



General Conference
34th session, Paris 2007

Генеральная конференция
34-я сессия, Париж 2007 г.

34 C

Conférence générale
34^e session, Paris 2007

المؤتمر العام
الدورة الرابعة والثلاثون، باريس ٢٠٠٧

Conferencia General
34^a reunión, París 2007

大会
第三十四届会议，巴黎，2007

Item 6.1 of the provisional agenda

34 C/19
26 September 2007
Original: English

IMPLEMENTATION OF 33 C/RESOLUTION 92 (RELATIONS BETWEEN THE THREE ORGANS OF UNESCO)

OUTLINE

Source: 33 C/Resolution 92.

Background: At its 33rd session, the General Conference invited its President, the Executive Board and the Director-General to implement the recommendations contained in 33 C/Resolution 92 as appropriate and to report to it at its 34th session.

Purpose: The present document informs the General Conference of the measures taken to implement the recommendations of 33 C/Resolution 92.

INTRODUCTION

1. At its 32nd session (2003) the General Conference, through 32 C/Resolution 81 requested its President “to establish an ad hoc working group whose mandate would be to examine the relations between the three organs of UNESCO, and to recommend the most effective means to strengthen the respective roles of the General Conference and the Executive Board, while reflecting on the report of the ad hoc working group (1995-1997) chaired by Mr Torben Krogh” (29 C/27).
2. The ad hoc working group met during the 2004-2005 biennium and presented its report and recommendations (33 C/17) to the General Conference at its 33rd session (2005). The Conference, having examined this document, adopted 33 C/Resolution 92 by which it endorsed its recommendations (as amended) and invited respectively – as appropriate – the President of the General Conference, the Executive Board and the Director-General to implement them, and to report to it at its 34th session.
3. During the course of the biennium, the heads of the three organs respectively, the President of the General Conference, the Chairperson of the Executive Board, and the Director-General, methodically and scrupulously attended to the responsibilities incumbent upon each of them as provided for in the above resolution. For the President of the General Conference, his approach was to rely on the assistance of formal and informal groups of Member States. The Chairperson of the Executive Board, for his part, was able to secure the valuable assistance of the Board’s Special Committee, which discussed the many recommendations addressed to the Executive Board at several of its sessions. The Director-General and the Secretariat supported the above actions to the full, as well as setting in train those aspects of the follow-up to the Resolution that could be immediately acted upon, such as the preparation of the future C/4 and C/5 documents, including the necessary consultations with National Commissions, the preparation of a reflection paper on the future role of UNESCO, and the advance planning of the organization of the subsequent session of the General Conference (34th session).
4. Cooperation was particularly important in the case of several of the recommendations which were addressed simultaneously for follow-up to two or three of the organs.
5. In the light of the above concerted action, and desirous of demonstrating the strong spirit of cooperation and good faith which underlay the extensive work conducted over the biennium by all three organs, their respective heads deemed it useful and consistent with this spirit of harmony that there be a single consolidated report on this matter submitted to the General Conference at its 34th session.
6. The table annexed hereto is taken directly from document 177 EX/31 and summarizes the status of implementation of recommendations of 33 C/Resolution 92 entrusted to the three organs.

PART I

Implementation of recommendations 6, 9, 10, 11 and 21

7. The Conference entrusted its President with the implementation of recommendations 6, 9, 10, 11 and 21 (it is to be noted that the Executive Board was also invited to implement, *inter alia*, recommendations 6 and 10). These recommendations involve: (6) formulating new simplified criteria for the submission of draft resolutions to the General Conference; (9) improving election procedures; (10) making the functioning of the commissions and committees of the General Conference more flexible with a view to ensuring more dialogue; and (11) rationalizing the procedures of the General Conference in order to encourage more participation by Member States. Furthermore, recommendation 21 invites the President of the General Conference “to consult the

different regional groups regarding methods of rotation of membership of the Executive Board, and to report the results thereof to the General Conference at its 34th session”.

8. While the General Conference invited its President to implement this set of recommendations, it did not establish any specific mechanism, such as a working group, to assist him in conducting the necessary consultations for such important and comprehensive recommendations. In order to carry on joint efforts to create effective means for implementing these recommendations, which touch upon matters that have long been debated in the Organization, the President of the General Conference appealed to Member States for help in forming a working group of Permanent Delegates resident in Paris or their representatives, in order to comply with the invitation of the General Conference. An informal contact group, composed of representatives of two Member States from each electoral group, was thus established and met five times between July 2006 and February 2007. The Chairperson of the Legal Committee of the General Conference and the Chairperson of the Special Committee of the Executive Board were invited to attend the meetings of the group as observers. Furthermore, following the closure of the 33rd session of the General Conference, the President held several rounds of consultations with the chairpersons of the electoral groups concerning recommendation 21.

9. The results of these consultations are contained in the present report.

10. Through recommendation 6, the General Conference decided that there should be guidelines for new, simplified criteria adopted by the Executive Board for development by the Legal Committee of the General Conference. The task of implementing this recommendation was entrusted both to the President of the General Conference and to the Executive Board.

11. Although considerable time was devoted to discussing this recommendation, and several far-reaching proposals were studied, the conclusion drawn from the consultation is that there is no clear consensus on the need to amend the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, either concerning the admissibility criteria for draft resolutions relating to the draft programme and budget or concerning the authority granted to the Director-General to determine their admissibility according to these criteria.

12. The Executive Board's consideration of this subject – in accordance with the responsibilities entrusted to it under recommendation 6 – would enable guidance to be given to the General Conference and its Legal Committee on either the interpretation of the existing criteria in a clearer manner or, should the Board so decide, the preparation of new criteria entailing relevant amendments to the Rules of Procedure. (See also para. 26 below and relevant information in the annex concerning the Executive Board's consideration of this recommendation.)

13. Concerning recommendation 9, giving full effect to it would imply the amendment of Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure. While it was considered that the proposed advancement of the election of members of the Executive Board to the beginning of the second week of the General Conference would be an acceptable compromise which would not require the amendment of the current Rules of Procedure, it was also thought that further efforts should be made, possibly according to a step-by-step approach in line with progress towards automation (see para. 15 below), to bring forward the timing of all elections.

14. It was added, however, that the proposal to advance the dates of the elections should be set against the reality that many Member States, particularly those with small delegations to the Conference and/or with no permanent delegation at Headquarters, take advantage of their presence at Headquarters during the session in order to undertake voting discussions. Therefore, any ultimate decision to bring forward the dates of all elections should be accompanied by full information to all Member States in this regard well in advance, as well as the examination of certain procedural deadlines currently applicable.

15. In regard to automation of voting procedures (recommendation 10), it is recognized that this worthy and necessary goal should be worked towards gradually, in line with Headquarters renovation schedules and other constraints, notably of a budgetary nature.

16. The agenda of the 34th session of the General Conference is annotated. Efforts have been made to group agenda items for joint debate, as well as to avoid extensive debate on matters already studied by the Executive Board. These measures will in no way infringe upon the sovereign role of the General Conference as the supreme decision-making body of the Organization.

17. Concerning the organization of the work of the 34th session, the President of the General Conference has cooperated with the Director-General in the preparation of the proposals that were examined by the Executive Board at its 176th session (176 EX/35). These proposals are considered to be an appropriate and rational response to this recommendation, within the framework and limits of the available resources. Although divergent views were offered on a few of them, they seemed to be generally welcomed by the members of the informal contact group. In particular, the proposal to hold an interdisciplinary meeting of all programme commissions prior to their respective meetings seems to be appropriate to achieve the enhanced flexibility and interdisciplinarity sought by the General Conference through this particular recommendation. This meeting will afford a thorough and cross-disciplinary examination by all Member States of the Medium-Term Strategy (before its finalization by a restricted drafting group), of the interdisciplinary aspects of the Draft Programme and Budget (34 C/5) and of the future programme (35 C/5).

18. Regarding recommendation 11, the President of the General Conference has coordinated action within the Secretariat in order to improve the information provided to Member States on the different aspects of the preparation and holding of each session of the General Conference, and renew efforts to reach out in particular to the appropriate authorities of Member States with no representation at UNESCO Headquarters. The timely submission of valid credentials, information on the right to vote (and the possible risk of losing same owing to arrears in contributions due) and the procedure for the submission of draft resolutions are among the main subjects to be highlighted. This is being done through better and user-friendly communication tools, enhanced communication with Member States through field offices and information meetings with permanent delegates at Headquarters.

19. As requested by recommendation 21, and following the first two meetings in this regard held in December 2005 and February 2006 respectively with the chairpersons of the electoral groups, the President of the General Conference pursued formal consultations with enlarged representation of electoral/regional groups in May and July 2007.

20. After an extensive and rich exchange of points of view, the participants agreed on a formulation on the implementation of this particular recommendation, and which reads as follows:

“Proposes to encourage the principle of rotation, bearing in mind the sovereignty of Member States and the UNESCO Constitution. In doing so each regional Group will seek to apply the principles and criteria suitable to its specificity, its composition and its particular constraints.”

21. A number of other considerations were raised during the discussions, namely:

- The study of rotation issues within UNESCO should take all elected organs into account, in particular the World Heritage Committee, which is widely considered as extremely important by numerous Member States and thus linked in practice, for nomination purposes, to membership of the Executive Board. It was highlighted that the balance in the current composition of the Committee is unsatisfactory for a number of Member States. However, it was also mentioned that the recent/upcoming entry into force of several important international conventions (and the consequent creation of their respective governing bodies) should afford the possibility for wider universal participation.

- Although there was general agreement that rotation issues are entirely within the realm of each group, and that no particular criteria should be applied or even recommended, a number of indicative parameters were put forward for individual consideration, concerning, for example:
 - immediate re-election;
 - consecutive re-elections (more than two);
 - parallel membership of the Executive Board and the World Heritage Committee.

PART II

Implementation of recommendations 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 22

22. The Executive Board examined carefully throughout the four sessions it held during the biennium the 13 recommendations addressed to it. The Chairperson of the Executive Board conducted consultations with Members of the Board, and the Special Committee debated all relevant recommendations¹ and prepared document 177 EX/31 which contains extensive and detailed information, including information relative to the contribution of the Director-General and the Secretariat to the implementation of many of the recommendations, the responsibility for which could be said to be shared.

23. As concerns the recommendations relating to the organization of the General Conference, the Director-General submitted to the Board at its 176th session his proposals for the organization of the 34th session of the General Conference (176 EX/35). These proposals had been drawn up in consultation with the President of the General Conference, and in the light of discussions already held in the Executive Board.

24. With regard to recommendations relating to the methods of work of the Executive Board (recommendations 14 to 22), the following measures have been taken to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness: annotated agenda, consideration of items in commissions without discussion, joint meetings of PX and FA Commissions, holding of two information meetings per year with the Director-General and revitalization of the respective role of the SP, CR and NGO Committees. Full information is available in document 177 EX/31.

25. Recommendation 13 relates to the necessity of improved reporting from the Executive Board to the General Conference in accordance with Article V.6(b) of UNESCO's Constitution, including the Board's evaluation of programmes and their possible discontinuation. The drafting of this report was entrusted to a working group set up by the Chairperson of the Board, report (177 EX/46 Part II) which will be examined during a joint meeting of PX and FA Commissions. Such reporting has not been done before now, and the consideration of the issue was an attempt to give serious thought as to how the required reporting of the Executive Board could be done effectively. The resulting recommendation provides guidance on preparing a report that is concise, focused, analytical and capable of informing strategic decision-making. The format of the report – the scope, the structure, the issues to be addressed, the main components to be considered, and the potential sources of data – were all debated at length. The Board's final text will be submitted to the General Conference as document 34 C/9 Part II.

26. Regarding recommendation 6 (new simplified criteria for the submission of draft resolutions to the General Conference on the C/5 document), the Board endorsed the recommendation arising from the President's consultations that the current criteria be maintained in the preparations for the 34th session of the General Conference. The debate brought out the fact that the Special

¹ Recommendation 8 will be examined at the 177th session of the Executive Board and the outcome of the deliberations will if necessary be the subject of an addendum to the present document.

Committee could not improve on the criteria already contained in the Rules of Procedure with regard to the submission of draft resolutions and their admissibility.

27. Regarding recommendations 7 and 10 (number of agenda items; functioning of commissions and committees), it was considered that the number of items on the agenda of the General Conference was somewhat difficult to reduce because of the statutory requirements relating to its role as the supreme governing body. Amending the rules was not necessary, and criteria for adjusting the number of items on the agenda of the General Conference should not be imposed by the Executive Board. However, bearing in mind the sovereign right of Member States to debate items on the agenda of the General Conference, there was a discussion about available options to facilitate the work of the General Conference in cases of items already examined in depth by the Executive Board.

PART III

Implementation of recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 23, 24 and 25

28. In order to act upon the recommendations addressed to him and the Secretariat, the Director-General immediately set up an internal working group, chaired by the Secretary of the Executive Board, in order to take forward those recommendations addressed, either solely or in conjunction with others, to him for implementation. This working group met regularly over the biennium and the results of its work fed into the actions being taken respectively by the President of the General Conference and the Chairperson of the Executive Board, as well as being implemented where appropriate and feasible in the course of the regular work entrusted to the Secretariat in the biennium (e.g. preparation of the future C/4 and C/5 documents, elaboration of a working paper on the future role of UNESCO, organization of consultations with National Commissions, organization and planning of the 34th session of the General Conference).

29. The Director-General is satisfied with the rate of implementation of the many provisions of this important resolution, which after many years of discussion of the respective roles of the three organs of the Organization, has finally achieved a balance among them which it is for each of the three organs, and their respective heads, to respect and implement over the coming years. Indeed, a certain number of the provisions of 33 C/Resolution 92 still have to be more fully implemented. Financial restrictions, for example, have curtailed the Director-General's ability to implement some of the more ambitious plans concerning the Conference's organization; other procedural matters require specific adaptations to the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference and/or the Executive Board; and others again have actually met with a rather more mitigated reaction on the part of Member States during the consultations conducted than the adoption of the resolution at the 33rd session would have led to believe, meaning that the Director-General, the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the President of the General Conference both separately and collectively are inclined to allow such provisions a little more time for careful reflection and study before full implementation.



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大会
第三十四届会议，巴黎，2007

34 C/19 (Annex) Rev.
15 October 2007
Original: English

Item 6.1 of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF 33 C/RESOLUTION 92 (RELATIONS BETWEEN THE THREE ORGANS OF UNESCO)

REVISED ANNEX

OUTLINE

Source: 177 EX/Decision 31.

The present document contains a revised version of the Annex to document 34 C/19, resulting from the attached 177 EX/Decision 31, adopted by the Executive Board at its 177th session upon examination of this item.

177 EX/Decision 31, adopted by the Executive Board at its 177th session

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 176 EX/Decision 29,
2. Having examined document 177 EX/31,
3. Recognizes that the various recommendations have been implemented to varying degrees in the 2006-2007 biennium, and that further implementation would follow in the 2008-2009 biennium;
4. Decides to continue implementing those recommendations still outstanding according to the proposals contained in revised document 177 EX/31;
5. Requests its Chairperson to present this revised report as document 34 C/19 Rev. on its behalf to the 34th session of the General Conference.

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Follow-up to 33 C/Resolution 92 – Relations between the three organs of UNESCO

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.2</p> <p><i>Decides</i> on the preparation of a more timely, comprehensive and detailed evaluation document on UNESCO's programme delivery and performance as the basis for the planning of future programmes ("new style" C/3). In particular, the Director-General's six-monthly progress reports to the Executive Board (EX/4) should be prepared in such a manner so that they can easily feed into the regular performance evaluation of the implementation of the programme and budget. The draft C/3 document should be made available to the Executive Board at its spring session immediately following the General Conference;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Director-General</p> <p>For the first time, the Director-General prepared a joint report combining the results achieved in the previous biennium together with an assessment by senior managers (34 C/3) with the 174 EX/4 report on the implementation of the Programme and Budget for the 2004-2005 biennium (32 C/5) approved by the General Conference. This report was presented to the Board at its 174th session in April 2006. The document was results-based and reports consistently against the expected results and performance indicators in document 32 C/5.</p> <p>The same procedure will be followed for document 33 C/5.</p>
<p>R.3</p> <p><i>Decides</i> 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;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Director-General</p> <p>This recommendation is already reflected in the presentation of document 33 C/5. Document 34 C/5 includes a breakdown of staff resources by Main Line of Action.</p>
<p>R.4</p> <p><i>Decides</i> that the General Conference should be facilitated by a strategic planning document as outlined in draft resolution 33 C/COM.I, II, III, IV, V/DR.2, adopted by the 33rd session of the General Conference. <i>Calls upon</i> the Director-General to further investigate reform of the programme management cycle to enhance the decision-making of the General Conference in policy-making and priority determination;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Director-General</p> <p>By resolution 1, the General Conference approved at its 33rd session the outline for the strategic planning document and the process leading to its adoption, referred to in recommendation 4. This strategic planning document, prepared in accordance with the instructions by the General Conference, will ultimately become the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4). Document 174 EX/5 Add.1 describes the roadmap and timetable leading to its adoption by the General Conference at its 34th session. Accordingly, draft document 34 C/4 has been drawn up by the Director-General in line with this guidance and the Executive Board has already provided its comments in document 34 C/11. It should be noted that document 34 C/4, once approved by the General Conference, shall be a rolling plan, capable of being revised every two years in the light of new developments and circumstances.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.5</p> <p><i>Decides</i> on regular comprehensive reporting to the General Conference and the Executive Board on extrabudgetary activities. Such reporting should make transparent the coherence between regular programme and extrabudgetary activities, and progress towards the full attainment of such coherence between the two sets of activities. <i>Also decides</i> that the Secretariat should involve the governing bodies more directly in the planning of extrabudgetary activities;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Director-General</p> <p>The recommendation is under active implementation. The report on extrabudgetary activities to the General Conference at its 34th session will indeed highlight the importance of UNESCO's extrabudgetary activities, and their coherence with the regular programme activities. More importantly, targeted/projected extrabudgetary activities are now being included in an "additional programme" closely aligned with document 34 C/5 and future such regular programmes and budgets, and clearly linking them to the overall results to be attained throughout the biennium, and establishing relevant performance indicators and benchmarks. This "additional programme" will be shared with UNESCO's funding sources collectively and individually after the General Conference, and hence after the formal approval of the C/5 document. It will form the basis for UNESCO's overall extrabudgetary resource mobilization strategy throughout the biennium.</p>
<p>R.6</p> <p><i>Decides</i> 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;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: President of the General Conference, Executive Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See report by the President of the General Conference concerning this recommendation. • By 176 EX/Decision 35, the Executive Board decided to recommend to the General Conference (in line with the contents of the report of its President on this recommendation) to maintain the current criteria for the 34th session of the General Conference.
<p>R.7</p> <p>Consistent with the relevant Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, <i>decides</i> on reducing the number of agenda items for the General Conference with a view to focusing discussions on the key priorities of the Organization;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>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 related 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.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.8</p> <p><i>Decides</i> that UNESCO should use its convening power better in order to make the General Conference a more interesting meeting place, and better suited to allow new inputs to its programmes, for instance through the organization of thematic debates, introduced by renowned experts or ministers from Member States, as well as an increased number of round table discussions. <i>Also decides</i> that the general policy debate should be organized differently, taking into account best practices of other intergovernmental organizations, and using innovative means with the aim of attracting the interest of the media, and the public at large. The new format of the general debate should give the heads of delegation adequate opportunity to deliver their main political message, preferably focused on selected themes. 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;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>At its 175th session the Executive Board requested the Special Committee to debate this recommendation at the 176th session of the Executive Board in consultation with the President of the General Conference.</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) With regard to making the General Conference a more interesting meeting place, thematic debates are not scheduled for the 34th session; however two round tables are being held. Further consultation among Member States is needed in order to provide clear guidance in this regard to the 35th session of the General Conference. (ii) to organize the general policy debate differently: further consultations among Member States needed in order to provide clear guidance. (iii) for attracting more media attention and participation: pilot activities are ongoing. (iv) greater networking/dialogue opportunities organized notably through experimentation with interactive sessions and side events in the framework of the Official Exhibition. <p>Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that General Conference activities focus on policy-relevant debates, thus enabling better decision-making; • 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;

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 UNESCO World Reports); • In the future: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparation of the Round Table might be improved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further and earlier consultation among Member States on the themes; ▪ Providing timely background material; ▪ [Making the list of participants available earlier]. 2. Follow-up to the implementation of General Conference resolutions more closely.
<p>R.9</p> <p><i>Decides</i> that, if possible, all elections should take place at the end of the first week of the General Conference, and that the election procedures should be improved, and preferably automated. Accordingly, <i>also decides</i> that the communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, 8(c) of the Constitution should be examined by the Executive Board at its session immediately preceding 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;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: President of the General Conference</p> <p>See report by the President of the General Conference concerning this recommendation.</p> <p>Please refer to document 177 EX/45. The Executive Board will be able to make recommendations on the communications received by the date of its session. However, as stated in Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, Member States may submit communications until three days after the commencement of the proceedings of the General Conference session. Consequently, as recommended by the Executive Board to the General Conference (176 EX/Decision 35) the election of members of the Executive Board will take place at the 34th session, at the first possible date: Wednesday, 24 October 2007. All other elections will take place on the next day.</p> <p>See report by the President of the General Conference concerning this recommendation.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.10</p> <p><i>Decides</i> that the functioning of the commissions and committees of the General Conference should be made more flexible with a view to ensuring more dialogue, and more intersectoral and inter-programme discussions on priorities and programme directions, as well as the incorporation of the results of such debates into the C/4 and C/5 documents. <i>Requests</i> that the Executive Board, in its preparation of the agenda for the General Conference, consistent with the relevant Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, apply a more innovative approach, i.e. suggestions for items of which it is proposed only to take note, or the possible grouping of agenda items for joint debate. Annotations to the agenda should also be provided, so as to facilitate preparations by the Member States;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: President of the General Conference, Executive Board</p> <p>The Executive Board is taking into consideration this recommendation in preparation of the agenda and timetable of work of the General Conference.</p> <p>See also the report by the President of the General Conference concerning this recommendation.</p>
<p>R.11</p> <p><i>Decides</i> that the procedures of the General Conference should be rationalized in order to encourage more participation, notably from Member States with no representation at UNESCO Headquarters;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: President of the General Conference</p> <p>See report by the President of the General Conference concerning this recommendation.</p> <p>The Secretariat is implementing comprehensive information and training sessions for Member States and National Commissions as part of the preparations for the 34th session of the General Conference.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.12</p> <p><i>Decides</i> on greater participation of the governing bodies of the intergovernmental programmes and UNESCO's (category 1) institutes in the drafting of the C/4 and C/5 documents, as well as documents relating to implementation and evaluation of their activities;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Director-General</p> <p>In response to recommendation 12, the questionnaire for the elaboration of documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 was also addressed to governing bodies of intergovernmental programmes and UNESCO's (category 1) institutes. In addition, the Secretariat has already prepared, such as in the case of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP), a document calling on the discussion of strategic and programmatic priorities at sessions of intergovernmental bodies to be held in early 2006. It should be noted in that regard that the Chairman of IFAP participated in the consideration of draft documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 by the PX and FA Commissions of the Executive Board. The solicitation of contributions, let alone involvement in the implementation and evaluation of activities, to be undertaken every six months as in the case of EX/4 documents, may in practical terms be difficult to ensure, given that governing bodies normally meet only at longer intervals. However, an effort will be made to seek their views at the time the next joint C/3 and EX/4 document will be prepared, namely at the end of the 2006-2007 biennium. Moreover, evaluation plans and reports – falling within the purview of a particular governing body – will henceforth be brought to their attention with a view to eliciting comments and policy guidance.</p>
<p>R.13</p> <p><i>Decides</i> 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. <i>Further decides</i> that this reporting should also address the work, role, functioning and relevance of UNESCO's (category 1) institutes and of its various intergovernmental programmes;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>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 undertook 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 fulfill recommendation 13 for the 35th session of the General Conference.</p> <p>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.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.14</p> <p>Consistent with the relevant Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, <i>recommends</i> that the number of agenda items of the Executive Board be reduced, and the decision-making process be enhanced. <i>Also recommends</i> that an increasing number of agenda items be identified for “taking note” only by the Executive Board. <i>Further recommends</i> that detailed annotations be provided for each agenda item in order to facilitate debate and decision-making in the Board;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p><u>R.14 (i)</u>: The number of agenda items is still increasing.</p> <p><u>R.14 (ii)</u>: With regard to the issue of “taking note only” the Bureau, in 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. It has been underlined that “without discussion” is a more appropriate term than for “taking note”. During the 176th session, PX Commission considered five items without debate (except for the proposed decision) and FA Commission examined one item without debate.</p> <p><u>R.14 (iii)</u>: Detailed annotations are already provided since the 174th session of the Executive Board, and this practice will continue.</p> <p>Rule 14 is considered as being sufficient and there is no need for it to be amended.</p> <p>Relevant decisions already taken by the Executive Board:</p> <p>175 EX/Decision 23, paragraphs 6 and 7:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. <u>Encourages</u> the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Member States to avoid requesting separate reports for items that would best be included in the Director-General’s overall report on the follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted at previous sessions; 7. <u>Invites</u> the Chairperson of the Executive Board to re-examine Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure, paragraph 2, regarding the right to request discussion of an item that the Bureau has proposed should be adopted without discussion <p>175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 14:</p> <p>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.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.15</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> 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;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>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 Q&A session that follows the general debate.</p> <p>Pursuant to 175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 9, the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Director-General, have endeavored, 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.</p>
<p>R.16</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that the Executive Board consider the holding of thematic debates both inside and outside the formal sessions of the Executive Board, and <i>also requests</i> the Executive Board to ensure that the debates are related to UNESCO's programme activities. The exact modalities are to be worked out by the Executive Board, taking into account the experience of the Board to date;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>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".</p> <p>The Executive Board then adopted 175 EX/Decision 23 paragraph 10 in order to continue with the implementation of this recommendation.</p> <p>175 EX/Decision 23:</p> <p>10. <u>Invites</u> 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;</p> <p>In conformity with the mentioned decision, the Board will hold 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".</p> <p>Member States 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.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.17</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> 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 <i>further recommends</i> that the Executive Board consider the abolition of the private sessions of the Executive Board, unless motivated by reasons of confidentiality;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>Results of the consultations held by the Chairperson of the Board (175 EX/INF.5) shows widely varied views, and the Executive Board took the following decision:</p> <p>175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 11: “<u>Decides</u> 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 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.</p>
<p>R.18</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> 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;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>Consultations were held by the Chairperson of the Executive Board (175 EX/INF.5) and consequently, the Executive Board agreed, upon proposal of 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 during the 175th and the 176th sessions of the Board, respectively.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Executive Board will undertake a review of the experience of holding joint meetings of these two Commissions at its 180th session.</p> <p>Items which are considered in both Commissions individually must be treated by the Commissions with a strict respect for their respective mandates.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.19</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> the following measures concerning the committees of the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Special Committee (SP) should meet only as needed and for the time necessary to fulfill 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; 	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>R.19 (i): This recommendation 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 fulfill 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. Further, 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. The Special Committee met again during the 177th session of the Executive Board (176 EX/Decision 29, para. 6).</p> <p>R.19 (ii): The Executive Board adopted 174 EX/Decision 31, paragraph 7 which reads as follows:</p> <p>“<u>Decides</u>, 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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;” <p>The above actions have all been implemented.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.20</p> <p><i>Requests</i> 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;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>The recommendation is being implemented on an ongoing basis, and the Executive Board has taken the following decision:</p> <p>175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 14: “<u>Further requests</u> 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.”</p> <p>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 and the Special Committee.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For example, the Board might decide to conduct a review of the functioning of FA Experts group. The Board needs to review the time frame for its work in the preparation of the C/5 and C/6 documents.</p>
<p>R. 21</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the President of the General Conference to consult the different regional groups regarding methods of rotation of membership of the Executive Board, and to report the results thereof to the General Conference at its 34th session;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: President of the General Conference</p> <p>See report by the President of the General Conference concerning this recommendation.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>R.22</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that the Executive Board be enabled to lend its assistance to the Director-General for the preparation of interventions, and mobilization of assistance, in situations of international crisis or disaster that call for an emergency response by UNESCO;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Executive Board</p> <p>In practice, the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Director-General already consult regularly concerning actions to be taken in emergency situations.</p> <p>175 EX/Decision 23, paragraph 12: “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;” is therefore being implemented as and when required.</p>
<p>R.23</p> <p><i>Decides</i> that the envisaged flatter structure of the Secretariat be made more flexible and better adapted to the increasingly intersectoral and interdisciplinary nature of UNESCO’s programme;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Director-General</p> <p>The structure of the Secretariat is driven by programmatic considerations and constant efforts are being made to make it more flexible and to adapt it to the intersectoral nature of the Organization’s programmes. For example, thematic intersectoral task forces and working groups are set up to lead the Organization’s response to emerging policies and priorities as identified by the General Conference.</p>
<p>R.24</p> <p><i>Decides</i> that governance aspects and a synchronized RBM approach should be given increased emphasis by the Director-General as part of UNESCO’s decentralization policy. In particular, this policy must reflect the need for UNESCO’s field offices to allow for direct engagement of the Member States and their National Commissions in all activities pertaining to the countries in question;</p>	<p>Responsible for implementation: Director-General</p> <p>The Director-General is already requiring all field offices to follow the RBM approach applied in the preparation of the C/5 document and in SISTER. All work plans that have been approved for the implementation of document 33 C/5 have been assessed against this requirement. In addition, in order to enhance its contribution to country-level programming exercises by United Nations country teams, UNESCO, through its sectors and field offices, is beginning the preparation of UNESCO country programming documents which, among others, will set out in transparent detail the various activities planned and their implementation modalities. This may also lead to a better engagement with National Commissions.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS**R.25**

Decides that the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4 of the Constitution should be amended with regard to the preparation of such instruments in order to ensure full participation by Member States in their elaboration. *Also decides* that a focal point should be established within the Secretariat with the purpose of collecting information on the application of all conventions and recommendations adopted by the General Conference, and preparing a comprehensive report thereon to the General Conference at each session. This information should also be made widely available to Member States, relevant non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, and the public at large;

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION**Responsible for implementation: Director-General**

First part of the recommendation: the participation of Member States in the elaboration of draft standard-setting instruments is already governed by the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution and in particular by Part IV of the Rules, which provides for the establishment by the General Conference of a special committee consisting of technical and legal experts appointed by Member States and responsible for examining the Director-General's final report containing the draft instrument (Article 10, paras 4 and 5). Nevertheless, since 2000, the General Conference has decided on several occasions not to have recourse to this special committee, the intergovernmental character (category II) of which is confirmed by Articles 18 and 19 of the Regulations for the general classification of the various categories of meetings convened by UNESCO. In order to give Member States a greater role, it would be desirable to ensure that the relevant provisions currently in force are applied. Consideration might also be given to amending Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions to make recourse to the special committee compulsory. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 10 might be reworded to read:

4. The Director-General's final report shall be submitted direct to a special committee to be convened at least six months before the opening of the General Conference and consisting of technical and legal experts appointed by Member States.
5. The special committee shall submit a draft which has its approval to Member States, with a view to its discussion at the General Conference, at least seventy days before the opening of the session of the General Conference.

Second part of the recommendation: the Secretariat would need additional financial resources to implement that recommendation.