



United Nations
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The Protection of the
Underwater Cultural Heritage

2 MSP

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

**MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Second session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV
1 to 3 December 2009

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda:

Establishment of a Special Account for the Underwater Cultural Heritage

Decision required : paragraph 7

1. The Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage does not provide for the establishment of a fund as possible means of financial support to the activities related to the protection of the underwater cultural heritage.
2. According to Article 3 (g) of the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of State Parties, one of its responsibilities is “to seek means for raising funds and to take the necessary measures to this end”. The creation of a Special Account is therefore proposed, to finance the functioning of the Convention and its State Cooperation Mechanism, international cooperation projects in relation to the scope of the Convention, the building of capacity in States Parties and the enhancement of the protection of the underwater cultural heritage.
3. This Special Account should allow for the collection of funds from different sources, not only voluntary contributions from State Parties, but, for instance, funds appropriated for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO, contributions from other States, as well as from organizations and programs within the United Nations system or private entities.
4. Such special account shall be established in accordance with Article 6.6 of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO. To that end, and pursuant to Article 6.7 of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, a special draft financial regulation on the management of the Fund is proposed by the Secretariat in conformity with the model text for the Financial Regulations of Special Accounts, as adopted by the Executive Board at its 161st session (see Annex). In pursuance of Administrative Circular No. 2280, a support cost rate of 10% is currently applicable to the Special Accounts for voluntary contributions. A Special Account has the advantage of combining many contributions to finance specific projects. In addition, any unused balance at the end of the financial period is carried over to the following one. The establishment of a Special Account does not prevent donors from also financing projects under funds-in-trust.

5. Furthermore, the Special Account will allow funds to be distributed in a structured and equitable manner, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines adopted by the Meeting of States Parties.
6. The Draft of Operational Guidelines, as contained in the working document UCH/09/2.MSP/220/5 of the present second Meeting of States Parties, proposes in its Chapter III, Sections 12 and 13, provisions on the use of such Fund.
7. The Meeting of States Parties may consider to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 8 / MSP 2

The Meeting of States Parties:

1. *Considering its responsibility to raise funds;*
2. *Considering also that the establishment of a Special Account, due to its multi-donor nature, can facilitate the collection of funds for activities related to the protection of the underwater heritage;*
3. *Recalling Resolution 5 / MSP 2 by which it adopted the Operational Guidelines for the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, including Operational Guidelines on the financing of the functioning of the Convention;*
4. *Requests the Director-General of UNESCO to establish the “Underwater Cultural Heritage Fund” to be managed as a Special Account in accordance with Article 6.6 of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, which’s resources will be used on the basis of the above-mentioned Operational Guidelines adopted by the Meeting of States Parties;*
5. *Approves the Financial Regulations for this Fund, as annexed to the present document.*

ANNEX

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

Article 1 – Creation of a Special Account

1.1 A Special Account for the Fund for the Underwater Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as the “Special Account”) is hereby created In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.

1.2 The following regulations shall govern the operation of the Special Account.

Article 2 – Financial period

The financial period shall correspond to that of UNESCO.

Article 3 – Purpose

In accordance with Resolution 8/MSP 2 of the 2nd session of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as “**the Convention**”), the purpose of the Special Account is to finance activities decided by the Meeting of States Parties on the basis of guidelines determined by the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention.

Article 4 – Income

The income of the Special Account shall consist of:

- (a) voluntary contributions from State Parties of the Convention, other States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities;
- (b) such amounts provided from the regular budget of the Organization as might be determined by the General Conference;
- (c) such subventions, endowments, gifts and bequests as are allocated to it for purposes consistent with the object of the Special Account;
- (d) miscellaneous income, including any interest earned on the investments referred to in Article 7 below.

Article 5 – Expenditure

The Special Account shall be debited with the expenditure relating to its purpose as described in Article 3 above, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it and programme support costs applicable to Special Accounts.

Article 6 – Accounts

- 6.1 The UNESCO Comptroller shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary.
- 6.2 Any unused balance at the end of a financial period shall be carried forward to the following financial period.
- 6.3 The accounts of the Special Account shall be presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO, together with the other accounts of the Organization.
- 6.4 Contributions in kind shall be recorded outside the Special Account.

Article 7 – Investments

- 7.1 The Director-General may make short-term investments of sums standing to the credit of the Special Account.
- 7.2 Interest earned on these investments shall be credited to the Special Account.

Article 8 – Closure of the Special Account

The Director-General shall decide upon the closure of the Special Account at such time as she/he deems that its operation is no longer necessary and inform the Executive Board accordingly.

Article 9 – General provision

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, the Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.