

**Director-General's Consultation with African National Commissions on the
Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5)**

**15-18 June 2010
Kampala, Uganda**

1. Delegations of 41 National Commissions out of 46 attended the Director-General's consultation of National Commissions for UNESCO of the Africa region on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5). Three observers participated – Libya, Tunisia and Sudan.

2. The provisional rules of procedures, together with the provisional agenda and timetable, were adopted without amendment. The following country-representatives were elected as members of the Bureau:

Chairperson: Mr. Augustine Omare Okurut (Uganda)

Vice Chairpersons: Ms Mapaseka Kolotsane (Lesotho)
Mr. Ireneefidegnon Boko (Benin)

Rapporteur: Ms Marie Reine Hoareau (Seychelles)

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr. Lou Mathieu Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire)
Ms Elizabeth Kiondo (Tanzania)

3. The Chair of the consultation, Mr Augustine Omare-Okurut, Secretary-General of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, welcomed the participants. In his introduction, he expressed his vision of a unified African voice, with the identification of clear programmatic orientations and priority areas for the region, going beyond an aggregation of subregional and cluster positions.

4. Mr. Cheikh N'Diaye, senior programme planning officer, Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), introduced the discussion. He recalled that the regional consultations were intended to secure direct and genuine input from National Commissions by providing them with an opportunity to identify global challenges and opportunities, to define common cluster and regional priorities and to articulate their views concerning appropriate future programme orientations, bearing in mind the global strategic objectives of UNESCO as reflected in the Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4). He pointed out that the 36 C/5 would be the last Programme and Budget for the period covered by the current Medium-Term Strategy and that Member States would need to assess to what extent the 34 C/4 overarching and strategic programme objectives have been attained through the 34 C/5 and the 35 C/5 and what needed to be done in the 36 C/5 to satisfy the expectations articulated in the 34 C/4.

5. Mr N'Diaye highlighted issues of strategic importance, including UNESCO's involvement in United Nations reform and common country programming processes, the stepping up of efforts towards integrating culture and science in the development paradigm, and the strengthening of intersectoral and interdisciplinary work as one of UNESCO's main comparative advantages. He recalled the Director-General's commitment to and ambition for Africa, as also expressed in her inception speech. He also stressed the importance which she attaches to the relevance, impact and visibility of UNESCO's action, three themes which should usefully guide the debates of this meeting. In this regard, he noted that active involvement in the United Nations "Delivering as One" initiative at the country level continued to be of critical importance.

6. Against the background of the current financial and economic crises, he observed that there was an urgent need for focus and selective action concentrating on the most promising lines of

action. He indicated that choices would have to be made, when balancing the immense needs of developing and least developed countries against the scarce resources available to UNESCO, in order not to raise expectations that could not be realized by the Organization.

7. Finally, he recalled the complex process and various stages in the preparation of document 36 C/5 involving multiple stakeholders, and stressed the importance of focused and consensus-based recommendations in order to enhance their prospects of being retained in the final Draft Programme and Budget.

8. Following this introduction and some preliminary comments by participants, members of the National Commissions of the countries covered by the ten UNESCO clusters (Accra, Addis Ababa, Bamako, Dakar, Dar Es Salaam, Harare, Libreville, Nairobi, Windhoek and Yaoundé) and the respective field office directors/heads convened in (joint) cluster meetings to discuss programming issues and priorities as well as other aspects raised in the questionnaire. Reports of these cluster consultations, which will also serve as a basis for the elaboration of future cluster work plan activities, were presented in plenary and informed the subsequent deliberations.

9. After hearing the cluster meetings' reports on the outcomes of their discussions, and at the suggestion of the Chair, the consultation decided to set up a working group which was tasked to identify their highest common denominators and to work out an Africa regional position on desirable future programme orientations, bearing in mind that such a regional position should not be a mere aggregation of sub-regional and cluster viewpoints.

10. The recommendations of the working group were subsequently reviewed and endorsed by the plenary. Participants generally agreed that UNESCO should continue its focus on its current priorities, while putting an emphasis on select topics as captured in the following sections.

I. GLOBAL PRIORITIES AND SPECIFIC TARGETED INTERVENTIONS

Priority Africa

- Strengthen UNESCO's support within the framework of existing cooperation instruments with the African Union and the United Nations system
- Take into account the African Union's priorities in national programmes
- Promote and expand Mwalimu Nyerere scholarship programmes
- Enhance collaboration with regional structures and centres
- Build the capacities of field offices and National Commissions (which must be supported both by Member States and UNESCO)
- Define performance indicators for monitoring and evaluating the Priority Africa programme

Priority Gender Equality

- Support the development and implementation of national policies on gender equality
- Mainstream gender equality in all programme activities of UNESCO

Specific targeted interventions

- Strengthen and develop a multisectoral and multidimensional approach which focuses on vulnerable groups, young people, and the rights of indigenous peoples

- Further the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy on African Youth, also taking into account the African Youth Charter
- Create and implement a specific, cross-cutting programme for small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs)

II. PRIORITIES FOR UNESCO'S ACTION AT GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Education

- Promote national languages
- Promote vocational and technical training
- Support the elaboration and harmonization of education programmes and ensure UNESCO's lead role in the education sector while working with all players at the country level
- Develop capacities, in particular through training of trainers and the valorisation of indigenous knowledge
- Strengthen national capacities with regard to distance learning and the production of educational materials
- Strengthen national policies for girls' education in science fields
- Support the Conference of African Ministers of Education (COMEDAF) and enhance cooperation with the African Union in the field of education

Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences

- Support the implementation of the African Union's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action
- Popularize and disseminate scientific knowledge, including indigenous knowledge systems
- Network partners and science players at the national and international levels
- Further develop the MOST Programme and bioethics committees

Culture

- Develop and promote the implementation of cultural policies
- Encourage a better integration of cultural factors in development programmes, including UNDAFs
- Promote at the national level interreligious and intercultural dialogue for a culture of peace
- Promote and support the African Liberation Heritage Programme

- Promote the ratification and implementation of UNESCO's cultural conventions
- Support major African cultural events

Communication and Information

- Strengthen community radios and multimedia centres
- Launch an international day devoted to information and communication technologies (ICTs)
- Raise awareness among Member States about press freedom and rights

Intersectoral and interdisciplinary programme on a Culture of Peace

- Examine root causes of conflicts and develop research to find lasting solutions
- Develop a cross-cutting and systemic approach through: teacher training, production of textbooks, training of journalists, awareness-raising among opinion-makers, and the promotion of the values of peace and social cohesion in formal and informal education

Intersectoral platforms

- Maintain existing platforms while ensuring increased visibility and impact at the country level

III. DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME

- Implement the UN One Programmes/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), enhancing UNESCO's leadership role in its fields of competence and its presence at the national level
- Enhance capacities of cluster offices (both human and financial resources) and ensure rational management of staff between cluster offices and the Secretariat at Headquarters
- Strengthen partnerships between National Commissions, including between African National Commissions
- Ensure the circulation of information on category 2 centres and promote cooperation with similar institutions in Member States
- Enhance the human, technical and financial capacities of National Commissions and ensure the visibility of National Commissions and UNESCO in each country, including through:
 - Developing cluster office websites
 - Publishing e-bulletins
 - Celebrating international days in the media and with the participation of all ministries.