



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

11/06/2010

Ref.: CL/3926

Subject: **Second report by Member States to the General Conference on Measures Taken to Implement the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace**

Sir/Madam,

Pursuant to Articles 15 and 16.1 of 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 conformity with 32 C/Resolution 41 of the General Conference, a certified copy of the Recommendation mentioned above was transmitted to you in February 2004.

Member States were also formally reminded of their obligation to submit the Recommendation to their competent national authorities, bodies, target groups and other entities interested in matters dealt with therein, within a period of one year from the close of the session of the General Conference at which the Recommendation was adopted in 2003, in order to give effect to it in national legislation and policies.

At the 33rd session of the General Conference, Member States agreed to establish a system of reports on measures taken to implement this Recommendation (33 C/Resolution 54). In particular, the General Conference requested each Member State to prepare and submit to the Secretariat a first report on the action taken to implement the Recommendation by the end of the month of January 2007, and subsequently once every four years, with effect from that date. Consequently, the first consolidated report, which was examined by the Executive Board at its 176th session, was prepared and transmitted to the General Conference at its 34th session (34 C/23) in 2007.

The second report by Member States will therefore be presented at the 36th session of the General Conference, in 2011. The reporting process, based on the attached Guidelines, should take into consideration all actions that Member States may have taken in this regard, including those aimed at implementing the relevant decisions adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society.

It is my hope that you will recognize the significance of the system of reports adopted by the General Conference by sending your second report with the status of implementation of this Recommendation by 31 December 2010 to Mr Janis Karklins, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, who is at your disposal to provide any additional information in this respect (Tel.: +33 1 45 68 43 20, Fax: +33 1 45 68 55 81, email: j.karklins@unesco.org).

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration,

Irina Bokova  
Director-General

Enclosures: 2

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

## **GUIDELINES**

### **for the Preparation of the second report by Member States to the General Conference on the Implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace**

#### **Preliminary remarks**

These Guidelines are intended to assist Member States in the preparation of the reports on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, that was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2003.

#### **System of Reports**

Pursuant to Articles 15 and 16.1 of 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 conformity with 32 C/Resolution 41 of the General Conference, in February 2004, the Director-General transmitted to Member States a certified copy of this Recommendation.

Furthermore, the 33rd session of the General Conference adopted 33 C/Resolution 54 concerning the establishment of a system of reports by Member States to the General Conference on measures taken to implement the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace. By this Resolution, the General Conference requested each Member State to prepare and submit to the Secretariat a first report on the action taken to implement this Recommendation by the end of the month of January 2007, and subsequently once every four years with effect from that date.

Pursuant to 33 C/Resolution 54, the Director-General prepared and transmitted to the General Conference, at its 34th session, the first consolidated report, which has also been examined by the Executive Board at its 176th session (34 C/23).

As at 31 January 2007, the Secretariat had received 23 reports from the following Member States: Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Georgia, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mexico, Namibia, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Turkey and Zimbabwe. Contributions have also been received after the deadline fixed by the General Conference from: Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Israel, Mauritius, Senegal, Serbia and Spain. For the reporting mechanism to be effective, it is indispensable to have the number of Member States participating in the reporting process significantly increased.

#### **General indications**

Given the reporting obligations stated above, please describe whether the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that have been taken pursuant to the Recommendation and the extent to which national laws, policies and programmes correspond at present to its provisions.

Information supplied by Member States should indicate how laws and practices comply with the commitments under the Recommendation, describing legal norms as well as the factual situation. The Report should thus depict the constitutional, legal and administrative framework established for the implementation of the Recommendation.

The Report should also cover laws and legislative texts adopted by Member States to promote the use of multilingualism and the universal access to cyberspace. It should provide a description of policy measures and programmes implemented to that end, as well as of difficulties encountered in this process. The Report should specify activities developed and supported by Member States for the promotion of this Recommendation at national level.

Please highlight the overall results achieved and the obstacles encountered in the process of the implementation of this Recommendation.

### **Elements for reporting on the specific provisions of the Recommendation**

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF MULTILINGUAL CONTENT AND SYSTEMS**

- Please furnish detailed information explaining what measures have been taken to alleviate language barriers. This information should also cover whether any support has been given to capacity-building for the production of local and indigenous content on the Internet.
- Please describe the measures taken for formulating appropriate national policies on the issues of language survival in cyberspace.

#### **FACILITATING ACCESS TO NETWORKS AND SERVICES**

- Please report on national efforts to recognize and support universal access to the Internet as well as to promote access to the Internet as a service of public interest.
- Please also describe what mechanisms have been established at the local and national levels to facilitate universal access to the Internet through affordable telecommunications and Internet costs.
- Please indicate the measures taken for encouraging the development of information strategies and models that facilitate community access and support cooperation on ICT among public service institutions.
- What efforts have been made in order to encourage Internet service providers to consider provision of concessionary rates for Internet access in public service institutions?

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC DOMAIN CONTENT**

- Please explain the legal and administrative measures adopted to give effect to the provisions of this part of the Recommendation: (a) recognizing and enacting the right of universal online access to public and government-held records, (b) identifying and promoting repositories of information and knowledge in the public domain and making them accessible by all, and (c) promoting and facilitating ICT literacy, including popularizing and building trust in ICT implementation and use.
- Please also provide information on whether open access solutions and online accessibility of public domain information were advanced and how.

#### **REAFFIRMING THE EQUITABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF RIGHTS-HOLDERS AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

- Please indicate what action your Government has taken in order to update the national copyright legislation and its adaptation to cyberspace? Please indicate also what consideration was given to the possibility of encouraging rights-holders and the lawful beneficiaries of limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights protection to ensure that such limitations and exceptions are applied.

- Please also indicate what are the actions planned to give consideration to the development of technological innovations and to their potential impact on access to information.

**Final comments**

- What efforts has your Government made to establish a system of continuing monitoring of the implementation of the decisions taken at the World Summit on the Information Society and what time-related goals and benchmarks has your Government set in this respect?
- What are, according to your Government, the main issues and new challenges that need to be further addressed for promoting multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace? Please provide a brief description in your final comments.