malgré la gestion centralisée des fonds par le Bureau de la planification stratégique et le Bureau de coordination des unités hors Siège, les activités étaient mises en œuvre en tenant compte de chaque programme d'activités. La représentante du Directeur général a également rappelé à la Commission que cet exercice visait à réorganiser les ressources des programmes selon une nouvelle optique, axée sur des programmes nationaux, plutôt que sur une procédure consistant à supprimer ou réaffecter des fonds existants. Il a été rappelé également que les détails de tous les transferts seraient présentés dans le document relatif à la clôture du budget en fin d'exercice biennal qui serait soumis au Conseil exécutif à sa 179^e session.

37.9 Plusieurs États membres se sont interrogés sur la hausse des taux de dépense, s'agissant notamment des voyages dans le cas de certains secteurs comme il apparaît au tableau 4 du Tableau de bord, et ont insisté sur les efforts importants que le Secrétariat devrait consentir pour réduire les dépenses de voyage. La représentante du Secrétariat a rappelé à la Commission que le taux de dépense indiqué dans le document avait été établi par rapport aux indicateurs relatifs aux allocations et elle a expliqué en outre que ces indicateurs n'étaient conçus qu'à titre d'information dans la mesure où les secteurs étaient autorisés à modifier les modalités de mise en œuvre de programme, à condition que les résultats attendus soient atteints. Elle a également rappelé à la Commission que le budget adopté était organisé par thème et non par objet de dépense, et que le contrôle du budget s'appliquait au niveau de la mise en œuvre des activités de programme, telles que sous-programmes, axes d'action ou activités, et non des types de dépense, tels que voyages, services contractuels, recours à des consultants, etc. Cependant, tout en rassurant la Commission sur le fait que le Secrétariat poursuivrait ses efforts pour réduire les dépenses de voyage en recourant à d'autres moyens tels que les vidéoconférences, la représentante du Secrétariat a insisté sur l'importance et la nécessité des voyages de mission, qu'elle a qualifiés d'éléments essentiels de la mise en œuvre des activités. À l'issue de cette discussion,

la Commission a décidé de proposer au Conseil exécutif d'adopter le projet de décision avec amendement.

37.10 Je passe maintenant au point 5 « Rapport du Directeur général sur le suivi des décisions et résolutions adoptées par le Conseil exécutif et la Conférence générale à leurs sessions antérieures ». L'Ambassadrice de l'Inde, en sa qualité de Présidente du Conseil du Bureau international d'éducation de l'UNESCO (BIE), a présenté le projet de décision sur la « Convocation d'une session de la Conférence internationale de l'éducation (CIE) à Genève (Suisse) par le Bureau international d'éducation (BIE) en 2008 ». Le Conseil avait, en effet, fixé les dates de la 48^e session de la CIE et invité le Directeur général à continuer de fournir au BIE le soutien nécessaire de manière à mobiliser les ressources tant humaines que financières dont le Bureau a besoin pour bien organiser la Conférence. Le projet de décision appelle également les États membres, les organisations internationales et d'autres organismes à verser des contributions financières à cet effet et prie le Directeur général de lui présenter à sa 179^e session un rapport d'étape sur les préparatifs de la 48^e session de la CIE. Le représentant du Secrétariat a rappelé que le Directeur général attachait une grande importance à cette Conférence et au projet de décision soumis au Conseil. Plusieurs membres ont réitéré leur soutien à ce texte tel qu'amendé par le Groupe d'experts. Un membre a demandé de plus amples éclaircissements sur les incidences financières de la CIE. Le représentant du Secrétariat a indiqué que, outre les fonds prévus dans le Programme ordinaire de l'UNESCO et la contribution du Gouvernement suisse, il serait nécessaire de mobiliser environ 600 000 dollars des États-Unis au titre des contributions extrabudgétaires. Le projet de décision a été transmis à la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures sans amendement.

37.11 En ce qui concerne la coopération Sud-Sud dans le domaine de l'éducation, le représentant du Secrétariat a rappelé que le Secteur de l'éducation travaillait en étroite collaboration avec le Groupe des 77 et la Chine sur ce programme. Il a informé la Commission qu'un compte spécial avait été récemment établi afin de recueillir les contributions volontaires. À ce jour, des contributions ont été reçues de l'Inde, de la Malaisie, du Maroc et de la Chine. Que ces pays soient remerciés ! La Commission a également été informée que quatre projets pilotes étaient en cours de réalisation. Ils seront achevés d'ici la fin de l'année et on espère qu'ils serviront d'exemples de bonnes pratiques. En réponse à une question sur les étapes suivantes dans ce domaine, le représentant du Secrétariat a rappelé que le Secteur de l'éducation continuerait de soutenir le Programme de coopération Sud-Sud au moyen des crédits prévus dans le 34 C/5 au titre du Programme ordinaire. S'agissant de la désignation d'un point focal, le représentant du Secrétariat a indiqué que le Secteur était en train d'en finaliser le mandat et qu'il tiendrait compte de tous les commentaires formulés pendant les délibérations de ce Conseil. Un membre a demandé une confirmation écrite à propos de la création du compte spécial et a suggéré qu'un comité soit établi pour le gérer. Le représentant du Secrétariat a indiqué que la notification écrite était en cours d'élaboration. Il a néanmoins rappelé que si un tel comité devait être établi en vue d'administrer le compte, sa création devrait être approuvée par le Conseil exécutif en vertu des dispositions des règlements financiers se rapportant aux comptes spéciaux. Il a donc proposé de consulter le G-77 et la Chine dans les mois à venir en vue de soumettre une telle proposition à la 179^e session du Conseil.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

37.12 Concerning the Internal Oversight Committee, several Member States took the floor, with most comments focusing on the role of the Internal Oversight Committee and the need to finalize its terms of reference. Several delegates underlined the importance of finalizing the terms of reference of the Internal Oversight Committee, whereas others emphasized the range of views in the United Nations on the issue and commented that, given that the subject was so topical and currently the subject of much debate, it would be wise to hold back and reflect before finalizing the terms of reference.

37.13 One representative raised the issue of the Committee being that of an advisory one on internal control and oversight to the Director-General, and shared the sentiment that the Director-General already benefited from the services of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) for such counsel and therefore, in his view, the Oversight Committee should focus on advising Member States and assisting them in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities.

37.14 In response to the above two concerns, the representative of the Director-General explained the complexity and evolving nature of the issues surrounding the treatment of oversight committees within the United Nations system. She said that there was a spectrum of models (for oversight committees) and quite divergent views within the United Nations system. The Secretariat explained that at one end of the spectrum, there were advisory committees to assist management, and at the other end, there were audit committees set up by and reporting to the Board. She also informed the Commission that in considering the draft terms of reference over the past six months, the Secretariat had become aware of a number of interdependencies which required further thought, for example, the actual role of the Committee, given the desire of the Director-General that the Oversight Committee should operate as an internal management tool for advice; the current debate within the United Nations system on the issue of the confidentiality of and access to internal audit reports; UNESCO's rules on what types of groups it may convene; and the interrelationship with the mandate of the External Auditor. The Secretariat took note of the comments in the debate, and said that, while it was monitoring developments in the United Nations closely, it did not intend to wait forever, and expected to have more clarity by the time of the spring session of the Executive Board.

37.15 Members requested a procedural clarification regarding the mandate of the Group of Experts. The Legal Adviser clarified that the Group of Experts pronounced its decisions on purely technical aspects, and that the Commission could thus reopen the debate on the decisions taken by the Group of Experts.

(The speaker continued in French)

37.16 Je passe, en français, et au point 6 « Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre du processus de réforme ». La représentante du Secrétariat a présenté brièvement le document, lequel résume les principaux résultats obtenus dans la mise en œuvre du cadre relatif à la réforme de la politique des ressources humaines et de la stratégie à moyen et long terme relative à la dotation en personnel, qui couvre la période 2005-2010. La Commission a remercié la représentante du Secrétariat pour son rapport, très détaillé et de qualité, et a salué les efforts continus de réforme déployés par le Directeur général et les progrès réalisés. Les membres de la Commission ont mis l'accent sur les points suivants : la

mise en place d'un bureau d'éthique, jugée nécessaire dans les plus brefs délais ; la nécessité de promouvoir la rotation en tant qu'étape normale, nécessaire et positive dans la carrière de tout fonctionnaire international à l'UNESCO (et non comme une mesure punitive) et d'inclure aussi la mobilité géographique comme critère pour la promotion au mérite ; la nécessité d'améliorer la qualité du personnel, au moment où les effectifs diminuent globalement, et de s'assurer que les fonctionnaires déployés sur le terrain sont d'une stature et d'un calibre suffisants pour être considérés comme des interlocuteurs crédibles par l'État hôte - un membre de la Commission s'est félicité à ce sujet de la décision du Directeur général de renforcer la Section du recrutement en nommant un fonctionnaire chargé de la présélection, ce qui permettra d'accélérer et d'améliorer la procédure de recrutement ; la nécessité que le futur mécanisme de promotion au mérite soit transparent et fondé sur des critères objectifs - un membre de la Commission a néanmoins soulevé la question de la nécessité d'un tel programme, estimant que toute promotion devrait résulter d'une procédure compétitive et considérant que le Prix du Directeur général décerné aux équipes méritantes qu'il était proposé de créer constituait une meilleure façon de récompenser le personnel ; enfin, il a été également fait état des progrès réalisés dans la mise en place de mécanismes d'obligation redditionnelle, comme l'accord de performance pour le personnel de direction. Certains membres de la Commission ont également rappelé la nécessité de traiter rapidement tout cas d'abus des droits de la personne dont serait victime un membre du personnel.

37.17 La représentante du Secrétariat a confirmé aux membres de la Commission la décision du Secrétariat de lancer le programme de déontologie (avec recrutement d'une personne qui en serait chargée) si le scénario correspondant à un budget de 631 millions de dollars était approuvé par la Conférence générale. En ce qui concerne la rotation, elle a rappelé que le plus difficile était de changer les mentalités. Des recommandations seraient adressées au Directeur général, à l'issue d'un examen des difficultés de mise en œuvre de la politique de rotation effectué par le Bureau de la gestion des ressources humaines. Cet examen intégrerait les recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes. La représentante du Secrétariat a reconnu que la qualité du personnel était essentielle : contribuer à son amélioration était l'objectif majeur des programmes de formation et de perfectionnement mis en œuvre par le Secrétariat. En ce qui concerne le mécanisme de promotion au mérite, elle a rappelé que ces promotions seraient très limitées et accordées à titre exceptionnel. De plus, il était prévu que des mécanismes appropriés soient mis sur pied pour assurer la transparence et l'équité du processus. Enfin, la représentante du Secrétariat a rassuré la Commission sur le fait que tout cas d'abus était traité immédiatement, avec diligence et qu'une procédure avait été mise en place à cet effet.

37.18 Concernant la Partie II du document 177 EX/6 (qui traite de la décentralisation), la représentante du Secrétariat a récapitulé les diverses suggestions formulées par les membres du Conseil en séance plénière quant aux aspects dont l'Équipe spéciale, chargée du réexamen de la stratégie de décentralisation mise en place par le Directeur général, devrait tenir compte durant la deuxième phase de ses travaux. Celle-ci serait lancée après la Conférence générale et porterait sur les ajustements à long terme à apporter au système décentralisé de l'Organisation dans le cadre de la nouvelle donne créée par la réforme du système des

Nations Unies sur le terrain. La Commission a reçu l'assurance qu'il serait tenu dûment compte de toutes les suggestions et que le Secrétariat était pleinement disposé à tenir les membres du Conseil informés de l'avancement des travaux, comme cela avait été souhaité en séance plénière. Lors du débat qui a suivi, plusieurs orateurs ont félicité le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document présenté. Ils ont souligné l'importance de la seconde phase du réexamen de la stratégie de décentralisation et, en raison de sa portée stratégique, un consensus s'est dégagé sur la nécessité de soumettre au Conseil des rapports d'étape et des propositions préliminaires quant à la structure révisée du système des unités hors Siège avant que l'Équipe spéciale ne soumette son rapport définitif au Conseil à sa 181^e session. Plusieurs intervenants ont réitéré certains des principes qui devraient guider cet exercice, notamment : renforcer les pôles régionaux au même titre que les autres agences du système des Nations Unies ; prévoir des structures de soutien au Siège ; ne pas augmenter les effectifs hors Siège, le renforcement de la présence de l'UNESCO au niveau des pays devant s'inscrire dans le cadre des bureaux conjoints des Nations Unies sur le terrain ; enfin, veiller à ce que le personnel affecté hors Siège soit suffisamment expérimenté pour traiter en confiance avec les autorités nationales, les fonctionnaires moins chevronnés devant, quant à eux, être bien encadrés. La nécessité d'aligner les programmes sur les politiques nationales au moment de leur élaboration et de mettre concrètement en place des cadres de reddition de comptes a également été soulignée. Dans sa réponse, la représentante du Secrétariat a indiqué que, suite à la définition du cadre de reddition de comptes programmatique lors de la première phase des travaux de l'Équipe spéciale, il appartenait maintenant aux secteurs de programme de mettre en place les mécanismes correspondants. Quant aux expériences pilotes d'évaluation des performances des directeurs hors Siège, le système serait généralisé à la mi-2008, après évaluation. Le Conseil serait dûment tenu informé de ces questions dans le cadre des rapports d'étape proposés. La Commission a approuvé la Partie I du projet de décision sans amendement et sa Partie II avec amendement.

37.19 Passons à présent au point 9 « Rapport d'étape du Directeur général sur la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable (2005-2014) ». S. E. l'Ambassadrice des États-Unis a présenté ce point en expliquant que la Commission PX avait transmis le projet de décision à la Commission FA pour examen de ses aspects financiers, en mettant l'accent sur les paragraphes 8 et 9. Le représentant du Secrétariat a précisé que ce dernier avait pris des dispositions dans le Programme et budget ordinaires pour financer les outils et directives concernant l'éducation pour le développement durable. S'agissant cependant des « outils de surveillance et d'évaluation », des ressources extrabudgétaires devraient être mobilisées. Il a également précisé que la conférence d'examen à mi-parcours qui devait se tenir en Allemagne en 2009 serait financée avec l'appui d'une contribution extrabudgétaire de ce pays. Après de brèves discussions, le texte du projet de décision a été adopté avec des modifications.

37.20 Nous passons à présent au point 10 « Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création d'un institut en partenariat pour l'environnement et le développement (IPED) à Trieste (Italie) en tant qu'institut de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO ». Dans son introduction, le représentant du Secrétariat a informé la Commission que le projet était

jugé parfaitement réalisable du point de vue financier et administratif. L'institut qu'il était proposé de créer n'aurait aucune incidence financière et administrative pour l'UNESCO et bénéficierait d'une contribution du Gouvernement italien à hauteur de 2,5 millions d'euros par an, dont 2,1 millions seraient affectés aux programmes d'activités et 400 000 euros serviraient à couvrir les dépenses administratives. Le débat de la Commission s'est focalisé sur le fait que le détachement éventuel de membres du personnel de l'UNESCO par le Directeur général auprès de cet institut ne devrait pas être une obligation pour l'Organisation, mais plutôt une possibilité. La Commission a reconnu que les interrogations à ce sujet avaient pour cause le manque de clarté des formulations utilisées dans le modèle de projet d'accord pour la création des instituts et centres de catégorie 2 placés sous l'égide de l'UNESCO et a souhaité qu'un libellé plus clair soit utilisé dans les articles concernés du projet d'accord de création de l'institut proposé, ainsi que de ceux de tous les autres instituts et centres de catégorie 2. La Commission a adopté le projet de décision sans amendement.

37.21 Point 11 « Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création, à l'Université Charles Sturt (Australie), d'un centre international PHI sur l'eau pour la sécurité alimentaire en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO ». En présentant ce point, le représentant du Secrétariat a souligné que le centre avait pour objet de contribuer à la réalisation des objectifs de l'UNESCO à travers son programme relatif aux sciences de l'eau, notamment dans le cadre des recherches entreprises au titre du PHI. En outre, le Secrétariat a précisé que le document 177 EX/11 avait été établi à la lumière du document 33 C/19 et de la résolution 33 C/90. Le centre fonctionnerait sur ses ressources propres, en particulier les contributions versées par le Gouvernement australien. Le représentant du Secrétariat a souligné que sa création n'aurait pas d'incidences financières pour l'Organisation. Il a souligné que le projet avait été approuvé par le Bureau du Conseil intergouvernemental du PHI à sa 17^e session à l'issue du processus de sélection. En réponse à une demande d'explication concernant la contribution de l'UNESCO mentionnée au paragraphe 9 (c) du document 177 EX/11, le représentant du Secrétariat a indiqué que le projet de centre n'aurait aucune incidence budgétaire pour l'Organisation. La Commission a adopté le texte du projet de décision sans amendement.

37.22 Nous passons maintenant, Monsieur le Président, au point 13 « Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création à Guilin (Chine) d'un centre international de recherche sur le karst en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO ». Le représentant du Secrétariat a fait un bref exposé, dans lequel il a souligné que le centre avait pour objet de contribuer à la réalisation des objectifs assignés par l'UNESCO à son programme relatif aux sciences de la terre, s'agissant en particulier des recherches sur le karst menées dans le cadre du Programme international de géosciences (PICG). Le représentant du Secrétariat a en outre indiqué que le document 177 EX/13 avait été établi conformément au document 33 C/19 et à la résolution 33 C/90. Le fonctionnement du centre serait assuré intégralement par ses sources de financement propres, en particulier les contributions du Gouvernement chinois, ce qui n'entraînerait donc aucun engagement financier pour notre Organisation. Le représentant du Secrétariat a également fait observer que la proposition avait fait l'objet d'un processus de consultations approfondi au niveau mondial dans le cadre du Conseil scientifique du PICG.

Le représentant de la Chine, pays hôte, a proposé de remplacer le texte du paragraphe 2 (e) de l'article XV du projet d'accord par le texte suivant : « à ne prêter son concours financier pour des activités concrètes du Centre que si celles-ci sont jugées conformes à ses priorités de programme et si cette contribution est prévue au Programme et budget de l'UNESCO. L'UNESCO ne fournit aucun appui financier à des fins administratives ou institutionnelles ». Il a été confirmé que le Gouvernement chinois, et en particulier le Ministère des ressources naturelles et foncières, financerait le centre, ses opérations et ses programmes et que la création du centre n'aurait pas d'incidences financières pour l'Organisation. Plusieurs membres ont pris la parole pour féliciter la Chine d'avoir proposé la création de ce centre. Ils ont également exprimé leur soutien vigoureux au programme des sciences de la terre de l'UNESCO. Ayant relevé plusieurs problèmes de traduction dans le texte actuel du modèle d'accord pour les instituts et centres de catégorie 2, les États membres ont demandé au Secrétariat d'en harmoniser les différentes versions. Ils ont également demandé que soit établi un modèle d'accord type applicable à tous les centres et instituts. Le texte du projet de décision contenu dans le document 177 EX/13 vous est transmis après une modification portant sur l'Annexe II dudit document.

37.23 Je passe maintenant au point 15 « Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création au Pakistan d'un centre régional de recherche sur la gestion de l'eau dans les zones arides en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO ». Le représentant du Secrétariat a rappelé que la proposition avait été formulée conformément aux directives et principes énoncés dans le document 33 C/19 et la nouvelle stratégie de l'UNESCO concernant les centres relatifs à l'eau de catégorie 1 et de catégorie 2 récemment adoptée par le Conseil intergouvernemental du Programme hydrologique international (PHI) et qu'à ce titre, le centre n'aurait aucune incidence financière pour l'UNESCO. Le représentant du Pakistan a expliqué que le centre proposé consacrerait ses activités à la recherche avancée et à la gestion des ressources en eau dans les zones arides et semi-arides de la région et que ce serait le premier établissement de ce type en Asie du Sud. Il a réaffirmé que le Gouvernement du Pakistan soutenait le centre, et en prendrait en charge la totalité des dépenses de fonctionnement. Plusieurs membres ont exprimé leur soutien à cette initiative du Gouvernement du Pakistan. Le projet de décision a été transmis à la Commission PX sans amendement.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

37.24 Turning to item 16 "Report by the Director-General on a plan of action concerning UNESCO's participation in the implementation of the decision and declaration by the African Union Summit on Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development (January 2007)", the representative of the Secretariat clarified the administrative and financial aspects of the plan of action indicating that it was an intersectoral response and that it corresponded to the priorities of documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5. UNESCO would provide regular programme funds to partially implement projects in the core areas of the plan, and use South-South and North-South-South cooperation as a means of contributing to its implementation. He explained that the report dealt with the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Consolidated Plan of Action approved by the ministers of science and endorsed by the Summit, as well as those set out in the Addis

Ababa Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development.

37.25 One member of the Commission proposed adding a new paragraph to the draft decision asking UNESCO to prepare a special plan of action for the rehabilitation of universities and research institutions in Africa. After lengthy discussion, agreement could not be reached. The Chairperson then established a working group which proposed a draft decision. The draft decision was approved as amended and transmitted to the PX Commission.

37.26 I will now present item **21** "Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for the establishment in China of a world heritage training and research institute for the Asia and the Pacific region, as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO". Following a presentation by the representative of the Secretariat, the Chinese delegation affirmed that the institute would benefit both UNESCO and the Government of China. In that context, all administrative and institutional set-up costs would be covered by the Chinese Government. The delegation stressed that China would benefit from the technical cooperation and expertise provided by UNESCO, including new concepts and principles guiding world heritage conservation and management. The delegation also welcomed the active participation of other Asia and the Pacific Member States in future training and research activities of the institute. Several members of the Commission expressed strong support for the proposal, for which they thanked the Government of China. The establishment of such an institute would contribute significantly to the achievement of the objectives of the World Heritage Convention in the Asia and the Pacific region.

37.27 With regard to Article 14 "Privileges and immunities", the Legal Adviser informed the Commission that that was a standard article of the model agreement between UNESCO and a Member State, which had been approved by the General Conference in 33 C/Resolution 90. In that particular case, Article 14 had been retained in view of the fact that the new institute might be acting as a regional body in the future. The draft decision was transmitted to the PX Commission without amendment.

37.28 I will now present item **24** "Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for the establishment of a regional centre for information and communication technology in Manama, Bahrain, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO". In his introduction, the representative of the Secretariat noted that the report had been prepared in response to a request made by the Government of Bahrain at the 176th session of the Executive Board. He stressed the fact that the establishment of the centre would not have any financial or administrative implications for UNESCO.

37.29 Many members of the Commission congratulated the Director-General on the quality of the feasibility study, and announced their support for the establishment of the regional centre. One member questioned the duration of 10 years for the centre, as opposed to the standard duration of six years for other category 2 centres. In this regard, some members expressed the view that the report should fix the duration at six years in order to maintain consistency across all UNESCO centres of that category. Others were in favour of showing more flexibility and opting for a longer duration. The representative of the Secretariat explained that previous experiences with similar projects had shown that it took a fairly long time

before the actual impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the field of education could be reliably measured. Therefore, the 10-year duration proposed was a reasonable estimate for achieving measurable impact.

37.30 One member requested clarification of the meaning of technical documents in paragraph 27(h) of document 177 EX/24. The representative of the Secretariat explained that UNESCO would seek to support the Bahrain centre by making available all relevant UNESCO publications relating to the applications of ICTs in knowledge creation and sharing. The draft decision was transmitted to the PX Commission without amendment.

37.31 I will now present item **25** "Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5), and recommendations of the Executive Board". During the debate, members of the Commission reiterated their support for the consensus reached in plenary on the budget ceiling of \$631 million. Although the Commission tried to limit the scope of its discussion to issues relating to financial and technical matters, a number of delegations expressed concern about the distribution of allocations within the \$631 million ceiling. Particular concerns were expressed with regard to the apparent increase in the indicative amount for staff travel between draft document 34 C/5 and document 33 C/5 Approved. A request was also made for a further increase in the appropriation for the Bureau of the Comptroller (BOC) to reinforce the Organization's internal and financial controls and for the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

37.32 With regard to concerns about the increase in the indicative amount for staff travel, the Commission was reminded that the Annex, which showed the budget allocation by object of expenditure, had been provided for information purposes only, and that the Organization's budget was approved and managed by programmatic appropriation lines and not by object of expenditure. Sectors were free to adjust their programme implementation modalities by switching funds between object-of-expenditure items to achieve the most efficient results, on the condition that the overall budget appropriation level was respected and the expected results were achieved. In previous management charts, large differences had often been noted between the indicative object-of-expenditure budget shown in the Approved Programme and Budget and actual expenditure. In response to that, and in an effort to be more transparent, the Secretariat had presented in the draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5) object-of-expenditure figures which were realistic and more in line with actual expenditure trends. As a result, the indicative amount for staff travel in document 34 C/5 showed a large increase when compared to document 33 C/5 Approved, but, when compared with actual expenditure trends, the amounts proposed showed a decline, which reflected the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to reduce travel costs. The Secretariat assured the Commission that it had nonetheless taken careful note of the request to step up efforts to reduce costs further, for example by using video and teleconferences more often, by reviewing the travel policy such as the use of first-class and business-class travel, and by encouraging the purchase of less expensive air tickets.

37.33 There was also considerable concern about declines in the draft appropriations for the Participation Programme, the Fellowships Programme, and some Major Programmes, between document 34 C/5 and

document 33 C/5 Approved. In addition, several members expressed concern that the quality of Spanish translation would be negatively affected under the proposed \$631 million budget. In response, the Secretariat reminded the Commission that the \$631 million budget in document 34 C/5 was not a linear extrapolation of the \$610 million budget approved under document 33 C/5. Instead, it was the result of a careful review of allocations in the light of the Organization's priorities given its limited resources, and it also took account of the fact that salaries and other statutory increases needed to be covered in that budget, as well as the \$5 million increase for the Belmont Plan loan repayment and the \$3.5 million increase for field security requirements. Draft document 34 C/5 also reflected the Director-General's proposed structural changes including efforts to reinforce decentralization to the field offices, the establishment of an Ethics Office (ETH), and the reinforcement of internal control and support for IPSAS implementation within the Bureau of the Comptroller. With those facts in mind and also considering that the proposed budget of \$631 million was \$17.3 million less than the amount requested in the zero real growth scenario, the Director-General had had to make difficult decisions regarding the remaining budget allocations, which had inevitably led to cuts in some appropriation lines. With regard to the serious concerns about the proposed reduction in the Participation Programme budget, the Commission was reminded that the Director-General had assured the Executive Board that the Participation Programme funds would go as a priority to developing countries, and had requested developed countries to refrain from applying for Participation Programme funds in support of that effort.

37.34 During the debate, Member States expressed interest in having access to SISTER II. They also emphasized the need for a clear timeframe of proposed activities and projects.

37.35 After a lengthy discussion, the FA Commission approved the draft decision.

37.36 I now turn to item 29 "Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the guidelines and criteria for category 2 institutes and centres adopted in 33 C/Resolution 90". The representative of the Secretariat introduced the item briefly, characterizing category 2 centres as a network without precedence in the United Nations system, as it complemented and expanded UNESCO's programme implementation activities, and increased its visibility particularly in the developing countries. Established by Member States without financing from UNESCO, category 2 centres directly enhanced the impact of and broadened the range of UNESCO's action to areas in which the Secretariat might not have capacities. He stressed that the purpose of document 177 EX/29 was to propose to the governing bodies a strategy composed of 13 elements relating to programmatic, financial, administrative and managerial issues which could guide the operations of category 2 centres and complement the 14 criteria already approved by the General Conference in 33 C/Resolution 90, which in the main dealt with the process of establishing category 2 centres. The proposed strategy sought to address some of the concerns raised by Member States about the implications for UNESCO of the growing number of category 2 centres. He explained the various elements set out in paragraph 7 of document 177 EX/29, and noted that the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP-IGC) had already adopted a strategy for water-related category 1 institutes and

category 2 centres that incorporated many of those elements.

37.37 The representative of the Secretariat also indicated that there were three different types of financial implications involved in the establishment and operation of category 2 centres. First, there was the one-time cost of a feasibility study, i.e. the cost of a mission, secondly, the recurrent costs of sending a staff member to the meetings of the centre's governing/advisory bodies, and thirdly, the ad hoc funding of specific well-defined programme activities concluded through contracts or agreements.

37.38 While welcoming the proposal, some members considered that document 177 EX/29 did not take sufficient account of all the dimensions of the potential long-term impacts for the Organization, especially when the number of centres seemed to increase every biennium and might reach unmanageable levels. A question was raised about the limits of the Secretariat's managerial capacity, given the existing human and financial resources. One member considered that the establishment of category 2 centres should have no direct costs for the Secretariat. Some members stressed that the new guidelines would need to be compatible with the legal and financial autonomy of category 2 centres. One member wondered whether there should be a limit on the number of new category 2 centres to be approved during each biennium.

37.39 Several members noted that most of the proposals in recent years for the establishment of category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO had come from developing countries, and that that had enhanced UNESCO's programme implementation and visibility in those countries. One member said that the International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED) and the International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES) had contributed to furthering UNESCO's strategic programme objectives while representing excellent examples of effective South-South cooperation. Some members asked whether category 2 centres could become category 1 centres.

37.40 A number of Member States asked for assurance that the new criteria for the centres would not delay the establishment of new category 2 centres. Questions were also raised about who would be responsible for conducting the strategic evaluations and assessments of centres, as envisaged under the sunset clause. Evaluations and assessments should not only measure the cost implications of centres, but should also take into account how centres were contributing to the achievement of development priorities and enhancing the visibility and relevance of UNESCO in a particular region or subregion. Questions were also raised about the cost of such evaluations and assessments for the Organization. A few Member States suggested that it might be better to conduct an initial evaluation for newly designated centres after two years instead of after six years, as envisaged under the sunset clause, so as to be able to review their functioning and contributions at an early stage. One member asked whether focal points existed in the Secretariat for category 2 centres and whether there was a web site with comprehensive information on all the centres.

37.41 Regarding the concern raised by Member States about UNESCO's ability to withdraw from agreements, the representative of the Secretariat informed the Commission that Article 20 of the model agreement, as approved by the General Conference in 33 C/Resolution

90, had a withdrawal clause that allowed each party to withdraw from the agreement unilaterally with no legal or financial repercussions.

37.42 In response to Member States' concerns that the model agreement failed to provide any reporting obligation for centres, the representative of the Secretariat stated that that matter was addressed by one of the proposed strategy elements in document 177 EX/29. As regards the question of whether category 2 centres could become category 1 institutes, he suggested that while theoretically possible, it was in practice highly unlikely as category 1 institutes were an integral part of the Secretariat and as such were included in the programme and budget. That was a difficult process to accomplish, especially in view of the prevailing budget constraints. The draft decision was transmitted to the PX Commission as amended.

(The speaker continued in French)

37.43 J'aborde à présent le point **30** « Rapport du Directeur général sur la réorientation du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brasilia ». La Commission a examiné ce point conjointement avec le point **54** « Rapport du Commissaire aux comptes sur la gestion du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brasilia ». Le Commissaire aux comptes de l'Organisation, M. Philippe Séguin, a présenté le point **54**. Il a précisé d'emblée que ce document n'était pas un examen systématique des projets, ni une étude juridique, mais bien un examen d'ensemble du fonctionnement du Bureau de Brasilia, comportant un nombre limité de recommandations à l'adresse du Secrétariat (six au total). Il a indiqué que deux tiers des recommandations étaient d'ores et déjà mises en œuvre par le Secrétariat ou en passe de l'être et que l'examen n'avait révélé aucun fait de nature frauduleuse. Concernant les risques en matière de contentieux, il a noté que la procédure juridique engagée était actuellement gelée. Avant de passer en revue chacune des six recommandations, M. Séguin a développé certaines idées évoquées de manière implicite dans son rapport et nous a fait part de sa forte conviction que le problème n'était pas tant le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brasilia que le dispositif de coopération mis en œuvre, qui permettait à un État membre de dépenser, à travers l'UNESCO, des fonds sur son territoire national, fonds qu'il continuait de considérer comme siens, le rôle de l'Organisation étant ainsi cantonné à celui de prestataire de services et parfois de simple observateur de la mise en œuvre par les institutions nationales. Il a également évoqué la tendance lourde du système de coopération multilatéral à évoluer vers un accroissement de la part des contributions volontaires, notant que ce phénomène n'était pas propre à l'UNESCO mais touchait l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. Dans le cas du Bureau de Brasilia, financé essentiellement par les contributions volontaires du Brésil, l'UNESCO s'était constitué un nouveau rôle de cogestionnaire de fonds nationaux, qui comportait des risques de dérive par rapport à l'esprit de la mission de l'Organisation et au respect de ses propres règles et procédures. M. Séguin a appelé à une réflexion approfondie sur les modalités de gestion des contributions volontaires afin de faire en sorte que le rôle de l'Organisation ne se limite pas à celui de prestataire de services. Selon lui, les fonds versés devenaient des fonds de l'UNESCO. Les nouvelles orientations stratégiques de l'action de l'UNESCO au Brésil, approuvées par ce dernier, répondaient à ces préoccupations, mais il importait de faire évoluer au plus vite l'ancien portefeuille de projets. Dans ce contexte, le Commissaire aux comptes a rappelé que, par un décret adopté en juillet 2004, les autorités brésiliennes avaient décidé de sortir du modèle d'exécution nationale et que les nouveaux projets

de coopération avec les organisations internationales ne devaient plus autoriser le recrutement d'agents temporaires. Compte tenu, cependant, de l'ampleur des projets nationaux en cours, des dérogations avaient été accordées à certaines administrations qui avaient jusqu'à la mi-2008 pour se mettre en conformité avec le décret. Le Commissaire aux comptes a rapidement rappelé les principes qui avaient présidé à la réorientation du Bureau de Brasilia tels que le Directeur général les avait présentés au Conseil exécutif à sa session du printemps 2006 (document 174 EX/21), notamment : le respect du mandat de l'Organisation, la recherche de projets de qualité ayant un caractère novateur, l'évaluation des projets, la mobilisation des compétences locales, les actions centrées sur les zones défavorisées. Toutefois, l'objectif initial consistant à mettre un terme à certains projets dès la fin de 2006 s'était avéré irréaliste, car de nombreuses administrations nationales n'étaient pas en mesure de prendre immédiatement la relève compte tenu de difficultés internes. M. Séguin a également indiqué que la définition de stratégies claires ne constituait pas le seul prérequis pour résoudre les problèmes du Bureau de Brasilia. Deux autres conditions devaient être remplies : d'une part, un mécanisme de gestion compétent et responsable ayant l'autonomie requise pour la conduite quotidienne du Bureau et, d'autre part, des systèmes comptables et financiers performants alliés à un système informatique solide. Pour conclure, le Commissaire aux comptes a souligné qu'il fallait éviter de créer des malentendus quant à la nature du processus de réorientation. Si la remise en conformité par rapport au mandat de l'Organisation constituait la priorité principale, il importait aussi de veiller aux effets générés par le modèle d'exécution nationale et aux risques encourus du fait du double pilotage, par les autorités nationales et par l'UNESCO. Au Brésil, l'UNESCO jouissait d'une image forte. Le Commissaire aux comptes a suggéré l'établissement entre l'Organisation et les autorités de ce pays d'un accord bilatéral et pluriannuel définissant plus clairement les objectifs et la valeur ajoutée de la coopération.

37.44 Dans sa présentation du document 177 EX/30, le Directeur du Bureau de Brasilia s'est, quant à lui, référé à chacune des recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes, indiquant clairement les mesures prises ou entreprises pour y répondre. Il s'est également référé à l'achèvement du processus de réorientation, dont il est fait mention dans le projet de décision proposé dans le document 177 EX/30, et aux avis divergents qui s'étaient exprimés à ce sujet au sein du Groupe d'experts. Il a indiqué que la motivation essentielle était de donner un signal d'appréciation au personnel local du Bureau et aux partenaires brésiliens à ce stade où le changement de cap était clairement opéré et où le Bureau disposait d'un ensemble de stratégies et de règles et procédures nouvelles. Il a souligné que le processus de réforme se poursuivait car il importait de consolider les acquis et il a assuré la Commission de son engagement personnel à cet égard.

37.45 Plusieurs États membres ont salué les progrès accomplis et demandé que le Secrétariat poursuive ses efforts dans ce sens afin de mettre en œuvre l'ensemble des recommandations des commissaires aux comptes. Considérant que la réorientation serait véritablement achevée lorsque tous les objectifs auraient été atteints, ils ont souhaité que le Secrétariat établisse un calendrier clair pour la poursuite des efforts, tout en reconnaissant qu'une certaine flexibilité était requise sur certains aspects de la mise en œuvre. Un membre de la Commission a souligné que le Secrétariat n'avait plus

droit à l'erreur et d'autres ont appelé le Conseil exécutif à rester vigilant quant à l'évolution des opérations du Bureau de Brasilia. Outre quelques demandes de clarification ou commentaires ponctuels, le débat a porté sur le modèle d'exécution nationale et sur le recours aux fonds-en-dépôt autofinancés. S'il est clair que le Brésil a appliqué ce modèle d'exécution nationale dans des proportions sans précédent, l'UNESCO n'est pas la seule institution à l'avoir suivi. D'une certaine manière, le Bureau de Brasilia a mis en évidence toutes les questions soulevées par ce modèle et il ressort du débat que les États membres souhaitent approfondir la discussion et en tirer toutes les leçons pour définir plus précisément jusqu'à quel point et comment l'Organisation peut y recourir. Une des vertus du modèle est certainement la maîtrise des activités par les autorités nationales et leur forte implication, mais il suscite des préoccupations majeures concernant la responsabilité de l'Organisation quant à l'utilisation des fonds et au contrôle des opérations. Certains ont souhaité qu'un débat approfondi sur les questions des fonds-en-dépôt autofinancés et de l'exécution nationale et sur leur utilisation au sein du système des Nations Unies puisse avoir lieu lors d'une prochaine session du Conseil exécutif, dans le cadre de l'examen de la stratégie extrabudgétaire de l'Organisation. À l'issue du débat, la Commission a adopté le texte du projet de décision qui lui était transmis par le Groupe d'experts avec amendements.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

37.46 I turn now to item **45** "Recommendation of the Executive Board concerning communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C.8(c) of the Constitution and voting rights". The representative of the Secretariat informed the Commission that as at 9 October 2007, 20 Member States were at risk of losing their voting rights. Of those 20 Member States, 11 were in arrears on their payment plans. As at 9 October 2007, seven requests from Member States for voting rights had been received.

37.47 He explained that item **45** was being presented to the Executive Board for the first time at the request of the General Conference in order to allow the Conference to "decide on voting rights, upon the recommendations of the Executive Board, at the opening of the session". He informed the Commission that it was customary for the Administrative Commission of the General Conference to set up a working group to deal with the issues of voting rights; the Board might wish to do the same in order to examine the seven requests already received.

37.48 Considering that it did not have the requisite information to decide on the appropriate status of countries in arrears or of those with payment plans, the Executive Board returned item **45** to the General Conference for action.

37.49 I will now present item **47** "Financial report and interim financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO as at 31 December 2006 for the financial period ending 31 December 2007". The representative of the Secretariat drew the Commission's attention to the fact that the financial statements were unaudited and interim, and that as in prior years, the Secretariat had met the statutory deadline. He referred to the Director General's financial report, which highlighted a few important issues such as the significant increase in extrabudgetary activity, up 22% as compared with the equivalent period in the prior biennium, the concern over the cash flow of the General Fund (GEF), and the need to receive contributions in a timely manner. He added that the

Finance and Budget System (FABS) had been successfully rolled out to three category 1 institutes: the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). He concluded that the proposed use of the unspent remaining balance of \$3.7 million of the 2004-2005 unliquidated obligations was included in document 177 EX/55. The draft decision was approved without amendment.

37.50 I will now present item **48** "Report by the Director-General on the actual position concerning all payment plans agreed upon between UNESCO and Member States in arrears with their contributions". The representative of the Secretariat expressed the Director-General's concerns at the high level of outstanding contributions at the end of September, which amounted to \$155 million. If some major contributions were not received shortly, internal and external borrowing could be required before the end of the year. He informed the Commission that the Group of Experts had focused its debate on the incentive scheme. In addition to the two options already presented, either to adopt the scheme on a permanent basis (option A) or to discontinue it (option B), the Group of Experts had requested that the Commission consider a third option (option C), namely to continue the scheme for two years. That option would require the suspension of the Financial Regulations until their full revision in the framework of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

37.51 Other members requested clarification of the different options and their links to IPSAS. During the debate, members expressed their preference for option A. One member stated that the scheme was essential to maintaining a healthy cash flow. Another member considered that there was no evidence of its effectiveness. Several other members supported option C. The draft decision was approved as amended.

37.52 I will now present item **50** "Report by the Director-General on the geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat". The representative of the Secretariat pointed out that significant progress had been made with regard to geographical distribution over the past eight years, noting in particular that 19 additional Member States were now represented in the Secretariat, and that the number of over-represented Member States had decreased from 31 to 25. The proactive measures taken to improve geographical distribution were producing some results, and would continue to be implemented. She reiterated that the Secretariat, in close cooperation with Member States, would continue its efforts to achieve a more balanced geographical distribution.

37.53 With regard to gender balance, the Commission was informed that parity had been reached in the Secretariat, and that UNESCO was one of the highest-ranking agencies in that respect, but an imbalance still remained at the Director level and above. The representative of the Secretariat said that the Bureau of Human Resources Management (HRM) had met with each programme sector to establish, for 2008-2009, specific targets for senior posts, taking into account forecasted staff turnover.

37.54 The Commission took note of the efforts made to improve geographical distribution and gender balance over the past years, although some members expressed concern with regard to the gender imbalance at the Director level and above. The Commission invited the Director-General to adopt measures to achieve improved gender balance at senior level, with a target of 50% of

women by 2015, and to present a plan in that regard to the Executive Board at its 179th session. The draft decision was approved as amended.

37.55 I now turn to item **51** "Progress report by the Director-General on extrabudgetary resources and activities". Following a brief presentation of document 177 EX/51, the members of the Commission expressed their general appreciation of the progress achieved so far with regard to improved management of UNESCO's extrabudgetary activities and revision of UNESCO's policies and procedures for cost recovery. A number of members encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to harmonize cost-recovery policies. However, some members expressed their disappointment at the lack of a comprehensive overall strategic vision of the role of extrabudgetary activities in UNESCO's programmes and an associated strategy for resource mobilization. It was hoped that the forthcoming debate on extrabudgetary activities at the General Conference might make a valuable contribution in that respect.

37.56 A few members reiterated their concern over the slow progress in implementing the External Auditor's recommendations on monitoring the implementation of UNESCO's extrabudgetary activities. It was also recalled that particular attention should be paid to the criteria governing UNESCO's management of self-benefiting funding arrangements.

37.57 Note was taken of the progress made towards improved programming of future extrabudgetary activities in full alignment with the regular programme and budget. That allowed a more strategic approach to resource mobilization, which favoured larger, multi-donor funding arrangements. Efforts were also being made to diversify UNESCO's funding base through cooperation with new funding sources, including smaller Member States, emerging economies, and South-South cooperation. The Commission approved the draft decision without amendment.

37.58 Turning to item **52** "Report by the Director-General on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor on audits already undertaken", the representative of the Secretariat explained that the report dealt with recommendations made by the previous External Auditor, and was comprised of two parts: Part I, covering 2004-2005, dealt with the need to ensure a safe transition to IPSAS, the management of unliquidated obligations (ULOs), and the UNESCO Office in Brasilia; Part II, covering the period from 2000 to 2005, contained 20 recommendations on various subjects which, according to the External Auditor, required further action by the Secretariat. At the end of 2005, only satisfactory progress had been made on 16 of the recommendations, and slow progress had been made on the other four.

37.59 Several Member States raised questions and sought further clarification on item **52**. The use of the terms "satisfactory progress" and "slow progress" had led to concerns about the time taken to respond to the recommendations. The complexity of extrabudgetary activities and the numerous recommendations related thereto was considered a factor that might justify the need for a longer implementation period. Reference was made to the need to harmonize regular programme and extrabudgetary activities, the broader problems underlying extrabudgetary activities in general, and the need for the governing bodies to address that issue. It was suggested that the new External Auditor should familiarize himself with the Medical Benefits Fund (MBF) and the related

subject of significant long-term liability. Further clarification was requested on unused funds and participants' and delegates' travel costs.

37.60 With regard to the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations, the representative of the Secretariat explained that "satisfactory" meant that the recommendation had been implemented and "slow" meant that much work had still to be done. He agreed that in the area of extrabudgetary activities there was still much work to do. He noted that unfunded liability for after-service health insurance was one of the major subjects that the Organization would need to address in the future; the views of the External Auditor on that issue would be welcome. The representative of the Secretariat provided additional information on unliquidated obligations and travel reports. Finally, he reminded the Members of the Board that the Auditor-General of Canada might provide an update on progress made on those recommendations to the General Conference at its forthcoming session when she presented her audit report on the financial statements for the period 2004-2005. The Commission approved the draft decision as amended.

37.61 Turning to item **53** "Report by the Director-General on progress in implementing 176 EX/Decision 39 and the External Auditor's recommendations concerning UNESCO's procurement policies and procedures", the representative of the Secretariat outlined the main areas of progress: elaboration of an internal control policy framework to be published in the first quarter of 2008 as part of the UNESCO Administrative Manual; reinstatement of the Quality Control Unit within the Bureau of the Comptroller; changes in the reporting relationship between the Comptroller and Administrative Officers (AOs); financial management training initiatives taken; and strengthening of the procurement function.

37.62 Several members raised questions and sought further clarification on item **53**. The adequacy of the resources allocated to the Bureau of the Comptroller was questioned. In response, the representative of the Secretariat explained that sufficient resources would have been available under the \$648 million scenario and, although to a lesser extent, under the \$631 million scenario. With that in mind, the Director-General would review the resource allocation in the future, and would make the necessary adjustments.

37.63 One member asked about the implications of the Administrative Officer's dual reporting function. The representative of the Secretariat explained that that would be done through a matrix reporting structure. As functional supervisor of the AOs, the Comptroller would take the lead in drafting their job descriptions and in their recruitment and training. At the same time, the AOs would continue to carry out their responsibilities in their sectors and offices, and report to their line managers.

37.64 Clarification was sought with regard to the timeframe for the implementation of the internal control policy framework. The representative of the Secretariat said that the framework would be published in March 2008. However, that would only be a first step since internal controls could only be tightened and become effective through a change in the organizational culture.

37.65 One Member State requested further information on how waivers granted for contracts submitted to the Contracts Committee would be reported. The representative of the Secretariat referred to 176 EX/Decision 39, according to which details on such

waivers were to be provided in the audited financial statements.

37.66 Another member of the Commission asked whether the new item in the Administrative Manual on disciplinary measures and procedures included provisions that would prohibit staff members with questionable professional behaviour from leaving the Organization with a severance package. In reply, the representative of the Secretariat explained that the Staff Rules allowed staff members to resign, and no financial compensation was implied. That was common practice in the United Nations system. Should a staff member resign, the Organization was required to pay all normal entitlements earned by the staff member in the course of his or her duty, as provided for in the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules.

37.67 Item 54 "Report by the External Auditor on the management of the UNESCO Office in Brasilia" was considered jointly with item 30, which I have already presented.

37.68 I will now present item 55 "Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex". The President of the Headquarters Committee participated in the work of the Commission in line with established tradition. He reported to the Commission on the Headquarter Committee's recent visit to the Fontenoy renovation site, and the status of the proposals concerning the revision of rental scales for offices in the Miollis building. He informed the Commission that the records of proceedings of the Headquarters Committee were made available after being approved by the Committee, and could be consulted online through UNESDOC (Intranet).

37.69 Clarifications were provided by the Secretariat on different aspects of the renovation plan implementation, and on the application of the financial regulations. The discussions were centred on the subject of the renovation plan and its additional requirements due to cost increases. Despite their objections to recurrent use of unspent balances of the regular programme for different projects, members of the Commission agreed to invite the General Conference to consider exceptionally suspending Financial Regulation 4.4 and authorizing the use of the available funds for re-costing purposes and for covering additional renovation needs.

37.70 Several members expressed concern that the Secretariat had not made sufficient efforts to find other sources of funding to meet the cost increases relating to the renovation plan. The Commission approved the draft decision as amended.

(The speaker continued in Spanish)

37.71 Punto 56 "Informe del Director General sobre la ejecución del Programa de Participación y la ayuda de emergencia". El representante de la Secretaría hizo varias observaciones preliminares sobre la ejecución del Programa de Participación, el cual debe satisfacer a todos los Estados Miembros. Desde la publicación del documento 177 EX/56, la ejecución de dicho Programa se ha acelerado hasta alcanzar el 99% con respecto a la atribución de fondos a los diversos beneficiarios. Los Miembros expresaron su preocupación por la reducción observada en el presupuesto asignado al Programa de Participación y formularon una petición muy enérgica y explícita para que el Director General tomara medidas para incrementar dicho presupuesto y llevarlo al menos al mismo nivel que el del bienio en curso. Los Estados Miembros insistieron muy especialmente en esta petición.

A sus representantes se les comunicó que el Director General tiene la intención de hacer un nuevo llamamiento a los países con un producto interior bruto superior a los 10.000 dólares per cápita para que se sumen a los Países Miembros del Comité de Asistencia para el Desarrollo de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE) y se abstengan de presentar solicitudes de financiación en el marco del Programa de Participación. Ello permitirá incrementar los fondos destinados a los países que más lo necesitan. La Comisión se felicitó por el gesto de solidaridad de los países que se habían abstenido. La Secretaría explicó las diferentes etapas del trámite, y las dificultades que existen para obtener proyectos presentados correctamente, lo que origina intercambios interminables con las comisiones nacionales correspondientes. Todas esas etapas dificultan la tramitación de las solicitudes y alargan los plazos de aprobación. Asimismo, se le ofrecieron aclaraciones a un país que pidió información sobre las cantidades reembolsadas a la Organización por varios Estados Miembros. Esas cantidades constituyen saldos de proyectos no ejecutados o de fondos utilizados con otros fines, según se concluye en las auditorías realizadas por la Oficina de Supervisión Interna (IOS). Finalmente los Estados Miembros propusieron un proyecto de decisión y aceptaron por consenso que en él no se aludiera a una cantidad precisa ni se hiciera referencia explícita al presupuesto aprobado para el Programa de Participación en el marco del 33 C/5. La Comisión adoptó el proyecto de decisión relativo a este punto.

37.72 Punto 66 "Propuesta de creación en Itaipú Binacional de un centro internacional de hidroinformática para la gestión integrada de los recursos hídricos, como centro de categoría 2 auspiciado por la UNESCO". La Comisión decidió pasar directamente a la adopción del proyecto de decisión que figura en el párrafo 20 del documento 177 EX/66. El proyecto de decisión fue transmitido a la Comisión PX sin modificaciones.

37.73 Punto 67 "Propuesta de creación en Zadar (Croacia) de un centro regional de arqueología subacuática, como centro de categoría 2 auspiciado por la UNESCO". Los Estados Miembros felicitaron a Croacia por la creación en Zadar del Centro Internacional de Arqueología Subacuática y destacaron la importancia de sus futuras actividades para reforzar la aplicación de los principios de la Convención de la UNESCO sobre la Protección del Patrimonio Cultural Subacuático de 2001. El proyecto de decisión fue transmitido a la Comisión PX sin modificaciones.

37.74 Punto 68 "Establecimiento de un centro (categoría 2) de agua para el desarrollo sostenible en Centroamérica y el Caribe en Santo Domingo (República Dominicana) bajo los auspicios de la UNESCO". Durante el debate se subrayó que este centro contribuiría a fomentar el desarrollo sostenible en Centroamérica y el Caribe, y que concedería además especial importancia a los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo. El representante de la Secretaría indicó asimismo que el centro propuesto no tendría repercusiones financieras para la UNESCO y que se establecería de conformidad con las directrices y la estrategia del Programa Hidrológico Internacional (PHI) para los centros sobre recursos hídricos de la UNESCO. El representante de la Secretaría se mostró de acuerdo en someter dicha propuesta a la consideración de los órganos rectores del PHI y en llevar a cabo el estudio de viabilidad para presentarlo al Consejo Ejecutivo y posteriormente a la Conferencia General en su 35ª reunión. Varios Estados

Miembros manifestaron su apoyo a la creación del centro. El proyecto de decisión se remitió sin modificaciones a la Comisión PX.

37.75 Punto 69 “Propuesta de creación de un instituto para la cultura africana y el entendimiento internacional en la Biblioteca presidencial Olusegun Obasanjo en Abeokuta (Estado de Ogun, Nigeria), como centro de categoría 2 auspiciado por la UNESCO”. Varios Miembros manifestaron su apoyo a la creación de dicho instituto. Subrayaron el importante papel que podría desempeñar en el refuerzo de las políticas culturales de los Estados Miembros africanos y en un más amplio reconocimiento del continente y de su diversidad cultural en la diáspora. La Comisión adoptó el proyecto de decisión sin modificaciones.

37.76 Punto 70 “Actividades de conmemoración del 40º aniversario de la fundación de Auroville, ciudad internacional”. El proyecto de decisión se remitió sin modificaciones a la Comisión PX.

37.77 Punto 71 “Creación de una red de autoridades nacionales de apoyo a las personas migrantes víctimas de discriminación y xenofobia”. Este punto, propuesto por el Uruguay, responde al objetivo principal de crear una red de autoridades nacionales para ayudar a los migrantes que sean víctimas de racismo, discriminación y xenofobia. La proposición se basa en las actividades ya existentes relacionadas con la Coalición Internacional de Ciudades contra el Racismo y la Discriminación, que se encuentra bajo la responsabilidad del Sector de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas desde 2004. Este punto había sido abordado previamente por el grupo de expertos, y el representante de Colombia presentó un informe basado en ese debate. Tomaron la palabra 17 representantes. Si bien el consenso era general en cuanto a la importancia de luchar contra el racismo, la discriminación y la xenofobia y al apoyo a la Coalición Internacional de Ciudades, de las intervenciones se destacó una diferencia de opiniones y puntos de vista en cuanto a la necesidad de crear una nueva red de autoridades nacionales, y en particular en cuanto al coste que esta nueva actividad implicaría para la Organización. El Uruguay y los demás países que apoyaban el proyecto de decisión explicaron que la actividad sería totalmente financiada por medio de contribuciones extrapresupuestarias. No obstante, muchos fueron los representantes que hicieron preguntas sobre la financiación, lo que dio pie a un debate de gran intensidad, que de vez en cuando tocó aspectos relativos no tanto a la FA como a la PX. En su respuesta, el representante de la Secretaría indicó que ésta tiene capacidad para prestar apoyo a la actividad propuesta y confirmó que la misma sería financiada por medio de contribuciones extrapresupuestarias. En vista de que no era posible conseguir el consenso, se decidió formar un grupo de expertos oficioso para que redactara un nuevo proyecto de decisión que pudiese obtener la aprobación de todos. El grupo, formado por Uruguay, México, Brasil, Canadá, Nigeria y los Estados Unidos de América, consiguió llegar a un consenso y presentó a la Comisión FA una nueva versión del proyecto de decisión. Tras un nuevo debate se aprobó un proyecto de decisión que fue transmitido a la Comisión PX para su examen.

37.78 Punto 73 “Conmemoración del 60º Aniversario de la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos”. El representante del Uruguay presentó este punto en nombre de sus copatrocinadores (que son Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, México y Venezuela). Subrayó el significado de la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos, que se ha convertido en piedra angular

internacional en materia de derechos humanos, fuente de inspiración para numerosas constituciones nacionales y regionales y base para la labor del sistema de Naciones Unidas. En particular recordó que el 50º aniversario de la Declaración había movilizadado a todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Siete países expresaron su apoyo a esta iniciativa. Una delegación recordó el compromiso del Director General de aportar una contribución adecuada de la UNESCO a esta conmemoración. Otra delegación mencionó que un plan nacional de acción estaba ya en preparación y declaró su deseo de explorar la posibilidad de encontrar una sinergia con las actividades programadas por la UNESCO. El representante de la Secretaría aportó información sobre la labor de la Secretaría para preparar la contribución de la UNESCO a la conmemoración, sobre las actividades previstas en el 34 C/5 - Proyecto en relación con el 60º aniversario de la Declaración y sobre la coordinación con otros miembros del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. En septiembre de 2007 se organizaron dos reuniones de información para las delegaciones permanentes. Dichas reuniones permitieron un fructuoso intercambio de ideas con los Estados Miembros sobre las prioridades temáticas de un eventual plan de acción de la UNESCO, preparando así el terreno para la propuesta contenida en el documento 177 EX/73. Además se subrayó que el 60º aniversario de la Declaración Universal concierne a todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y que la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH) ejerce de organismo coordinador. La ACNUDH ha comenzado recientemente sus preparativos para la conmemoración. El 10 de diciembre de 2007, fecha prevista para el inicio de las actividades, se pondrá en práctica un marco global en el que estará integrada la contribución específica de la UNESCO, junto con la de otros organismos especializados, programas y órganos de las Naciones Unidas. El plan de acción de la UNESCO constará de dos tipos de actividades: a) actividades previstas en el 34 C/5 - Proyecto que puedan vincularse al 60º aniversario; y b) actividades específicamente planeadas para conmemorar el aniversario, las cuales, por supuesto, requerirán financiación extrapresupuestaria. Se presentaron y aceptaron varias enmiendas y el proyecto de decisión se transmitió así modificado a la Comisión PX.

(37.71) *(Traduit de l'espagnol)* Point 56 « Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre du Programme de participation et de l'aide d'urgence ». Le représentant du Secrétariat a fait diverses observations préliminaires concernant l'exécution du Programme de participation, lequel doit s'avérer satisfaisant pour tous les États membres. Depuis la publication du document 177 EX/56, l'exécution du programme s'est accélérée, l'attribution des fonds aux divers bénéficiaires allant jusqu'à atteindre un taux de 99 %. Les membres ont fait part de leurs préoccupations quant à la réduction du budget du Programme de participation et ont demandé énergiquement et expressément que le Directeur général prenne des mesures pour renforcer ce budget, de sorte qu'il atteigne au minimum le niveau de celui de l'exercice en cours. Cette demande a fait l'objet d'une insistance très particulière de la part des États membres. Il a été déclaré à leurs représentants que le Directeur général avait l'intention de lancer un nouvel appel aux pays ayant un produit intérieur brut par habitant supérieur à 10 000 dollars, afin qu'à l'instar de pays membres du Comité d'aide au développement de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques (OCDE), ils

s'abstiennent d'introduire des demandes de financement au titre du Programme de participation. Cela permettra d'accroître les fonds destinés aux pays qui en ont le plus besoin. La Commission s'est félicitée de la solidarité exprimée par les pays qui s'étaient abstenus de présenter des requêtes. Le Secrétariat a exposé les différentes étapes du traitement des demandes et les difficultés rencontrées pour parvenir à ce que les projets soient présentés correctement, lesquelles donnent lieu à des échanges interminables avec les commissions nationales concernées. Toutes ces démarches compliquent le traitement des demandes et allongent les délais nécessaires à leur approbation. Des éclaircissements ont été par ailleurs apportés à un pays qui a demandé des informations au sujet des montants remboursés à l'Organisation par divers États membres. Ces montants représentent les reliquats de fonds découlant de projets non exécutés ou de fonds dont l'utilisation à d'autres fins que celles prévues a été constatée dans le cadre des audits réalisés par le Service d'évaluation et d'audit (IOS). Enfin, les États membres ont proposé un projet de décision et ont accepté par consensus de ne pas y faire figurer de montant précis et de ne pas y faire explicitement référence au budget approuvé au titre du Programme de participation dans le 33 C/5. La Commission a adopté le projet de décision relatif à ce point.

(37.72) Point **66** « Proposition concernant la création à Itaipú Binacional d'un centre international d'hydro-informatique pour la gestion intégrée des ressources en eau en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO ». La Commission a décidé de passer directement à l'adoption du projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 20 du document 177 EX/66. Le projet de décision a été transmis à la Commission PX sans modification.

(37.73) Point **67** « Proposition concernant la création d'un Centre régional d'archéologie sous-marine à Zadar (Croatie) en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO ». Les États membres ont félicité la Croatie en ce qui concerne la création, à Zadar, du Centre international d'archéologie sous-marine et ont souligné l'importance de ses activités futures en tant que moyen de renforcer l'application des principes de la Convention de l'UNESCO sur la protection du patrimoine culturel subaquatique de 2001. Le projet de décision a été transmis à la Commission PX sans modification.

(37.74) Point **68** « Proposition concernant la création à Saint-Domingue (République dominicaine) d'un centre sur l'eau pour le développement durable en Amérique centrale et dans les Caraïbes, en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO ». Au cours du débat, il a été souligné que ce centre contribuerait à promouvoir le développement durable en Amérique centrale et dans les Caraïbes, et qu'il conférerait en outre une importance particulière aux petits États insulaires en développement. Le représentant du Secrétariat a également indiqué que le centre envisagé n'aurait pas d'incidences financières pour l'UNESCO et qu'il serait créé conformément aux directives et à la stratégie pour les centres UNESCO relatifs à l'eau du Programme hydrologique international (PHI). Le représentant du Secrétariat a convenu de soumettre cette proposition à l'examen des organes directeurs

du PHI et de mener à bien une étude de faisabilité en vue de sa présentation au Conseil exécutif et ultérieurement à la Conférence générale, lors de sa 35^e session. Divers États membres ont manifesté leur appui à la création du centre. Le projet de décision a été transmis sans modification à la Commission PX.

(37.75) Point **69** « Proposition concernant la création, à la Bibliothèque présidentielle Olusegun Obasanjo d'Abeokuta, dans l'État d'Ogun (Nigéria), d'un institut pour la culture africaine et la compréhension internationale, en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO ». Plusieurs membres ont fait part de leur appui à la création de cet institut. Ils ont souligné sa contribution potentielle importante au renforcement des politiques culturelles des États membres africains ainsi qu'à une reconnaissance plus large du continent et de sa diversité culturelle dans la diaspora. La Commission a adopté le projet de décision sans modification.

(37.76) Point **70** « Activités de commémoration du 40^e anniversaire de la création de la cité internationale d'Auroville ». Le projet de décision proposé a été transmis sans modification à la Commission PX.

(37.77) Point **71** « Création d'un réseau d'autorités nationales d'appui aux migrants victimes de discrimination et de xénophobie ». Ce point, proposé par l'Uruguay, a pour objectif principal de créer un réseau d'autorités nationales visant à aider les migrants victimes de racisme, de discrimination et de xénophobie. Cette proposition se fonde sur les activités déjà en cours liées à la Coalition internationale de villes contre le racisme et la discrimination, qui relève de la responsabilité du Secteur des sciences sociales et humaines depuis 2004. La question avait été abordée précédemment par le Groupe d'experts et le représentant de la Colombie a rendu compte du débat qui avait eu lieu au sein du Groupe à cet égard. Dix-sept représentants ont pris la parole. Un consensus général s'est exprimé au sujet de l'importance qu'il y a à lutter contre le racisme, la discrimination et la xénophobie et de l'appui à fournir à la Coalition internationale de villes, mais les interventions ont fait apparaître des opinions et des points de vue divergents en ce qui concerne la nécessité de créer un nouveau réseau d'autorités nationales, et en particulier en ce qui concerne le coût que cette nouvelle activité impliquerait pour l'Organisation. L'Uruguay et les autres pays appuyant le projet de décision ont expliqué que cette activité serait financée en totalité par des contributions extrabudgétaires. Cela étant, nombreux ont été les représentants à poser des questions sur le financement de l'activité, ce qui a donné lieu à un débat très animé s'apparentant parfois davantage à ceux de la Commission PX qu'à ceux de la Commission FA. Dans sa réponse, le représentant du Secrétariat a indiqué que ce dernier avait les moyens de fournir un soutien à l'activité proposée et a confirmé que celle-ci serait financée au moyen de contributions extrabudgétaires. Étant donné qu'il n'était pas possible de parvenir à un consensus, il a été décidé de créer un groupe d'experts officieux pour qu'il rédige un nouveau projet de décision à même de recueillir l'approbation de tous. Ce groupe, constitué par l'Uruguay, le Mexique, le Brésil, le Canada, le Nigéria et les États-Unis d'Amérique, est parvenu à réunir un consensus et a présenté à la

Commission FA une nouvelle version du projet de décision. À la suite d'un nouveau débat, un projet de décision a été approuvé et transmis à la Commission PX pour examen.

(37.78) Point 73 « Célébration du 60^e anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme ». Le représentant de l'Uruguay a présenté ce point au nom des autres pays ayant demandé son inscription à l'ordre du jour (Colombie, Équateur, Guatemala, Mexique et Venezuela). Il a souligné ce que représentait la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, devenue pierre angulaire internationale en matière de droits de l'homme, source d'inspiration de nombreuses constitutions nationales et régionales et base de l'action du système des Nations Unies. Il a en particulier rappelé que le 50^e anniversaire de la Déclaration avait mobilisé l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. Sept pays ont exprimé leur appui à cette initiative. Une délégation a rappelé que le Directeur général s'était engagé à ce que l'UNESCO apporte une contribution adéquate à la célébration de cet anniversaire. Une autre délégation a signalé qu'un plan d'action était déjà en préparation dans son pays et exprimé le souhait que l'on étudie la possibilité que ces travaux et les activités programmées par l'UNESCO s'inscrivent dans une optique synergique. Le représentant du Secrétariat a donné des informations sur les actions menées par le Secrétariat pour préparer la contribution de l'UNESCO à la célébration, sur les activités prévues dans le projet de 34 C/5 relatives au 60^e anniversaire de la Déclaration et sur la coordination mise en place avec d'autres membres du système des Nations Unies. Au mois de septembre 2007, deux réunions d'information ont été organisées à l'intention des délégations permanentes. Elles ont permis un échange d'idées fructueux avec les États membres sur les priorités thématiques d'un éventuel plan d'action de l'UNESCO, ouvrant ainsi la voie à la proposition figurant dans le document 177 EX/73. Par ailleurs, il a été souligné que le 60^e anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle concernait l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies et que le Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme était l'organisme chargé de coordonner sa célébration. Il avait récemment entrepris les préparatifs liés à celle-ci. Le 10 décembre 2007, date prévue pour le début des activités, sera mis en place un cadre global dans lequel sera intégrée la contribution spécifique de l'UNESCO, parallèlement à celle d'autres institutions spécialisées, programmes et organes des Nations Unies. Le plan d'action de l'UNESCO comprendra deux sortes d'activités : (a) des activités prévues dans le projet de 34 C/5 qui pourront être associées au 60^e anniversaire, et (b) des activités visant spécifiquement à célébrer cet anniversaire, lesquelles exigeront nécessairement un financement extrabudgétaire. Divers amendements ont été présentés et acceptés et le projet de décision tel qu'amendé a été transmis à la Commission PX.

(L'orateur poursuit en français)

37.79 Alors que j'arrive au terme de ma présentation, Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de remercier, au

nom de la Commission et en mon nom personnel, toutes celles et tous ceux qui ont contribué au succès de nos travaux. Je citerai notamment les membres de la Commission et leurs adjoints et, plus particulièrement, les membres du Groupe d'experts sous la présidence du représentant du Maroc, M. Abdellatif Bennani. Je citerai aussi le Président du Comité du Siège, S. E. M. David Hamadziripi, ambassadeur de la République du Zimbabwe ; le Commissaire aux comptes, M. Philippe Séguin, et ses représentants, Mme Astrid Couzian et M. Jérôme Bastianelli ; le représentant du Secrétariat, M. Amine Khene (ADG), et tous ses collègues, qui nous ont apporté toutes les clarifications et l'aide nécessaires pour mener à bien nos travaux ; je voudrais ici insister plus spécialement sur leur souci remarquable de limiter leurs interventions aux aspects proprement administratifs et financiers et je voudrais les encourager, pour faciliter la tâche de mon successeur, à persévérer dans cette juste voie. Je remercie comme il se doit nos excellents interprètes et traducteurs, sans qui rien ne serait possible, et je les recommande encore une fois au dieu yoruba Eshou, qui est celui des traducteurs et des bonnes rencontres. Je remercie toutes les « petites mains » invisibles et efficaces qui agissent en coulisses. Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais remercier le Secrétaire de la Commission financière et administrative, M. Agapito Mba-Mokuy, et son équipe : MM. Sameer Pise et Yves Marius Sagou, Mmes Irina Zoubenko-Laplante, Janet Boulmer et Henriane Amorin. Tous ont fait montre d'un grand professionnalisme et n'ont, à aucun moment, ménagé leurs efforts pour assister la Commission et le Groupe d'experts tout au long de cette session. Je voudrais, pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, vous dire que cette expérience à la tête de la Commission a été pour moi une sorte de symphonie inachevée, qui m'a amené en particulier à méditer trois formules fortes tout au long de ces deux années. La première est un vers du poète espagnol Quevedo : « Poderoso caballero es don dinero » (L'argent est un puissant seigneur). La deuxième est dans ma langue, le yoruba. Elle signifie : « L'argent est nécessaire ; il faut aussi des sages. Mais la présence d'un sage vaut toutes les ressources ». La troisième est tout naturellement en français - c'est un adage qui m'a toujours taraudé, selon lequel l'argent serait le nerf de la guerre. En vous quittant, je voudrais suggérer que l'on modifie cette expression - au moins ici à l'UNESCO - et que l'on dise à l'avenir que l'argent est le nerf de la paix. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, Mesdames, Messieurs, de votre bienveillante et patiente attention. Je me tiens évidemment à votre disposition pour répondre à vos questions ou commentaires.

38. The Chairperson thanked Mr Yaï for his clear, comprehensive and insightful report, which had been presented democratically – in three languages – demonstrating Mr Yaï's respect for cultural diversity. Entrusted with the examination of 31 of the 67 items on the Board's agenda, the Finance and Administrative Commission had faced a great challenge, and had acquitted itself efficiently.

The meeting rose at 2.10 p.m.

DIXIÈME SÉANCE

Jeudi 11 octobre 2007 à 16 heures

Président : M. Zhang

ADOPTION OF DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (*continued*)

Finance and Administrative Commission (FA): report and draft decisions recommended to the Executive Board (177 EX/78) (*continued*)

Item 4: Report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference (177 EX/4 Part II and Corr. (Management chart); 177 EX/INF.12 Rev.; 177 EX/INF.13; 177 EX/INF.14; 177 EX/INF.15; 177 EX/INF.17)

Draft decision in paragraph 2 of document 177 EX/78

Item 5: Report by the Director-General on the follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/5 and Add. and Add.2; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev.; 177 EX/INF.13; 177 EX/INF.14)

Item 6: Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the reform process (177 EX/6 Part I and Add. and Add.2 and Part II; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev.; 177 EX/INF.13; 176 EX/INF.14)

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 177 EX/78

Item 9: Progress report by the Director-General on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) (177 EX/9)

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 177 EX/78

Item 10: Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for the establishment of an institute on a partnership for environmental development (IPEd) in Trieste, Italy, as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/10)

Item 11: Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for the establishment of an IHP international centre of water for food security at Charles Sturt University in Australia, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/11)

Item 13: Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for the establishment of an international research centre on karst in Guilin, China, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/13)

Item 15: Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for the establishment of a regional centre for water management research in arid zones in Pakistan, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/15)

Item 16: Report by the Director-General on a plan of action concerning UNESCO's participation in the implementation of the decision and declaration by the African Union Summit on Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development (January 2007) (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/16)

Item 21: Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for the establishment in China of a

world heritage training and research institute for the Asia and the Pacific region, as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/21)

Item 24: Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for the establishment of a regional centre for information and communication technology in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/24)

Item 25: Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5), and recommendations of the Executive Board (34 C/5 2nd version Volumes 1 and 2 and Corr. – Corr. 2; 177 EX/INF.12 Rev.; 177 EX/INF.13; 177 EX/INF.14; 177 EX/INF.18)

Draft decision in paragraph 13 of document 177 EX/78

Item 29: Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the guidelines and criteria for category 2 institutes and centres adopted in 33 C/Resolution 90 (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/29; 177 EX/INF.9; 177 EX/INF.16)

Item 30: Report by the Director-General on the reorientation of the UNESCO Office in Brasilia (*Administrative and financial aspects*) (177 EX/30)

Item 45: Recommendation of the Executive Board concerning communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C.8(c) of the Constitution and voting rights (177 EX/45 and Add.3)

Draft decision in paragraph 16 of document 177 EX/78

Item 47: Financial report and interim financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO as at 31 December 2006 for the financial period ending 31 December 2007 (177 EX/47)

Draft decision in paragraph 17 of document 177 EX/78

Item 48: Report by the Director-General on the actual position concerning all payment plans agreed upon between UNESCO and Member States in arrears with their contributions (177 EX/48 and Add.)

Draft decision in paragraph 18 of document 177 EX/78

Item 50: Report by the Director-General on the geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat (177 EX/50)

Draft decision in paragraph 19 of document 177 EX/78

Item 51: Progress report by the Director-General on extrabudgetary resources and activities (177 EX/51)

Draft decision in paragraph 20 of document 177 EX/78

Item 52: Report by the Director-General on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor on audits already undertaken (177 EX/52)

Draft decision in paragraph 21 of document 177 EX/78

Item 53: Report by the Director-General on progress in implementing 176 EX/Decision 39 and the External Auditor's recommendations concerning UNESCO's procurement policies and procedures (177 EX/53)

Draft decision in paragraph 22 of document 177 EX/78

Item 54: Report by the External Auditor on the management of the UNESCO Office in Brasilia (Administrative and financial aspects) (177 EX/54)

Item 55: Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex (177 EX/55)

Draft decision in paragraph 24 of document 177 EX/78

Item 56: Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the Participation Programme and emergency assistance (177 EX/56)

Draft decision in paragraph 25 of document 177 EX/78

Item 66: Proposal for the establishment of an international centre on hydroinformatics for integrated water resources management at Itaipú Binacional, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (Administrative and financial aspects) (177 EX/INF.66)

Item 67: Proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for underwater archaeology in Zadar, Croatia as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (Administrative and financial aspects) (177 EX/67 and Add.)

Item 68: Proposal for the establishment of a water centre for sustainable development in Central America and the Caribbean in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (Administrative and financial aspects) (177 EX/68 and Corr., 177 EX/INF.11)

Item 69: Proposal for the establishment of an institute for African culture and international understanding at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (Administrative and financial aspects) (177 EX/69)

Item 70: Commemorative activities for the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Auroville, an international township (Administrative and financial aspects) (177 EX/70 and Add.; 177 EX/INF.11)

Item 71: Creation of a network of national authorities to support migrants who are victims of discrimination and xenophobia (Administrative and financial aspects) (177 EX/71; 177 EX/INF.11)

Item 73: Celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (177 EX/73)

1. **El Sr. Miranda Ortiz** (México), refiriéndose al punto 25 del orden del día, tras dar las gracias en nombre de su país al Presidente de la Comisión FA por su informe, recuerda su exposición detallada sobre la falta de equilibrio en el proyecto de presupuesto. Preocupado por las reducciones efectuadas en los programas, ruega al Director General que intervenga para aumentar las asignaciones que les están destinadas y disminuir los gastos administrativos en el documento 34 C/5 Aprobado.

(1) **Mr Miranda Ortiz** (Mexico), referring to agenda item 25 and after thanking, on his country's behalf, the Chairperson of the FA Commission for his report, recalled his own detailed statement on the lack of balance in the draft budget. Worried about the cuts made in the programmes, he requested the Director-General to step in to ensure increased programme allocations and reduce the administrative costs in document 34 C/5 Approved.

2. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) said that he would like the draft decision on item 56 to be taken separately and asked the Chairperson when he should propose his amendment thereto.

3. **The Chairperson** reminded the Board that pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, it would adopt the entire set of draft decisions as a whole, unless a Member State requested that a specific decision be adopted separately. Should that be the case, amendments were proposed when the draft decisions taken separately were examined. General comments should be made after adoption of all the draft decisions.

4. **Mr Landymore** (United Kingdom) asked for the draft decision on item 45 to be adopted separately.

5. **M. Johnson** demande que le projet de décision relatif au point 56 soit examiné séparément.

6. **M. Yaï** (Bénin) (Président de la Commission financière et administrative) ne voit aucune objection à ce qu'on adopte séparément le projet de décision concernant le point 56.

7. **The Chairperson** said that if he saw no objection he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decisions in document 177 EX/78, with the exception of the draft decisions on items 45 and 56.

8. *It was so decided.*

Item 45: Recommendation of the Executive Board concerning communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C.8(c) of the Constitution and voting rights (177 EX/45 and Add.-Add.3)

Draft decision in paragraph 16 of document 177 EX/78

9. **Mr Landymore** (United Kingdom) said that there appeared to be a technical problem with the draft decision in question. The Chairperson of the Finance and Administrative Commission had correctly stated in his oral report that the Commission had recommended to the Board that it return action on the draft decision to the General Conference, but the draft decision as set out in document 177 EX/78 was at variance with that recommendation.

10. **Ms Levasseur** (Canada) agreed that there was a technical problem with the text.

11. **Mr Kusi-Achampong** (Ghana) said that Member States could make payments in the final hours before the opening of the 34th session of the General Conference. The Finance and Administrative Commission had therefore considered it judicious to refer back any decisions in that regard to the Conference itself.

12. **M. Yaï** (Bénin) (Président de la Commission financière et administrative) convient que le texte proposé ne reflète ni les discussions qui ont eu lieu au sein de la Commission ni la teneur de son propre rapport sur ce point.

13. **Ms Levasseur** (Canada) proposed rewording paragraph 2 of the draft decision in question to read: "Requests the Director-General to transmit the communications received invoking the terms of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution to the General Conference for appropriate decision". All the following paragraphs would then be deleted.

14. **Mr Omolewa** (Nigeria) said that it would be better to move paragraph 2, as amended by Canada, after

paragraph 4 of the draft decision as it stood, because it was important to place the decision in the context of the requirements of the Constitution, which were reflected in existing paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.

15. **Mr Peay** (United States of America) agreed with the logic of the representative of Nigeria. With regard to the Canadian amendment, it could usefully be reworded, since any decision by the General Conference was bound to be appropriate. Accordingly, the Board could say that the communications were being transmitted to the Conference for “appropriate action”, “consideration”, or “decision”.

16. **Ms Levasseur** (Canada) agreed that paragraphs 3 and 4 should be retained, as suggested by the representative of Nigeria; they would become paragraphs 2 and 3, with the old paragraph 2, as amended by Canada and the United States, becoming paragraph 4.

17. **M. Yaï** (Bénin) (Président de la Commission financière et administrative) ne voit pas d'objection aux amendements du Canada, du Nigéria et des États-Unis d'Amérique. La formulation proposée indique bien que c'est à la Conférence générale qu'il reviendra de prendre la décision qu'elle jugera appropriée.

18. **The Secretary** said that the proposed changes to the draft decision were the following. Paragraph 1 would remain unchanged. Paragraphs 3 and 4 would become paragraphs 2 and 3. The new paragraph 4 would be the old paragraph 2, and would read: “Requests the Director-General to transmit the communications received invoking the terms of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution to the General Conference for decision”. Paragraphs 5 and 6 would be deleted.

19. *The draft decision contained in paragraph 16 of document 177 EX/78, as amended, was **adopted**.*

Point 56 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre du Programme de participation et de l'aide d'urgence (177 EX/56)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 25 du document 177 EX/78

20. **M. Johnson** (Togo), appuyé par M. Aziz (Afghanistan), propose d'ajouter à la fin du paragraphe 7 du projet de décision relatif à ce point le membre de phrase suivant : « en faveur des pays spécifiquement mentionnés au paragraphe 4 ».

21. **M. Yaï** (Bénin) (Président de la Commission financière et administrative) dit qu'en tant que représentant de l'un des pays mentionnés au paragraphe 4 du projet de décision, il juge cette précision particulièrement utile et l'accueille très favorablement.

22. *The draft decision contained in paragraph 25 of document 177 EX/78, as amended, was **adopted**.*

23. *All the draft decisions contained in document 177 EX/78, as amended, were **adopted**.*

Statements following the adoption of the draft decisions recommended by the FA Commission

24. **The Chairperson** expressed his appreciation to the Chairperson, Temporary Chairperson and members of the Finance and Administrative Commission, and to the Expert Group, for their excellent work. The Chairperson had handled the many items with remarkable aplomb, and the Commission's recommendations provided invaluable information and guidance to the Board and to the

Secretariat. He thanked all the members of the Secretariat for their assistance to the Commission, and in particular the secretariat of the Commission, which had worked through the night to produce the Chairperson's oral report.

(Applause)

25. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) expressed his gratitude to the Chairperson of the FA Commission for his great sincerity and seriousness. Speaking in his capacity as President of the Group of 77 and China, he thanked all those in Member States and the Secretariat who had paid special attention to South-South cooperation, and invited the countries of the North to contribute to discussion on that issue. Four Member States – China, India, Malaysia and Morocco – had already contributed to the South-South Cooperation Fund for Education, and the Group of 77 and China hoped to submit a draft decision to the Board at its 179th session on the use and administration of the Fund.

26. **El Sr. Michelini** (Uruguay), en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y del Caribe, de su país, y en el suyo propio, agradece al Presidente de la Comisión FA su informe y le felicita por el espíritu de consenso que supo crear durante las sesiones de trabajo.

(26) **Mr Michelini** (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group, his country, and himself personally, thanked the Chairperson of the FA Commission for his report and commended the spirit of consensus he had fostered during the working meetings.

27. **Ms Shi** (China) congratulated the Chairperson and Temporary Chairperson of the FA Commission on having faced up to the exigencies of some particularly challenging items. The Chairperson's able stewardship had enabled consensus to be reached on sensitive issues.

28. **Mr Wole** (Ethiopia) said the Board owed a vote of thanks to the highly effective Chairperson of the FA Commission, who had shown considerable sensitivity, discretion and energy in tackling a challenging task.

29. **Mme Levasseur** (Canada) note, en s'en félicitant, que la Commission FA, tout comme la Commission PX, n'a jamais eu besoin d'utiliser le nouveau système de vote électronique dont était équipée la salle qui lui était assignée, son Président étant toujours parvenu à dégager un consensus.

30. **Mr Kusi-Achampong** (Ghana) said that in Ghana money was sometimes likened to Satan, and at others to the blood of humanity. In that perspective, special leadership qualities and expertise were required to chair the FA Commission. Africa was very proud of the representative of Benin, who had exhibited those qualities throughout the biennium in his capacity as Chairperson of the Commission.

31. **Mr Omolewa** (Nigeria) commended the Chairperson of the FA Commission on his competence, integrity and sensitivity. He had steered clear of controversy and worked hard to achieve consensus.

32. **Ms Amatavivat** (Thailand) congratulated the Chairperson of the FA Commission on his great contribution in dealing with the immense complexity of the work entrusted to the Commission.

33. **Mr Sukanaivalu** (Fiji) thanked the Chairperson of the FA Commission and his colleagues for their hard work. The Pacific island nations were grateful to UNESCO

for its assistance to them, and in particular to the Director-General for his concern about the region.

٣٤ أعربت السيدة بناني (المغرب) عن تهنئتها الحارة النابعة من أعماق القلب للسيد ياي، رئيس اللجنة المالية والإدارية، على الطريقة المثالية والإيجابية التي أدار بها اللجنة، وعلى حرصه الدائم على التوصل إلى نتائج توافقية في مختلف بنود جدول الأعمال. ورأت أن الثنائي جنوب-شمال، أو شمال-جنوب، الذي كونه مع رئيس لجنة البرنامج والعلاقات الخارجية لجدير بالتنويه، وأشادت بالدور الهام الذي اضطلع به كل من الرئيسين في تجاوز بعض الصعاب التي كانت ملقاة على عاتق اللجنتين.

(34) **Ms Bennani** (Morocco) expressed warm congratulations from the depths of her heart to Mr Yaï, Chairperson of the FA Commission, for the exemplary and positive manner in which he had steered the Commission, and for his constant endeavours to attain consensual results on the different items on the agenda. She was of the opinion that the South-North or North-South duo that he had formed with the Chairperson of the PX Commission praiseworthy, and commended the important role played by both Chairpersons in overcoming some of the difficulties confronting the two commissions.

35. **M. Mboui** (Cameroun) dit qu'en tant que Vice-Président pour le Groupe Afrique, il a dû convaincre l'ambassadeur Yaï d'accepter cette haute fonction car aux nombreuses qualités qui ont été relevées à son propos, il faut ajouter l'humilité. L'orateur le remercie au nom de son groupe et en celui du Conseil d'avoir su si bien défendre les couleurs de l'Afrique et celles de l'UNESCO.

36. **M. Boughaba** (Algérie) tient à associer son pays à l'hommage rendu à un digne fils de l'Afrique, ce continent dont l'Organisation a fait l'une de ses priorités. Si M. Yaï est un ami des lettres et des langues, il est aussi un allié des chiffres à en juger par le brio avec lequel il a conduit les difficiles délibérations de la Commission FA.

37. **Mr Peay** (United States of America) said that Ms Oliver, his country's representative on the Board, had been called away on a personal matter, but had she been present, she would have associated herself with preceding speakers in paying tribute to the Chairperson of the FA Commission.

38. **Le Directeur général** exprime en son nom et en celui du Secrétariat ses sincères remerciements à M. Yaï pour l'efficacité avec laquelle il a présidé les travaux de la Commission FA, qui était saisie de nombreuses questions délicates. Au sujet du nouveau dispositif de vote électronique équipant la salle XI, où il s'est révélé superflu, il note qu'il n'a pas encore été possible, faute de ressources, de l'installer aussi dans la salle I, où la Conférence générale va bientôt tenir ses séances plénières, ni dans la salle X, où siège le Conseil, la chose étant dans ce dernier cas sans grande conséquence étant donné le talent avec lequel M. Zhang sait susciter le consensus.

Commission du programme et des relations extérieures (PX) : rapport et projets de décision recommandés au Conseil exécutif (177 EX/79 Parties I, II et III)

Point 4 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale (177 EX/4 Partie I (Exécution du programme),

177 EX/INF.7, 177 EX/INF.10, 177 EX/INF.12 Rev., 177 EX/INF.13, 177 EX/INF.14 et 177 EX/INF.17)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 2 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 5 : Rapport du Directeur général sur le suivi des décisions et résolutions adoptées par le Conseil exécutif et la Conférence générale à leurs sessions antérieures (Aspects relatifs au programme) (177 EX/5 et Add., 177 EX/INF.12 Rev., 177 EX/INF.13 et 177 EX/INF.14)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 3 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 7 : Rapport du Conseil d'administration de l'Institut international de l'UNESCO pour le renforcement des capacités en Afrique (IIRCA) sur les activités de l'Institut en 2006-2007 (177 EX/7 et Add. et Corr.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 4 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 8 : Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'alphabétisation (DNUA) (2003-2012) : rapport d'étape 2006-2007 (177 EX/8)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 5 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 9 : Rapport d'étape du Directeur général sur la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable (2005-2014) (177 EX/9)

Point 10 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création d'un institut en partenariat pour l'environnement et le développement (IPED) à Trieste (Italie) en tant qu'institut de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects relatifs au programme) (177 EX/10)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 7 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 11 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création, à l'Université Charles Sturt (Australie), d'un centre international PHI sur l'eau pour la sécurité alimentaire en tant que centre de catégorie 2, placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects relatifs au programme) (177 EX/11)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 8 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 13 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création à Guilin (Chine) d'un centre international de recherche sur le karst en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects relatifs au programme) (177 EX/13)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 9 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 15 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création au Pakistan d'un centre régional de recherche sur la gestion de l'eau dans les zones arides en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (Aspects relatifs au programme) (177 EX/15)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 10 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 21 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création en Chine d'un

institut de formation et de recherche sur le patrimoine mondial pour la région Asie-Pacifique en tant qu'institut de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/21)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 11 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 23 : Rapports sur la mise en œuvre du Programme Information pour tous (PIPT) (177 EX/23)

Point 24 : Rapport du Directeur général sur l'étude de faisabilité concernant la création, à Manama (Royaume de Bahreïn), d'un centre régional pour les technologies de l'information et de la communication en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/24)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 13 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 29 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la mise en œuvre des directives et critères régissant les instituts et centres de catégorie 2 adoptés dans la résolution 33 C/90 (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/29, 177 EX/INF.9 et 177 EX/INF.16)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 14 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 58 : Recours présentés par les États membres au sujet de leurs propositions relatives à la célébration des anniversaires auxquels l'UNESCO pourrait être associée en 2008-2009 (177 EX/58 et Add.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 15 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 65 : Rapport du Conseil d'administration de l'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO (ISU) sur les activités de l'Institut (177 EX/65)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 16 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 68 : Proposition concernant la création à Saint-Domingue (République dominicaine) d'un centre sur l'eau pour le développement durable en Amérique centrale et dans les Caraïbes, en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/68 et Corr. et 177 EX/INF.11)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 17 du document 177 EX/79 Partie I

Point 16 : Rapport du Directeur général sur un plan d'action concernant la participation de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre des décisions et de la Déclaration du Sommet de l'Union africaine sur la science, la technologie et la recherche scientifique pour le développement (janvier 2007) (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/16)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 2 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 19 : Jérusalem et la mise en œuvre de la résolution 33 C/50 et de la décision 176 EX/20 (177 EX/19 et Add. et 177 EX/INF.8)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 3 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 20 : Rapport du Directeur général sur les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre de la décision

adoptée par le Conseil exécutif à la réunion plénière spéciale tenue à sa 176^e session concernant les fouilles archéologiques israéliennes sur la Rampe des Maghrébins dans la Vieille Ville de Jérusalem (177 EX/20 et Add.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 4 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 30 : Rapport du Directeur général sur la réorientation du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brasilia (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/30)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 5 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 62 : Application de la résolution 33 C/70 et de la décision 176 EX/49 concernant les institutions éducatives et culturelles dans les territoires arabes occupés (177 EX/62 et Add.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 6 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 63 : Rapport du Directeur général sur les progrès réalisés dans la contribution de l'UNESCO à la reconstruction et au développement au Liban (177 EX/63)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 7 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 64 : Rapport du Directeur général sur les institutions culturelles et éducatives en Iraq (177 EX/64 Rev.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 8 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 66 : Proposition concernant la création à Itaipú Binacional d'un centre international d'hydro-informatique pour la gestion intégrée des ressources en eau en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/66)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 9 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 67 : Proposition concernant la création à Zadar (Croatie) d'un centre régional d'archéologie sous-marine en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/67 et Add.)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 10 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 69 : Proposition concernant la création, à la Bibliothèque présidentielle Olusegun Obasanjo d'Abeokuta, dans l'État d'Ogun (Nigéria), d'un institut pour la culture africaine et la compréhension internationale, en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/69)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 11 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 70 : Activités de commémoration du 40^e anniversaire de la création de la cité internationale d'Auroville (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/70 et Add. et 177 EX/INF.11)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 12 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 72 : Situation des étudiants irakiens réfugiés en République arabe syrienne (177 EX/72 et 177 EX/INF.11)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 13 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 73 : Célébration du 60^e anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/73)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 14 du document 177 EX/79 Partie II

Point 71 : Création d'un réseau d'autorités nationales d'appui aux migrants victimes de discrimination et de xénophobie (*Aspects relatifs au programme*) (177 EX/71 et 177 EX/INF.11)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 2 du document 177 EX/79 Partie III

39.1 **M. Steensnæs** (Norvège) (Président de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un grand honneur pour moi de m'adresser à votre honorable assemblée une dernière fois dans mon rôle de Président de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures afin de vous faire rapport sur ses travaux à cette 177^e session du Conseil exécutif. À sa séance d'ouverture, la Commission a adopté son calendrier et élu Président temporaire le distingué représentant du Canada, S. E. M. Gilbert Laurin, que je tiens à remercier pour m'avoir remplacé dans l'exercice de mes fonctions et pour avoir joué un rôle crucial dans les échanges et consultations entre les membres de la Commission sur des points particulièrement sensibles de notre ordre du jour.

39.2 Chers collègues, cette dernière session du Conseil exécutif pour l'exercice biennal en cours est traditionnellement considérée comme une session de préparation de la Conférence générale, ce qui – croyez-moi – n'a pas empêché la Commission d'avoir des échanges riches et approfondis, que ce soit pour dresser le bilan des activités menées par l'Organisation ou pour se projeter déjà vers les défis auxquels notre Organisation et ses États membres seront confrontés à l'avenir.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

39.3 Members of the Board, the Commission had 36 items to examine, 6 of which were examined at a joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions, the results of which have been already presented to you this morning. As far as possible I will present the work of the PX Commission to you according to logical grouping and sequencing. As you all know, I have been in the habit of trying to present you with a concise report of the work of the PX Commission, and consequently to express a great deal in a limited number of words. I will do so this time too. Time will not allow me to acknowledge one by one the detailed presentations of the different representatives of the Director-General and Member States, but I wish to state that the work of our Commission was greatly facilitated by these contributions, and I thank you all.

39.4 I invite you to refer to document 177 EX/79 Parts I, II and III, which contains the draft decisions recommended for each item by the PX Commission. I wish to point out that for all the 17 items shared with the FA Commission, we benefited, as usual, from the results of the deliberations that had taken place beforehand therein.

39.5 Dear Members of the Board, the Commission started its intense work with an overview of the results achieved during the biennium, by examining in a discussion unit item 4 and item 5. As reiterated by the representative of the Director-General, the examination of the reports on the approved programme implementation represents a key statutory task for the Board, and as expected, the discussions around these items proved to be thorough and multifaceted.

39.6 Twenty-three representatives took the floor in the debate of this joint unit. All welcomed the improvements introduced in document 177 EX/4, in terms of its reader-friendliness and higher quality than previous versions, especially with regard to the synthetic grouping of, and focus on, key results. Several speakers made suggestions for further improving the document, by including an executive summary of the results achieved by Major Programme and using specially designed tables in the reports to capture both the expected results and the results achieved. It was also proposed that the report should include the assessment of the results in priority areas, such as gender equality, partnership activities and their impact, as well as an analysis of challenges and difficulties encountered in programme implementation.

39.7 Several members wished to see some of the key events organized by UNESCO, such as the Beijing conference on addressing literacy challenges and the International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus, in Buenos Aires, reflected in the report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme, while others expressed the desire to be notified in advance about similar important initiatives, such as the conference on dialogue among endogenous religions, Christianity and Islam, held in Cotonou, Benin, last August.

39.8 Concerning UNESCO's involvement in the United Nations reform processes, several delegations expressed their satisfaction with the information provided and the Director-General's recent information meeting on the subject. A "point of no return" has been reached, and UNESCO needs to continue to involve itself proactively, also in relation to the role of the regional directors' teams reviewing programmes and managing for results at the country level. The relevance of capacity-building activities carried out for field offices to engage meaningfully in the United Nations reform process was underlined by several speakers.

39.9 In the field of education, the importance of UNESCO's lead role in the global coordination of and resource mobilization for education for all (EFA) is hard to overestimate. The relevance of the linkages and synergy between the Global Action Plan on EFA and the UNESCO National Education Support Strategies (UNESS) was emphasized, and satisfaction was expressed with regard to UNESCO's collaboration with other United Nations partners in this regard. In this context, attention was also drawn to obstacles to the achievement of the EFA goals, such as HIV/AIDS, and natural catastrophes, such as floods. Speakers drew attention to the importance of technical and vocational education and training, especially with regard to targeting young women, and more information on the related policies and strategies was called for.

39.10 Many delegates welcomed the excellent work of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) for promoting UNESCO's mandate in the field of the natural sciences, and urged that there should be better linkages between the knowledge produced and national policies.

39.11 In the social and human sciences, several members of the Commission highlighted the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, and emphasized the importance of fostering dialogue between social science researchers and policy-makers and the forums for the ministers of social development. UNESCO's initiatives to promote respect for human rights, combat racism and discrimination and address issues related to migration were also emphasized, calling for improved coordination with other organizations in these domains. The speakers also welcomed the celebration of World Philosophy Day, and favourably commented on the recent publication on philosophy education.

39.12 As for culture, several delegates expressed satisfaction with the entry into force of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Reference was made to the importance of UNESCO's role in related capacity-building activities. Activities in the area of trafficking in cultural property were equally highlighted, and it was recommended that the EX/4 document be systematically updated with information on that topic.

39.13 The continued relevance of promoting intercultural dialogue was underlined, and a request was made for the EX/4 document to include information on the dissemination of the concept among various stakeholders. A request was also made for additional information on UNESCO's collaboration with the Alliance of Civilizations and the possibility of strengthening UNESCO's role in the implementation of its activities.

39.14 In regard to communication and information, satisfaction was expressed with UNESCO's multifaceted and multi-stakeholder approach to the implementation of its World Summit on the Information Society commitments and its follow-up to the six action lines for which UNESCO has been designated facilitator. In this context, the promotion of partnerships, in particular multi-stakeholder engagement, the involvement of civil society, and the enhancement of intersectorality were highlighted.

39.15 Under item **5**, several members of the Commission emphasized the growing importance of South-South cooperation as well as of North-South-South (triangular) cooperation, and highlighted the need for adequate resources to that end. The Commission also referred to the convening of a session of the UNESCO International Conference on Education (IBE) in Geneva in November 2008, and invited the Director-General to continue to support the UNESCO International Bureau for Education (IBE) in order to mobilize the necessary human and financial resources towards that end.

39.16 At the end of its debate and after having taken into consideration the FA Commission's deliberations, the Commission took note of the relevant documents and recommended the draft decisions contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part I of the written report.

39.17 Distinguished delegates, as was the case at the last session and as has become a usual practice aimed at improving the efficiency of our work, the Commission was able to identify a number of items that were considered without debate, namely items **58**, then items **65**, **23** and **7** all concerning statutory reports addressed to the General Conference through the Executive Board, and items **68** and **69**, relating to the establishment of new category 2 centres.

39.18 Item **58** is related to the appeals by Member States concerning their proposals for the celebration of

anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2008-2009 and the relevant decision is contained in paragraph 15 of Part I of the written report.

39.19 Item **65** dealt with the activities of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), and our examination of this item benefited from the presence of the Director of the Institute, which allowed for a question/answer exercise on issues such as the revision of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), production of reliable indicators and discrepancies in indicators between UIS and regional organizations, the collaboration of the Institute with other international organizations and United Nations country teams, and the funding sources of the statistical capacity-building programme.

39.20 In conclusion, in referring you to the draft decision proposed in paragraph 16 of Part I of the report, I wish to underscore the commendation of the Commission for the work done and the results achieved by the Institute.

39.21 Also for item **7**, dealing with the activities of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA), the presence of the Chair of the Governing Board of the Institute allowed a question/answer exercise with the members of the Commission addressing in particular the development of French language programmes and the financial situation of the Institute.

39.22 Item **23** presents the statutory report on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP), including a report of the activities of the Intergovernmental Council for IFAP. As you are aware, the Information For All Programme was also extensively addressed at the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions when examining item **26** on the evaluations undertaken during the present biennium. The Commission therefore considered it essential to recognize the link between these two items, as shown in the draft decision in paragraph 12 of Part I of the report, and requested that the evaluation report be sent to the General Conference together with the report of IFAP.

39.23 For item **68** on the proposal to establish a category 2 water centre for sustainable development in Central America and the Caribbean in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, the relevant draft decision can be found in paragraph 17 of Part I of the report, while for item **69** on the proposal for the establishment of an institute for African culture and international understanding at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria the decision is contained in paragraph 11 of Part II. As far as the latter is concerned, I must recall that taking into account the advancement in the preparation of the relevant feasibility study, the Commission proposes that the Executive Board be authorized by the General Conference to finalize the process of establishment of the centre, should the feasibility study be satisfactory.

39.24 Members of the Board, as at previous sessions, the PX Commission devoted special attention to items relevant to education.

39.25 Item **8**, which concerns the Director-General's progress report on the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012), was introduced by the new Assistant Director-General for Education, who provided background information on the Decade, and highlighted the main points of the report on the implementation of the Decade during 2006 and 2007. Twenty-four speakers participated in the debate on this item, along with two observers. A number of speakers underlined the significance of literacy

for sustainable development and stressed the importance for UNESCO of establishing a clear link between education for all and the Decade, as well as between the Millennium Development Goals and the Decade.

39.26 National and regional capacity-building was mentioned by several speakers as crucial for the sustainability of any literacy initiative, and members requested UNESCO to accelerate its action in this area. The needs assessment would be a desired initial step towards responding to the needs concerning literacy at the country level. Moreover, sharing information on best practices in programmes and policies between countries would positively contribute to national capacity-building to solve the problem of illiteracy.

39.27 The regional literacy conferences were considered to be of vital importance by several speakers, who asked for the reports on the follow-up to the Beijing and Bamako conferences, and welcomed the fifth regional literacy conference to be held in Costa Rica. The Director-General was invited to promote South-South and North-South-South cooperation as one of the objectives of the future conferences on literacy, in order to mobilize the necessary resources, including through the UNESCO South-South Cooperation Fund for Education.

39.28 The United Nations Literacy Decade mid-decade review process was considered critical not only in order to assess progress made so far but also to identify and propose concrete steps, actions and outcomes to address the challenges facing literacy during the second half of the Decade. The speakers noted that indicators for monitoring progress, as well as policy benchmarks should be established.

39.29 LIFE, the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment promoted by UNESCO within the framework of United Nations Literacy Decade, was considered to be an important initiative, and was highly commended by several speakers. It was noted that UNESCO should focus on adults as well as on children in its efforts to eradicate illiteracy.

39.30 You will find the draft decision approved by the PX Commission at the end of its deliberations contained in paragraph 5 of Part I of the document before you.

39.31 Members of the Board, with regard to item 9 on United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and the Director-General's progress report, 22 members of the Commission participated in the debate, and reaffirmed their support for education for sustainable development, emphasizing its importance in addressing environmental challenges, including climate change and disaster mitigation and preparedness. A number of speakers flagged the issue of culture and cultural diversity as an essential dimension of education for sustainable development, stressing the need for this to be better reflected in the UNESCO action plan. Speakers stressed the need for capacity-building at the regional and national levels to carry out effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Decade.

39.32 A number of speakers focused on the important role of National Commissions, and felt that the Decade was an excellent opportunity to strengthen cooperation among them in the field of education for sustainable development, to encourage further North-South-South and South-South exchanges of good practices and to share experiences of setting up national Decade mechanisms. The role of the Associated Schools Project Network in the Decade was emphasized by several

speakers. Some Member States stressed that they would have liked to see an enhanced intersectoral approach to UNESCO's contribution to the Decade, involving all programme sectors of the Organization.

39.33 The Commission emphasized the importance of assessing progress made so far in the implementation of the Decade, and welcomed the offer made by Germany to host in 2009 the mid-term review conference.

39.34 During the discussion of the relevant draft decision, several concerns were expressed regarding the possible financial and administrative implications of the text under examination. Therefore, at the request of the Commission, I conveyed to the Bureau, through the Chairperson of the Executive Board, the draft decision approved by the PX Commission at the conclusion of its deliberations on this item, together with its concern regarding the possible financial implications of the text approved, so that the Bureau could address the issue and consider the possibility of adding item 9 to the agenda of the Finance and Administrative Commission for consideration of the financial and administrative implications contained therein.

39.35 Mr Chairperson, the next part of my report will focus on items that all concern category 2 institutes and centres, starting with our broad debate on item 29 concerning the implementation of the guidelines and criteria for category 2 institutes and centres. Under this item, the Director-General submits a draft strategy, which addresses programmatic, managerial and financial dimensions to guide the engagement of UNESCO in this respect, complementing the criteria approved earlier by the General Conference.

39.36 As underlined by the representative of the Director-General and the eight speakers who took the floor, the category 2 centres are valuable resources for the Organization, financed by individual Member States, and constitute a network without precedent in the United Nations system. They contribute to strengthening UNESCO's programme implementation, enhance the visibility and impact of UNESCO's action in the field and expand the Organization's outreach at all levels.

39.37 An integrated comprehensive strategy is indeed needed in order to manage and coordinate these centres in an effective manner, especially as their numbers continue to grow and, even though they operate under the aegis of UNESCO, they remain functionally autonomous. In this connection, members of the Commission called for a mechanism for quality control to ensure the delivery of high-quality programmes in line with UNESCO's overarching and strategic programme objectives, as defined in document 34 C/4 and the programme priorities of relevant C/5 documents, taking into account corresponding financial and human resources.

39.38 It was also noted that the comprehensive strategy should include a knowledge-sharing mechanism, encouraging global and regional networking with UNESCO and other institutes and centres working in similar fields. Information and communication technologies were mentioned as a tool that could be harnessed for this purpose. The strategy should also specifically address how the centres would report to UNESCO on their activities.

39.39 In responding to questions raised during the debate, the representative of the Director-General clarified that although it was theoretically possible that a category 2 centre might become a category 1 institute, in practice that was highly unlikely as category 1 institutes were an

integral part of the Secretariat, and would as such have to be included in the C/5 documents. He also stressed that the Model Agreement approved by the General Conference included a withdrawal clause that allowed each party to withdraw from the agreement unilaterally with no legal or financial repercussions.

39.40 Paragraph 14 in Part I of the written report includes the draft decision recommended to you, which benefited from the invaluable contribution of the FA Commission, and reflects the main findings of our discussion, inviting in particular the Director-General to submit an integrated strategy for category 2 centres for consideration by the Executive Board at its 180th session.

39.41 In conclusion, I should stress that there was general agreement among Members States that proposals for the creation of category 2 centres, already tabled and drawn up in line with existing criteria, should not be delayed by the presentation of the proposed new elements for a strategy, and the Commission was informed that the Director-General did not intend to prevent consideration of and action on new proposals currently before the Executive Board.

39.42 Afterwards in fact, Mr Chairperson, the Commission went on to examine several feasibility studies for the establishment of category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO, namely under items **10, 11, 13, 15, 21, 24**, whose relevant draft decisions appear in Part I of the written report, and under items **66** and **67**, the draft decisions on which appear in Part II.

39.43 Congratulating all the proposing host countries, the Commission expressed unanimous support for the creation of these centres, highlighting the pertinence of the domains addressed, in line with the priorities of the Organization, and stressing the need for networking among new and existing centres. The increasing number of centres is indeed a sign of great synergy between UNESCO and its Member States.

39.44 The regional centre for information and communication technology in Manama, Bahrain, addressed under item **24**, could be expected to provide significant contributions to capacity-building, knowledge acquisition and knowledge sharing in all member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Yemen.

39.45 The institute for a partnership for environmental development in Trieste, Italy, covered under item **10**, will provide an important regional and global contribution in the area of capacity-building.

39.46 The IHP international centre of water for food security at Charles Sturt University in Australia, dealt with under item **11**, will foster strong cooperation with UNESCO water sciences programme, and in particular the International Hydrological Programme.

39.47 The international research centre on karst in Guilin, China, reported on under item **13**, will contribute to UNESCO's objectives in its earth sciences programme and to sustainable development.

39.48 The regional centre for water management research in arid zones in Pakistan, proposed under item **15**, is in compliance with the recently adopted strategy for UNESCO water-related centres.

39.49 The world heritage training and research institute for the Asia and the Pacific region to be established in China, was examined under item **21**. Aimed at strengthening the implementation of the World Heritage

Convention, it could integrate training on socio-economic aspects of world heritage enhancement in its activities.

39.50 As for the regional centre for underwater archaeology in Zadar, Croatia, covered by item **67**, the Commission was informed that this international centre was opened in September, and is now fully operational. Several representatives stressed the importance of ensuring extensive ratification of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

39.51 Finally, the international centre on hydroinformatics for integrated water resources management at Itaipú Binacional, presented under item **66**, could benefit other regions as well as international cooperation in this field, especially in the South-South dimension. The centre will also be relevant to the study of the effects of climate change.

39.52 Mr Chairperson, moving to the field of sciences, 19 speakers took the floor on item **16** on a plan of action concerning UNESCO's participation in the implementation of the decision and declaration by the African Union Summit on Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development, held in Addis Ababa in January 2007. You will find the draft decision as approved by the PX Commission in paragraph 2 of Part II of the written report.

39.53 The item was introduced by the representative of Director-General with a short presentation of the plan of action emphasizing the intersectoral nature of UNESCO's response. UNESCO will provide regular programme funds to partially implement the three flagship projects – capacity-building in science and technology policy; science, technology and engineering education; and establishing an African virtual campus.

39.54 Several representatives stressed that UNESCO should concentrate on contributing to the objectives in which the Organization has a comparative advantage, with special focus on the ethical dimension of science and development, as well as traditional and indigenous knowledge. Several representatives emphasized the ethics of science and technology as an area in which the Organization has a unique mandate; that should therefore be integrated into the flagship projects, drawing on the existing UNESCO declarations in this field.

39.55 Finally, explicit calls were made to focus on North-South-South triangular and South-South cooperation as a modality of contributing to the implementation of UNESCO's plan of action. The UNESCO Chairs network was seen as a useful tool for maximizing UNESCO's potential contribution to promoting science teaching at African universities.

39.56 Members of the Board, I now move to present to you items specifically related to the Social and Human Sciences Sector.

39.57 The PX Commission examined the programmatic aspects of item **71**, which concerns the creation of a network of national authorities to support migrants who are victims of racism, discrimination and xenophobia. The proposal tabled by Uruguay is based on the existing activities relating to the International Coalition of Cities against Racism, implemented by the Social and Human Sciences Sector since 2004.

39.58 Eighteen representatives took the floor, several of whom emphasized the appropriateness of UNESCO's focus on migration issues, and noted that from the very beginning the MOST Programme considered migration to be one of its priorities for research and analysis, as a

major social transformation leading to multicultural and multi-ethnic societies. In the future, networks such as the International Coalition of Cities against Racism can provide the link between research and policy-making, to ensure that results of research and analysis are used by policy-makers. Some members of the Commission called for prudence to avoid duplication of efforts with other United Nations agencies.

39.59 The item had been debated at length both in the Group of Experts of the FA Commission and by the FA Commission, and the draft decision transmitted for consideration to the PX Commission reflected the consensus reached on financial and administrative aspects. In this regard, several Member States noted that since the draft decision contained provisions with closely interrelated programmatic and administrative-financial implications, it was difficult for the FA and PX Commissions to deal appropriately with their respective aspects separately. This is perhaps a clear example of items that would benefit from being examined jointly by the two commissions.

39.60 The PX Commission held lengthy deliberations to finalize the draft decision contained in Part III of the report and was able to successfully complete its work thanks to the extra meeting we were allowed to hold yesterday, where a spirit of mutual understanding guided the members towards a final consensual text.

39.61 Dear colleagues, the PX Commission examined the programmatic aspects of item **73** concerning the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, included in the agenda of the Board on the proposal of the representative of Uruguay.

39.62 The representative of the Director-General outlined the main elements for a possible UNESCO plan of action, which emerged from the two brainstorming meetings with Permanent Delegations convened in September 2007. UNESCO's action will include activities already foreseen within document 34 C/5 and which could be placed under the banner of the 60th anniversary, as well as activities proposed especially for this occasion, including two major conferences that will assess the situation with regard to the rights within UNESCO's fields of competence, highlight the advancements and analyse the shortcomings.

39.63 It goes without saying that all 19 speakers who took the floor supported UNESCO's involvement in the celebration of the Universal Declaration's 60th anniversary, thus underlining the intimate link between human rights and the work of UNESCO in all its fields of competence. There was agreement that UNESCO's contribution should go beyond the celebrations and should address in a substantive manner current priorities and challenges. Some speakers announced that a series of events are being envisaged in their respective countries, and expressed the interest to establish synergies with the UNESCO initiatives and, generally speaking, all partners, and notably civil society actors at all levels, should be mobilized.

39.64 A number of countries called for a focus on human rights education, freedom of the media, and the protection of journalists. A call was made for a focus on human rights within the fields of competence of the Organization, such as cultural rights and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.

39.65 The Commission expressed the need for UNESCO to consult its partners within the United Nations

and particularly the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in order to implement the plan with due coordination, and avoid overlapping and duplication. Explicit mention was made of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

39.66 The Commission discussed at length the issue of emerging human rights. Whereas some delegates noted that the debate was ongoing regarding their status and nature, all agreed on the relevance of the Organization's reflection on emerging human rights in the context of its core mandates.

39.67 The draft decision submitted to you in paragraph 14 of Part II of the written report therefore requests the Director-General to present UNESCO's draft plan of action to the General Conference at its 34th session. In this context, the representative of the Director-General wished to confirm the ongoing coordination and consultation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and clarified that since the Office is waiting for instructions from the United Nations General Assembly before formulating its concrete plan of action, closer coordination and consultation with the High Commissioner will take place at the implementation stage of UNESCO's action plan.

39.68 Distinguished Members of the Board, in addressing item **30** on the reorientation of the UNESCO Office in Brasilia, the PX Commission benefited from the presence of the Director of the Office, who highlighted the progress made in implementing the strategies related to programme, decentralization, partnership and communication.

39.69 On the understanding that the remaining points of concern relate to administrative matters that were discussed at length by the FA Commission, the six members of the Commission who took the floor expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved in the programmatic reorientation process, and congratulated the Secretariat for the efforts made to work increasingly in conformity with UNESCO's mandate. The active involvement of UNESCO within the United Nations Country Team in Brazil was appreciated, and that seemed to be a good example of United Nations country-level coordination. The proposed draft decision for your consideration is contained in paragraph 5 of Part II of the written report.

39.70 Dear colleagues, the representative of the Director-General introduced item **64**, on the cultural and educational institutions in Iraq, by underscoring the Director-General's firm commitment to the reconstruction of the Al-Askari Shrine, in the tragic aftermath of the bombing in June 2007 that collapsed the dome and destroyed two minarets. While highlighting the regional dimension of the crisis, she referred to UNESCO's efforts to facilitate the continuation of education for displaced students of school age within Iraq.

39.71 The eight speakers who took the floor all expressed strong support for UNESCO's work in Iraq as well as solidarity with the plight of Iraqi students and preservation of cultural heritage under challenging circumstances. With regard to cultural heritage, one representative urged UNESCO to put more emphasis on the restitution of stolen cultural objects, while another highlighted the value of libraries and books.

39.72 As an observer, the distinguished representative of Iraq thanked the Members of the Executive Board for their assistance, emphasizing the good results of UNESCO's action.

39.73 The proposed draft decision is contained in paragraph 8 of Part II of the written report.

39.74 The distinguished delegate of Nigeria introduced item **72** on the situation of Iraqi refugee students in the Syrian Arab Republic, closely linked to the previous item, and all the speakers joined him in thanking the Syrian Government for its efforts in providing Iraqi refugees with educational opportunities, recognizing the strains imposed on the economic and social infrastructure of the country.

39.75 Through the UNESCO Offices in Beirut and Iraq, the Secretariat is already contributing to improving the situation of the Iraqi refugee children and students in Syria and Jordan, through ongoing and planned initiatives in collaboration with the United Nations Country Teams and the respective national authorities.

39.76 The 11 Member States which took the floor noted the commendable efforts of the Syrian Government, reiterating the need for UNESCO to closely consult and coordinate with the relevant United Nations agencies with a mandate for assisting refugees, as well as with the Syrian and Iraqi Governments. The draft decision contained in paragraph 13 of Part II of the written report reflects this concern, and confirms the support of the Commission for a mission to be dispatched to examine and assess the situation.

39.77 Members of the Board, 15 speakers took the floor on item **63**, on the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, expressing strong support for UNESCO's efforts in this respect within its fields of competence, and urged the stepping up of this assistance.

39.78 Major points stressed included the importance of providing education as well as psychological and social support for children and youth in Lebanon, as well as the need for human rights and peace education.

39.79 Unanimous support was voiced for carrying out an intersectoral UNESCO mission, twice postponed due to the security situation inside Lebanon, and the Secretariat confirmed the Director-General's strong commitment to carrying out this mission as soon as the situation permitted and an agreement was reached with national authorities.

39.80 Mr Chairperson, the Commission was aware of the need to rationalize the work and agenda of the Executive Board, and shared the spirit of the proposal of the Director-General to reduce the number of items on its agenda. However, in light of the present situation, the Commission deemed it necessary to maintain the visibility and momentum of this important issue on the Board's agenda, and approved the draft decision contained in paragraph 7 of Part II of the written report, which requests the Director-General to submit a report on this item to it at its 179th session.

39.81 At the end of our deliberations, the distinguished representative of Lebanon, reiterating the difficult situation of her country, thanked all the Member States for their unconditional support.

39.82 Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, the Commission approved, by consensus and without debate, the draft decisions in paragraphs 3, 6 and 4 of Part II of the written report, referring respectively to: item **19** on Jerusalem and the implementation of 33 C/Resolution 50 and 176 EX/Decision 20; item **62** concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories, and item **20** concerning Israeli archaeological excavations at the Mughrabi ascent in the Old City of Jerusalem. These draft decisions prepared by the Secretariat were

the result of extensive consultations with all parties concerned, and as they stand meet the consensus of these parties.

39.83 After the approval of the relevant draft decisions, two members of the Commission took the floor and expressed regret at the absence of information available on the consultation and drafting process of the draft decisions, and the lack of opportunity for the Board to debate such important matters.

39.84 Dear Members of the Board, allow me to conclude this oral report with an item that symbolically portrays the very essence of this Organization. I refer to item **70** on Auroville, which was included in the agenda of this session of the Executive Board at the request of India. Auroville – an international township, elicited an earnest exchange of ideas among the Member States, ideas that go to the very heart of what this Organization is about, reminding each and every one of us that ideals of world peace and intercultural dialogue are attainable, as exemplified by this international township built in India, on soil that is combined with soil from many countries of the world.

39.85 Fourteen Member States took the floor, welcoming the spirit and the goal of the proposed commemorative activities for the 40th anniversary of this internationally endorsed human experience. There was a consensus that the 40-year anniversary should serve as an occasion to raise enthusiasm around the world about this unique place. It is only natural that the Commission unanimously approved the proposed draft decision contained in paragraph 12 of Part II of the written report.

39.86 As the distinguished representative from India remarked in introducing the item, Auroville is a living testament to the fact that UNESCO's aspiration to foster peace and mutual respect between the peoples of different creeds and backgrounds is indeed within our reach. It gives a real, earthly meaning to the utopian concept that has been the intellectual preoccupation of the greatest thinkers in human history.

39.87 Mr Chairperson, dear Members of the Board, I have come to my conclusion, and to the end of my mandate as Chairperson of the PX Commission. The experience has been of great value for me, I have enjoyed getting to know you all from different backgrounds, different cultures, different languages and seeing how you can cooperate and arrive at a consensus. I think every session of the Executive Board has been a glimpse into the real extent of humankind's cultural richness and diversity.

39.88 I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the PX Commission for their support, for their understanding. I have to admit that I pushed you hard sometimes, and perhaps you experienced the Viking blood in my veins, but I thank you all for your understanding, your diligence, your friendship as demonstrated towards me throughout our work in the Commission. Together, we have faced numerous challenges, not difficulties, but the spirit of dialogue, tolerance and cooperation that serves as the cornerstone of this Organization has enabled our Commission to overcome these challenges, and to see through the successful completion of its work.

39.89 Allow me, Mr Chairperson, to cite Winston Churchill, who once remarked that "a pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty". I think this is a very apt summing-up of the spirit and the approach of the PX

Commission, working with very challenging matters. It is indeed our optimism about attaining UNESCO's ideals of peace and harmonious coexistence that has given us the power and ability to grapple with complex issues, enter into enriching discussions and emerge with mutually agreed solutions. I hope that I have met my aspiration to reflect adequately and with due dignity the richness of these discussions, while attempting to keep my report to you as concise as possible.

39.90 Please allow me to thank the Director-General and his representatives at the PX Commission for their availability and their invaluable contributions to our debates, especially on the three items that I mentioned at the very end.

39.91 I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you, Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, for your counsel, your indefatigable support, your trust in me and also for the friendship that we have established.

39.92 Let me express also my gratitude to the FA Commission, and of course in particular its Chairperson, my good friend Mr Olabiyi Yai, for the thorough examination of shared items, which facilitated the deliberations of the PX Commission.

39.93 I would also like to thank the secretariat of our Commission, the Secretary, Sabina Colombo, on my left, Mr Davide Storti, Mr Irakli Khodeli, Ms Leonie Treguer and Ms Elena Iasyreva, working on the sidelines, behind the scenes, but working very hard and until very late in the night. I must admit that I have come to like chairing you in the PX Commission, but it is not only because of the challenging work of this Commission. It has also been an opportunity to learn about the people who are working with us, the Secretariat, with their competence and their willingness to serve, as I said sometimes late into the evening and at night. Allow me also to say that it has also been a personal positive experience for me to get to know these members of the Secretariat as individuals with humour, with personality, with spirit – they have really inspired me to do my work as best I can. I thank you all for your attention. Thank you very much.

40.1 **The Chairperson** thanked the Chairperson of the PX Commission for his clear, detailed, comprehensive yet concise report. His excellent stewardship had ensured the Commission had fulfilled its mandate, and his vigorous approach and sense of humour had helped it tackle the daunting task of examining 36 of the 67 items on the Board's agenda.

40.2 Pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, the Board would adopt the entire set of draft decisions as a whole, unless a Member State requested that a specific decision be adopted separately.

41. **El Sr. Michelini** (Uruguay), con el apoyo de Guatemala, pide que se examine por separado el punto 73. Por otra parte, aprovecha la oportunidad para agradecer, en nombre de todos los países de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC), del Uruguay y del suyo propio la difícil tarea realizada por el Presidente de la Comisión del Programa y de Relaciones Exteriores ya que, en gran medida, el consenso logrado se debe a su esfuerzo, su paciencia y a su dedicación.

(41) **Mr Michelini** (Uruguay), with the support of Guatemala, requested that item 73 be examined separately. He also used the opportunity to commend, on behalf of all the Latin American and Caribbean countries, Uruguay and himself personally, the difficult work done by the Chairperson of the PX

Commission, saying that the consensus achieved had in large measure been due to his effort, patience and dedication.

٤٢ أشارت السيدة قناوي (مصر) إلى وجود خطأ في الترجمة العربية، في البند ٧٢، الفقرة هـ (ج)، فقالت إن كلمة mobilizing الواردة في السطر الثالث من الفقرة المعنية في النص الانجليزي قد ترجمت خطأ بكلمة "توعية" بدلاً من أن تترجم بكلمة "حث" أو "حشد". وطلبت تصحيح هذا الخطأ في النسخة العربية.

(42) **Ms Kenawy** (Egypt) drew attention to a mistake in the Arabic translation in paragraph 5(c) of the draft decision under item 72, as the word "mobilizing" in the third line of the paragraph in question in the English text had been translated incorrectly by the Arabic word *tau'iyā* meaning "consciousness raising", rather than the words *hathth* meaning "urging" or *hashd* "mobilizing". She asked for the error to be rectified in the Arabic version.

43. **The Secretary** said that, as usual, a reading committee composed of staff from the various translation units would meet after the session to harmonize the wording of the decisions adopted by the Board – the issue raised by the representative of Egypt would be dealt with at that point.

44. **The Chairperson** said that if he saw no objection he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decisions in document 177 EX/79 Parts I, II and III, with the exception of the draft decision on item 73.

45. *It was so decided.*

Item 73: Celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (177 EX/73)

Draft decision in paragraph 14 of document 177 EX/79 Part II

46. **El Sr. Wins** (Uruguay) pide que en la enumeración del párrafo 9 se incluya a las comisiones nacionales.

(46) **Mr Wins** (Uruguay) requested that the National Commissions be included in the list in paragraph 9.

47. **La Sra. Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala), secundando la modificación propuesta por el Uruguay, pide que en la lista que figura en el párrafo 9 se agregue a las comisiones nacionales, por la importancia que revisten como entidades que engloban a otras muchas, y a la juventud, a la que, según se dijo, es preciso dejar un legado en relación con los derechos humanos, y sobre todo, los derechos emergentes.

(47) **Ms Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala), seconding the amendment proposed by Uruguay, requested that the National Commissions be listed in paragraph 9 because of their importance as bodies encompassing many others, in addition to young people, who as had been said, needed to receive a legacy linked to human rights and above all, the emerging rights.

48. **Ms Mukherjee** (India) said that the wording that was not in the Spanish text was not in the English version either. In any event, she was certain that the draft decision as it stood met with consensus, and that the PX Commission had wanted paragraph 9 to be as concise as possible.

49. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the PX Commission) said the Commission had indeed aimed for

concision in the wording of paragraph 9. Having said that, he saw no problem with adding a reference to the National Commissions, although any further additions would open a Pandora's box.

50. **Г-н Каламанов** (Российская Федерация) считает, что никто из присутствующих в зале не против того, чтобы указать в тексте не только национальные комиссии, но еще около 120 элементов гражданского общества, которые тоже нельзя забывать. Например, отметить женщин, пенсионеров, детей, учителей и др. По мнению оратора, если будет упомянут один из сегментов, то существует вероятность подвергнуть какой-то дискриминации другие сегменты гражданского общества. Он еще раз подчеркивает, что Российская Федерация не возражает против упоминания национальных комиссий в принципе, но в этом случае перечень придется значительно расширить, что перегрузит текст, и поэтому считает, что это было бы контрпродуктивно.

(50) **Mr Kalamanov** (Russian Federation) said that nobody present in the meeting room could possibly be against referring in the text not only to National Commissions but also to the other 120 or so components of civil society also warranting mention, such as, women, pensioners, children, teachers and so on. Mentioning just one of the elements of civil society would, he felt, probably constitute a sort of discrimination against the others. He reiterated that the Russian Federation was not opposed to referring to the National Commissions as a matter of principle, but in that case the list would have to be lengthened considerably, which would make the text unwieldy and so be counterproductive.

51. **The Chairperson** asked the Board Members, bearing in mind the limited time available, to recollect that the Chairperson of the PX Commission had said that he would be delighted to include a reference to the National Commissions.

52. **M. Manda** (République démocratique du Congo) se range à l'avis des membres de la Commission qui, lors de l'examen du projet de décision avaient demandé que ce paragraphe soit aussi concis que possible. Du reste, les commissions nationales peuvent se compter au nombre des institutions publiques ou des ONG selon les pays.

53. **La Sra. López** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela) apoya la propuesta de los representantes del Uruguay y Guatemala, ya que considera que las comisiones nacionales no son una entidad más de la sociedad civil, sino que representan una forma muy específica de cooperación con la UNESCO.

(53) **Ms López** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) supported the proposal by the representatives of Uruguay and Guatemala, stating her view that the National Commissions were not just another entity of civil society but constituted a very specific form of cooperation with UNESCO.

54. **Mr Landymore** (United Kingdom), supported by **Mr Kondo** (Japan), said that he would be loth to reopen the discussion on wording already agreed to by the PX Commission, which had wanted to avoid long lists in paragraph 9. He could agree, however, on an exceptional basis, to the inclusion of National Commissions.

55. **El Sr. Bula Bohórquez** (Colombia) apoya la propuesta de los representantes de Guatemala, Venezuela y el Uruguay.

(55) **Mr Bula Bohórquez** (Colombia) supported the proposal by the representatives of Guatemala, Venezuela and Uruguay.

56. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) said that he had spent 30 years working with National Commissions in various capacities and was fully aware of their contribution at all levels of society. Furthermore, they were explicitly referred to in Article VII in the Constitution of UNESCO, so it was only proper to mention them in the draft decision under discussion, possibly after the reference to non-governmental organizations.

57. **The Chairperson** said that he, too, had personal experience, having chaired his country's National Commission, of how those bodies straddled the public and private, governmental and non-governmental and civil society spheres. He fully understood therefore the Board's desire to refer to them in paragraph 9.

58. **Ms Mukherjee** (India) said that the discussion on paragraph 9 in the PX Commission had taken one hour and 22 minutes, and had involved a great deal of additions and then deletions. Logically, if the Board decided to insert one category of society, such as young people, then it would also have to include all the other categories mentioned in the discussion, such as lawyers and journalists. She could, however, reluctantly agree to the addition of the National Commissions.

59. **El Sr. Cueva** (Ecuador) propone que, a fin de mantenerse en la línea de consenso que ha imperado en esa reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo, se acepte la inclusión de las comisiones nacionales, descartando las demás propuestas.

(59) **Mr Cueva** (Ecuador) proposed that, in order to respect the consensus that had reigned in the Executive Board session, the inclusion of the National Commissions be accepted and the remaining proposals rejected.

60. **The Secretary** said that the proposed reference to the National Commissions could be inserted in paragraph 9, to read: "Urges all public and private institutions within the Member States, civil society, including National Commissions of UNESCO, non-governmental organizations ...".

61. **Mr Peay** (United States of America) said that the PX Commission had discussed at length the definition of civil society, and it would be inconsistent with the conclusions of that debate to amend the paragraph in the way suggested by the Secretary of the Executive Board. The reference to National Commissions could come after the words "non-governmental organizations", as suggested by the representative of Afghanistan.

62. **Ms Mukherjee** (India) proposed inserting the reference so that the relevant phrase would read: "... educational institutions and educators as well as National Commissions and human rights institutions ...".

63. **Mr Steensnæs** (Norway) (Chairperson of the PX Commission) endorsed the proposal by the representative of India.

64. *The draft decision on item 73 in paragraph 14 of document 177 EX/79 Part II, as amended, was **adopted**.*

65. *All the draft decisions contained in document 177 EX/79 Parts I, II and III, as amended, were **adopted**.*

Statements following the adoption of the draft decisions recommended by the PX Commission

66. The Chairperson thanked the Chairperson, Temporary Chairperson and members of the PX Commission for their marvellous work. The Chairperson had guided the Commission's proceedings with considerable poise and skill, and the Commission itself had worked wisely to reach consensus on some highly sensitive issues. He also thanked the Director-General and all the members of the Secretariat whose hard work and dedication had helped in the smooth running of the Commission.

66. The Chairperson of the PX Commission was leaving the Board, which would remember his parting words, as it would remember his valuable contribution in rising to the daunting challenge of chairing the PX Commission, in particular concerning the achievement of consensus on what had become known as the Danish cartoons issue, as reflected in 174 EX/Decision 46, and the discussions at the 177th session on cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War.

(Applause)

67. **Mr Omolewa** (Nigeria) said that he could not resist the urge to thank the Chairperson of the PX Commission – he had put his Viking blood to good use! He also thanked in particular the secretariat of the Commission for its hard work.

68.1 **M. Iten** (Suisse) dit qu'au moment où, respectueuse du principe de rotation, la Suisse s'apprête à quitter le Conseil exécutif, enceinte privilégiée pour mesurer le travail accompli par l'UNESCO, il veut remercier le Président du Conseil ainsi que les présidents des commissions et comités pour l'impulsion qu'ils ont donnée, mais aussi le Directeur général qui a su rendre clairement compte de sa gestion. Il salue l'ensemble de ses collègues dont il a apprécié l'esprit de coopération et le sens profond du dialogue.

68.2 La Suisse espère avoir contribué à faire évoluer l'Organisation. Elle se félicite de ce que le Bureau international d'éducation de l'UNESCO (BIE), dont le siège est à Genève, soit reconnu comme un pôle d'excellence, ce qu'il doit notamment à la Présidente de son conseil, Mme Bhaswati Mukherjee, qui a beaucoup fait pour mettre en valeur les potentialités.

68.3 En quittant le Conseil exécutif, la Suisse ne renonce nullement à son engagement au service de l'UNESCO. Elle continuera à œuvrer pour que les activités du Secteur des sciences, en particulier, reposent sur une base concrète, de façon que l'UNESCO remplisse pleinement son rôle de laboratoire d'idées.

68.4 Rendant hommage au Président du Conseil exécutif et au Directeur général qui ont toujours su trouver des solutions dans des situations parfois très complexes et obtenir un maximum de résultats dans un cadre institutionnel des plus étroits, M. Iten leur offre un exemplaire du célèbre couteau suisse, symbole de ressources multiples se logeant dans un espace restreint.

69.1 **The Chairperson** thanked the representative of Switzerland for his kind gift of a Swiss army knife, and said that it would help sharpen the edge of the Organization.

70.1 **张双鼓先生**(中国)说, Steensnæs 先生以其个人智慧和艰辛努力, 领导计划及对外关系委员会, 灵活、妥善地审议了 30 多个议题, Steensnæs 先生与财务与行政委员

会主席 Yaï 大使还共同主持了计划及对外关系委员会和财务与行政委员会联席会议, 成功地审议了 6 个议题。中国代表对 Steensnæs 先生的聪明才智和辛勤付出表示赞赏和感谢。

70.2 他还对执行局主席章新胜先生两年来卓越的工作表示感谢。他认为, 两年来, 章先生以中国人的智慧, 平和地处理了一个又一个技术难题, 营造了和谐氛围。

(70.1) **Mr Zhang Shuanggu** (China) said that thanks to his personal wisdom and diligent work, Mr Steensnæs had successfully led the PX Commission in its examination and elaboration of over 30 items in a careful and flexible manner. Co-chaired by Mr Steensnæs and Ambassador Yaï, Chairperson of the FA Commission, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions had successfully examined six other items. The representative of China expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Mr Steensnæs for his intelligence and diligence.

(70.2) The speaker also expressed his gratitude to Mr Zhang Xinsheng for his outstanding stewardship of the Executive Board. He observed that over the past two years, Mr Zhang had relied on Chinese wisdom in tackling a series of difficult technical problems, thus creating a harmonious atmosphere for the Board.

٧١ وجهت السيدة قناوي (مص) في البداية جزيل الشكر إلى المدير العام وإلى أمانة اليونسكو على كل الجهود المبذولة للارتقاء بالمنظمة إلى مستوى عالٍ من الاحترام المتبادل والشفافية والانضباط وإدارة العمل على نحو يبرز المنظمة بين الهيئات الدولية بصورة متميزة. ووجهت أيضاً جزيل الشكر إلى مساعدي المدير العام في جميع القطاعات على الإعداد المتميز والعرض الواضح للوثائق والتقارير التي نوقشت طوال الدورة الحالية للمجلس التنفيذي. كما شكرت بحرارة رؤساء كل اللجان على جهودهم وصبرهم وعملهم الدقيق والمتقن وتفانيهم من أجل إنجاز أعمال اللجان على نحو متميز يتسم بالدقة والانضباط والتوافق في الوقت نفسه. ووجهت أيضاً شكراً جزيلاً إلى السيد يوسف، المستشار القانوني، وأعربت عما يمكنه له أعضاء المجلس من احترام، وأشادت بصبره ودقته في جلسات جميع اللجان وخلال أعمال المجلس بوجه عام. كما شكرت السيد بارسورمان وفريق أمانة المجلس التنفيذي على كل الجهود التي بذلت لإعداد وإنجاز أعمال دورة المجلس على درجة عالية من التميز. وإذ أشارت إلى نهاية أعمال الدورة السابعة والسبعين للمجلس التنفيذي، التي تمثل الدورة الختامية لعامي ٢٠٠٥-٢٠٠٧، أعربت لرئيس المجلس عن أسى آيات التقدير والعرفان لكل ما بذله من جهود مخلصه وعمل دؤوب على امتداد فترة العاميين. وقالت له إنه أدار دفة الحوار والنقاش في اجتماعات المجلس بكل حكمة واقتدار، مما أتاح تخطي العديد من العقبات والأزمات. وأشادت بأسلوبه الهادئ الرصين الذي أقرت بأنها تعلمت منه الكثير شخصياً، والذي أتاح المحافظة على أجواء التفاهم والتوافق حتى في أشد المواقف حرجاً وتوتراً. ورأت أنه استطاع خلال فترة العاميين أن يحظى بتقدير واحترام كل من عرفه أو تعامل معه، فلمس عن قرب في شخصه الكريم حكمة الصين وقيمها النبيلة كالتسامح والتواضع والصبر، التي تمثل، في رأيها، خصالاً بات البشر يفتقدونها في عالم يسوده التطرف والعنف والغطرسة وتغلب عليه النزعات الأنانية والعدوانية. وأعربت في الختام عن اقتناعها بأن ما يتحلى به رئيس المجلس التنفيذي من خصال يمثل ترجمة صادقة للقيم الإنسانية النبيلة والمثل العليا التي تعمل اليونسكو من أجل حمايتها وترويجها، والتي تمثل السبيل المؤدي إلى بناء حصون السلام.

(71) **Ms Kenawy** (Egypt) expressed her sincere thanks to the Director-General and the UNESCO Secretariat for all their efforts to move the Organization forward to a high level of mutual respect, transparency, discipline and work management in order to give the Organization an outstanding image among international organizations. She also warmly thanked the Assistant Directors-General of all the sectors for the excellent preparation and clear presentation of the documents and reports that had been discussed throughout the current session of the Executive Board. She warmly thanked, too, the Chairpersons of all the commissions and committees for their efforts, patience and painstaking and precise work, as well as their dedication to conducting the proceedings of the commissions and committees in an outstanding fashion characterized simultaneously by precision, rigour and consensus. She also expressed her deep gratitude to Mr Yusuf, the Legal Adviser, who was held in great esteem by the Members of the Board, and commended his patience and precision at the meetings of all the commissions and committees and during the meetings of the Board in general. She also thanked Mr Parsuramen and the team of the Secretariat of the Executive Board for all their efforts to prepare and manage the proceedings of the Board session with such distinction. Referring to the close of the proceedings of the 177th session of the Executive Board, which was effectively the final session of the 2005-2007 biennium, she expressed to the Chairperson of the Board the highest and most solemn assurances of esteem and gratitude for all his sincere efforts and indefatigable work throughout the biennium. He had steered the dialogue and discussion in the meetings of the Board with great wisdom and ability, helping to overcome numerous obstacles and crises. She further commended his calm and composed manner from which she herself had learnt much and which had helped to preserve the atmosphere of mutual understanding and consensus even in the most delicate and tense situations. He had managed during the biennium to gain the esteem and respect of all those who knew him and interacted with him, for one sensed, close up, in his distinguished person, the wisdom of China and its noble values, such as tolerance, modesty and patience, which in her opinion were enduring characteristics which humanity had begun to miss in a world in which extremism, violence and arrogance prevailed and the tendencies of selfishness and aggression dominated. Finally, she expressed her conviction that the qualities that adorned the Chairperson of the Executive Board were a sincere expression of the noble human values and lofty ideals that UNESCO worked to uphold and disseminate, and which represented the path to building the defences of peace.

72. **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) apologized to the Chairperson of the PX Commission, a great man who was the product of the natural beauties of Norway and the intelligence and culture of its people, if he had made life difficult for him in the Commission's meetings, and thanked him warmly for the work he had carried out. He also expressed his appreciation to the Chairperson of the Board for having placed the values shared by the people of Afghanistan and China at the service of UNESCO, and thanked the Secretariat for its readiness to carry forward the work of the Organization.

73. **Mr Sukanaivalu** (Fiji) thanked the Chairpersons of the PX and FA Commissions for their exemplary stewardship of the joint meeting of the commissions. Their patience and mutual respect were symbolic of the Organization's quest for peace in the world. Finally, he commended the Chairperson of the PX Commission on his conduct of the Commission's meetings. His great understanding and experience had meant that decisions were the subject of broad consensus

74.1 **Mr Wirakartakusumah** (Indonesia) expressed his deep gratitude and congratulations to all the Chairpersons of the Board's commissions and committees, and especially to the Chairperson of the Board for his outstanding leadership and great wisdom. He further congratulated the Director-General and his team for the hard work involved in preparing the 34th session of the General Conference.

74.2 His country was leaving the Board at the end of the session, and on behalf of his government and Mr Rachman, the representative of Indonesia on the Board, he thanked the Board Members for their understanding and cooperation throughout the previous four years. Lastly, he wished all those who would be celebrating *Īd al-Fitr*, the feast marking the end of Ramadan, a happy *Īd*.

75. **The Chairperson** expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all the Muslims present, who had stayed in the meeting room past sunset, the point at which they were allowed to break the fast they observed during Ramadan.

76. **M. Moscato** (Italie) remercie à son tour les présidents des Commissions PX et FA, au sein desquelles il a apprécié l'attachement sincère à l'esprit du multilatéralisme et le souci de laisser tous les avis s'exprimer. Il loue également les innombrables qualités du Président et sa capacité de dégager un consensus sur des questions épineuses, ainsi que le Directeur général, dont les conseils et l'expérience sont précieux, et le Secrétariat qui n'a pas ménagé ses efforts pour améliorer la qualité des documents.

77. **Mr Kondo** (Japan) joined the previous speakers in commending the outstanding chairmanship of the Chairperson of the PX Commission, who had brought humility, discipline, high morale and intellectual vigour to the Organization. He had also made noteworthy, and enviable, progress in French.

78. **Ms Hanna-El-Daher** (Lebanon) said she had learnt from the Chairperson of the PX Commission, that it was possible to be brief, firm, considerate, kind and always courteous, even when chairing a Commission, where many different opinions were expressed on complex issues. She thanked him deeply for his personal support to Lebanon and to her personally.

79.1 **Ms Mukherjee** (India) said that the Board session was ending on an auspicious eve, the eve of *Īd al-Fitr*, and she wished all those present a very happy *Īd*. She expressed her admiration for her Muslim colleagues who, like the representative of Indonesia, had remained without complaining in often very lengthy meetings, even when that meant delaying breaking the fast they observed during Ramadan.

79.2 She thanked the Chairpersons of the FA and PX Commissions, who had brought to their work unique skills that reflected the cultural diversity of the Organization. They had both, in their own way, shown great patience, and ensured that UNESCO fully upheld the spirit of

consensus. She also thanked the Chairperson of the Executive Board for his wisdom and patience, encouraging representatives to Board Members to express themselves briefly yet fully. The new atmosphere he had brought to the Board was universally appreciated – he would be missed, as would those Members whose term of office was ending.

80. **La Sra. López** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela), ante la inminente finalización de su mandato en el Consejo Ejecutivo, reitera el apego de su país al multilateralismo, en un contexto en el que sigue imperando un orden mundial de exclusión y en el que la UNESCO debe continuar buscando soluciones al desequilibrio estructural que afecta a la seguridad y el bienestar mundial. Subraya una vez más la existencia de una clara demanda en favor del fomento y la consolidación de un verdadero orden mundial multipolar basado en el respeto de los principios universales del derecho internacional y la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, en consonancia con la política nacional de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. El Consejo Ejecutivo intenta cumplir el cometido que le ha sido encomendado, dando prioridad a los principales problemas de los países y buscando la manera de luchar contra la pobreza y su larga cadena de consecuencias, como son la falta de acceso a la educación y la exclusión en todos los órdenes. Para la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, que durante 15 años había estado ausente del Consejo Ejecutivo, su participación en este órgano ha sido una experiencia importante que le ha permitido vivir más de cerca la realidad de la UNESCO, la cual se halla ante el reto histórico de erradicar la exclusión social en un proceso universal y democrático de libertad y justicia. Para concluir, la oradora da las gracias al Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo y a los presidentes de las distintas comisiones, y en particular al Sr. Steensnaes, por su labor, y al Director General por su presencia permanente y vigilante en las deliberaciones del Consejo.

(80) **Ms López** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), on the point of completing her term of office in the Executive Board, reiterated the attachment of her country to multilateralism, in a context in which a world order based on exclusion continued to be paramount, and in which UNESCO should continue to seek solutions to the structural imbalance that affected world security and well-being. She again stressed the existence of a clear demand for the promotion and consolidation of a truly multipolar world order based on respect for the universal principles of international law and the United Nations Charter, in line with the national policy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Executive Board was striving to fulfil the task with which it had been entrusted, giving priority to the main problems affecting countries and seeking ways of combating poverty and its long chain of consequences, such as the lack of access to education and exclusion in all its aspects. For the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which had been absent from the Executive Board for 15 years, participation in that organ had been a significant experience that had enabled it to appreciate at closer quarters the life of UNESCO, which was faced with the historic challenge of eliminating social exclusion in a universal and democratic process of liberty and justice. To conclude, the speaker thanked the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Chairpersons of the commissions, in particular Mr Steensnaes, for their efforts, and also the Director-General for his constant

and watchful presence during the Board's deliberations.

81. **M. Janyška** (République tchèque) (Vice-Président pour le Groupe II) dit que son pays va lui aussi céder sa place au Conseil exécutif, et donc au Bureau où il a eu le privilège de représenter le Groupe II, mais qu'il continuera à prêter son concours aux activités du Conseil. Il rend hommage aux présidents des différents organes subsidiaires et remercie le Conseiller juridique, le Secrétaire du Conseil et le Directeur général. Se tournant vers le Président, il salue sa recherche incessante de l'harmonie et du consensus. L'esprit de tolérance et d'ouverture qui caractérise les travaux du Conseil est un exemple qu'il ne manque pas de porter à l'attention des jeunes parlementaires tchèques.

82. **El Sr. Cueva** (Ecuador) afirma que los dos años de permanencia de su país en el Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO han constituido para él una lección de diálogo, consenso, tolerancia y respeto del pensamiento ajeno. En el mundo actual, cada vez más interdependiente y en apariencia más reducido por el aumento de la información, por medio de sus ámbitos de competencia, la UNESCO tiene un cometido fundamental que cumplir, esto es, el logro de la paz y de una mayor equidad, en un contexto en el que la economía se encuentre al servicio del hombre y no a la inversa, como ocurre hoy en día.

(82) **Mr Cueva** (Ecuador) said that his country's two-year presence on the Executive Board of UNESCO had been for it a lesson in dialogue, consensus, tolerance and respect for the ideas of others. In contemporary society, which was ever more interdependent, and seemed even smaller owing to the increase in information, UNESCO, through its fields of competence, had a fundamental task to accomplish – attaining peace and greater equity, in a context in which the economy would be at the service of humanity and not the contrary, as was now the case.

83. **M. Mboui** (Cameroun) (Vice-Président pour le Groupe V (a)) remercie le Président de la Commission PX pour le talent remarquable avec lequel il en a conduit les travaux. En tant que Vice-Président pour le Groupe Afrique, il a eu maintes occasions d'apprécier pendant la réunion du Bureau, où se préparent les moments forts des séances plénières, l'esprit de compréhension et de tolérance des présidents des commissions et comités et les nombreuses qualités du Président du Conseil, ainsi que la capacité d'écoute et le sens de la mesure du Directeur général et le précieux concours du conseiller juridique et du Secrétaire du Conseil. Il remercie tous ses collègues du Groupe africain qui lui ont accordé leur confiance et l'ont aidé dans sa tâche, et informe les membres du Conseil de la venue prochaine à l'UNESCO du Président Paul Biya, qui répondra ainsi à l'aimable invitation que lui a adressée le Directeur général. M. Mboui formule l'espoir que M. Hadjadj, le très dynamique représentant que ce dernier avait nommé au Cameroun, avant de le rappeler à ses côtés, trouvera bientôt un digne successeur.

84. **Mr Peay** (United States of America) (Vice-Chairperson for Group I) thanked the Chairperson of the PX Commission for using his instinctive Viking navigational skills to unfailingly guide the difficult work before the Commission into the calm port of consensus. His country also extended its appreciation to the Chairperson of the Executive Board, whose track record of accomplishment, and wise, gentle and persuasive style had been exemplary.

85. **Ms Amatavivat** (Thailand) (Vice-Chairperson for Group IV) seconded what had already been said by her distinguished colleagues about the Chairperson of the PX Commission; he was an exceptional man, whose excellent stewardship had contributed to the successful deliberations of the Commission.

86. **M. Essanzo** (Congo) s'associe aux félicitations adressées aux présidents des deux grandes commissions ainsi qu'au Président du Conseil qui, pilote émérite, a su garder le cap et traverser sans encombre les turbulences liées à des restrictions budgétaires obligeant à s'accommoder de coupes dans les programmes et de suppressions de postes. Il rappelle les mots toujours d'actualité prononcés lors de son installation par le Directeur général, qui avait alors noté que l'UNESCO se devait de rester « constante dans son action », même si elle était chaque jour appelée à relever des défis nouveaux.

87. **La Sra. Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala) saluda a todos los presentes con los cuatro colores de la espiritualidad maya -amarillo, rojo, blanco y negro- que simbolizan respectivamente el agua, el aire, la energía y la Madre Tierra, y rinde tributo a la UNESCO por ser la casa del humanismo, la ciencia, la cultura y la comunicación. Para Guatemala ha sido un alto honor haber participado durante cuatro años consecutivos en el Consejo Ejecutivo, en el que sus aportaciones estuvieron orientadas hacia la equidad y a la inclusión en los programas de los problemas del género y los conocimientos y la sabiduría de los pueblos indígenas, con los que de ahora en adelante la UNESCO deberá comprometerse más, habida cuenta de la Declaración de las Naciones Unidas sobre los derechos de los pueblos indígenas. Uno de los principales pilares de la UNESCO, como organismo especializado en la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la comunicación, deberá ser siempre el pensamiento estratégico y su articulación en el objetivo de promover los derechos humanos, entre los que la justicia será su mayor reto. Otro de los pilares de la Organización es la ética, base de la transparencia, la gobernabilidad, la hermandad y la conciliación. La apuesta por el diálogo entre civilizaciones, culturas, pueblos y personas será la mejor herencia que deje la UNESCO a las nuevas generaciones, que conocerán una mayor tolerancia, comprensión y convivencia entre los seres humanos. Para el pueblo maya de ayer, de hoy y de siempre ha llegado el tiempo del amanecer, de que unos finalicen su obra para dejar espacio a los hijos e hijas de los esclarecidos, los vasallos civilizados, y para que aparezcan el hombre y la mujer, la humanidad sobre la superficie de la tierra. Con estas palabras del Popol Vuh y en nombre de América Latina y el Caribe, la oradora termina despidiéndose de los representantes de los Estados Miembros en el Consejo Ejecutivo, y dando las gracias a su Presidente por su sabiduría y orientación, y al Director General por su constante presencia.

(87) **Ms Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala) greeted all present with the four colours of Mayan spirituality – yellow, red, white and black – which symbolized water, air, energy and Mother Earth, and praised UNESCO for being the home of humanism, science, culture and communication. For Guatemala, it had been an immense honour to have participated in the Executive Board for four consecutive years, during which time its contributions had been oriented towards equity, and the inclusion in programmes of gender issues and the knowledge and wisdom of indigenous peoples – issues in which UNESCO would be required to invest further in future, bearing in mind

the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. One of the main pillars of UNESCO, as the specialized agency for education, science, culture and communication, must continue to be strategic thinking and its interlinkage with the objective of promoting human rights – particularly justice, which would be the major challenge. Another pillar of the Organization was ethics, the basis of transparency, governance, fellowship and conciliation. Its commitment to dialogue between civilizations, cultures, peoples and individuals would be the best legacy UNESCO could leave for future generations, who would experience greater tolerance, understanding and harmony between people. For the Mayan people of the past, present and future, dawn had broken, the time for the work to be finished, the time to let the noble sons, the civilized vassals and man appear, humanity on the face of the earth. Quoting thus from the Popol Vuh, the speaker bade farewell to the representatives of the States Members of the Board and, on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean, thanked the Chairperson for his wisdom and guidance, and the Director-General for his constant presence.

88. **M. Landymore** (Royaume-Uni) joint sa voix à celles de tous les membres du Conseil qui ont adressé leurs félicitations au Président du Conseil, aux présidents des commissions et à l'ensemble de leurs collaborateurs. Le Royaume-Uni va quitter le Conseil, mais compte bien présenter sa candidature en 2009 pour un nouveau mandat de quatre ans. C'est donc un simple au revoir que l'orateur adresse à ses collègues, auprès desquels il a beaucoup appris. S'il a tenu à prendre la parole en français, c'est, dit-il, par solidarité avec tous ceux d'entre eux qui sont obligés de s'exprimer et de négocier dans une langue étrangère, sans que l'on ne mesure toujours bien leur mérite, ce qui l'amène à évoquer, pour conclure, l'image employée par le premier lexicographe anglais du XVIII^e siècle, docteur Johnson, qui trouvait remarquable non pas qu'un chien marche maladroitement sur ses pattes de derrière mais le simple fait qu'il le fasse.

89. **El Sr. Bula Bohórquez** (Colombia) se suma a los oradores anteriores para dar las gracias al Director General, el Presidente del Consejo y los presidentes de las diferentes comisiones por la serenidad y sabiduría con que han dirigido los debates y que han facilitado el logro del consenso en temas de tanta complejidad.

(89) **Mr Bula Bohórquez** (Colombia) joined the previous speakers in thanking the Director-General, the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Chairpersons of the commissions and committees for the serenity and wisdom with which they had conducted the debates, which had made it easier to reach consensus on such complex issues.

90. **Mr Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that he had already suggested that the Chairperson of the Board send letters of appreciation to the governments of the Board Members. He now proposed that the Board should send a letter of appreciation to the Government of China, commending the excellent work carried out by its Chairperson.

91.1 **The Director-General** joined the Board in paying tribute to the Chairperson of the PX Commission on the manner in which he had dealt with a number of difficult issues in the preceding two years. The amount of time spent by the informal working group he had chaired on the Danish cartoons issue surely warranted mention in a book of records! He also thanked the Temporary Chairperson

of the PX Commission, who had successfully chaired an informal working group on the highly sensitive item 17 concerning cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War. In that regard, he appealed for the \$15,000 which would be needed to hold the intergovernmental meeting of experts recommended by that group, if approved by the General Conference.

91.2 Last, but not least, he paid tribute to the Chairperson of the Board. He had enjoyed working with him, and they had never had any difficulties. His strong leadership and enormous patience had helped prove that the Board could handle delicate issues, and reach consensus on them.

Visit by H.E. Mr Victor Borges, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde

92. **The Chairperson** informed the Board that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde had been unable to attend the general debate, held earlier that session, and had asked to be given the opportunity to address the Board at the present meeting.

93.1 **M. Borges** (Cap-Vert) dit regretter de n'avoir pu participer comme il en avait l'intention aux travaux du Conseil, et ce d'autant plus que le mandat du Cap-Vert prend fin, en vertu du principe de rotation auquel ce pays est très attaché. L'orateur souhaite tout d'abord informer le Conseil que son pays s'apprête à demander l'inscription de Cidade Velha, première ville portugaise en Afrique, sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

93.2 Évoquant ensuite l'échéance de 2015, M. Borges engage l'UNESCO à n'épargner aucun effort pour que les engagements pris par la communauté internationale soient honorés, même si c'est en premier lieu aux États qu'il incombe d'œuvrer ensemble à la réalisation des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous et des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement dans les pays en développement. Un sursaut est impératif si l'on veut éviter un constat d'échec en 2015.

93.3 De même, une action plus cohérente et un engagement accrus sur le terrain sont nécessaires pour que la priorité donnée à l'Afrique devienne une réalité tangible. Il en va de la crédibilité de l'UNESCO, de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale, des autorités nationales et de toutes les personnes concernées.

93.4 Enfin, le Cap-Vert étant l'un des pays pilotes dans lesquels est expérimentée la réforme des Nations Unies, il encourage l'UNESCO à prendre, à tous les niveaux, une part active à cette réforme afin qu'elle ne se solde pas par un échec, ce qui donnerait raison à ceux qui en sont les adversaires. La réforme n'aura d'impact tangible dans les pays que si elle est également menée au sein des organisations elles-mêmes, à travers une remise en question des pratiques institutionnelles et personnelles. L'orateur conclut en remerciant le Président et le Directeur général de leur volonté de sauvegarder l'esprit de l'UNESCO, alliée à un réel souci d'efficacité.

94. **The Chairperson** thanked the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde for his insightful observations.

Concluding remarks by the Chairperson

95.1 **The Chairperson** *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, distinguished Members of the Board, Mr Director-General and all your core team members, colleagues, ladies and

gentlemen, dear friends, we have now come to the end of our work, but not to the end of the 177th session of the Executive Board. As with previous practice, the Board is at the disposal of the General Conference, should it be deemed necessary. I have decided that I will suspend this session, thus leaving the opportunity to meet during the General Conference. I will close this session of the Board on 31 October 2007, as is the usual practice and according to the relevant rules. My secretariat will inform you of the time of our final meeting accordingly.

95.2 I mentioned at the opening of this session, dear colleagues, that harvest time had come and that it was our duty to tie up loose ends, and to provide our final recommendations to the General Conference on many items of importance. I can say that we have yielded a truly golden harvest, particularly, as mentioned by all of you, in that we can celebrate, this biennium, having reached our conclusions and adopted all our decisions by consensus, with no voting, which is really valuable and worth celebrating. If we were to highlight just a few major events of this session of the Board, I would think that item 25 on the consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009, and the corresponding budget ceiling would be highest among them. A particular accomplishment was our consensus agreement to the budget ceiling of \$631 million, as proposed by the Director-General. It is indeed a rare feat that this Board is in a position to make such a clear-cut budget recommendation to the General Conference. I think we can all be pleased and satisfied at this outcome of our detailed and serious discussions.

95.3 While not satisfying all, the needs of the many have been heard and will be met. Foremost in this budget level is the break from the past adherence to zero nominal growth. We trust that this step forward will now be matched by enhanced programme implementation by the Secretariat. We are also confident that this will bring out the true value of UNESCO's contribution to multilateral efforts at large. In the same vein as the United Nations system trying to deliver as one, we will be happy to see UNESCO – through its multidisciplinary and intersectoral efforts – deliver more and more as "One UNESCO".

95.4 We also came to consensus decisions concerning items 19, 20 and 62. The manner in which we dealt in the Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission and in plenary with these items demonstrates our ability to work together to come to conclusions in a constructive manner. We could even say that the decisions were a major achievement. Real negotiations among the principal parties concerned, sitting down and discussing technical aspects together with the objective of working with each other to safeguard such an important heritage site in such a volatile part of the world, are our contribution to a more peaceful future for humanity. I would be remiss if I were not to recognize the tremendous efforts of our Deputy Director-General, Mr Márcio Barbosa, who tirelessly facilitated such delicate negotiations, acting as an honest broker, nurturing trust and building confidence between all, to successfully conclude these talks. It is said that the proof of the pudding is in the eating – Mr Barbosa informs me that an encounter at the technical level is expected to take place on 4 November in Jerusalem between Palestinians, Israelis and Jordanians.

95.5 Another item on this session's agenda that I should like to highlight is item 17. This item, as you know, dealt with the issue of cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War. It is a very delicate, extremely complex and highly technical subject, and is one that requires further discussion so as to arrive

at a conclusion in the foreseeable future. I established an informal working group that worked effectively in an open and constructive atmosphere with all parties concerned, in a very consensual spirit. This group worked very hard under the skilful diplomacy of the Canadian Ambassador, Mr Gilbert Laurin, to draft a consensus text that met with everyone's approval unanimously. During yesterday's joint meeting Ambassador Laurin said, "This text reflects the commitment by all to arrive at consensus. It is a distinguishing feature of this Organization – indeed one of its greatest strengths – that there is such a very strong desire on the part of all who participated to want to achieve consensus". The Chairman of the PX Commission, Mr Steensnæs, observed that it was perhaps necessary to have "a challenging issue from time to time, just to test the quality of cooperation and willingness for consensus". He concluded that: "if this spirit of consensus could be copied elsewhere in the United Nations family or in other intergovernmental organizations as a way of dealing with vital items that are so important for people in need of food, clothing, of housing or of health and education, then we could have made a real difference."

95.6 And, finally, we cannot forget one of the most important responsibilities given to us as a Board: the preparation of the ensuing session of the General Conference. Through our own efforts, we have made unanimous recommendations for the positions of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference as well as for those of the Chairpersons of its commissions and committees. Indeed, through your efforts, I will have the most agreeable task of presenting our recommendations to the General Conference. Together, we have facilitated the tasks of our colleagues – all 193 Member States' representatives – at the beginning of their work next week, by giving them a clean slate.

95.7 Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, before concluding this short summary of our work during the 177th session, I would also like to share with you some information on a mission I undertook to the African Union Commission and the Government of Ethiopia. While in Addis Ababa, I had a very successful and constructive meeting with Professor Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Former President of Mali – you will remember that he spoke during our first thematic debate. I called upon the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr Meles Zenawi, in his capacity as Chairman of the Heads of State and Government of the Implementation Committee of NEPAD. One of the objectives of this mission was to discuss with African leaders the priority given to Africa in our Organization's draft C/4 and C/5 documents, along with the importance of the South-South and triangular South-South-North cooperation. This visit typifies the level of collaboration we maintain with African institutions, and demonstrates that UNESCO continues to reinforce the priority given to African needs within the Organization.

95.8 Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, as we come to closure on the substantive business of our session, allow me to pause to reflect on our work together over the past two years. First, we can remind ourselves briefly of the special setting for our work. This biennium witnessed the 60th anniversary of the Organization's founding. During this two-year period, our Board was tasked with reviewing the next Medium-Term Strategy. As with every biennium, we also had to make our recommendations on the next Programme and Budget. This particular mix of intersecting exigencies and landmarks made for a truly important time in the

Organization's life. We took these challenges to heart, seeing them as opportunities rather than obstacles in our quest further to reinforce the relevance of UNESCO for the next six years and beyond, which made me remember just now the famous words, quoted by Mr Steensnæs, of Prime Minister Churchill, that the optimist will see every difficulty as an opportunity.

95.9 As you know, Orientals perceive life in 60-year cycles. The end of one life cycle is always a moment of celebration. The beginning of the next life cycle must also be celebrated. As it happens, then, our next Medium-Term Strategy also largely coincides with the timelines associated with the sought-after achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, these past two years we were witness to ever further intensification of broader United Nations system-wide reforms as well as our own reforms, in particular, improved decentralization. And, last but not least, the information revolution and the advent of knowledge societies literally revolutionizing the world and making UNESCO so much more central to the United Nations' efforts to understand the world in a more human-centred manner.

95.10 In our quest to work better – under increasingly challenging conditions and with heavier workloads than in the past – we were able to focus on our priorities, accomplishing all the tasks put to us while keeping our sights firmly set on the broader overarching objectives to deal efficiently with the next Medium-Term Strategy and Programme and Budget. We also took a proactive role, together with the Director-General, in the United Nations reforms. As a specialized agency, we were not content just to follow suit with the proposals being made beyond our walls: we were able to focus on our specialities and our multidisciplinary approach to programme implementation at the national and regional levels, thus celebrating our relevance in delivering as "One UNESCO" within the broader One United Nations. But we also did so with a cool head, if I may say so, conscious of the need to tackle these challenges painstakingly and deliberately, with an eye to the English proverb, "More speed, less haste".

95.11 To help us in our strategizing, we organized two very successful thematic debates. The subjects of these debates was in both cases focused on United Nations reform, and helped to highlight certain topical issues where UNESCO impacts at the country and regional levels. It is fitting, as the intellectual organization of the United Nations, to hold such debates. The very high quality of the interventions and ensuing debates amongst ourselves helped steer our thoughts as we were formulating our opinions on the C/4 and C/5 documents. They also, I am sure, provide support to the Director-General and the Secretariat in the core part they play in the Organization's programming functions. Also, during these past two years, we organized three information meetings with the Director-General and his core team. These informal meetings served to follow up on the previous session and to prepare for the coming session of the Board. During this time, we further refined the manner in which these meetings took place, making them more informative, more informal and more interactive. Under the ever-benevolent eye of the President of the General Conference, they served to reinforce the relationship between the Secretariat and the Board – two of the three pillars of the Organization – demonstrating that, through increased information-sharing and communication, we can work together effectively, openly and in confidence.

95.12 Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, to characterize our accomplishments over the past two

years, let me emphasize three points: (1) the harmony of our approach leading to adoption of all items without resorting to a vote – and you will notice that, throughout the entire biennium, not one vote was taken on any item before us; (2) the smooth functioning of and cooperation among the institutions of the Board, be they the Bureau, the commissions, the committees, informal working groups or the regional electoral groups contributing also to the improvement of the relations of the three organs; and (3) the open-mindedness and transparency of our working methods, which gave us the ability to tackle some very sensitive items on our agenda. The reason I say this again is to highlight a particular achievement of this Board. During each session we were faced with some extremely delicate issues and small crises, if I may say that. It is worthwhile to be reminded of our decisions on these items, which include respect for freedom of expression and respect for sacred beliefs and values and religious and cultural symbols; contribution to the reconstruction and development of Lebanon; the report of the External Auditor, especially the audit of the Education Sector; Israeli archaeological excavations at the Mughrabi ascent in the Old City of Jerusalem; and the Draft Declaration of Principles relating to Cultural Objects Displaced in connection with the Second World War.

95.13 I have always believed that building consensus takes time. While I realize that this is a commodity that is in acutely short supply, I am convinced – based on the successful conclusion of all the decisions we took over the past 24 months, and especially in light of those I have just mentioned – that with time and willingness real consensus can be achieved. I also think that, through consensus, the Board has lived up to its own expectations, and has shown itself able to achieve the unachievable. During this very fruitful period we have come to a greater understanding of ourselves, which has led to a very high level of trust and confidence among us. This confidence, this trust, and this understanding are the foundations for our ability to work together effectively, efficiently and harmoniously. Consensus in matters ethical is not a luxury or a whim. It is a must. It is one of UNESCO's greatest strengths, built up over years and decades. As the Chairperson of the Finance and Administrative Commission said, it is a real, though intangible, asset, and as the Ambassador of the United States of America said, the strength of our Organization is its 193 Members, but, more, it is the consensus in decisions and the unity in this Organization. My own role as your Chairman has been very much part of this vision. Consensus-building, like peace-building, is a proactive endeavour. One cannot just go through the motions. It is a sincere commitment which flows from within. This is how I have sought constantly to build bridges between and among the three organs, among you, the Board Members so that you move beyond your domestic concerns or your "North-South" or "East-West" loyalties. As a Board, you have bridged all divides, and you all feel fully part of this Board as equals.

95.14 Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, allow me also to speak about the strengthening of the institutions of governance within UNESCO. Much has been said over the years on the need for a harmonious working relationship among the three organs of UNESCO. Ad hoc committees have been established to examine such relations and to propose measures for their improvement. Let me however, tell you, from my experience of the past two years, practice trumps theory and theoretical reforms in this field. It is through the actual utilization of the synergies among those three organs that the best working relationship can be realized. It is through a disciplined and structured use of the mechanisms and facilities of our

institution that we can achieve better results in our work. Practical coordination and constant consultation is the most effective way of obtaining the best outcome from such relations. We have therefore to cultivate a culture of full utilization of all the institutions of governance of our Organization. We have benefited a lot from the use of informal mechanisms that can bring about consensus and a convergence of views on potentially divisive issues. When all three organs lend their support to such informal mechanisms, their effectiveness is also maximized. I have therefore always associated the President of the General Conference and the Director-General in such informal deliberations. Their contributions have always been most helpful.

95.15 Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, at this time, I should like to congratulate all of you for our collective work. Yesterday and today I thanked the Chairpersons of the committees and commissions for their firm but gentle command, and you, too, paid homage to them. But without your own willingness to accomplish our tasks, our work would not have succeeded. You have heard me say that I consider myself as an orchestra conductor. As we all know, the difference between "symphony" and "cacophony" is the skill and ability of each musician to play his part to the maximum of his or her talent, while contributing to the greater whole. In other words, it is a matter of each one of us shining, but not outshining, and you have all done this admirably. Therefore, thank you for your collegial collaboration and unfailing support to me and to this Board during the past two years. I must also thank each of the Vice-Chairpersons of the Board, and the Chairpersons of the regional groups. I have called upon you throughout these past two years and have relied on your wisdom in carrying out my functions. Thank you so much.

95.16 Before expressing my thanks to some special colleagues, I would like to say a few words to those of us who will be leaving the Board in 2007. I am sure you will concur that the past four years you have spent on the Board have been more than enriching. I have always thought that once we have been so involved in the work of our dearly beloved Organization, we never leave it. As you go on to new responsibilities, remember that you are the ambassadors of our Organization – the weighty responsibility of promoting the values of UNESCO will lie on your shoulders. Most of all, I know that we will see each other in the days to come. My respectful and warm thanks also go to the President of the General Conference, Dr Musa bin Jaafar bin Hassan – my dear friend – from whom I learned a great deal, and with whom great strides were made together. Perhaps I can seize this opportunity to wish him and all our practising Muslim colleagues, only just slightly in advance, *'Id mubarak sa'īd*.

95.17 Mr Director-General, I would also like to thank you and your core team for the continued support you have given to the Board. You know the great esteem I have for you, Mr Matsuura. I am pleased to count you among my friends, and I can say, on behalf of all the Board Members who rely on you in the coming years of your leadership, that our Board will support you firmly.

95.18 I would also like personally to thank several members of the Secretariat upon whom I have called these past two years; your insights have been invaluable: Mr Márcio Barbosa, the Deputy Director-General; Mr Hans d'Orville, Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning; and all the Assistant Directors-General: Mr Nicholas Burnett, ADG for Education; Mr Walter Erdelen, ADG for Natural Sciences; Mr Pierre Sané, ADG

for Social and Human Sciences; Ms Françoise Rivière, ADG for Culture; Mr Abdul Waheed Khan, ADG for Communication and Information; Mr Patricio Bernal, ADG for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission; Mr Nouréini Tidjani-Serpos, ADG for the Africa Department; Mr Ahmad Sayyad, ADG for External Relations and Cooperation; and Mr Amine Khene, ADG for Administration; as well as Mr Abdulqawi Yusuf, the Legal Adviser; and of course Mr Michael Millward, Secretary a.i. of the General Conference.

95.19 I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my own secretariat – a small but extremely dedicated team of highly professional colleagues carefully managed by the Secretary of the Board, Mr Armoogum Parsuramen. This team includes: Ms Karima Bekri-Lisner, Mr Russ Russell, Ms Mercedes Torcat, Ms Claudette Delorme, Mr Michée Detinho, Ms Patricia Johnston and Ms Milena Pounkin. And, finally, let me also thank those whom we don't always see, but who have ensured the

smooth functioning of all of the sessions of our Board: the interpreters who ensure we are understood; the technicians who made sure everything worked like clockwork; the clerks inside and outside of this room, who make sure we have the documents we need to do our business; the typists who helped when we were collectively drafting our decisions in the commissions and the committees; and the coffee ladies, who ensured that during our late session we had the sustenance we needed to continue until the very end. But, most of all, Mr Director-General, please convey to the entire Secretariat our thanks and satisfaction for everyone's continued support to furthering our collective work. I think they all deserve a round of applause on our common behalf. With these few words, *I declare this meeting closed.*

(Applause)

The meeting rose at 8.25 p.m.

ONZIÈME SÉANCE

Mercredi 31 octobre 2007 à 15 h 55

Président : M. Zhang

CLÔTURE DE LA SESSION

1.1 **The Chairperson** *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Anastassopoulos, we welcome you to the Executive Board for the first time in your high position, and we also welcome our former President of the 33rd session of the General Conference, Ambassador Musa Hassan, Mr Director-General, Mr Matsuura, distinguished Members of the Board, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends; we have now come to the final meeting of the 177th session of the Executive Board. You will recall that pursuant to Rules 14.2 and 79.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the Executive Board is at the disposal of the General Conference for any advice the latter may require on any items on its agenda. We therefore suspended the 177th session – as is the usual practice – in case there was a need for the General Conference to consult the Executive Board.

1.2 Dear colleagues, as the General Conference is on the verge of concluding a successful session, the results accomplished on a number of important issues, overwhelmingly based on consensus, may also give satisfaction to the Board inasmuch as it has made important recommendations to the General Conference, in particular regarding the key programming instruments of the Organization, documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5.

1.3 From the outset of the 34th session of the General Conference, I stressed that the General Conference was the forum from which the entire membership of the Organization could obtain guidance and decisions on issues of vital importance to our Organization. Indeed, the present session has seen engaging debates on a number of important questions. This involvement ensures ownership by all Member States in charting the strategic orientations and future action by our Organization in the coming years. I can only hope that all resolutions to be adopted by the General Conference in the next two days will also be taken by consensus, underlining the spirit of and dedication to cooperation prevailing in UNESCO, which has been regarded as an intangible asset of our Organization.

1.4 Dear colleagues, I will deliver my remarks for the biennium in three parts. Part I: Summary of the biennium. I recall with humility and appreciation my election as Chairman of the Executive Board in November 2005, when I took up my duties, fully realizing the great responsibilities conferred upon me by unanimous decision of the Board.

1.5 In the exercise of my responsibilities, I relied on all of you, and counted on your valuable cooperation in all of the Board's activities, convinced that our joint commitment would bring about added value to our efforts. Our results over the past two years were thus the fruit of a collective effort and wisdom. The Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Board and the Chairpersons of its commissions and committees all contributed effectively and tirelessly, and proved to be an efficient team. Above all, without the dedication and contribution of all 58 Members of the Executive Board, the support of the Chairpersons of the regional groups and the Director-General and his entire Secretariat, our work could not have succeeded.

1.6 I would like to summarize our achievements in some five substantial areas. First: the C/4 and C/5 documents. If I were to limit our accomplishments to these five main undertakings during the biennium, I would say that the constructive examination of the C/4 and C/5 documents – which occupied us in different stages throughout the entire biennium – was arguably one of the high moments. The Board faced a big challenge, and managed to turn it into an opportunity by placing UNESCO right in the global context, and to define a realistic, meaningful and vibrant strategy for the Organization, focusing on its core competences and its intersectoral and interdisciplinary potential. As I said, I think we can take full satisfaction from the consensus results that we submitted to the General Conference and from the echo it received.

1.7 If I were to single out a few particularly compelling components of document 34 C/4, they would be: the rolling nature of the Medium-Term Strategy over the next six years; the strong emphasis on intersectorality and interdisciplinarity, and in particular, the synergy of UNESCO's unique networking, specifically by National Commissions networking with governments, NGOs and civil society so as to enhance its delivery capacity; the definition of the five overarching objectives delineating UNESCO's comparative advantages in the multilateral field; the choice of the two global priorities, Africa and gender equality; the agreement that there shall be targeted interventions – small island developing States (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs), youth and disadvantaged segments of populations, including indigenous peoples. Allow me, dear colleagues, to express my appreciation to all of you, for the work we accomplished on this vital issue – and in particular the co-Chairpersons of the Drafting Group.

1.8 We also considered the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5) and the corresponding budget ceiling. The Drafting Group again deliberated in great detail on this issue. At the end of this exercise, I can confidently say that the needs of many have been heard and will be met. What stands out? The budget envelope of \$631 million represents a break from the past constraints of zero nominal growth. With the modest rise in the Organization's budget, it will be able to consolidate its credibility and competitiveness. I trust that this step forward on the part of Member States, albeit small, will continue to be matched by further enhanced programme implementation by the Secretariat, and that it will thus bring out the true value of UNESCO.

1.9 Secondly, United Nations reform and UNESCO's insertion within the United Nations reform. The biennium coincided with a period of intense reform of the United Nations system, with implications for UNESCO, especially as regards the Organization's contributions at the country level. The "Delivering as One" approach helped to focus the work of all United Nations organizations, including the specialized agencies, on support to national development priorities in a more coherent manner.

1.10 The Executive Board devoted two thematic debates to specific aspects of United Nations reform and the insertion and contribution of UNESCO in these processes, so ably managed and driven by the Director-General. Beyond, the Board debates constituted part of our own policy discussion, providing an opportunity to address newly emerging issues, such as climate change and knowledge societies.

1.11 As a specialized agency, UNESCO must be able to bring to bear our specific competences and mobilize

our multidisciplinary capacities to implement the programme, not only at the global level, but also at the national and regional levels in an intersectoral manner. This will allow creating the reality of “One UNESCO” complementing the broader “Delivering as One” United Nations approach.

1.12 Thirdly, Education Sector reform and the Global Action Plan. The Education Sector reform has created solid foundations in the global Secretariat to advance with the implementation of a challenging and diverse programme. UNESCO must secure its leading role as the world’s foremost education organization – and the Global Action Plan for EFA provides the necessary framework. We are well-positioned, also as lead agency for the literacy and education for sustainable development decades, and must now intensify our delivery to remain credible and to attract further support, not least in the quest to attain the MDGs and the six Dakar goals – our EFA goals – while all along striving to secure gender parity at all levels of education. Africa and LDCs must be the focus of our attention, as the gaps are there most glaring and worrisome.

1.13 Fourthly, Major Programmes II and III. The discussions of the outcome of the overall review of Major Programmes II and III have allowed us to develop a sharper and more contemporary vision for the S in UNESCO’s name. The review was like a reality check of what we are doing, what we are not or insufficiently doing, and what we should be doing differently and better. I am convinced that – in conjunction with the Board’s recommendations for documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 – the science programmes will now be more relevant and attractive to Member States, and will provide the excellence and visibility required to underpin our claim to be the foremost multilateral science agency, while the social sciences, as you are fully aware, are one of the core competences of our Organization, and play a vital role in the context of globalization.

1.14 Fifthly, defusing delicate issues and sources of potential crisis. At various points throughout the past two years, we also dealt with some politically delicate issues, where all the skills and abilities of the Board, individually and collectively, were in demand. Let me just refer to the issue of the archaeological excavations at the Mughrabi ascent in the Old City of Jerusalem, the issue of the cartoons, the contribution to the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, or the draft declaration concerning the cultural objects displaced during the Second World War. To this could be added the report of the External Auditor, especially on the audit of the Education Sector. On all of these issues we broke new ground as we were able – in the Board’s own trademark fashion – to defuse such delicate issues which could have developed into sources of potential crisis. The resolution of all these issues translated into a number of landmark decisions of the Board. I had been forewarned that I would probably have to deal with some challenging issues at some stage, but little was I to realize that this would happen at each session of the Board! In examining these items, our Board always saw itself and acted as a bridge-builder among Member States and among divergent interests.

1.15 The determination and dedication of all Members of the Board – complemented by the collaboration of the President of the 33rd session of the General Conference, Ambassador Musa Hassan, as well as the helpful support of the Director-General and the Secretariat – enabled the Board to bring together the key players and principal interested parties, and to ensure that all parties concerned

worked diligently towards finding a solution that could be accepted and embraced by everyone.

1.16 Now let me begin Part II – Experience gained. Dear colleagues, looking back to these accomplishments by the Board, I realize how much I have learned by doing. I have discovered the secrets underlying these achievements. Allow me to enumerate six of the secret recipes that enabled the Board to realize these achievements.

1.17 First: Maintaining focus. There was a constant and deliberate focus in different ways: focus on the most important part of a problem, where progress might spell solution, and focus in terms of concentrating on truly important issues. If the Board were to be distracted or derailed from its main tasks, this would however not mean that critical, but unexpected, issues could or should not be dealt with. It is indeed the intellectual and deliberative agility and flexibility of the Board that allows it to deal with emerging sensitive or controversial issues without losing its focus on its primary tasks, for we can say that its guiding principle is seeking common ground while preserving minor differences.

1.18 Secondly: From diversity through harmony to convergence and consensus. A second key to the success achieved which I learned from during this period is the promotion of convergence and consensus-building.

1.19 The Executive Board’s work was guided by a spirit of harmony and an atmosphere of trust – thus enabling the Board to achieve what could have been considered unachievable at the outset, and to demonstrate to others that it was capable of dealing effectively with a host of different challenges presented to it. To begin with, I believe that the most important is sincerity and confidence. As the Chinese proverb says, “complete sincerity can affect even metal and stone”.

1.20 Harmony underpinned by open and transparent dialogue, active listening, consultation, compromise and convergence of ideas – in a nutshell “unity in diversity” – helped to build trust and mutual confidence. Through consensus-building, as demonstrated throughout the past session of this Board, we can show that UNESCO can make a difference.

1.21 Consensus-building is not a theory, but a practice, and this Board clearly has demonstrated its mastery, for we believe that the Board should set an example with its capacity and strong will for consensus while we advocate peace and stability.

1.22 Consensus-building takes time, and it certainly needs determination, for there is indeed a point when one can feel despair over the likelihood of ever reaching a conclusion. That is when belief in the process has to be strongest, to get through the occasional moments of doubt or discouragement. This is where the wonderful atmosphere of this Board and particularly of its Bureau helped lift spirits. However divided in their approaches were the exceptional personalities involved in these deliberations, however opposed their governments’ views were at times, there was always friendliness, respect, trust and tolerance. This is how consensus-building can best be practised and the work of this Board is a clear manifestation thereof.

1.23 Thirdly: A Board profoundly mindful of its role. A third lesson to be drawn from this experience during the past biennium is that a Board mindful of its role and the scope of that role can make sterling achievements. I would like to recall briefly three aspects of this role. These

are: a decision-making role, a monitoring and supervisory role, and a supportive role.

1.24 A. Decision-making role. In performing its decision-making role, the Board demonstrated during this period its attachment to democratic decision-making, transparency and self-discipline. It has also shown a deep sense of attachment to a scientific and informed decision-making. In this regard, the Board held two thematic debates, organized in conjunction with our own policy debates, thus helping to steer the Board's thoughts as it was formulating its own opinion on the C/4 and C/5 documents, subsequently allowing the Board to take a proactive role in the broader United Nations reform process. Through our second thematic debate, the Board was able to demonstrate how we, as an Organization, may be capable of responding efficiently to new challenges facing the world.

1.25 B. Monitoring and supervisory role. Regarding its monitoring and supervisory role, the Board has for the first time addressed its oversight and reporting responsibilities in a manner that befits its mandate, and I am pleased with the progress made over the biennium, in response to the General Conference's instructions, to enhance the role of the Board. It was a great honour for me to present to the General Conference the first report of the Board on the assessment of the execution of the programme. I believe that Part II of the Executive Board's report to the General Conference is a good beginning, and has set the groundwork for results-based management. It also testifies to the will of the Board to move towards a fuller and more responsible assumption of its constitutional duties. And, especially when we are dealing with external auditors, the policy and guiding principles that I always bear in mind are "learn from past mistakes to avoid future ones" and "cure the sickness in order to save the patient".

1.26 C. Supportive role. In its supportive role, it is to the credit of the Executive Board not to yield to the temptation of micro-management, and to respect the autonomy of the Secretariat under the leadership of the Director-General. The Board has an important oversight role, which can best be exercised in close cooperation with the Secretariat and through mutually supportive actions.

1.27 Fourthly: Institutionalization of cooperation among the three organs – rule of law. The fourth key to the achievements I described above during the past biennium is the necessity of institutionalizing the cooperation and coordination among the three organs of the Organization. This is part and parcel of consolidating the rule of law in the Organization. Our achievements during this biennium are in large part due to the close cooperation and trust established between the Board, the General Conference and the Secretariat. As your Chairman, I have benefited much and felt enriched by the harmonious interaction and mutual understanding established with the President of the General Conference and the Director-General. I am quite confident that with the further consolidation of this practice, we can achieve a more effective institutionalization and realization of the rule of law and good governance in our Organization.

1.28 Fifthly: Keep pace with the times, forge ahead with innovation and creativity. A fifth secret recipe which I found to have enabled this Board to make a difference is the unbridled will and determination of the Board to keep pace with the times and to embrace and encourage innovation and creativity in its work.

1.29 I am reminded of Jefferson, who I quoted to you in my opening remarks of the 174th session, who wrote: "I am not an advocate for frequent changes ..., but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. ... (I)nstitutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy ...".

1.30 The Board has shown a deep sense of adaptability to new circumstances, and a strong capacity to find innovative solutions to new problems. We can all be proud of respecting tradition, but not being hobbled by the chains of old or obsolete practices. Being open to creative solutions and thinking out of the box has been one of the hallmarks of this Board. That is why reform became one of the driving forces of our work. A good example of this is the different formulae that we resorted to for establishing informal groups (informal working groups): some of them with two chairpersons, some of them without a chairperson, others with a convenor, and still others with a coordinator on behalf of the chairperson.

1.31 Sixthly: Communication flow and sharing of information. The sixth and last secret recipe that I believe has helped us realize the achievements I mentioned is the promotion of communication flow and sharing of information. Information meetings were held between each session of the Board, allowing for an informal and frank discussion between Members of the Board and the Director-General and his core team. These meetings have matured to such an extent that they play an important role in the building of mutual understanding and trust, which is at the heart of efficient management of our Organization. Our decision during this biennium to organize two information meetings per year is a clear proof that these meetings are of vital importance for the exercise of our functions.

1.32 So much for Part II and the six lessons learnt. Now Part III: Hope and confidence – forward-looking reflection. Dear colleagues, the speed of globalization affects our daily lives ever more tangibly, whether we want it to happen or not. With increased globalization, great advances have been achieved for humanity in the fields of science and technology. There is an increasing amount of wealth being generated through this progress, and human contact is ever swifter and easier over great expanses.

1.33 These advances bring with them an increasingly prevalent sense of competition. Competition spawns new ideas, and new ideas beget further competition. There is no place in the world where competition has not been the driving force behind change. I posit, therefore, that UNESCO must take advantage of this situation and cope with the change upon us.

1.34 The world context is one that challenges UNESCO to live up to its extraordinary mandate. Sometimes it seems to me as if UNESCO's Constitution was written for the beginning of the twenty-first century. Its goals and objectives are more relevant, more needed, and more demanded than ever by Member States and their governments that are themselves facing the awesome challenges of coming to grips with globalization, understanding its perils and promises and turning it to good account for the common good. Globalization with a human face – the clarion call for UNESCO's action on the international scene – is a motto offering a clear road map for the Organization. The world is changing fast, in some ways for the better, but sometimes creating grave new concerns and divides. Climate change is one such concern, for the models of development are being

questioned. But other faces of development are more positive, with the advent of an era where knowledge – or in other words, education, science and technology – is the key to the creation of prosperity and progress, and no longer the previously dominant socio-economic pillars of land, labour and capital. And lastly, the great unknowns of globalization are compelling peoples and cultures to cling to that which they hold most dear: their roots, their identities. Thus, the protection and promotion of cultural diversity, the mainstay of individuals' and societies' confidence in themselves, and hence their ability to deal positively with the new challenges of today, are fundamental. These three major new developments: climate change, the advent of knowledge societies, and the duty to safeguard cultural diversity, require a degree of interdisciplinarity in UNESCO's approaches that are unprecedented in the history of the Organization.

1.35 Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture of world politics, we must continue to do our best to live up to the expectations of the Member States. For my part, in the exercise of my functions in China, I pledge to uphold the values and objectives of UNESCO, hoping that others – and I believe that others – will do the same. I also hope that the Secretariat will deliver with the highest level of quality and competence in fulfilling its responsibilities at the global, regional and country levels and to enable UNESCO to fulfil its normative, policy-advice and capacity-building tasks. Overall, we need to sharpen our profile to live up to our constitutional ambition, namely to promote intellectual solidarity and to do so through all of UNESCO's fields of competence.

1.36 As I leave the Chair of this august body, I would like to make six earnest wishes for the Organization. First, I wish that the Organization may become the undisputable leader in all matters pertaining to education worldwide and at the country level.

1.37 Secondly, I wish that UNESCO may continue to play its unique role of advising governments to embrace science, technology and innovation policies, and to help build capacities of Member States in that regard.

1.38 Thirdly, I wish that the Member States will recognize UNESCO's financial constraints and will endeavour to provide it with the necessary means to accomplish the ambitious and far-reaching tasks which the same Member States entrust to it.

1.39 Fourthly, I wish that UNESCO will continue to solidify its unique global lead role in the field of culture as a beacon to promote cultural diversity in all its forms and to solidify its roles especially with respect to cultural heritage in all its forms.

1.40 Fifthly, I wish that UNESCO will succeed in ensuring the efficient implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society and will retain its global focus and lead role with regard to the freedom of expression and the media and journalism.

1.41 Sixthly, I wish that we be efficient in pursuing the two global priorities. Pride of place belongs to Africa. Of course, I wish that we will make rapid progress in making gender equality a reality, both within the House and in the programme activities benefiting Member States, and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals in that regard well before the targeted deadlines. Having enormous trust in your collective ability, I believe you will have the capacity to deliver.

1.42 Finally, I am the luckiest man because I was privileged to be able to lead you in this Board over the past two years. I have learnt so much from you all. For that I thank you deeply, from my heart. Thank you.

(Applause)

2.1 **Ms Oliver** (United States of America)
(Vice-Chairperson for Group I) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chairman. And thank you for your inspiring remarks. Since there will be many speakers after me, I will be brief. First, on behalf of Group I, let me thank you, Mr Chairman, for the firm but gentle leadership you have given to this body. You have helped build a spirit of collegiality and harmony among us. As we all know, this Executive Board has faced many potentially divisive issues, but somehow, somehow, you always manage to achieve consensus. I know I speak for every country in Group I when I say that we admire your skill and your achievements.

2.2 Mr Chairman, you have served this Organization well, for you know that there is strength in unity. On a personal note, as a member of the Bureau, let me say that you have taught me a great deal, particularly the value of patience. I come from a young country, an energetic and optimistic country. Americans tend to be anxious for action and impatient for results, but you, Mr Chairman, you come from a very old country, with a long history going back thousands of years. From you I have learned the power of patience. For that I thank you.

2.3 So, Mr Chairman, as we end the 177th session of the Executive Board, I want to say what an honour and a privilege it has been to have had the opportunity to work with you, and I would like to say to my neighbours: *chers collègues du Cameroun et du Maroc, je suis désolée que ce soit aujourd'hui la dernière fois que nous sommes assis côte à côte, car vous êtes des voisins très sympathiques*. I will also miss all the other members of the Bureau, for we have worked hard together. We have spent many hours together, and it has been hard work, but also a great pleasure and often a lot of fun.

2.4 And finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to thank all the members of Group I, because, without their support, I would never have had an opportunity to serve on the Bureau, and to have been able to share so many challenging and interesting experiences with you, Mr Chairman, and I look forward to continuing to work with you as we strive to achieve UNESCO's noble goals. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

(Applause)

3.1 **M. Janyška** (République tchèque) (Vice-Président pour le Group II) *in extenso*:

Monsieur le Président, comme l'Ambassadrice des États-Unis, Mme Oliver, je vais m'exprimer en français. Je voudrais vous dire que je suis très ému. Très ému parce que je me rends compte que c'est la dernière fois que nous nous réunissons dans cette composition, au sein de ce Conseil qui a toujours su trouver le compromis, et œuvrer au consensus, dans la transparence. C'est par exemple ce Conseil qui a produit un rapport sur les activités des deux années écoulées, qui, à ma connaissance, constitue une première. Vous avez rendu compte de manière exacte et détaillée, Monsieur le Président, de nos travaux de ces deux dernières années.

3.2 J'aimerais simplement mentionner la réforme du système des Nations Unies, tout à fait cruciale pour notre Maison, et qui va à son train. J'aimerais mentionner la réforme des deux secteurs de l'UNESCO s'occupant des

sciences, qui est fondamentale. Pendant cette période, nous avons vu l'entrée en vigueur, avec une rapidité tout à fait exemplaire, de deux conventions d'une importance majeure - pour cette Maison et pour le patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel dans le monde. Au cours de cette même période, Monsieur le Président, nous avons aussi abordé des sujets nouveaux, ou relativement neufs, comme le changement climatique et tout ce qu'il implique quant à l'action de l'UNESCO. Nous avons vu aussi le début des Journées internationales de la philosophie, domaine tout à fait fondamental dans lequel l'UNESCO doit jouer pleinement son rôle.

3.3 Monsieur le Président, nous avons eu également à traiter des sujets épineux. Vous en avez mentionné plusieurs : la Rampe des Maghrébins, les objets culturels déplacés en relation avec la Seconde Guerre mondiale, etc. Et sur chacun de ces sujets, nous avons finalement trouvé un compromis. Si cela a été chaque fois possible, c'est certainement, pour beaucoup, grâce à vous, à votre style, à votre approche, Monsieur le Président, à votre pondération, à votre patience et à votre sens de la mesure.

3.4 Vous savez combien j'aimais, pendant les longues réunions du Bureau déjà évoquées par Mme Oliver, vous dire que vous êtes l'incarnation même du confucianisme et qu'on ne peut vous écouter sans penser à cette pensée plusieurs fois millénaire pour laquelle le compromis, la recherche d'un accord, sont primordiaux. Si je devais vous présenter en trois mots à mes étudiants, je dirais : harmonie, confiance, consensus.

3.5 Pendant les nombreuses réunions du Bureau que nous avons eues au cours de ces deux années, vous avez toujours su souligner l'importance de l'équilibre entre les trois organes de l'UNESCO. Et vous n'avez jamais hésité, chaque fois que le besoin s'en faisait sentir, ou que la situation l'exigeait, à inviter à nous rejoindre, et le Président de la Conférence générale, que je salue, tout comme son futur successeur, et le Directeur général, que je salue également. Les physiciens et les mécaniciens le savent bien, tout équilibre repose sur trois points. Avec ces trois points, vous avez toujours su trouver une solution et un équilibre satisfaisants pour tout le monde.

3.6 Permettez-moi donc, Monsieur le Président, de vous remercier au nom du Groupe II, groupe de l'Europe centrale et orientale, pour la manière dont vous avez présidé nos travaux et dont vous avez contribué à tout ce que ce Conseil a accompli pendant ces deux dernières années. Je tiens à remercier aussi tous les Vices-Présidents présents ici, auxquels j'aimerais dire : mes chères et chers collègues, c'était un vrai délice de travailler avec vous, de nous réunir dès 9 heures du matin dans cette petite salle cachée dans ce couloir, à l'entrée de laquelle un petit écriteau portait cette inscription : « Silence, réunion du Bureau ». Tout cela est très émouvant. Je pense pouvoir dire que les liens d'amitié - d'amitié vraie - et de connivence nés de ce travail collectif vont assurément continuer à exister.

3.7 J'aimerais souhaiter plein succès à nos successeurs, qui siégeront au nouveau Bureau. J'aimerais remercier M. Parsuramen, ainsi que son équipe, qui nous ont toujours fourni un travail impeccable. Et j'aimerais remercier mes collègues du Groupe II pour la confiance qu'ils ont accordée à la République tchèque. Lorsque je suis arrivé il y a un an, j'ai tout de suite été propulsé dans ce rôle de vice-président. Au début, j'ai dû nager, nager, pour ne pas me noyer. Et c'est grâce à votre soutien, mes chers collègues, que j'ai pu mener à bien ma modeste tâche. J'espère que je l'ai fait dans la transparence et à votre satisfaction à tous. Et j'aimerais

donc souhaiter de grands succès à nos successeurs, et en particulier à la personne qui va prendre ma place. Encore une fois, Monsieur le Président, merci au nom du Groupe II.

4.1 **Sr. Gros Espiell** (Uruguay)
(Vicepresidente para el Grupo III) *in extenso*:

Muchas gracias señor Presidente. En nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, es decir del Grupo III, deseo felicitarlo y expresarle la más sincera congratulación, después de haber tenido el orgullo de que usted presidiera el Consejo durante el último año. Gracias, además, por la excelente declaración que acaba de hacer, que ha sido una confesión de la experiencia del pasado y un mensaje optimista para el futuro. Creo que es un documento que amerita permanecer en la conciencia misma de la UNESCO.

4.2 Su presidencia merece, a juicio de nuestro Grupo, una especial felicitación, porque tiene características singulares que la destacan de una manera muy particular. En primer lugar, su voluntad de trabajo, tolerancia, cordialidad y constante y tenaz búsqueda de consenso para obtener resultados positivos en el logro de los objetivos de la UNESCO. Esa voluntad de trabajo, esa tolerancia, esa cordialidad y esa búsqueda de consenso han permitido obtener excelentes resultados, sobre todo en el proceso de toma de decisiones del Consejo Ejecutivo. Se ha podido lograr una labor eficaz. El Consejo Ejecutivo cumplió así con todas sus obligaciones constitucionales en un clima de amistosa cordialidad. Hubo unidad en la diversidad. Una conciencia y reconocimiento de que las diferencias, que son evidentes y que no pueden negarse, no pueden ni deben llegar a la confrontación. Y que, con conciencia de esas diferencias, es posible llegar a un acuerdo consensual.

4.3 Pero además, yo deseo destacar la personalidad del Presidente en cuanto ser humano. Los más arduos problemas, con aspectos políticos difíciles, pudieron solucionarse sin confrontación, con tolerancia y comprensión, en beneficio de la afirmación de una cultura universal de paz y de libertad. Se ha trabajado bajo su presidencia en un esfuerzo victorioso por reforzar y aumentar el papel de la UNESCO como centro intelectual de la familia de las Naciones Unidas en el marco de la reforma y actualización del sistema internacional, con una profundización del multilateralismo para que la paz en la mente de los hombres pase a ser en los hechos una realidad universal.

4.4 Y, por último, quiero destacar mi relación personal con usted, señor Presidente, de la que he extraído valiosas enseñanzas y que guardo como un recuerdo muy especial en la historia de mi vida. Felicidades pues, con los deseos de mayor éxito para usted en el futuro. Muchas gracias.

(4.1) **M. Gros Espiell** (Uruguay) (Vice-Président pour le Groupe III) *in extenso*
(traduit de l'espagnol) :

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président. Au nom du groupe de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes, c'est-à-dire du Groupe III, je tiens à vous adresser mes très sincères félicitations et à vous dire combien je suis fier que vous ayez présidé le Conseil au cours de l'année écoulée. Je vous remercie également pour l'excellente déclaration que vous venez de faire, témoignage de l'expérience du passé et message optimiste pour l'avenir. C'est, je crois, un document qui mérite de faire partie de la conscience de l'UNESCO.

(4.2) De l'avis de notre groupe, votre présidence mérite des félicitations particulières, parce qu'elle se distingue par des traits tout à fait singuliers. En premier lieu, votre acharnement au travail, la tolérance et la cordialité dont vous avez fait preuve et votre recherche constante et obstinée du consensus pour parvenir à la réalisation des objectifs de l'UNESCO. Cette volonté de travail, cette tolérance, cette cordialité et cette recherche du consensus ont permis d'obtenir d'excellents résultats, en particulier dans le processus de prise de décisions au sein du Conseil exécutif. Nous avons ainsi pu nous acquitter efficacement de notre tâche et le Conseil a respecté toutes ses obligations constitutionnelles dans un climat de cordialité amicale. L'unité a régné dans la diversité, avec la conscience et la reconnaissance que les différences, évidentes et indéniables, ne peuvent ni ne doivent mener à la confrontation et qu'en dépit de ces différences, il est possible de parvenir à un consensus.

(4.3) Je tiens également à souligner la personnalité du Président en tant qu'être humain. Les problèmes les plus ardues, comportant des aspects politiques difficiles, ont pu trouver une solution sans confrontation, dans la tolérance et la compréhension, au bénéfice de l'affirmation d'une culture universelle de paix et de liberté. Sous votre présidence, nous nous sommes efforcés avec succès de renforcer et d'accroître le rôle de l'UNESCO comme centre intellectuel de la famille des Nations Unies dans le cadre de la réforme et de la modernisation du système international, avec un approfondissement du multilatéralisme afin que la paix dans l'esprit des hommes devienne une réalité universelle.

(4.4) Pour terminer, j'évoquerai les relations que j'ai entretenues personnellement avec vous, Monsieur le Président ; j'en ai tiré de précieux enseignements et elles resteront comme un souvenir très spécial dans l'histoire de ma vie. Recevez donc toutes mes félicitations et mes meilleurs vœux de réussite pour l'avenir. Je vous remercie.

5.1 **Mr Bhumirat** (Thailand)

(Vice-Chairperson for Group IV) *in extenso*:

Mr Chairman, on behalf of Group IV, I would like to say that for the past two years, the Members of the Executive Board under the chairmanship of Your Excellency, Zhang Xinsheng, have worked jointly and coherently as a team. That is because of the unique wisdom and personality of you, Mr Chairman, who encouraged a spirit of cooperation. I believe every member of the Executive Board would agree that we have shown solidarity and have really demonstrated unity in diversity. I personally have learnt much from working in the Bureau of the Executive Board. It was not an easy task to lead a meeting comprised of Members with different ideologies and experiences, and often with different priorities and agendas, and to reach the same goal and destination. Not everyone has the same kind of leadership approach, but our experience on the Executive Board has taught us that a more effective leadership approach is tackling issues without exercising the authority of power, establishing instead the Members' shared sense of ownership and belonging as a driving force. The Chairman believes in the pure nature of every individual Member, in sharing the common element of UNESCO's philosophy, that is, creating peace in the minds of men. Therefore, the most effective tool for an effective leader is patience, and, with that provision, the Board was able to reach consensus every time.

5.2 On the occasion when UNESCO is getting into the full swing of implementing the Medium-Term Strategy, and particularly the Programme and Budget for the next biennium, I would like to say, on behalf of Thailand that I'm so proud to have served on the Bureau of the Executive Board representing Group IV and to have had the opportunity to make contributions to the consideration of the strategy and of the implementation plan. I have full confidence that this plan is a considered one, reflecting the needs and expectations of Member States and that it continues to be well focused.

5.3 After the conclusion of this General Conference, we believe that every Member State should feel a sense of ownership of this plan, because it was a collective effort, contributed to immensely by the Drafting Group. The implementation plan is timely and responsive to the world's problems. That is because UNESCO helps all participants keep abreast of the global issues relating to UNESCO's mandate.

5.4 The thematic debate on climactic change was a vivid example, which received a very positive response from all Members. It proved to be informative for the finalization of the implementation plan. We are certain that UNESCO's noble mission in education, and in scientific and cultural aspects will continue to contribute to the promotion of peace and to the well-being of mankind.

5.5 Ladies and gentlemen, it is a tradition and a principle of UNESCO that every Member State should play an equal role. Therefore, in managing and executing the work of the Organization, no one may take charge permanently. It is like we are in the 400-metre relay. Once a runner completes a round, he passes a baton to the next runner. However, our mission is not to run on a flat plane. Hopefully, we are running on an upward spiral because of the quality of the Medium-Term Strategy produced under your chairmanship, therefore, six years from now, when we look back on the present, we will be able to see wider and brighter horizons than we see today. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

6.1 **M. Mboui** (Cameroun)

(Vice-Président pour le Groupe V (a)) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, je m'exprime au nom de 43 pays qui, comme vous l'avez signalé, ont la priorité ici à l'UNESCO.

6.2 En passant en revue nos travaux, je me rends compte à quel point l'UNESCO a été interpellée et s'est impliquée pour jouer un rôle qui allait au-delà de celui de laboratoire d'idées. Je pense ici au problème des images du Prophète à propos desquelles il semblait si difficile, dans un premier temps, de concilier les points de vue sur la liberté d'expression et le respect des symboles religieux. Je peux aussi évoquer le problème de la Vieille Ville de Jérusalem, qui a conduit M. le Président du Conseil exécutif, soucieux de trouver un consensus, à ménager une journée spéciale de débats pour rapprocher patiemment des points de vue qui semblaient si jamais pouvoir converger. Je pense aussi à la réforme du Secteur de l'éducation, avec les problèmes liés à la gestion de l'ancien Sous-Directeur général chargé de ce secteur.

6.3 Cependant, l'essentiel de nos travaux a porté, en ce qui concerne l'Afrique, sur le devenir du continent. Les migrations internationales, la science et la technologie au service du développement durable, les pays en situation de post-conflit, l'éradication de la pauvreté et la scolarisation des filles ont fait l'objet de décisions pertinentes, qui ont été intégrées dans la Stratégie à

moyen terme que la 34^e session de la Conférence générale est en train d'adopter.

6.4 L'Afrique s'est réellement sentie impliquée dans le travail de l'UNESCO. Le Président du Conseil exécutif a fait plusieurs voyages en Afrique, pour participer notamment en juin 2006 à Luanda (Angola), à la Consultation des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO de la région Afrique. Non seulement le Directeur général s'est rendu dans beaucoup de nos pays, mais il a pris part aussi aux Sommets de l'Union africaine de Khartoum et d'Addis-Abeba. D'éminents chefs d'État africains ont honoré l'UNESCO de leur visite : le Président Wade du Sénégal, le Président Kufuor du Ghana, le Président Sassou Nguesso, en sa qualité de Président en exercice de l'Union africaine, et, il y a quelques jours, les Présidents Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete de République-Unie de Tanzanie, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo de Guinée équatoriale et Paul Biya du Cameroun. Ces visites ont certainement renforcé la coopération avec l'UNESCO à travers, par exemple, la signature d'un accord de coopération très important avec la CEMAC et la sous-région de l'Afrique centrale à laquelle j'appartiens.

6.5 Le groupe africain à l'UNESCO a aussi montré sa vitalité au sein du Conseil. L'Afrique a en effet dirigé avec une rare compétence, grâce à mon frère et ami, M. l'Ambassadeur Yaï, du Bénin, la très importante Commission FA, permettant ainsi de parvenir au consensus sur le montant du budget. Le travail accompli par un autre représentant de l'Afrique, M. l'Ambassadeur Omolewa, comme coprésident du Groupe de rédaction, aux côtés de Mme l'Ambassadrice et déléguée permanente de l'Inde, pilier de notre Conseil, a été salué par notre assemblée. Je me félicite que plusieurs vice-présidents issus du groupe africain, dont le Ministre de mon pays, Mme Haman Adama, aient eu l'honneur de diriger les débats en plénière de la Conférence générale et d'assurer la présidence de comités et commissions, la Commission ADM ayant eu à sa tête l'Ambassadeur Yaï, du Bénin, et la Commission Sciences exactes et naturelles le professeur Lugujo de l'Ouganda.

6.6 Par ailleurs, M. le Président du Conseil exécutif a félicité le groupe africain d'avoir enrichi le débat thématique à l'UNESCO tout au long du biennium. Force est de reconnaître que la priorité donnée à l'Afrique est apparue un peu plus concrète au cours des dernières sessions de notre Conseil. La nouvelle Stratégie à moyen terme que la Conférence générale va adopter d'ici peu répond bien aux problèmes africains, que ce soit à travers l'assurance de l'Éducation pour tous, la mobilisation du savoir et de la politique scientifiques au service du développement durable, la promotion de la diversité culturelle et du dialogue interculturel ou l'édification des sociétés du savoir inclusives grâce à l'information et la communication. Sans doute faudra-t-il qu'à l'avenir, le groupe africain fasse mieux entendre sa voix pour contrecarrer le racisme sous toutes ses formes, notamment son aspect pseudo-scientifique.

6.7 Alors que le mandat de mon pays s'achève, je tiens à vous dire ici le plaisir que j'ai eu à travailler avec les représentants des 58 États membres du Conseil exécutif. Le Cameroun s'honore de n'avoir eu que des relations de confiance avec chacun d'entre eux. Ma gratitude va d'abord à mon groupe, au groupe africain à l'UNESCO, qui m'a soutenu et accompagné tout au long de mon mandat. Les membres africains du Conseil m'ont toujours donné les moyens intellectuels et moraux de m'exprimer au nom de l'Afrique. Les soutiens sont allés au-delà du Conseil. Mme Yolande Bike, présidente du groupe africain, des observateurs au Conseil tels que M.

Diop du Sénégal et bien d'autres encore, m'ont apporté des ressources précieuses pour guider mon action. Chers collègues africains, je vous remercie du fond du cœur.

6.8 Ma gratitude va à mes collègues du Bureau, ces cinq merveilleux vice-présidents, ainsi qu'aux cinq très studieux présidents des commissions et comités, avec lesquels je crois avoir noué des relations d'amitié très personnelles. C'est le lieu de joindre ma voix à toutes celles qui ont loué les qualités exceptionnelles de notre Président, M. Zhang Xincheng, qui a manifesté, à un très haut degré, son attachement à un principe démocratique auquel il n'est pas toujours reconnu les vertus qu'il possède. Ce principe, c'est le consensus. Jamais, malgré les problèmes délicats dont notre Conseil a eu à débattre, le Président ne s'est montré disposé à accepter un règlement se traduisant par la victoire d'un camp sur l'autre. Le consensus, faut-il le rappeler, est le fondement de la question politique et sociale en Afrique. Le consensus, c'est *la palabre*, c'est-à-dire l'effort d'entendre toutes les opinions afin de rapprocher tous les points de vue vers une vision commune. C'est ce qu'est parvenu à faire, pendant ces deux années, le Président Zhang Xincheng.

6.9 Je souhaite adresser des félicitations particulières au secrétariat du Conseil exécutif, à M. Parsuramen et à son équipe, dont le professionnalisme nous a bien aidés au cours des sessions. Je ne peux manquer de féliciter le Directeur général, M. Koïchiro Matsuura. Ayant été assis à sa droite pendant deux ans, j'ai pu observer comment il exposait ses idées avec méthode et patience, et surtout comment il acceptait sans ciller les observations pas toujours amènes des représentants, sans cesser de prendre des notes pour étoffer des réponses toujours claires et mesurées. Je lui souhaite une fin de mandat heureuse pour le récompenser de tous les efforts qu'il a déployés afin de donner un nouveau cours à notre Organisation par des réformes appropriées.

6.10 Je disais que le mandat du Cameroun s'achève au Conseil exécutif. Nous avons été présents à tous les rendez-vous, qu'il s'agisse des sessions ordinaires comme des journées d'information. J'ai bénéficié de la sollicitude du Directeur général pendant ce biennium, notamment à travers la très forte activité du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé et ici-même, au Siège. L'UNESCO a permis, comme chacun le sait, la réalisation de nombreux projets dans mon pays.

6.11 En prenant congé de vous, chers collègues, le Cameroun tient à remercier tous ceux qui auraient souhaité qu'il reste présent au Conseil. Mais le Cameroun remercie surtout les très nombreux délégués qui l'ont élu aux deux importants organes subsidiaires auxquels il était candidat, à savoir le BIE et le PIDC. Le Cameroun et moi-même restons disponibles pour faire du prochain exercice biennal une période de consolidation de la politique de réforme judicieuse pratiquée par le Directeur général.

6.12 Je souhaite que le biennium qui va débiter soit assez heureux pour proposer à la prochaine Conférence générale un digne successeur à M. Koïchiro Matsuura. Ce successeur viendra peut-être de cette auguste assemblée dans laquelle je m'honore d'avoir siégé pendant quatre ans. La future présidence de notre Conseil, qui devrait être ce que nous souhaitons tous, et la première visite officielle d'un chef d'État de mon pays, le Cameroun, à l'UNESCO, en la personne du Président Paul Biya, ajouté au plaisir d'avoir connu des personnes aussi éminentes et remarquables, vous toutes et tous, chers collègues, et d'avoir fait ensemble de notre mieux pour un monde meilleur par l'éducation, la science, la culture, sont en

définitive, pour moi, un motif de satisfaction particulier dans ma longue participation à la vie publique. En vous quittant pour un moment et en remettant le flambeau africain à M. Brian Figaji, je vous remercie de votre très aimable attention.

٧,١ السيدة بناني (المغرب) نائبة الرئيس عن المجموعة الخامسة ب) النص الكامل :

السيد رئيس الدورة الثالثة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس الدورة الرابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيد المدير العام، السادة والسيدات أعضاء المجلس، يسعدني ويشرفني أصالة عن نفسي ونيابة عن زملائي من المجموعة العربية أن أعبر بدوري عن أخلص التهاني لكم، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، على الأسلوب المتميز والناجح لإدارتكم جلسات مجلسنا طوال السنتين المنصرمتين وعلى حرصكم الدائم على التوصل إلى نتائج توافقية بالنسبة لمختلف المواضيع المعروضة علينا للنظر فيها.

٧,٢ السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، قضينا معا سنتين غنيتين مليئتين بالعطاءات، كان علينا خلالها أن نتبادل الرأي وأن نتخذ قرارات بالغة الأهمية بالنسبة لليونسكو، أذكر من بينها برامج مختلف قطاعات المنظمة، والميزانية، وإصلاح المنظمة الأممية، والمساهمة في مواجهة الاحترار المناخي، إلى آخره، وأخرى مهمة كذلك وجد حساسة كالرسوم الكاركتورية، وحماية التراث والمؤسسات التعليمية بالقدس الشريف، ولبنان، والعراق، والقطع الثقافية المنقولة من جراء الحرب العالمية الثانية، والهولوكوست، وذكرى ضحايا المجاعة في أوكرانيا (هولودومور). واسمحوا لي، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، أن أغتنم هذه المناسبة لأحيي كافة الزملاء الذين سيغادرون المجلس بعد هذه الجلسة، وأهنئهم على مساهمتهم الفعالة في إنجاح مهمتنا خلال السنتين المنصرمتين، وأخص بالذكر جاري المباشرين.

٧,٣ ولقد تمكن مجلسنا، السيد رئيس المجلس، بفضل كفاءتكم الواسعة وحكمتمكم الكبيرة من التغلب على الصعاب والوصول إلى نتائج جد مرضية، فكنتم الشخص الودود والرائد اللطيف، وبفضل تشبثكم بفضيلة الحوار والحكمة والانسجام – le wa – بقي مجلسنا موحدًا رغم اختلاف الآراء وتعددية انتماءات أفرادها الثقافية والعقائدية والجغرافية وغيرها، وهكذا طبقتم مبدأ الانسجام الذي عبر عنه الفيلسوف الصيني طانغ ييجي Tang Yijie بقوله: "يمكن الانسجام بدون التشابه" ("On peut être en harmonie sans être identique"). ولا غرابة في ذلك وأنتم تنحدرون من بلد عريق، بلد كونفوشيوس، بلد أعطى الكثير للفن والثقافة والفكر العالمي.

٧,٤ إننا، السيد الرئيس، نعتز أيما اعتزاز بكوننا تقاسمنا تحت رئاستكم هذه التجربة الغنية ونعبر لكم عن تقديرنا وإعجابنا الكبيرين وأمنياتنا الخالصة لكم ولزوجتكم الكريمة الحاضرة معنا في هذه الجلسة التكريمية بتمام الصحة والعافية والمزيد من التألق والتوفيق. وفي وقت مغادرتكم رئاسة مجلسنا الموقر، أود أن أنقل لكم على لسان أفراد المجموعة العربية مقولة الفيلسوف الصوفي أبو بكر ابن العربي: "أبلغكم سلاماً من إخوة في قلوبهم \ من الفراق أشجان".

(7.1) **Mme Bennani (Maroc)**
(Vice-Présidente pour le Groupe V (b))
in extenso (traduit de l'arabe) :

Monsieur le Président de la 33^e session de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président de la 34^e session de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, j'ai le plaisir et l'honneur, en mon nom propre et au nom de mes collègues du groupe arabe, de

vous adresser à mon tour, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, mes plus vives félicitations pour l'excellence et le succès avec lesquels vous avez dirigé les séances de notre Conseil au cours des deux dernières années, mais aussi pour votre souci constant de faire en sorte que nous parvenions sur les différentes questions qui nous étaient soumises pour examen à des résultats fondés sur le consensus.

(7.2) Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, nous avons passé ensemble deux années riches en contributions durant lesquelles nous avons été appelés à échanger nos avis et à prendre des décisions de la plus haute importance pour l'UNESCO, concernant notamment les programmes des différents secteurs de l'Organisation, le budget, la réforme du système des Nations Unies et la participation à la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique, ainsi que d'autres décisions tout aussi importantes et extrêmement sensibles, concernant notamment l'affaire des caricatures, la protection du patrimoine et des institutions éducatives dans la ville sainte de Jérusalem, le Liban, l'Iraq, les objets culturels déplacés en relation avec la Seconde Guerre mondiale, l'Holocauste et le souvenir des victimes de la famine (*Holodomor*) en Ukraine. Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, permettez-moi de saisir cette occasion pour saluer tous les collègues qui quitteront le Conseil à l'issue de la présente séance et pour les féliciter de leur précieuse contribution au succès de notre mission durant les deux années qui se sont écoulées, et je tiens à citer en particulier mes deux voisins immédiats.

(7.3) Monsieur le Président du Conseil, grâce à votre haute compétence et à votre grande sagesse, notre Conseil a réussi à surmonter les difficultés et à parvenir à des résultats très satisfaisants. Vous avez été un meneur aimable et cordial et, grâce à votre profond attachement aux vertus du dialogue, de la sagesse et de l'harmonie (*wa*), notre Conseil est resté uni malgré les divergences de vues et la diversité des appartenances culturelles, confessionnelles, géographiques et autres de ses membres. Vous avez appliqué le principe de l'harmonie dont a parlé le philosophe chinois Tang Yijie, qui a dit : « On peut être en harmonie sans être identique ». Il n'y a rien d'étrange à cela, puisque vous êtes issus d'un pays ancien, le pays de Confucius, un pays qui a beaucoup donné à la culture, à la pensée et à l'art mondiaux.

(7.4) Monsieur le Président, nous sommes extrêmement honorés d'avoir partagé cette riche expérience sous votre présidence. Nous vous exprimons notre gratitude et notre admiration les plus vives et vous adressons, à vous et à votre gracieuse épouse, présente parmi nous à l'occasion de cette séance organisée en votre honneur, nos vœux de santé, d'épanouissement et de réussite les plus sincères. Au moment où vous quittez la présidence de notre Conseil, je tiens à vous adresser, au nom des membres du groupe arabe, ces paroles du philosophe soufi Abu Bakr Ibn Arabi, qui a dit : « Je vous transmets le salut / de frères au cœur chagriné / par cette séparation ».

8.1 **M. Anastassopoulos** (Président de la Conférence générale) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, fidèle à mes

habitudes que cette Maison, je l'espère, commence à bien connaître, je souhaite, Monsieur le Président, être aussi bref que possible. Ainsi que nous le rappelle le proverbe grec, *λακωνίζεῖν ἐστὶ φιλοσοφεῖν* (*lakonizein esti philosophhein*), « philosophe, c'est aussi être bref ». Je suis heureux d'être avec vous cet après-midi à l'occasion de la clôture de vos travaux, que j'ai eu le plaisir de suivre avec toute l'attention qu'ils méritent.

8.2 Le constat que nous pouvons en faire aujourd'hui, à quelques jours de la clôture de la 34^e session de la Conférence générale, est sans ambiguïté : malgré les difficultés que nous connaissons bien, vous avez accompli une œuvre d'une certaine qualité grâce à votre persévérance et à votre dévouement, et grâce aussi à votre Président, M. Zhang Xincheng, que je souhaite ici tout particulièrement saluer.

8.3 En effet, Monsieur le Président, parmi vos nombreux mérites, que les orateurs qui m'ont précédé n'ont pas manqué d'évoquer, je soulignerai votre sens des responsabilités qui vous a amené à accepter des charges jusqu'alors jamais assumées par la Chine. C'est d'ailleurs la première fois dans les annales de l'UNESCO qu'un Président du Conseil exécutif vient de l'Asie de l'Est. Et nous devons remercier le Gouvernement chinois qui a permis à son premier Vice-Ministre de l'éducation de consacrer une grande partie de son temps à la Présidence du Conseil exécutif.

8.4 Je souhaite vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour la manière dont, entre autres, vous avez géré le différend entre Israël et la Palestine au sujet de la Vieille Ville de Jérusalem. La justesse de votre jugement s'est également révélée lors de « l'affaire » des caricatures dans la presse danoise qui a suscité tant de réactions et de contre-réactions.

8.5 Bravo Monsieur le Président ! Bravo pour les efforts que vous avez déployés. Bravo pour votre jugement, qui vous a permis de gérer les crises. Bravo pour le résultat que vous avez obtenu. Pour tout cela, nous devons vous féliciter, et je me réjouis de le faire au nom des États membres. Je vais me permettre toutefois de formuler une petite réserve. Vous avez parfois choisi d'attendre un certain temps, jusqu'à ce que les membres de votre Conseil s'entendent sur certains sujets. Or, vous le savez, il ne faut jamais oublier qu'il y a aussi parmi nous des impatientes.

8.6 Je ne saurais terminer mes remerciements sans, comme il se doit, saluer aussi - et ce n'est pas une simple formalité - la contribution de vos vice-présidents, des présidents des commissions et comités, et de votre secrétariat qui, nous le pensons, vous ont bien aidé et soutenu au cours de cette période. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

٩,١ السيد موسى حسن (رئيس الدورة الثالثة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام) النص الكامل :

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم. سعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، سعادة رئيس الدورة الرابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو، معالي المدير العام، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، سيداتي، سادتي، تقول الأغنية الصينية: "أنا من مدينة صغيرة/ ليست كالمدينة الكبيرة/ مدن الضواض والغرور/ مدينة صغيرة فسيحة القلب." نلتقي اليوم وفي القلب فسحة لنسجل في ذاكرة اليونسكو نتائج أعمال المجلس التنفيذي، الذي عمل بانسجام لتحقيق الرسالة التي جاء من أجلها، معا نستعرض مسيرة المجلس التنفيذي، وحضوره المميز، وملامح النجاح الذي حققه في العام المنصرم. إن ما تحقق

في هذه الفترة من عمر المجلس يبعث البهجة في النفس. هي سعادة تعود أسبابها إلى الكفاءة التي يتمتع بها جميع أعضاء المجلس، وهو أمر يفسر ما أسفرت عنه أعمال المجلس من جودة في النتائج. إن قدراتكم وطاقتكم وانسجامكم كان خير مثال للتضامن والعمل الجماعي المثمر، فقد استفدتم من نصيحة الحكيم الصيني كونفوشيوس الذي يقول: "إذا قام البيت على أساس سليم أمن العالم وسلم".

٩,٢ الصديق العزيز جانغ سينشونغ، "الصدافة هي الوردية الوحيدة التي لا شوك فيها". دعني أتوقف قليلاً لأعبر عن اعتزازي الشديد بصدافتكم التي بنيناها طوال مدة المجلس وثقتها الثقة المتبادلة التي سادت بيننا. اسمحوا لي أن أعبر عن تقديري الكبير للجهود المميزة والمتواصلة التي بذلتوها للارتقاء بأداء المجلس التنفيذي، وعن امتناني لقيادتكم الناجحة الحكيمة التي تستمدون قوتها من تراث بلدكم الثقافي العميق القائم على فلسفة التأمل والتناغم والوفاق.

٩,٣ سيداتي، سادتي، في الوقت الذي نصل فيه إلى ختام عملنا المشترك، أجددها أيضاً مناسبة لأعبر عن الامتنان للصديق العزيز كويشيرو ماتسورا، المدير العام، عن الإرادة الطيبة التي أكد عليها طوال المدة التي توصلنا فيها معا في ضوء الالتزام بمبادئ اليونسكو.

٩,٤ زميلاتي، زملائي أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، أشعر بالاعتزاز لمشاركتي في أعمالكم، وكسب صدافتكم ومعرفتكم التي ستبقى رغم وصولنا إلى ساعة الوداع. "الفراق يمنحنا فرصة نادرة للشوق لبعضنا... وبالآمال الحلوة يصبح الفراق عيداً"، كما يقول الأديب غوته. كما أتطلع إلى المجلس التنفيذي بتشكيلته الجديدة متمنياً أن يكون عمله مشرقاً ومزدهراً من أجل تعزيز المهمة الأخلاقية لليونسكو، وأن يحقق ما نحلم به مستلهمين مورييس شوفالبييه الذي يقول: "لا يستطيع المرء أن يعيش بلا أحلام... الذاكرة تحلم بالماضي، والخيال يحلم بالمستقبل". وأنهى كلمتي بقصيدة بناء على طلب سعادة السفيرة موكيرجي من الهند. وقصيدة اليوم لشاعر فرنسي مشهور، وهي قصيدة فيها تفاعل، يقول: "الحياة شيء يدعو للأمل يا منور/ الحياة شيء يدعو للأمل يا حبيبتي/ والتفكير بك شيء جميل/ كأجمل أصوات الدنيا/ وكسماح أجمل أغنية/ إنما الأمل لم يعد يكفيني/ أنا لا أريد بعد سماع الأغاني/ أريد أن أغني أنا الأغاني".

(9.1) **M. Musa Hassan** (Président de la 33^e session de la Conférence générale)
in extenso (traduit de l'arabe) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux. Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la 34^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs, une chanson chinoise dit ceci : « Je viens d'une petite ville/Différente des grandes villes/Ces villes pleines de tumulte et de vanité/Une petite ville au grand cœur »/Nous nous retrouvons donc aujourd'hui, le cœur grand, pour inscrire dans la mémoire de l'UNESCO les résultats des activités du Conseil exécutif, qui a travaillé dans l'harmonie afin de remplir la mission pour laquelle il avait été choisi. Ensemble, nous passerons en revue l'action du Conseil exécutif, sa formidable présence et les divers aspects des succès remportés ces deux dernières années. Ce que le Conseil a accompli durant cette période est une source de joie, la compétence de tous les membres du Conseil expliquant la qualité des résultats obtenus. Vos capacités, votre énergie et votre bonne entente ont parfaitement illustré votre solidarité ainsi que vos

efforts collectifs et fructueux. Vous avez mis en application le conseil du sage chinois Confucius, qui a dit : « Une maison bâtie sur des fondations solides offre l'image de la sécurité dans le monde et de la paix ».

(9.2) Cher ami Zhang Xinseng, « l'amitié est la seule fleur sans épines ». Permettez-moi de prendre quelques instants pour vous dire combien je suis fier de l'amitié que nous avons bâtie durant le mandat du présent Conseil et de la confiance mutuelle qui s'est instaurée entre nous. Je voudrais en outre vous exprimer ma profonde gratitude pour les efforts remarquables et inlassables que vous avez déployés afin que le Conseil exécutif s'acquitte au mieux de sa tâche, ainsi que pour l'efficacité et la sagesse avec lesquelles vous avez dirigé le Conseil et qui trouvent leur origine dans la tradition culturelle séculaire de votre pays, fondée sur la philosophie de la méditation, de l'harmonie et de la concorde.

(9.3) Mesdames et Messieurs, à l'heure où nous arrivons au terme de notre action conjointe, je tiens à saisir cette occasion afin d'exprimer ma gratitude à mon cher ami Koïchiro Matsuura, le Directeur général, pour la bonne volonté dont il a fait montre tout au long de la période où nous nous sommes côtoyés, et ce dans le respect des principes de l'UNESCO.

(9.4) Mes collègues membres du Conseil exécutif, je suis fier d'avoir participé à votre action, d'avoir gagné votre amitié et d'avoir fait votre connaissance, et ces souvenirs resteront en moi bien que ce soit l'heure des au revoir. Comme l'a dit Goethe : « La séparation offre une rare occasion de nous faire désirer... et les doux espoirs, font de la séparation une fête ». J'attends avec intérêt la constitution du nouveau Conseil exécutif. J'espère qu'il mènera une action lumineuse et constructive en vue de renforcer la mission éthique de l'UNESCO et de réaliser nos rêves. Comme l'a dit Maurice Chevalier : Nul ne peut vivre sans rêves... la mémoire rêve au passé, l'imagination à l'avenir. À la demande de S. E. l'Ambassadrice de l'Inde, Mme Mukherjee je conclurai mon intervention par un poème, en l'occurrence ces vers empreints d'optimisme d'un poète français célèbre, qui a écrit : La vie invite à l'espoir cher être lumineux / La vie invite à l'espoir ma bien-aimée / Penser à toi est une belle chose / C'est comme les plus beaux sons de la Terre / C'est comme écouter les plus belles chansons / Mais l'espoir ne me suffit plus / Je ne veux plus me contenter d'écouter les chansons / Je veux chanter moi-même ces chansons.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

9.5 Don't worry, be happy. If you are worried please take my mobile phone number and call me – ladies only!!

(Applause)

10.1 **M. Johnson** (Togo) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Secrétaire du Conseil, Mesdames et Messieurs les traducteurs, ainsi que vous tous qui, de près ou de loin, participez au succès de nos assises, mes chers collègues, permettez-moi de m'adresser directement au Président du Conseil exécutif.

10.2 Monsieur le Président, vous êtes un président compétent et dévoué qui, même lorsqu'il a des problèmes de santé, n'hésite pas à accomplir les devoirs de sa charge. Vous êtes soucieux du consensus, à l'écoute

attentive de tous les membres du Conseil, particulièrement sensible aux problèmes des pays du Sud et à la nécessité de développer un partenariat interrégional entre tous les continents. Vous vous êtes montré un homme de dialogue, prônant la coexistence pacifique. Vous avez marqué le Conseil exécutif de l'empreinte de la sagesse profonde de la Chine.

10.3 Le Togo, mon pays, a relevé avec satisfaction que votre dernier voyage officiel avait pour destination l'Afrique, puisque vous avez rendu visite à la Commission de l'Union africaine à Addis-Abeba. Vous avez été ainsi le premier Président du Conseil exécutif à entreprendre une telle démarche, qui vous honore, vous, ainsi que votre grand pays et l'UNESCO.

10.4 Au moment où vous allez quitter la tête du Conseil exécutif, c'est avec beaucoup d'émotion que nous vous souhaitons de grands succès dans vos activités futures car, nous en sommes convaincus, vous allez aborder une nouvelle étape de votre brillante carrière. Nous demandons au représentant de la Chine au Conseil exécutif de transmettre au Gouvernement et au peuple chinois nos remerciements pour nous avoir prêté pendant deux ans un de ses fils les plus prestigieux.

10.5 Voilà, Monsieur le Président, le collier de fleurs que je suis heureux de déposer respectueusement sur vos épaules, afin qu'il s'y marie aux parfums raffinés des six secrets, et bien d'autres secrets encore, qui ont fait votre succès à la tête de notre Organisation. Bravo et merci.

11.1 **Mr Aziz** (Afghanistan) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor, and I apologize to all of my colleagues if it is not traditional to do so. Clearly, I cannot take the place of the honourable Chair of the Asia and the Pacific group in representing this great group, but I'm addressing you on my own behalf, and on behalf of the Afghan nation. I'm addressing you, Sir, as well as the Presidents of the 33rd and 34th sessions of the General Conference, and the Director-General.

11.2 First and foremost, allow me to address you, Sir. You come from one of the greatest countries of Asia, in terms of its population, its size, and above all, its great culture and its glorious history. Your country, your people, for thousands of years, have contributed to the advancement of humanity. We therefore expected such a performance over the past two years from one of the greatest and most honourable Chinese sons of Asia.

11.3 Mr President, I have the greatest respect for and friendship with another son of Asia, Musa. I call him a "son of Asia" because he is truly an Asian. I have known him for more than 20 years of his life, and it has been the greatest pleasure to work with him for the advancement of peace through the mission of UNESCO. I have had the great honour of being at your service as a staff member of UNESCO and as a friend and colleague under your leadership as the President of the 33rd session of the General Conference. My congratulations on your achievement, and my hope and greatest *salām* to you, to your country, and to the great people of the Sultanate of Oman.

11.4 I also share common values with a European who is now the President of the 34th session of the General Conference, if I may remind you all of the presence of Alexander the Great in Afghanistan. So, I would also like to pay him my respects and to wish him the greatest success, not only for the best possible ending of the present General Conference, but also for the two

years to come after he has handed over his role to another honourable member of UNESCO's family. It has been a great pleasure to know you. He is a friend and a huge contributor to the advancement of peace and to the cultural development of my country, not to mention a citizen of one of the greatest countries to favour Afghanistan with its friendship.

11.5 Mr Director-General, I have addressed you several times, and I've said repeatedly that you are one of the most honourable sons of Asia. I am proud of you, I was proud of you, and I am still proud of you, of having you as a head of this great Organization. You have received from the Afghan nation an honourable medal, which represents the hope and the desire of the Afghan people to be helped through your good offices. You are, in fact, at the head of the honourable people in the Secretariat of UNESCO. My ex-colleague, I therefore wish you all the best, and assure you that we will continue to work together for one main purpose, that is the purpose and mission of UNESCO in Afghanistan. You know that Afghanistan's mission is UNESCO's mission, because we are all looking for peace and for the reconstruction of the minds of people, for hope of a better life.

11.6 The President of the 33rd session of the General Conference recited a Chinese song, and I would like to say that I come from a small country characterized by loud noises, but that most of them are noises of hope and herald a better future. As far as I'm concerned, I'm leaving this place, but not leaving the hope and mission of UNESCO. I therefore sincerely congratulate those colleagues from the Asia and the Pacific group who have been re-elected to the post, and to this important mission of UNESCO.

11.7 I must say now that as you can see from my age I am coming to the end of my 49 years of service in this Organization. I joined as a member for proud Afghanistan in 1968, coming to UNESCO as a member of the Afghan delegation to the General Conference. And since then I am very proud to have been a servant to the mission of UNESCO. I will leave the place, but I will never detach myself from the peaceful and honourable life which UNESCO seeks to establish and hopefully perpetuate.

11.8 I thank you all for your assistance to Afghanistan. Please remember that you all have responsibilities so that we have a complete peace and an honourable life in Afghanistan. We are struggling against the adversaries of peace. Those of you who are staying, please remember and remind those who are joining you that we will be working with you for a better life in Afghanistan, and for a peaceful life in the whole world. I thank you for all that you have given me. I still believe that I will be learning until I die, as Islam says. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

12.1 师女士 (中国) 发言全文:

谢谢主席先生, 我听了诸位的发言, 深受感染。我感谢过去两年来主席所做的工作, 各位副主席及整个主席团所做的工作。正是你们和谐而又高效地工作, 才使执行局这两年的工作完成得如此顺利。为节约时间, 下面请允许我用英文发言。

(12.1) **Mme Shi (Chine) in extenso**
(traduit du chinois) :

Merci, Monsieur le Président. J'ai écouté les paroles prononcées par mes éminents collègues, qui m'ont fait une forte impression. Je remercie le Président, les Vice-Présidents et tous les membres du Bureau pour le travail qu'ils ont accompli au cours

de ces deux années. C'est l'esprit d'harmonie et la très grande efficacité dont vous faites montre qui ont permis au Conseil de s'acquitter aussi aisément de sa tâche. Permettez-moi d'ajouter brièvement quelques mots en anglais.

(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)

12.2 As the representative of the Chinese Government, I would like to thank my colleague for the kind words he expressed to Mr Zhang. It is China which should express gratitude to all of you for the great trust you have placed in Mr Zhang. Mr Zhang certainly deserves our tribute. Some of my Chinese friends know how devoted he has been to his work as the Chairman of the Board, while at the same time he has had to do a full-time job as a Vice-Minister of Education in a country with 200 million students. As my Togolese colleague has well said, we have lent you two years of his service. The result is that his accomplishments have been accompanied by sacrifices in his own health, which will surely have serious repercussions for the rest of his life in the form of a spinal problem. You never, however, heard any complaints from him. China is proud of him. We are proud of him because he did what was within his ability. China is grateful. We are grateful for the understanding and cooperation you have accorded him. You have provided an opportunity for a Chinese civil servant to fulfil our international obligations and to play a constructive role in creating an atmosphere of harmony, trust and consensus, as one of the Vice-Chairs, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, summarized very well.

12.3 And this opportunity came to us exactly 60 years after the founding of UNESCO. China was a founding member of this Organization 60 years ago. After the past 20 years of pursuing reform and opening up policy in China, historical changes have occurred in the relations between contemporary China and the rest of the world, resulting in an ever-closer interconnection between China and the rest of the world, resulting in an ever-closer connection between China's future and destiny and those of the rest of the world.

12.4 And whatever the changes, China will always hold high the banner of peace, development and cooperation. We believe that sharing opportunities for development and rising to challenges together so as to further the noble cause of peace and the development of humanity bear on the fundamental interests of the peoples of all Member States and meet our common aspirations. China will continue to work tirelessly with all of you for our common goals for UNESCO. Thank you.

(Applause)

13.1 **The Director-General in extenso:**

Mr Chairman of the Board, Mr President of the 34th session of the General Conference, Mr President of the 33rd session of the General Conference, Members of the Board and ladies and gentlemen, we are indeed all proud of what has been accomplished by the Executive Board over the past two years. You have been thoughtful and creative collaborators, critical when you deemed necessary, always loyal to the spirit of the Organization, and devoted to international cooperation. You have confronted difficult issues and found solutions in consensus decisions that were both carefully calibrated and relevant, and which permitted us to move forward with our work.

13.2 Your support has been capital for us in moving ahead with difficult reforms, which needed to be done in a deliberate but determined fashion. Carrying out real,

effective change at an organizational level, in order to fulfil UNESCO's mandate in a dramatically changing world, is not a simple task. You have supported, as well as guided me, in this work.

13.3 Our collaboration in the preparation of the new Medium-Term Strategy and biennial Programme and Budget has been a real achievement. The General Conference has recognized the excellence of these documents, welcoming the sharpened focus, the concentration on UNESCO's strategic advantages, and the results-oriented approach. More generally, the General Conference has praised the high quality of documents presented for its consideration, which owes a great deal to the committed work of the Executive Board.

13.4 To those Board Members who have come to the end of their terms of office, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and very best wishes. To those who remain, let me say how much I look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future.

13.5 My particular thanks go to all the Members of the Bureau of the Board who helped to steer the Board's discussions – the Chairs of the PX and FA Commissions, the Chairs of the Committees and the Vice-Chairs of the Board. My warmest thanks also go to the Chairs of the Drafting Group on documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 and the Chairs of other formal, informal working groups established in the last two years.

13.6 Ladies and gentlemen, the moment has come for me to pay tribute to you, Mr Chairman, for your remarkable stewardship of the Executive Board over the past two years. I believe that the Board's success owes a great deal to you, to your incisive remarks, your expert handling of debates, and to your good humour. You have helped guide the Board's work over a crucial period, which has witnessed the ongoing reform of the Organization, and the increasing participation of UNESCO in the wider reform of the United Nations system. Your deep understanding of the challenges to the Organization and of our own work in meeting them has been a real asset. You have greatly contributed to the clarification of our messages to the Member States, and in this way you have helped our work continue in an even and seamless fashion.

13.7 Above all, I wish to pay homage to your steadfast quest for harmony and consensus, which has enabled Board Members to reach agreement on many complex issues. Indeed, this Board has taken 226 decisions over the past two years. Every one of them has been adopted by consensus. This is a great achievement, of which you – and this Organization – should be immensely proud.

13.8 In the speech you have just delivered, Mr Chairman, you mentioned six secret recipes for the success of the Board. From the perspective of the Secretariat, I fully endorse these six recipes and I believe that they should not be secret recipes, they should be public recipes which I hope will be inherited by the future Board.

13.9 Mr Chairman, if I may, I would like to say a few words in your language, one of the six official languages of the Organization.

(The Director-General continued in Chinese)

13.10 最后, 请允许我再补充几句。主席先生, 你是来自中国的第一位执行局主席, 无疑你为你的祖国争得了荣誉。作为教科文组织的老朋友, 我相信, 将来你会继续与本组织密切合作。我再次向你表示感谢。

(13.10) *(Traduit du chinois)* Permettez-moi d'ajouter encore quelques mots. Monsieur le Président, vous êtes le premier président du Conseil exécutif venu de Chine. Vous avez assurément fait honneur à votre patrie. Ami de longue date de l'UNESCO, je suis certain que vous continuerez à l'avenir à coopérer étroitement avec l'Organisation. Je vous adresse une nouvelle fois le témoignage de ma gratitude.

(Applaudissements)

(Le Directeur général poursuit en anglais)

13.11 I would like to say a few more words if I may. As a mark of our profound respect and gratitude, I'm honoured to give you this gavel, and I know that in your wise hands it will be put to very good use.

The Director-General presented the Chairperson with a gavel.

(Applause)

14.1 **The Chairperson** thanked the Director-General and congratulated him on his spoken Chinese. He gave thanks to the outgoing Board Members for their support and collaboration and wished them good luck in the future. He also congratulated the newly elected Board Members and expressed confidence that they would contribute greatly to the realization of UNESCO's mission. Finally, he thanked the Chinese Government for encouraging him in his role as Chairperson of the UNESCO Executive Board in spite of his duties in his home country.

14.2 As a token of his gratitude to the Director-General, the Presidents of the General Conference and the Members of the Board, and in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the China National Olympic Committee, he expressed his desire to present each of them with a souvenir in the form of a replica of the mascot of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and a collection of Chinese Olympic stamps. He quoted a Chinese proverb to convey the depth of his emotion.

The souvenirs were distributed.

14.3 Citing the Beijing 2008 motto: "One World, One Dream", he drew the Board's attention to the universal Olympic values it embodied – unity, friendship, progress, harmony, participation and a common dream – thus underlining the shared aspirations of humanity, irrespective of colour, language and race.

14.4 He expressed sorrow at taking leave of his colleagues, but felt confident that their paths would cross in the future, and concluded by expressing his gratitude to all those who had contributed to the work of the Board.

15. *The 177th session of the Executive Board was declared closed.*

(Applause)

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.



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Cent soixante-dix-septième session

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PARIS, 12 mars 2008
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177 EX/SR.8, par. 44, et 177 EX/SR.10, par. 32, veuillez remplacer « Ms Amatvivat » par « Ms Suebsith ».



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177 EX/SR.8, para. 44, and 177 EX/SR.10, para. 32, please replace “**Ms Amatvivat**” with “**Ms Suebsith**”.