DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION V

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

1.   Pursuant to 29 C/Resolution 87 (paragraph 1.22), the Executive Board, at its 171st session, recommended to the General Conference the nomination of Mr Mohammed S. Sheya (United Republic of Tanzania) for the office of Chairperson of Commission V. At the first meeting of the Nominations Committee, on 3 October 2005, Mr Sheya was elected Chairperson of Commission V.

2.   At its first meeting, on 11 October 2005, the Commission approved the proposals submitted by the Nominations Committee for the offices of Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur. The following were elected by acclamation:

> *Vice-Chairpersons*:   France (Mr Daniel Malbert)
> Azerbaijan (Ms Eleonora Husseinova)
> Dominican Republic (Ms Patricia Dore Castillo)
> Tunisia (Mr Wacef Chiha)
>
> *Rapporteur*:   New Zealand (Mr Laurence Zwimpfer)

3.   The Commission then adopted the timetable of work submitted in document 33 C/COM.V/1 Prov. Rev.

4.   The Commission devoted six meetings between 11 and 13 October 2005 to the examination of the items on its agenda.

5.   The Commission adopted its report at its seventh meeting on 17 October 2005.

Part I

Item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5)

6.   At its fourth meeting, the Commission examined item 3.1 of the agenda. Representatives of 14 Member States took the floor. The main threads of the debate are reflected in Part VIII of this Report.

Draft resolutions which may be adopted *in extenso* by the General Conference

7.   The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt draft resolution 33 C/COM.I, II, III, IV, V/DR.1 (submitted by Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and supported by Barbados and Seychelles) for the records of the General Conference.

8.   The resolution reads as follows:

**Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget
for 2008-2009 (34 C/5)**

**Further implementation of the Programme of Action
for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

The General Conference,

Recalling the adoption at its 32nd session of a resolution (32 C/Resolution 48) specifically addressed to the "Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: further implementation and review of the Barbados Programme of Action (Barbados+10)", with its operative paragraphs addressed to Member States and Associate Members, non-governmental organizations in official relations with UNESCO, and the Director-General,

Welcoming the subsequent decision by the Director-General to formalize the coordination of UNESCO inputs to the Barbados+10 process, through the creation in February 2004 of a high-level intersectoral and interregional working group (WG-SIDS) to promote and coordinate UNESCO wide contributions to the Barbados+10 review and forward-planning process,

Taking note of the convening by the United Nations of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was held in Port Louis (Mauritius) from 10 to 14 January 2005,

Taking note also of the distinctive contribution made by UNESCO to the review and forward-planning process and to events connected with the International Meeting in Mauritius, in such fields as the role of culture in the sustainable development of SIDS, youth visioning for island living, communities in action, ocean and coastal management, and civil society forum,

Welcoming the adoption by the International Meeting of the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy for Implementation),

Noting that the principal negotiated outputs of the Mauritius International Meeting – the political declaration and the strategy document – call for action in many fields related to UNESCO's concerns, programmes and priorities,

Acknowledging the convening in March 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters of an Intersectoral Information Meeting for Permanent Delegates and Observers, which provided an occasion for a preliminary presentation and exchange of views on the possible contribution of the Organization to the Mauritius Strategy,

Noting the endorsement in July 2005 of the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy by the United Nations General Assembly,

Further noting the invitation by the General Assembly to all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional economic commissions, among others, to take timely action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

1. <u>Urges</u> Member States and Associate Members to:

   (a) participate actively in the implementation of and the follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy;

   (b) mobilize UNESCO's programmes and networks in their respective countries and regions to promote further the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS through taking advantage of synergies of action across the Organization's programmes and programme sectors and the opportunities presented by the Participation Programme and other sources of support;

2. <u>Urges</u> non-governmental organizations in official relations with UNESCO to:

   (a) work in close partnership with government and other stakeholders in the follow-up to the Mauritius International Meeting;

   (b) strengthen cooperation with civil society in SIDS in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;

3. <u>Invites</u> the Director-General to:

   (a) continue to mainstream the Mauritius Strategy in the Organization's activities and work programmes;

   (b) continue, at the same time, to promote a holistic, integrated approach to sustainable living and development in SIDS, and to nurture intersectoral cooperation with intergenerational dimension, at the interregional level, via the proven platform approach;

   (c) collaborate fully with the United Nations family of institutions and with other international and regional organizations, in contributing to the timely follow-up and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;

   (d) include appropriate proposals for the further contribution of UNESCO to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in preparation of the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4).

9. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt draft resolution 33 C/COM. II, III, IV, V/DR.1 (submitted by Australia and Indonesia) for the records of the General Conference.

10. The resolution reads as follows:

**Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget
for 2008-2009 (34 C/5)**

Combating fanaticism, extremism and terrorism

The General Conference,

1. <u>Thanking</u> the Director-General for his efforts to ensure UNESCO plays its role in combating fanaticism, extremism, and terrorism, within all the realms of its mandate and in accordance with the United Nations Secretary-General's call for action in this domain,

2. <u>Recalling</u> General Conference resolutions 31 C/Resolution 39, 32 C/Resolution 30 and 32 C/Resolution 47,

3. <u>Recalling</u> 172 EX/Decision 53 of the Executive Board which, seeking to enhance UNESCO's contribution to international action against terrorism through education, the sciences, culture, communication, and information, has:

   − recognized the link between activities in support of a dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, and efforts to discourage and dissuade extremism and fanaticism;

   − underlined the importance of implementing concrete and sustained action in the various domains of UNESCO aimed at fostering a dialogue among peoples and countering extremism and fanaticism;

   − requested the Director-General to include concrete activities in the work plans for the Programme and Budget for 2006-2007, once approved by the General Conference, and to report to the Executive Board at its 174th session;

4. <u>Acknowledging</u> the range of valuable initiatives and meetings held under the auspices of the "Dialogue among Civilizations", and building on the results of the International Congress "Education for Shared Values for Intercultural and Interfaith Understanding" initiated by the National Commissions for UNESCO of the Asia and the Pacific region, held in Adelaide from 28 November to 3 December 2004, and the "Call to Action" agreed at the Congress founded upon the ideals of the Delors Report pillar, "Learning to Live Together" and the Dialogue among Civilizations, and in the context of the mandate of UNESCO,

5. <u>Requests</u> the Director-General to prepare for draft document 34 C/5 an intersectoral programme, involving all sectors, to continue and strengthen initiatives in the development of curriculum frameworks and materials for education for shared values for intercultural and interfaith understanding.

Part II

Item 3.2 – Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4)

11. At its third and fourth meeting, the Commission examined item 3.2 of the agenda. Representatives of 29 Member States and two non-governmental organizations took the floor. The main threads of the debate are reflected in Part IX of this Report.

Draft resolutions which may be adopted *in extenso* by the General Conference

12. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt draft resolution 33 C/COM.I, II, III, IV, V/DR.2 (submitted by Andorra, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Monaco, Netherlands, Saint Lucia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and supported by Latvia) for the records of the General Conference.

13. The resolution reads as follows:

Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4)

The General Conference,

1. <u>Recalling</u> the discussions at the 32nd session of the General Conference, as well as at the subsequent sessions of the Executive Board, on the Organization's priorities,

2. <u>Recalling</u> 171 EX/Decision 30 concerning the preparation of the provisional agenda of the 33rd session of the General Conference,

3. <u>Having examined</u> document 33 C/6,

4. <u>Emphasizing</u> the need for UNESCO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations system, to effectively pursue its purposes and functions as laid down in its Constitution, and to contribute effectively to the objectives of the wider multilateral system, to inter-agency activities, and to the development needs of Member States within its domains,

5. <u>Recalling</u> the 2005 World Summit Outcome of the United Nations General Assembly and the Millennium Declaration,

6. <u>Considering</u> that the Summit Outcome Document of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and reflection undertaken in connection with the 60th anniversary of UNESCO, present an opportunity for the Director-General to set out a vision for UNESCO and how it could be managed as a modern, forward-looking United Nations organization together with the requisite framework,

7. <u>Also considering</u> UNESCO's mandate and its comparative advantage within the system of international organizations in its areas of competence,

8. <u>Further considering</u> that UNESCO's mission, rooted in its Constitution, should be defined in the light of the evolving dynamics of global development,

---

9. <u>Further considering</u> it essential that the General Conference issue clear guidance to the Secretariat and the Executive Board for the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy,

10. <u>Further considering</u> it important that UNESCO's programmes have clear results and contribute to genuine change in the world,

11. <u>Cognizant</u> of the good quality of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 and the important contribution it already made to strengthen the Organization, in particular thanks to its strategic character and its clear focus,

12. <u>Invites</u> the Director-General to ensure due consideration in the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) of the following principles and guidelines, which build on results-based programming, budgeting, management and monitoring (RBB and RBM) methodologies used within the United Nations system:

    (a)   to define UNESCO's **vision** in a single mission statement, describing in contemporary terms the Organization's purpose and objectives, replacing the "unifying theme";

    (b)   to define a limited number of **overarching objectives**, covering the full breadth of UNESCO's mandate, further concretizing the mission statement, replacing the "strategic thrusts";

    (c)   to further define and operationalize the overarching objectives into a limited set of **strategic programme objectives**, one or two for each of the four programmes, which in turn form the basis for a limited number of **biennial sectoral priorities** with measurable goals, expected results and clear benchmarks in future C/5 documents;

    (d)   to set measurable expected outcomes for the overarching objectives and the strategic programme priorities;

    (e)   to draw on the full implementation of RBM, with strict orientation on results and impact;

    (f)   to include in document 34 C/5 a road map, including a timetable, towards full implementation of RBM;

    (g)   to structure the Medium-Term Strategy in such a way that it allows, in consecutive C/5 documents, for the development of a larger number of intersectoral programmes;

    (h)   to ensure that due attention is paid to the improvement of the visibility of the Organization;

    (i)   to define the complementary roles of Headquarters and the field, so as to ensure measurable impact of UNESCO's activities at the country level, particularly in LDCs;

    (j)   to define the contribution of category II centres to strategic programme objectives;

    (k)   to focus UNESCO's general role on those areas where the Organization has a core mandate and comparative advantage within the United Nations system, making sure that proposed actions of UNESCO and those of other international organizations are within their respective core mandates and not overlapping with each other;

(l) to make the Medium-Term Strategy a reader-friendly reference document for UNESCO's Member States and Secretariat, preferably limited to 30 pages, and with comprehensive summaries, as appropriate;

13. Further invites the Director-General to take into account the guidance offered by the 33rd session of the General Conference in the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy;

14. Encourages the Director-General to make the appropriate organizational changes for the full delivery of the Medium-Term Strategy, including the introduction of structures facilitating greater intersectorality;

15. Requests the Director-General in the consultative process of Member States and National Commissions, which is an integral part of the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy:

(a) to reflect the contents of this resolution in the questionnaire to be sent to Member States and National Commissions, as well as in the regional consultations of these Commissions;

(b) to create conditions for a high response rate to the questionnaire, among others by considerably reducing the number of questions in the questionnaire;

(c) to present to the Executive Board, besides the programmatic analysis of the responses of Member States and National Commissions to the questionnaire, a quantitative analysis of these responses, in order for the Board to assess the extent of support for specific programmes and initiatives;

16. Requests the Director-General to ensure that views shared by a majority of Member States are all taken into account in the process of the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy;

17. Further requests the Director-General to present progress reports to the 174th and 175th sessions of the Executive Board;

18. Urges the Director-General in preparing the Medium-Term Strategy to take due account of the recommendations and guidance offered by the internal and external auditor and the Joint Inspection Unit, as well as "when appropriate" guidance emanating from other internal or external evaluations or strategic reviews;

19. Requests the Member States of UNESCO and the UNESCO National Commissions to take into account this resolution in the process of consultation for the preparation of the draft Medium-Term Strategy;

20. Requests the Executive Board to ensure that the above-mentioned principles and guidelines are taken into account in the preparation of the draft Medium-Term Strategy;

21. Decides that the draft Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) shall be presented to the 34th session of the General Conference.

Part III

Item 4.2 – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and information (33 C/5)

14. At its first, second and third meetings, the Commission examined item 4.2 "Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 – Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and information (33 C/5)". The representatives of 47 Member States and three non-governmental organizations took the floor.

Recommendations of the Executive Board

15. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it approve the recommendations of the Executive Board on the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 as contained in the relevant paragraphs, in particular paragraphs 72 to 79, of document 33 C/6 as well as 33 C/6 Add. and invites the Director-General to take them into account in the preparation of document 33 C/5.

Resolutions proposed in document 33 C/5

16. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05110 Rev. of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Subprogramme V.1.1 "Creating an enabling environment for the promotion of freedom of expression and universal access" as amended by the Commission in the light of its discussion on the following draft resolutions:

> 33 C/DR.19 (submitted by Iran, Islamic Republic of) for paragraph (a)(iii);[1]
> 33 C/DR.20 (submitted by Iran, Islamic Republic of) for paragraph (a)(i);[2]
> 33 C/DR.75 (submitted by India) for paragraph (a)(v).

17. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General

(a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:

  (i) foster actions to promote freedom of expression and universal access to information and knowledge as interdependent goals of strategic importance for building knowledge societies taking into account the specific problems and needs facing the developing countries;

---

[1] The Commission agreed on the amendment proposed in the understanding that the Director-General contributes seed money for the organization of a subregional seminar on the promotion of professional standards in journalism in Southern and Western Asia in the work plans for 2006-2007 and endeavours to identify extrabudgetary funds.

[2] The Commission agreed on the amendment proposed in the understanding that the Director-General endeavours to identify extrabudgetary funds.

(ii) promote freedom of expression and freedom of the press as fundamental human rights and a prerequisite for democratic governance and participation of civil society through the celebration of World Press Freedom Day, the award of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize and the protection of the rights of media and information professionals as well as monitoring activities in that regard;

(iii) provide advisory services on adaptation of media legislation dealing with freedom of expression, freedom of the press, as well as freedom of information; enhance dialogue among media professionals especially in developing countries about ethics, professional standards and their working conditions;

(iv) foster actions to build knowledge societies by promoting universal access to information and knowledge and by supporting the formulation of integrated national and regional policies and frameworks based on internationally agreed principles; encouraging the development of public domain of information; supporting and strengthening editorially independent public service broadcasting (PSB); and monitoring trends and developments in these areas;

(v) ensure that UNESCO plays a more proactive role at WIPO discussions for protection of rights of broadcasting organizations so that the objectives of promotion of freedom of expression and universal access to information and knowledge are not hindered by the provisions of the treaty;

(b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of $3,433,200 for programme costs, and $56,400 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

18. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05120 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Subprogramme V.1.2 "Fostering community access and diversity of content" as amended by the Commission in the light of its discussion on the following draft resolutions:

33 C/DR.13 (submitted by Egypt) for paragraph (a)(vi);
33 C/DR.34 (submitted by Austria and supported by Hungary, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland) for paragraph (a)(v) and paragraph (a)(vii);
33 C/DR.44 (submitted by the Dominican Republic) for paragraph (a)(v);
33 C/DR.57 (submitted by Turkey) for paragraph (a)(iv).

19. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General

(a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:

(i) foster community access through support for the development of institutional and human capacities in the field of communication and information;

(ii)   strengthen capacities of information and media professionals and related training institutions, in particular through new training delivery methods and networking, especially in developing countries and countries in transition;

(iii)   foster community-centred development and change by devising strategies and projects to enhance access to information and communication, thereby contributing to empowerment and poverty reduction;

(iv)   support the preservation of documentary and audiovisual heritage across all media, *inter alia*, through the Memory of the World by giving specific recognition to the role of libraries and archives in supporting capacity-building programmes aimed at conservation, preservation and restoration of this heritage and encourage the application of the provisions of the Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage;

(v)   promote the expression of pluralism and cultural and linguistic diversity in the media and global information networks; as well as the role of the media in creating dialogue among cultures and civilizations as well as people;

(vi)   foster understanding among peoples and nations by promoting the production and exchange of pluralist content in traditional and new media that reflects cultural diversity and contributes to counter stereotypes;

(vii)   request the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim the year 2008 International Year of Languages;

(b)   to allocate for this purpose an amount of $6,375,800 for programme costs and $104,700 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

20.   The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05210 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Subprogramme V.2.1 "Fostering Media Diversity" as amended by the Commission in the light of its discussion on the draft resolution 33 C/DR.45 (submitted by the Dominican Republic) for paragraph (a)(ii).

21.   The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General

(a)   to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:

(i)   assist Member States, particularly the developing countries, in strengthening their communication capacities by developing independent and pluralistic media and improving media access to ICTs, in particular through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC);

(ii)   enhance the impact of communication and information on community development, encouraging a broad-based participation of citizens in the media, so as to foster sustainable and inclusive development, democracy and peace;

      (iii)   encourage the development of independent and pluralistic media, especially in conflict and post-conflict areas as well as in post-disaster situations, by supporting the setting up of media facilities that can provide non-partisan information; providing advisory services on media legislation; and helping in the rebuilding of media infrastructures;

(b)   to allocate for this purpose an amount of $2,344,000 for programme costs and $38,500 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

22.   The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05220 Rev. of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Subprogramme V.2.2 "Advancing the use of ICTs in education, science and culture" as amended by the Commission in the light of its discussion on the draft resolution 33 C/DR.54 (submitted by Kenya) for paragraph (a)(ii).

23.   The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General

(a)   to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:

      (i)   promote the use of ICTs in education, by improving teaching and learning processes through ICTs (including literacy and teacher training) developing innovative ICT-based solutions for education, and by facilitating access to open education resources and learning delivery;

      (ii)   foster strategies, plans and actions aimed at broadening access to scientific and technological information through the media and ICTs by increasing access to scientific information sources and promoting training;

(b)   to allocate for this purpose an amount of $586,000 for programme costs and $9,600 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

24.   The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it approve the resolution contained in paragraph 05300 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning the projects relating to the two cross-cutting themes to read as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General

(a)   to implement the corresponding plan of action to execute to completion the projects related to the two cross-cutting themes, Eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, and The contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society;

(b)   to evaluate and monitor the implementation, as well as assess the impact of the various projects;

(c)   to ensure intersectoral cooperation within UNESCO and coordination with other United Nations agencies and funds in order to enhance the coherence and learning process in the execution of approved projects;

(d)   to allocate for this purpose an amount of $1,500,000 for programme costs.

Recommendations of the Commission concerning other draft resolutions not retained for adoption

25.   Having examined 33 C/DR.5 (submitted by Cuba) which proposes in paragraph 0522 to include a reference to the establishment of a science network for Latin America and the Caribbean and requests a budget allocation of $70,000 from the regular programme and/or extrabudgetary resources, the Commission recommends to the General Conference to invite the Director-General to endeavour to identify extrabudgetary funds for implementing the proposed activity.

26.   Having examined 33 C/DR.67 (submitted by Italy) which proposes to modify paragraph 0522 and include a reference to the use of existing community-based structures to support access to information for education, the Commission recommends to the General Conference to invite the Director-General to take the concerns of its author into account in formulating the work plans.

27.   Having examined 33 C/DR.68 (submitted by Italy) which proposes in paragraph 0511 to include a reference to UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the concept of "universal access" and "open access", particularly to scientific works in universities, the Commission recommends to the General Conference to invite the Director-General to take the concerns of its author into account in formulating the work plans.

28.   Having examined 33 C/DR.74 (submitted by the Philippines) which proposes in paragraph 0522 to include a reference to strategic planning, networking task forces and key stakeholders, operational plans and training in ASEAN countries and requests a budget allocation of $41,000 from the regular programme, the Commission recommends to the General Conference to invite the Director-General to endeavour to identify extrabudgetary funds for implementing the proposed activity.

29.   Having examined 33 C/DR.28 (submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe) which promotes the culture of maintenance as an intersectoral activity and requests a budget allocation of $150,000 from the regular programme of Major Programmes I, II and V and/or extrabudgetary resources, the Commission recommends to the General Conference to invite the Director-General to endeavour to identify extrabudgetary funds for implementing the proposed activity.

Draft resolutions withdrawn

30.   The Commission informs the General Conference that the draft resolutions listed below were withdrawn by their authors:

33 C/DR.14 (submitted by Egypt);
33 C/DR.43 (submitted by the Dominican Republic);
33 C/DR 46 (submitted by the Dominican Republic);
33 C/DR.63 (submitted by Nigeria).

Budget

31.   The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it approve the budget provision of $32,950,400 for Major Programme V as indicated in the Draft Appropriation Resolution of document 33 C/5 Rev., it being understood that this total amount is subject to adjustments in the light of the joint meeting of the Administrative Commission and of the five Programme Commissions and the decisions taken by the General Conference concerning the budget ceiling.

Part IV

Item 5.7 – UNESCO and the World Summit on the Information Society

Item 5.17 – Declaration on Media and Good Governance

Item 5.19 – Second World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR) 2005:
       Gaborone Protocol

32.   At its fourth, fifth and sixth meetings, the Commission examined item 5.7 "UNESCO and the World Summit on the Information Society" (documents 33 C/41 and 33 C/COM.V/DR.3), item 5.17 "Declaration on Media and Good Governance" (documents 33 C/COM.V/DR.5 and 33 C/COM.V/DR.4) and item 5.19 "Second World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR 2005): Gaborone Protocol" (document 33 C/COM.V/DR.2). The representatives of 48 Member States and six non-governmental organizations took the floor.

33.   The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 22 of document 33 C/41 as amended by the Commission for the records of the General Conference. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Recalling 166 EX/Decision 3.5.1 and 170 EX/Decision 94,

Reiterating its support of the concept of building knowledge societies along with four key principles, namely: freedom of expression; quality education for all; universal access to information and knowledge; and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, consistent with the outcome of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, Tunisia, 16-18 November 2005),

1.   Congratulates the Director-General on the prompt action undertaken to implement those parts of the WSIS Plan of Action that fall under UNESCO's competence and on having organized the four thematic meetings for WSIS;

2.   Requests the Director-General to continue planning activities under document 33 C/5, in all Major Programmes, as appropriate, by taking into account the WSIS Plan of Action and the conclusions of the UNESCO thematic meetings for WSIS;

3.   Encourages the Director-General to ensure high visibility of UNESCO and its principles at the Summit meeting in Tunis, Tunisia (16-18 November 2005), through the organization of parallel events and a UNESCO exhibit;

4.   Requests the Director-General to ensure that the World Report on Building Knowledge Societies is widely promoted during the Summit meeting in Tunis and after that Summit;

---

5. Encourages the Director-General to continue to involve governments and other stakeholders (e.g. IGOs, NGOs, private sector, civil society) closely in the WSIS process and to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships;

6. Endorses the conclusion of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms referring to the central responsibility of governments for coordinating financing of ICT programmes and recommends further cross-sectoral and cross institutional coordination both on the part of donors and recipients within the national framework.

7. Endorses the Director-General's approach to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes, stressing in particular:

    (a) UNESCO's mandate and competence to act as a facilitator for the implementation of the Action Lines: "Access to information and knowledge"; "Capacity-building"; "E-learning and e-science (under 'ICT applications')"; "Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content"; "Media", and "Ethical dimensions of the information society";

    (b) UNESCO's and ITU's prominent roles in the coordination of the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action, both at the action line level, and as needed in any overarching coordination mechanism or process and/or at the United Nations inter-agency level;

8. Requests the Director-General to report on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the Summit and UNESCO's action and activities in that area to the 34th session of the General Conference, through the Executive Board;

9. Encourages Member States to actively participate, at the highest possible level, at the Summit meeting in Tunis.

34. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution 33 C/COM.V/DR.3 (submitted by France, New Zealand, Slovakia, Tunisia and supported by Austria) for the records of the General Conference. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Notes with satisfaction the Report of the Director-General on UNESCO's involvement in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), as submitted in document 33 C/41;

Also notes with satisfaction the reports of the Director-General and the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) on progress in implementing the programme, as submitted in document 33 C/REP/17;

Noting that information and communication were central to the global development agenda discussed at the Millennium + 5 World Summit held in New York in September, and that the United Nations Secretary-General's report to the Summit highlighted the role that ICTs can play in helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Considering the unique contribution that the Information for All Programme and its Intergovernmental Council can make in implementing the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva (2003),

Taking into account that access to information, whether this be by traditional means or through new technologies, is of critical importance in all UNESCO's areas of competence, and especially in education, and

Also taking into account that the three specific priorities identified by the IFAP Council within the context of promoting an "information culture" are:

(i)   promoting information literacy for all people, including through capacity-building for education and information professionals (e.g. librarians, archivists);

(ii)   strengthening awareness about the importance of preservation of information of all kinds;

(iii)   promoting a better understanding of the ethical, legal and societal implications of ICTs (infoethics);

Noting that in 2005, 502 project proposals addressing these priorities were submitted to the Council for funding, requesting support totalling over $21 million,

Also noting that the available funding from voluntary contributions of Member States allowed the Council to support only 24 of the 502 projects from the IFAP Special Fund, at a total cost of $758,236.00, and a further five projects with funds-in-trust from Spain, totalling $808,118.52,

Encourages the Council to continue with its efforts to increase the visibility of IFAP to assist with fund-raising efforts;

Acknowledging that pilot projects can help to increase visibility within Member States, and can achieve leverage by demonstrating how information and ICTs can contribute to national priorities, such as education, health and social inclusion,

Noting the significant achievements of the 52 Member States that have already established an IFAP National Committee, and the opportunity that these Committees provide to leverage IFAP initiatives,

Urges Member States to:

(a)   continue to contribute to the IFAP Special Fund, noting the very high demand for assistance, especially from developing countries;

(b)   assist establish partnerships with donors in the private sector;

(c)   continue to support the establishment and growth of IFAP National Committees;

Invites the Director-General, in preparing the work plan for the 2006-2007 biennium, to take into account:

(a)   the need for ongoing support in fund-raising for the IFAP Special Fund, both within Member States and with donors from the private sector;

(b)   the need to coordinate and support the efforts of the IFAP National Committees.

35.   The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt draft resolution 33 C/COM.V/DR.5 (submitted by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) as amended by the Commission for the records of the General Conference.

36.   The text of the resolution reads as follows:

Declaration on Media and Good Governance

The General Conference,

Recalling Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling resolution 4.3 adopted at its 26th session "recognizing that a free, pluralistic and independent press is an essential component of any democratic society",

Also recalling the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which set forth a results-based approach to development, consistent with human rights, in which participation and transparency in decision-making, empowerment and accountability play a key role,

Reaffirming the Declarations of Windhoek, Alma Ata, Santiago, Sana'a and Sofia,

Noting that greater participation by citizens in democratic processes, the rule of law, the fight against corruption, respect for the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary, transparency, accountability, access to information, poverty reduction and human rights are key elements of good governance,

Underlying the vital importance of coordinated and holistic assistance to media in conflict areas and countries in transition to ensure access to information and promoting an environment for a free and pluralistic media to develop and be sustained,

Stressing that independent and pluralistic media of high ethical and professional standards is essential for ensuring transparency, accountability and participation as fundamental elements of good governance at all levels and a results-based development, consistent with human rights,

Emphasizing that access to information is a vital component of good governance,

Endorses the principles contained in the Declaration on Assistance to Media in Conflict Areas and Countries in Transition, adopted in May 2004 in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia-Montenegro and the Declaration on Media and Good Governance, adopted in May 2005, in Dakar, Senegal;

Further requests the Director-General to ensure that support is given to activities that will facilitate the achievement of the goals of these Declarations.

---

37.   The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution 33 C/COM.V/DR.4 (submitted by the Russian Federation, Jamaica, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea and United Republic of Tanzania) for the records of the General Conference. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

Declaration on Media and Good Governance (IPDC)

The General Conference,

<u>Noting</u> with satisfaction the report by the IPDC Intergovernmental Council on its activities and the results of the IPDC reforms carried out with a view to increasing efficiency in funding and implementation of media development projects,

<u>Stressing</u> its appreciation for the continued efforts of the IPDC donor countries, which enabled it to provide, during the current biennium, $3 million for 120 regional and national projects in more than 70 countries,

<u>Emphasizing</u> that the objective of IPDC is to contribute to sustainable development, democracy and good governance by strengthening the capacities of the developing countries and countries in transition in the field of electronic media and the printed press,

<u>Recalling</u> the United Nations Millennium Declaration in which heads of State and government resolved "to ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information",

<u>Recognizing</u> that traditional media, especially radio, are capable of reaching entire populations with information and knowledge, and therefore reaffirming that media development is of vital importance to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

<u>Recalling</u> resolution 59/126 of 10 December 2004 by which the United Nations General Assembly reiterated its appeal for all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned "to provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media",

<u>Urges</u> all UNESCO's Member States and, in particular, the developed countries to reinforce their financial commitment in support of the IPDC so that it continues to act as a major forum in the United Nations system to develop free and pluralistic media with a global approach to democratic development.

---

38. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution 33 C/COM.V/DR.2 (submitted by Botswana) for the records of the General Conference. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

Second World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR) 2005:
Gaborone Protocol

The General Conference,

<u>Noting</u> the Declaration adopted at the Second World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR 2005) organized by the International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP) under the auspices of UNESCO and hosted by the Government of Botswana in Gaborone, Botswana, 31 August-2 September 2005,

<u>Thanking</u> the Government of Botswana and IFIP for organizing WITFOR 2005,

<u>Acknowledging</u> the crucial role of ICT in accelerating development,

<u>Further noting</u> the close link between the Gaborone Declaration and the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, December 2003),

<u>Takes note</u> of the Gaborone Declaration as appended and the proposed projects and actions;

<u>Invites</u> Member States to take the Declaration into consideration during the planning of future strategies and programmes in their respective countries;

<u>Requests</u> the Director-General to ensure that support is given to activities that will facilitate the achievement of the goals of this Declaration.

Gaborone Declaration

We, the participants at the Second World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR 2005), organized by the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) under the auspices of UNESCO and hosted by the Government of Botswana, gathered in Gaborone, Botswana, 31 August-2 September 2005, having focused on the crucial role of ICT in accelerating development, reaffirm our commitment to the following major goals, guided by the Millennium Declaration and the WSIS Plan of Action:

- contributing to the eradication of poverty through the appropriate use of ICTs;
- bridging the multiple digital divides of contemporary society;
- addressing the need for creative capacity-building strategies towards ICT innovation;
- encouraging diverse partnerships and promoting collaborative networks.

We, the participants at WITFOR 2005, building on the experience of WITFOR 2003, and

- *Aware* of the complexity facing national governments in translating ICT policies and plans into action;

- *Acknowledging* constraints of developing countries to acquire and utilize ICT resources;

- *Recognizing* the value of demonstrating the potential of ICTs through real life examples;

- *Subscribing* to the importance of education, research and cooperation to build a body of knowledge on the use of ICTs for development;

- *Conscious* of the importance of ensuring that ICT-related interventions respect economic, social, environmental and cultural rights of all people, with special attention to traditional values of societies and indigenous people;

- *Believing* in equitable and ethical sharing of the benefits of ICTs and the minimization of any negative impacts;

- *Fully accepting* challenges of financing ICT infrastructure.

Therefore resolve to focus mainly, though not exclusively, on eight thematic concerns:

- **Building Infrastructure:** Supporting research, development and economic analysis for enhanced ICT infrastructure in underserved areas;

- **Economic Opportunity:** Exploring appropriate scalable, replicable e-business models that promote sustainable development;

- **Environment:** Using and promoting ICTs for environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources;

- **Health:** Using ICTs to improve the efficiency and equity of health service provision;

- **Education:** Promoting innovative and effective methods to exploit ICTs to improve teaching, learning and knowledge generation;

- **Agriculture:** Using ICTs to improve sustainable agricultural production systems by disseminating knowledge and information, particularly to rural communities;

- **Social, Ethical and Legal Aspects:** Promoting socially responsible and ethical use of ICTs and taking appropriate legal measures;

- **Empowerment and Participation:** Encouraging universal access strategies, e-government and e-democracy to enable participation in the information society.

We recommend that action is taken on each of these areas and that sustainable projects are implemented such as those indicated in the **Proposed Projects & Actions** that illustrate applications of ICTs to diverse social and development challenges. We further invite national governments, parliamentarians, local authorities, civil society, the business communities and academia to support such initiatives through regional, international and cross-sectoral collaborative networks.

Part V

Item 5.33 – Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images and Proclamation of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

39.   At its sixth meeting, the Commission examined item 5.33 "Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images and Proclamation of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage" (33 C/COM.V/DR.1 submitted by the Czech Republic, France, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Germany, Russian Federation, Italy and supported by Poland). The representatives of 10 Member States and one non-governmental organization took the floor.

40.   The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution contained in document 33 C/COM.V/DR.1 as amended by the Commission for the records of the General Conference. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Recommendation for the safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images and Proclamation of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

The General Conference,

Noting with satisfaction the activities of UNESCO in the area of raising public awareness of the need to safeguard and preserve cultural heritage and considering that an irreplaceable part of this heritage is represented by audiovisual documents, in the widest sense of this term, called for the purposes of this resolution "audiovisual heritage",

Considering that the different items of audiovisual heritage as well as its entirety constitute an important and often unique testimony on the economic, political and social development, on the evolution of education, on scientific knowledge, the diversity of cultures of different nations and communities, as well as on the evolution of nature and the universe and on further phenomena,

Considering that numerous items of this audiovisual heritage constitute an expression of the cultural identity of nations, communities, groups and individuals,

Considering that audiovisual heritage can play a positive role in enhancing mutual knowledge of nations and communities and that it is supposed to contribute extensively to the education and to the enrichment of each human being,

Stressing that the safeguarding and preservation of audiovisual heritage is in the interest of the freedom of opinion and expression, as well as in the interest of the right to information, recognized as an essential part of human rights and fundamental freedoms established by existing international instruments relating to human rights, in the interest of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and also in the interest of the need to strengthen peace and cooperation, obviously while respecting the legitimate position of copyright holders and holders of neighbouring rights, as well as of all the holders of other rights on items of audiovisual heritage,

Taking also into consideration that the original support media on which this heritage is often fixed and the methods of their fixation make this heritage very vulnerable, and its safeguarding for future generations is therefore under threat,

Appreciating the results reached by specialized bodies in the development of new appropriate methods for the safeguarding and preservation of support media containing this heritage, while realizing that a lot of work is still to be done, namely in what concerns raising public awareness and recognition of the significance of audiovisual heritage, and increasing capabilities for action of the specialized institutions responsible for its preservation;

Noting that the General Conference has already adopted a series of international instruments relating to the safeguarding and preservation of audiovisual heritage, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images, and the Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage,

Remembering the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images by the 21st session of the General Conference of UNESCO, on 27 October 1980, and noting with satisfaction its positive impact on the safeguarding of an essential part of audiovisual heritage,

Considering that a global action for the promotion of audiovisual heritage can bring recognition and important new stimuli to national, regional and international movements to the benefit of the preservation of this heritage for future generations,

Further considering that the proclamation of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage would be one of the most effective ways of this action,

1.   Proclaims 27 October World Day for Audiovisual Heritage;

2.   Invites UNESCO Member States, National Commissions, non-governmental organizations, public and private institutions (schools, archives, museums, cultural associations, festival organizers and associations of creating and performing artists, and other institutions capable of raising public awareness and recognition of the significance of this heritage) to envisage appropriate forms of celebrations on this Day and to contribute according to their possibilities;

3.   Requests the Director-General to encourage initiatives at national, regional and international level linked to the celebrations of this Day.

Part VI

Item 8.4 – Establishment of a system of reports by Member States to the General Conference on measures taken to implement the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace

41.   At its sixth meeting, the Commission examined item 8.4 "Establishment of a system of reports by Member States to the General Conference on measures taken to implement the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace" (33 C/40). The representatives of 15 Member States and one non-governmental organization took the floor.

42.	The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution contained in paragraph 7 of document 33 C/40 for the records of the General Conference. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1.	Recalling the adoption, at its 32nd session, of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace,

2.	Recognizing the importance to further promote multilingualism and access to information and knowledge for all, as also stressed in the relevant decisions of the World Summit on the Information Society,

3.	Considering that it is important to establish a system of reports on measures taken by Member States to implement this Recommendation,

4.	Requests each Member State to prepare and submit to the Secretariat a first report on the action taken to implement this Recommendation by the end of the month of January 2007, and subsequently once every four years with effect from that date;

5.	Invites the Director-General to assist the Member States in the preparation and follow-up of the reports, taking into account the indications set forth in this regard in paragraph 4 of 32 C/Resolution 77;

6.	Further requests the Director-General to provide clear guidelines to Member States for the submission of their reports;

7.	Requests the Executive Board to transmit to the 34th session of the General Conference a consolidated report on the measures taken by Member States for the implementation of this Recommendation, together with its observations or comments and any that the Director-General may make;

8.	Decides to include this item in the agenda of its 34th session.

Part VII

Reports submitted to the General Conference

43.	The Commission recommends to the General Conference to take note of the report by the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) on its activities (2004-2005) (33 C/REP/16) and the reports on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) (33 C/REP/17).

Part VIII

Debate of item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5)

44.	Mr Hans d'Orville, Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning, introduced the item and document 33 C/7. He emphasized that the 2008-2009 Programme and Budget (34 C/5) would constitute the first biennium of the next Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4), and would therefore need to be prepared within the overall strategic framework provided by that document. He invited

delegates to provide their views in particular on the issues identified in paragraph 3(a) through (m) of document 33 C/7.

45. Fourteen delegates took the floor. They agreed on the importance of providing a specific linkage between document 34 C/5 and the strategic objectives of document 34 C/4. A number of delegates saw the Programme and Budget for 2008-2009, being the first C/5 document of a new Medium-Term Strategy, as a crucial step in the new programming period. Some delegates suggested that in the overall planning framework emphasis should be given to the MDGs, the attainment of the Dakar EFA goals, Africa, the least developed countries, women and youth. The formulation of cross-cutting themes and intersectoral activities was deemed indispensable in that regard. Moreover, given UNESCO's limited resources, many speakers felt that attempts should be made both for the continuity of programmes and projects and for their prioritization and concentration.

46. There was full agreement about the need to reinforce intersectoral action, such as between MP V and MP I with respect to ASPnet digital initiatives. The proposal was made to transform ASPnet into a major intersectoral programme thereby giving expression to the priority attached to the mainstreaming of youth. Clearly defined goals should be established related to the six EFA goals where science and culture specialists should contribute to the development of the content of programmes and communication and information specialists should support a globally connected network of schools. Other intersectoral programmes and initiatives proposed in the context of document 34 C/5 included: ICTs in education, science and culture; local content development, including local and indigenous languages; the development of projects and initiatives putting into practice the promotion of multilingualism and cultural and linguistic diversity; the use of ICTs for the promotion of the dialogue among cultures and civilizations and peoples. The development of skills and competencies in the field of ICTs, including knowledge management and e-learning, the preservation of documentary heritage as well as a focus on specialized languages and technologies were also considered as key issues for the next C/5 document.

47. Many delegations proposed that the promotion of universal access to information and freedom of expression was an ongoing important task and that hence the two interrelated issues of access to information and freedom of expression should continue to play a major role in the future C/5 document. One delegate suggested a more focused and more practical approach in the selection of the principal priority for document 34 C/5, based on the concepts of "creation" and "participation". With the concept of knowledge societies, UNESCO had shown its strength as a laboratory of ideas. The Organization should now pursue and strengthen its role as capacity-builder in the field of communication and information. A number of delegations called for an increased integration of the communication and information sector's activities in this regard.

48. The contribution of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP) to the building of inclusive and pluralistic knowledge societies was considered essential and should be clearly defined and reflected in the new C/5. Both programmes constituted precious resources that the Organization must fully benefit from. The Intergovernmental Councils of both programmes should be encouraged to coordinate further their work and activities with a view to develop transverse approaches, optimizing their impact and facilitating the search of funding in support of project development and implementation. Some delegations suggested that the three priorities developed by the IFAP Council become main lines of action for document 34 C/5: (i) promoting information literacy for all people, through capacity-building, particularly for education and information personnel; (ii) strengthening awareness about the importance of preserving information of various kinds; and (iii) promoting a better understanding of ethical, legal and societal implications of ICTs. Others called for increased

intersectoral action with the education and social and human sectors in this third area, with a view to developing appropriate tools for media education and related ethical issues.

49.   A number of delegations referred to the partnerships built in the framework of the implementation of WSIS and called for continued efforts to strengthen collaboration with governments, civil society and the private sector. Some delegations considered that, in addition to its traditional partners from civil society, composed mainly of representatives of international non-governmental organizations, UNESCO should also strive to ascertain contributions and avail of itself the know-how and expertise from groups active at the grass-roots level.

50.   Many delegations expressed the view that young people constituted the most important users of new information and communication technologies. It would therefore be of the utmost importance that specific attention be given to them in the programme and budget for 2008-2009.

51.   Some delegations urged a continued application and refinement of the results-based programming approach, including the use of quantitative and qualitative expected results, performance indicators and benchmark indicators, to be linked to evaluation and monitoring.

Part IX

Debate on item 3.2 – Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4)

52.   Mr Hans d'Orville, Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning, introduced the item and the background document contained in document 33 C/48, together with the relevant portions of document 33 C/6. He highlighted several issues on which Member States were invited to provide guidance and direction, including the scope of UNESCO's future action; UNESCO's mission and functions; the choice of strategic objectives for each of UNESCO's four programmes; the selection of cross-cutting themes; the results-based approach, which is reflected in the formulation of "expected outcomes" for each strategic objective. Mr d'Orville further stressed the importance for UNESCO to clearly identify its role in a reforming United Nations system, including the contributions to be made at the country level in the context of a unified United Nations response aimed at increasing efficiency and aid effectiveness. He noted the critical importance of UNESCO's contribution to the development of communication and information components of coherent national development plans – called for by the 2005 World Summit Outcome document – and the particular emphasis in this document on EFA and the specific contribution that communication and information technologies can make in the pursuit of the EFA Dakar goals. He also noted that the observations by delegations would serve as an input to the consultative process on the preparation for document 34 C/4, which was due to start during the first half of 2006.

53.   Thirty-one delegates took the floor, including two representatives of international non-governmental organizations. They all welcomed the opportunity of open dialogue at this very early stage of preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy which should allow to reflect the diversity of the Organization's Member States and take into account the visions and hopes of as many people as possible.

54.   Several delegates considered that the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) – both phases I (Geneva, 2003) and II (Tunis, 2005) – should constitute a solid basis for the preparation of the new Medium-Term Strategy. Some expressed the view that the WSIS agenda offered a new way of linking the C/4 document with the C/5 document. As pointed out by some delegates, the four principles underlying the concept of knowledge societies, namely, freedom of expression, universal access to information and knowledge, equal access to quality education and the promotion of cultural diversity, should continue to inspire and guide the

elaboration of the C/4 document, and should lead to the development of cross-sectoral programmes and actions jointly with other programmes. Other speakers felt that bridging the digital divide would continue to be an issue of critical importance to address after the Tunis WSIS.

55. Many delegates suggested that ICTs were at the very heart of all societies and would continue to be so in coming years, playing a key role in building more egalitarian societies. Delegates were unanimous in highlighting the critical importance of ICTs in all UNESCO's areas of competence – education, the sciences, culture and communication. In this context, emphasis was placed on the importance of ICTs in the pursuit of the poverty eradication goals and the EFA agenda. There was unanimity as to the need for a strong intersectoral approach and a mainstreaming of ICTs in all the Organization's domains. A number of delegates also pointed out that document 34 C/4 would fall in a period critical for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals due to be attained by 2015.

56. The principal priority for CI in document 33 C/5, "empowering people through access to information and knowledge with special emphasis on freedom of expression", was proposed by several delegations to continue to receive priority attention. Freedom of expression, media pluralism and access to information and knowledge were seen to constitute a fundamental platform for UNESCO's action aiming at building knowledge societies. Building of inclusive and pluralistic knowledge societies was deemed to be one of the main challenges of humankind. Many delegates expressed the view that increased emphasis should be placed in the C/4 document on ethical, legal and societal challenges and implications of the development of ICTs as well as on the impact of globalization on information and knowledge societies. The need to promote the development of multilingual and diverse local content was recognized by many speakers. One delegate suggested that, in addition to the three critical dimensions for creating digital and information literate societies – the "3 C's" for content, capability and connectivity" – UNESCO should also address a fourth "C" standing for "cost".

57. Several delegates highlighted the utmost importance of UNESCO's work in promoting both universal access to information and knowledge and freedom of expression. A number of delegates, referring to the threats to freedom of expression, called upon UNESCO to pursue its action of promoting independent and pluralistic media while enabling freedom of information legislation; encouraging initiatives aimed at enhancing press freedom; and supporting initiatives by professional associations related to the safety of journalists. The need to encourage public service media in an environment of increased commercialization was also highlighted. Some delegates felt that particular attention should be given to the contribution of communication and information to supporting peace-building efforts and mediation in conflict situations, and to enhance tolerance, dialogue and reconciliation in post-conflict situations.

58. There was widespread support to continue capacity-building in communication and information with a sense of priority. The following areas were identified in this regard: teacher training in the use of ICTs; media education, including critical analysis of information contents; and training of professionals, including journalists and media professionals, archivists, librarians and other information specialists.

59. There was consensus that traditional media would remain a major source of information in many countries, since a large part of the world's population was far from having access to ICTs for want of infrastructure or lack of economic means. It was therefore crucial to provide access through a variety of sources of information, including traditional media, libraries and archives. The particular importance of community radio and community multimedia centres as access points to information and as tools for knowledge creation in many regions of the world was underlined. UNESCO was asked to continue bolstering their development. One delegate, referring to the key

role that ICTs and community media could play in poverty eradication, called on the Organization to continue encouraging the collection and use of existing local and traditional knowledge at grass-roots level as part of its efforts to fight poverty. Beyond, UNESCO should play a role in mobilizing local and traditional knowledge for sustainable development and in promoting the replication of successful initiatives.

60. Information preservation was suggested to be an indispensable prerequisite for access to information and should also figure prominently in document 34 C/4. A number of delegates underlined the importance of raising awareness in that regard, stimulating low-cost digital preservation, especially audiovisual productions. In that connection, several delegates recalled the key role of the Memory of the World Programme in preserving the world's documentary heritage. The importance of free and open-source software in facilitating access to educational and scientific information should also be reflected in the next C/4 document.

61. Further, specific attention should be devoted to media literacy and information literacy. Several delegations drew attention to the needs of women and stressed the role of ICTs as a tool for the social, economic and political integration of women. Overall, strong emphasis was placed on the pursuit of cross-cutting issues such as ICTs and human rights and the use of ICTs in e-governance, ICTs and citizenship, as well as activities pertaining to and involving youth. The initiatives proposed in the Report of the 2005 UNESCO Youth Forum, and especially those related to the development of youth-specific media content and the participation of young people in media production, were highlighted and supported by a number of delegates.

62. The importance of building partnerships and close cooperation and consultations with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public and private sectors, was deemed essential by a large number of delegations. Document 34 C/4 should also give new impetus to partnerships across UNESCO's priorities, avoiding overlaps, building on complementarities and the sharing of resources. One delegate called for the creation of a global network for cooperation in the field of ICTs.

63. Some delegations also suggested that the Organization should continue to retain the five functions of the Organization laid out in document 31 C/4: laboratory of ideas, standard-setter, clearing house, capacity-builder in Member States, and catalyst for international cooperation.

64. Delegations agreed that document 34 C/4 should include not only specific, measurable, achievable and accountable, but also realistic and time-bound targets and performance indicators, which should allow proper measuring and monitoring. Many delegates stressed that there was a need to continue refining the results-based programming approach, including the definition of both quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure progress. Stronger emphasis should be given to qualitative results.

65. Several delegations considered evaluation as a foundation to build future action and as a means to improve efficiency and accountability. Some delegates referred to the necessity to define a limited number of clearly defined priorities in areas where the Organization has a real comparative advantage. Some delegates also emphasized the need to ensure greater complementarity in actions to be implemented by Headquarters and field offices jointly. Others called for increased efforts to improve the visibility of the Organization.