



33 C/52
21 July 2005
Original: French

Item 8.5 of the provisional agenda

**PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT BY THE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE ON
UNESCO'S STANDARD-SETTING INSTRUMENT**

OUTLINE

Source: 171 EX/Decision 27.

Purpose: The Director-General submits to the General Conference for approval the Executive Board's recommendation that a comprehensive report on UNESCO's standard-setting instruments be submitted to the General Conference at each of its sessions.

Decision required: paragraph 6.

1. In examining its methods of work, in particular within the purview of the first aspect of its terms of reference, the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, at the 171st session of the Executive Board, considered that it was necessary to strengthen and improve the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments. In response to one of the Committee's requests, the Board decided, in 171 EX/Decision 27, to recommend "that the General Conference, at its 33rd session, invite the Director-General to submit to it at each of its sessions a comprehensive report on UNESCO's standard-setting instruments, focusing on the status of ratification of conventions, with the comments of the Board on the matter".

2. That decision addressed the concerns expressed regularly by UNESCO's governing bodies. Indeed, the General Conference and the Executive Board have often, in the past, stressed "the importance of UNESCO's normative action, for which the optimum conditions of quality and efficiency should be provided" (105 EX/Decision 5.6.1) and "the need ... to continue the search for ways of improving the Organization's normative action" (19 C/Resolution 6.112).

3. In proposing to submit to the General Conference, once every two years, a comprehensive report drawn up by the Secretariat on UNESCO's standard-setting instruments, the Executive Board aims to heighten awareness among Member States of UNESCO's various standard-setting instruments and to invite them to become parties to international conventions adopted under the Organization's auspices.

4. The comprehensive report would contain a list of conventions and recommendations and an account of the status of ratification of each of the conventions concerned. In this connection, since February 2003, the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs has posted on the Organization's website a page on the standard-setting texts adopted by UNESCO, giving, among other things, full accounts of the status of ratification by convention and lists of conventions ratified and non-ratified by country (http://www.unesco.org/legal_instruments). It could also include an appraisal of the procedures used to monitor the implementation of conventions and recommendations, covering the frequency of submission and examination of reports by Member States and by the monitoring bodies, namely, either the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board or bodies for which the regulatory text in question specifically provide in that regard. The report could also provide information on future or current standard-setting activities and on instruments already adopted.

5. As in the case of documents 28 C/INF.6, 27 C/INF.6, 26 C/INF.6, 25 C/INF.6 and 24 C/INF.5, drawn up in pursuance of 20 C/Resolution 32.1,¹ the comprehensive report could be submitted as an information document.

6. The General Conference may wish to adopt the following draft resolution:

The General Conference,

1. Stressing the importance of the standard-setting action of the Organization,
2. Recalling 19 C/Resolution 6.112 and 20 C/Resolution 32.1,
3. Having examined document 33 C/52,
4. Decides to invite the Director-General to submit to it at each of its sessions an information document containing a comprehensive report on UNESCO's standard-setting instruments, focusing on the status of ratification of conventions, with comments by the Executive Board thereon.

¹ 20 C/Resolution 32.1 in which the General Conference invited the Director-General to submit to it, at each of its sessions, "a memorandum reporting the progress of work undertaken as part of the Organization's standard-setting action, indicating the subsequent stages contemplated and supplying all available information on the use made by Member States' governments of standard-setting instruments adopted under UNESCO's auspices".