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REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE UPDATED AND REVISED VERSION OF THE UNESCO 34 C/4 INDICATIVE EVALUATION PLAN (2008-2013)

SUMMARY

In accordance with the 176 EX/Decision 27, paragraph 7, the Director-General hereby submits an updated and revised 34 C/4 evaluation plan.

Decision proposed: paragraph 7.

Background

1. The indicative 34 C/4 evaluation plan was presented to the Executive Board at its 176th session (176 EX/27). It responded to the Executive Board's request at its 175th session that the evaluation plan should propose evaluations of all the C/4 strategic programme objectives (SPOs) so that there is full evaluation coverage of all UNESCO activities and programmes over the period of the Medium-Term Strategy. The plan also proposed evaluations of UNESCO's five established functions, evaluations of decentralized bodies and two strategic evaluations.

2. This paper contains an updated and revised 34 C/4 evaluation plan (Annex) in response to 176 EX/Decision 27, paragraph 7.

Revised plan

3. In light of the debate at the 176th session of the Executive Board, IOS examined the evaluability of UNESCO's five established functions.¹ This analysis confirmed that each strategic programme objective (SPO) evaluation will in practice contain strong links with the five functions of UNESCO. Consequently the five planned evaluations of UNESCO's functions have been integrated into the SPO evaluations.

4. There are three key reasons for the integration:

- UNESCO's functions are essentially mechanisms of intervention for programme and project implementation. All UNESCO activities can be categorized as seeking to fulfil one or more of the functions. The activities under each function will be evaluated as one important feature of the SPO evaluations.
- Meta-evaluation of 34 C/4 SPOs is scheduled for 2012, drawing on the SPO evaluations completed in prior years. The functions provide categories for organizing all achievements, challenges, recommendations and lessons learnt. In doing so they provide the framework for comparative analysis and aggregate assessment across programmes and projects. This approach was followed in the *Consolidation of the findings of the evaluations of UNESCO's Major Programme I institutes and centres* (February 2006)² and in *An evaluation of UNESCO's response to HIV/AIDS* (April 2004).³

¹ Throughout its activities and projects, UNESCO performs and assumes a range of functions corresponding to its role as the international lead agency for education, the sciences, culture and communication, namely:

- *a laboratory of ideas*: UNESCO plays a key role in anticipating and defining, in the light of the ethical principles that it champions, the most important emerging problems in its spheres of competence, and in identifying appropriate strategies and policies to deal with them;
- *a standard-setter*: UNESCO serves as a central forum for articulating the ethical, normative and intellectual issues of our time, fostering multidisciplinary exchange and mutual understanding, working – where possible and desirable – towards universal agreements on these issues, benchmarking targets and mobilizing international opinion;
- *a clearing house*: UNESCO has a role in gathering, transferring, disseminating and sharing available information, knowledge and best practices in its fields of competence, identifying innovative solutions and testing them through pilot projects;
- *a capacity-builder in Member States*: UNESCO organizes international cooperation for servicing its stakeholders, especially its Member States, and in building human and institutional capacities in all its fields of competence;
- *a catalyst for international cooperation*: UNESCO as a technical multidisciplinary agency assumes a catalytic role for development cooperation in its fields of competence. To that end it seeks to ensure that the objectives, principles and priorities it promotes are followed suit by other multi- and bilateral programmes and that projects are implemented, in particular at regional and national levels, through innovation, effective interventions and wise practices.

² <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001453/145382E.pdf>.

³ http://portal.unesco.org/en/file_download.php/74391d3aabfdca2d02fef6d951b39dbdUNESCO+HIV+AIDS+Evaluation.pdf.

- Costs of evaluating will be lower given the integration possible due to the close links between the SPOs and the functions.

5. In addition to the integration of the five UNESCO functions into the planned SPO evaluations, the revised evaluation plan has one other significant change. A new strategic evaluation has been added: *Evaluation of UNESCO recruitment policy and practice*.

6. There are also some minor wording changes to the evaluations of SPOs 2, 4, 7, 8 and 10 to reflect revisions made to their titles as a consequence of drafting changes to document 34 C/4.

7. In the light of the above, the Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

Recalling 176 EX/Decision 27,

Having examined document 177 EX/27,

Endorses the proposed 34 C/4 Indicative Evaluation Plan (2008–2013).

ANNEX

34 C/4 Evaluation Plan (2008-2013)

Evaluation Universe	34 C/5		35 C/5		36 C/5	
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
C/4 Strategic Programme Objectives (SPO)	<p>SPO 3: Leveraging scientific knowledge for the benefit of the environment and the management of natural resources</p> <p>SPO 14: Support to countries in post-conflict and disaster situations in UNESCO's fields of competence</p>	<p>SPO 6: Promoting principles, practices and ethical norms relevant to scientific and technological development</p> <p>SPO 4: Fostering policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation</p> <p>SPO 1 & SPO 2 – Phase I: Mid-term evaluation of 34 C/5 biennial sectoral priorities</p> <p>SPO 11: Sustainably protecting and enhancing cultural heritage</p> <p>SPO 13: Fostering pluralistic free and independent media and infrastructures</p>	<p>SPO 7: Enhancing research policy linkages on social transformations</p> <p>SPO 5: Contributing to disaster preparedness and mitigation</p>	<p>SPO 1 & SPO 2 – Phase II: Mid-term evaluation of 35 C/5 biennial sectoral priorities</p> <p>SPO 9: Strengthening the contribution of culture to sustainable development</p> <p>SPO 8: Fostering research on critical emerging ethical and social issues</p> <p>SPO 12: Enhancing universal access to information and knowledge</p>	<p>SPO 1: Strengthening UNESCO's global lead and coordination role for EFA and providing support to national leadership in favour of EFA</p> <p>SPO 2: Developing policies, capacities and tools for quality education for all and life-long education as well as promoting education for sustainable development</p> <p>SPO 10: Demonstrating the importance of exchange and dialogue among cultures to social cohesion and reconciliation to develop a culture of peace</p> <p><u>Meta-evaluation of 34 C/4 Strategic Programme Objectives – A Summary Report</u></p>	

Evaluation Universe	34 C/5		35 C/5		36 C/5	
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Strategic evaluations	Evaluation of UNESCO recruitment policy and practice Evaluation of UNESCO capacities to fulfil the Organization's mandate as reflected in document 34 C/4		Evaluation of UNESCO strategic policy development processes, including results-based and risk management			
Decentralized bodies	8 pilots		12 pilots		Number of pilots To be decided Institutes/Centres: IICBA IESALC IITE UNEVOC IIEP CEPES	Institutes/Centres: IBE UILL (UIE) UIS ICTP IHE