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Item 14.1 of the provisional agenda

**PREPARATION OF A SPECIAL POST-CONFLICT OVERALL
SUPPORT PROGRAMME IN UNESCO'S FIELDS OF COMPETENCE
FOR CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

OUTLINE

Source: Item proposed by Côte d'Ivoire.

Background: Côte d'Ivoire is emerging from an armed conflict with damage that is difficult to estimate. Pursuant to Rule 12.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, Côte d'Ivoire has requested the inclusion of this item in the agenda of its 34th session.

Purpose: Côte d'Ivoire submits as an annex hereto an explanatory note together with a draft resolution concerning this item.

Decision required: paragraph 6 (Annex).

ANNEX

Explanatory note

1. Côte d'Ivoire is emerging from an armed conflict with damage that is difficult to estimate. In addition to heavy loss of human life, some of the most significant damage has been: destruction of social and educational facilities, traumatized and discouraged teachers, massive population displacement and growing insecurity of living conditions, development of intercommunal tension and endangerment of biosphere reserves.

2. In the face of this tragic situation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has supported Côte d'Ivoire with substantial and bold initiatives, in particular through the implementation of 32 C/Resolution 51. Under the provisions thereof, the General Conference at its 32nd session requested the Director-General to take all appropriate measures in order to increase cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire, and rally the international community for emergency assistance to strengthen UNESCO's fields of competence. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the content of the resolution and the efforts made to implement it. For information, some of the aspects of UNESCO's support are recalled below:

- Plan of Action for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Education Systems in Côte d'Ivoire: PARREN-CI;
- Capacity-building for preventive education and combating STI/HIV/AIDS in schools;
- Women's literacy and girls' enrolment in the west of Côte d'Ivoire;
- Strengthening scientific and technical capacities for effective management and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland biosphere reserves of West Africa;
- Financial contribution to the Market for African Performing Arts.

3. Following the Ouagadougou Agreement, signed in March 2007, Côte d'Ivoire has resolutely put an end to the state of conflict. Indeed, implementation of the Agreement opens up promising peace prospects: redeployment of the administration in areas formerly under siege with a view to the reunification of the country, together with many other measures intended to consolidate national reconciliation, security and the free movement of persons and goods.

4. The Member State Côte d'Ivoire, while welcoming the bold initiatives taken on its behalf by the Director-General in the context of strengthened cooperation, and drawing on UNESCO's rich experience in support for countries in post-conflict situations, submits to the General Conference at its 34th session the present draft "**resolution for a special post-conflict overall support programme**". The adoption of this resolution will help Côte d'Ivoire create conditions conducive to its development.

5. This draft resolution:

- Recalls the initiatives taken by the international community to promote peace and the part played by UNESCO in those initiatives, particularly in its fields of competence,
- Describes the priority needs of Côte d'Ivoire in regard to education, science and culture as specified by the Director-General in his report on the implementation of 32 C/Resolution 51 on strengthening cooperation with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,
- Requests the Director-General to submit to the General Conference a special post-conflict overall support programme for Côte d'Ivoire in UNESCO's fields of competence.

6. The General Conference,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles enshrined in UNESCO's Constitution,

Instituting a phase of reconstruction, mutual consideration and reconciliation,

Recalling the United Nations Security Council resolutions on the need to achieve and consolidate peace in Côte d'Ivoire,

Taking note with satisfaction of the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, following direct dialogue between the principal parties to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire,

Considering that implementation of the Agreement will enable Côte d'Ivoire to enter the post-conflict phase, by means in particular of the formation of a government of national reconciliation, the abolition of the zone of confidence, the gradual redeployment of the administration, the amnesty law, and other measures,

Welcoming the bold and substantial initiatives taken by the Director-General pursuant to 32 C/Resolution 51 on strengthening cooperation with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, as a contribution to maintaining activities in the education and vocational training systems, and in the fields of science, culture and communication throughout the national territory,

Mindful that the reports by the Director-General to the Executive Board and the General Conference on the implementation of that resolution demonstrate UNESCO's commitment to mobilizing donors in support of Côte d'Ivoire,

Recalling UNESCO's wealth of experience in support of countries in post-conflict situations, and its contribution to construction and reconciliation efforts in its various fields of competence,

Taking into consideration the priority needs expressed by all the ministries of Côte d'Ivoire concerned by UNESCO's fields of competence, in particular the reconstruction and restoration of educational, scientific, media and heritage-related infrastructure, and capacity-building for their staff in order to consolidate national reconciliation through the integration of the values of tolerance, mutual consideration and the culture of peace,

Requests the Director-General:

- (a) to take all appropriate measures to strengthen cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the framework of implementation of the Programme and Budget approved by the General Conference at its 34th session and through the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources;
- (b) to urge the Member States of UNESCO, governmental and non-governmental organizations and national and private institutions to provide, wherever there is a felt need, emergency assistance designed to strengthen the educational, scientific, media and heritage-related institutions and to integrate into their staff-training programmes the values of tolerance, mutual consideration and the desire to live in harmony together;
- (c) to prepare and submit to the Executive Board at its next (179th) session a special post-conflict overall support programme in UNESCO's fields of competence for the Member State Côte d'Ivoire;
- (d) to report on the implementation of this resolution to the Executive Board at its 180th session and to submit to the General Conference at its 35th session that full report on the progress and state of advancement of UNESCO's actions in Côte d'Ivoire.