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pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

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科学及文化组织

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REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION COMMISSION (CI)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Board, at its 197th session, recommended to the General Conference the nomination of H.E. Mr Abdulla El Reyes (United Arab Emirates) for the office of Chairperson of the CI Commission, which the plenary took note of at its second meeting on 3 November 2015.

2. At its first meeting, on 10 November 2015, the Commission approved the proposals submitted by the Nominations Committee for the election of the Chairperson and the offices of Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur. The following were elected by acclamation:

Chairperson: H.E. Mr Abdulla El Reyes (United Arab Emirates – Group V(b))

Vice-Chairpersons: H.E. Ms Cristina Rodríguez Galán (Andorra – Group I)
Mr Andrejs Vasilevs (Latvia – Group II)
Ministra Leticia Casati (Paraguay – Group III)
Ms Wang Hongmin (China – Group IV)

Rapporteur: Mr Riche-Mike Wellington (Ghana – Group V (a))

3. The Commission then adopted the timetable of work submitted in document 38 C/COM.CI/1 Prov.

4. The Commission devoted four meetings, on 10 and 11 November 2015, to the examination of the nine items on its agenda.

Reports by the Information for All Programme (38 C/REP/24) and the International Programme for the Development of Communication (38 C/REP/23)

5. The Commission took note of the reports of the Information for All Programme (38 C/REP/24) and the International Programme for the Development of Communication (38 C/REP/23), which were presented by their respective Chairs.

DEBATE 1

Item 3.4 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)

Item 4.5 – Conclusions of the Youth Forum

6. At its first meeting, the Commission examined Item 3.4 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5) together with Item 4.5 – Conclusions of the Youth Forum.

7. The representatives of 35 Member States took the floor.

8. A summary of the debate on these Items is annexed to this report.

DEBATE 2

Item 3.2 – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Budget for 2016-2017 Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and Information

9. At its second meeting, the Commission examined Item 3.2 – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Budget for 2016-2017 – Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and Information.

10. The representatives of 21 Member States and one Observer took the floor.

Draft resolutions proposed in document 38 C/5 (Volume 1)

11. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05000 of Volume 1 of document 38 C/5 concerning Major Programme V – Communication and Information, as amended orally by the Commission and by:

(i) the following draft resolution:

38 C/DR.4 submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, as amended in document 38 C/8, regarding expected result 6 of MLA2: Enabling universal access and preservation of information and knowledge;

(ii) the recommendations of the Executive Board concerning Major Programme V – Communication contained in documents 38 C/6 and Addenda.

The text of the resolution reads as follows:

05000

Draft resolution for Major Programme V – Communication and Information

The General Conference

1. *Authorizes the Director-General* to continue implementing during the period 2016-2017 the plan of action for Major Programme V, as approved in 37 C/Resolution 49 (paragraph 05000 of document 37 C/5 Approved), with the following adjustments;

(b new) to continue promoting “free, independent and pluralistic media” and “building knowledge societies through information and communication technologies (ICTs)” within and beyond the 2015 post development agenda given the importance and timeliness of such programmatic interventions for future generations;

Strategic objective 9: Promoting freedom of expression, media development, and access to information and knowledge

(iv revised) promote media pluralism, including fostering full participation by stakeholders in World Radio Day celebrations (13 February), and by work with community media, including community radio, to adopt programming guidelines for ensuring the representation of women and youth;

(v revised) foster increased gender equality in media operations and content by partnering with media institutions to apply and promote the Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM). The Organization will advance gender equality in and through media by implementing the plan of action of the UNESCO-led Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) between media, civil society and governments;

(xiii revised) strengthen the Memory of the World Programme and further position it as the global mechanism for seeking solutions to the challenges of preservation of the documentary heritage, including in digital or digitized forms, and be at the forefront of evolving trends and developments in this area, and further reinforce the Programme by increasing human and financial resources and implement the Action Plan for Strengthening the Memory of the World Programme adopted by the Executive Board at its 191st session, with due consideration to the existing budgetary constraints;

Paragraph (xiv) is merged with paragraph (xiii)

(c revised) to allocate for this purpose an amount of

ZNG+ (\$667M) option: **\$34,372,200** for the period 2016-2017;

MLA1	\$15,288,600
MLA2	\$19,083,600

Main line of action 1: Promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions

- (1) Member States have adopted and/or applied relevant policies and normative frameworks to strengthen the environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and safety of journalists;
- (2) Member States have enhanced pluralistic media and empowered audiences;
- (3) Local actors in Member States have fostered media development through IPDC;

Main line of action 2: Enabling universal access and preservation of information and knowledge

- (1) Member States have advanced Universal access to information through Open Solutions;
 - (2) Member States have preserved documentary heritage through the Memory of the World Programme;
 - (3) Member States' capacities for the use of ICT for a sustainable, knowledge-based development enhanced through the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes and of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) priorities, towards inclusive and pluralistic knowledge societies.
- (c) to report, in her statutory reports on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference, on measures taken to optimize the use of resources in the implementation of programme activities;

DEBATE 3

Item 4.13 – Outcome document of the “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” Conference

12. At its second and third meetings, the Commission examined Item 4.13 – Outcome document of the “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” Conference.

13. The representatives of 34 Member States took the floor.

14. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 11 of document 38 C/53 without amendments. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Having examined document 38 C/INF.4 and 38 C/53,

Recalling 37 C/Resolution 52 and 196 EX/5 (I, F),

Acknowledging the growing importance and impact of information and communication technologies for sustainable development in all of UNESCO's fields of competence,

Noting that the finalized study has fulfilled its mandate of informing the report to the General Conference on the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes,

Appreciating the open, inclusive and transparent process that UNESCO has engaged in for the study, including at the above-referenced multi-stakeholder conference,

Recognizing the insights of the "CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action" Conference, organized by UNESCO in March 2015, as the culminating phase of the consultative process,

Noting that the options of the above-mentioned consultative conference have been included in the finalized Internet study,

Also noting that the options proposed in the Outcome Document (Annex to 38 C/53) provide an opportunity for UNESCO to contribute to an Internet that respects the principles of human rights, openness, accessibility and multi-stakeholder participation and which plays an optimum role in the Sustainable Development Agenda,

1. *Endorses* the overall options that have emerged from the Study processes, and which are also attached as Annex hereto, as offering a comprehensive agenda for UNESCO's approach to Internet issues within its mandate, programme and budget;
2. *Endorses* the Internet Universality concept, with an Internet based on human rights, and the principles of openness, accessibility and multi-stakeholder participation;
3. *Requests* the Director-General to:
 - (a) Reinforce UNESCO's leading role in the implementation of WSIS outcomes beyond 2015,
 - (b) Extend UNESCO's further work on the options that have emerged from the Internet study process,
 - (c) Forward this resolution as a non-binding input to the UNGA overall World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) review process; and to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly established by UNGA resolution 68/302,
 - (d) Submit a report to the 39th session of the General Conference on WSIS beyond 2015, including on Internet-related issues, for a debate and possible resolution on the Organization's role beyond 2017;
4. *Invites* Member States to strengthen UNESCO's role on Internet-related issues through extrabudgetary contributions and a strong support for its positioning in the international post-2015 landscape.

DEBATE 4

Item 4.23 – Proclamation of 28 September as the “International Day for the Universal Access to Information”

15. At its third meeting, the Commission examined Item 4.23 – Proclamation of 28 September as the “International Day for the Universal Access to Information”.

16. The representatives of 17 Member States took the floor.

17. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 2 of document 38 C/70 without amendments. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Having examined document 38 C/70,

Recalling that the right to information is an integral part of the right to freedom of expression, as recognized by Resolution 59 of the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 1946, and defined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Also recalling that freedom of information is also central in the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which reaffirmed freedom of expression and universal access to information as cornerstones of inclusive knowledge societies,

Bearing in mind the efforts of UNESCO to highlight the relevance and importance of the right to information in the Brisbane Declaration on “Freedom of Information: the Right to Know” (2010), the Maputo Declaration on “Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and Empowerment of People” (2008), and the Dakar Declaration on “Media and Good Governance”, among others,

Taking note of the declaration by the African Platform on Access to Information, adopted at the Pan-African Conference on Access to Information, organized by the Windhoek+20 Campaign on Access to Information in Africa in partnership with UNESCO, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, in Cape Town, South Africa, from 17 to 19 September 2011,

Taking into account the fact that access to information is one of the main priorities of UNESCO’s activities,

Considering that several civil society organizations and government bodies in the world have adopted and currently celebrate 28 September as “International Right to Know Day”,

Taking note of the principles established in the declaration by the African Platform on Access to Information and recognizing that these principles can play a crucial role in development, democracy, equality and the delivery of public services,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 28 September of each year as the “International Day for the Universal Access to Information”;
2. *Invites* all Member States, United Nations system organizations, and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to celebrate the Day in a manner which each considers most appropriate and without financial implications for the regular budget of UNESCO;

3. *Requests* the Director-General to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General so that the “International Day for the Universal Access to Information” may also be endorsed by the General Assembly.

DEBATE 5

Item 6.1 – Draft Recommendation on Preservation and Access to Documentary Heritage including Digital Heritage

18. At its third and fourth meetings, the Commission examined Item 6.1 – Draft Recommendation on Preservation and Access to Documentary Heritage including Digital Heritage.

19. The representatives of 41 Member States took the floor.

20. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 10 of document 38 C/24 without amendments, with the understanding that the two references pertaining to the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to the 1993 Mataatua Declaration on Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be added in the appendix to the Recommendation. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Having examined document 38 C/24,

Reiterating the need for a standard-setting instrument concerning the preservation of, and access to documentary heritage, including in digital form, in the form of a Recommendation,

Recognizing that such a standard-setting instrument could be an essential tool to harmonize policies and strategies in this field, as well as to strengthen international cooperation, and public awareness about the challenges of safeguarding documentary heritage,

Thanking the Director-General for her substantial efforts to further the consultation process and reach a consensus in the proposed recommendations,

1. *Commends* the Member States and the international partner organizations which have contributed to the consultation process and have supported UNESCO in this important task;
2. *Decides* to adopt the Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to Documentary Heritage, including in Digital Form, contained in the Annex to this resolution;
3. *Recommends* that Member States initiate appropriate steps to adapt this new instrument to their specific contexts, disseminate it widely across their national territories, facilitate its implementation through the formulation and adoption of supporting policies, strategies and legislation, and to monitor its impact;
4. *Decides* that the periodicity of reporting on the action Member States have taken to give effect to this Recommendation will be every four years.

DEBATE 6**Item 7.2 – Third consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (38 C/28)**

21. At its fourth meeting, the Commission examined Item 7.2 – Third consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace.

22. The representatives of 12 Member States took the floor.

23. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution contained in paragraph 4 of the Third Report of the Legal Committee on this item, document 38 C/80, without further amendments. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Recalling 33 C/Resolution 54, 34 C/Resolution 49, 36 C/Resolution 58, and 197 EX/Decision 20 (VII),

Having examined document 38 C/28,

Recalling that the submission by Member States of periodic reports on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the General Conference is an obligation under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution and Article 17 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,

1. *Notes with concern* that only 22 Member States submitted reports for this third consultation;
2. *Invites* Member States to submit their reports at the next consultation;
3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, as well as its application by Member States, and *requests* the Director-General to increase efforts to strengthen the implementation of the Recommendation in cooperation with the Member States and the relevant international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
4. *Urges* those Member States that have not taken measures to implement the Recommendation to do so;
5. *Invites* the Director-General to submit to the General Conference at its 40th session the fourth consolidated report on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, and *decides* to include this item in the agenda of its 40th session.

DEBATE 7

Item 4.4 – Establishment of the Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO

Part XXII: Establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of a Global Centre for Excellence for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO

24. At its fourth meeting, the Commission examined Item 4.4 – Establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of a Global Centre for Excellence for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

25. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution contained in paragraph 3 of document 38 C/18 Part XXII without amendments. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93, and 197 EX/Decision 16 Part XXII,

Having examined document 38 C/18 Part XXII,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Government of Kuwait to establish in Kuwait City the Global Centre for Excellence (GCE) for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, which is to be done in conformity with document 37 C/18 Part I relating to the principles and guidelines for the establishment and functioning of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93;
2. *Approves* the establishment of the Global Centre for Excellence (GCE) for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Kuwait City, Kuwait, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, as recommended by the Executive Board at its 197th session (197 EX/Decision 16 Part XXII);
3. *Authorizes* the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement concerning the establishment of the Global Centre for Excellence (GCE) for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

DEBATE 8

Item 4.10 – The New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality

26. At its fourth meeting, the Commission examined Item 4.10 – The New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality.

27. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 12 of document 38 C/48 without amendments. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Recalling 196 EX/Decision 11,

Having examined document 38 C/48,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the action by UNESCO in this field;
2. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Government of India, to the State of Kuwait and other contributors for their substantial support and contribution to the organization of the conference “From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities”, 24-26 November 2014, New Delhi, India;
3. *Fully supports* the recommendations of the above-mentioned conference and endorses its Outcome Document contained in the Annex to document 38 C/48;
4. *Requests* the Director-General to:
 - (a) reinforce UNESCO’s role in the implementation of the UNCRPD (Articles 9, 21, 24 and 31 and other), where possible, and ensure that an approach sensitive to the inclusion of persons with disabilities informs UNESCO’s engagement with the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, based on, inter alia, the New Delhi Declaration on inclusive ICTs for persons with disabilities, the framework provided by the Intergovernmental Information for All (IFAP) strategic priority “Information accessibility”, as well as by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes implementation process,
 - (b) promote inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in all areas of UNESCO’s mandate, with a focus on application of open, inclusive and affordable technological solutions,
 - (c) explore, in a cross-sectoral manner, possibilities for establishing an alliance of relevant private companies and research institutions, working towards the empowerment of persons with disabilities and namely those operating in the field of information accessibility,
 - (d) support the collection of disability-disaggregated data where possible, in its areas of mandate, to bolster evidence-based policy formulation, products and services development and other work;
5. *Encourages* Member States and donor community to allocate extrabudgetary resources for disability-specific and disability mainstreaming programmes and projects, as well as data collection;
6. *Invites* the Director-General to report periodically to the Executive Board on the implementation of the Organization’s disability-related activities.

ANNEX

Item 3.4 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)

Item 4.5 – Conclusions of the Youth Forum

Summary of CI Commission's debate

1. The Communication and Information (CI) Commission dedicated its first debate to the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5) as well as to the consideration of the conclusions of the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum.
2. In his introductory remarks, the representative of the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, highlighted selected achievements as foundations for CI's future work. He underlined the impact of UNESCO's intersectoral work on the World Summit on the Information Society and stressed the increasing importance that freedom of expression is taking on as a human right both online and offline. The United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists, the development of Open Access activities in Member States, as well as UNESCO's promotion of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace are also key pillars for future action. The Deputy Director-General (DDG) moreover emphasized UNESCO's key role in the work on ICTs for persons with disabilities, and how the gender equality and Africa global priorities continue to be excellent foundations for future activities.
3. Quoting the Knowledge Societies reference in the 2030 Development Agenda, the DDG also emphasized the CI Sector's role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The representative from the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) informed Member States on the consultative process concerning the preparation of the future Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5), which will lead to its adoption at the 39th General Conference in 2017.
5. Two youth representatives presented the Commission with a selection of action recommendations issued by the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum. Among them were the creation of an innovative toolkit on global citizenship education to ensure the universal enjoyment of human rights, the setting up of youth foresight forums and the establishment of a global environment youth organization fostering learning through a virtual university. While these recommendations are not part of the C/5 document, a number of Member States voiced their support to these initiatives during the ensuing debate for their implementation at country level.
6. All Members States stressed the importance and quality of the work carried out by the Sector and the related Memory of World (MoW) and the Information For All Programme (IFAP), as well as the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). They agreed that UNESCO was uniquely positioned to contribute to the 2030 Agenda, notably as communication, information and related technologies serve as cross-cutting enablers of all areas of UNESCO's mandate. They are equally crucial enablers for the realization of the interrelated SDGs.
7. Many Member States voiced concerns about the budget allocation to MP V in relation to the ubiquitous role of communication and information in the digital era and for development. The need for additional financial resources and prioritization of activities along UNESCO's comparative advantages was stressed, emphasizing UNESCO's normative and conceptual leadership as well as its strong convening power through multi-stakeholder platforms. Member States also expressed their will to see vacant posts staffed as soon as possible, notably in field offices.
8. The universality of human rights both off-line and online was recalled. So were the principles summarized by the acronym ROAM which underscore that the Internet should be (1) Human

Rights-based, (2) Open, (3) Accessible to all, and (4) nurtured by Multi-Stakeholder participation. Delegations highlighted UNESCO's outstanding multi-stakeholder consultation process for the Internet Study and the conference CONNECTing the Dots, which finalized options for future action for UNESCO.

9. Inclusion being a foundation of knowledge societies, UNESCO was urged to continue to promote gender equality and to create opportunities for women, youth, people with disabilities and to help close the digital and knowledge divides.

10. Strong emphasis was also placed on the importance of freedom of expression and press freedom, with specific references made to media pluralism, independence and strengthening journalists' skills and capacities. The central importance of ensuring the safety of journalists was raised by many, not least through continued strengthening of UNESCO's leadership on the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

11. The continued promotion of these principles and the importance of media and information literacy, ethics, and the promotion of access to knowledge, as well as cultural understanding and tolerance, were underlined as key for UNESCO's future work. Many delegations noted the challenges of countering hate speech, radicalization and violent extremism. Member States thanked UNESCO for the work done in this area and encouraged CI's future work in this field.

12. UNESCO was urged to further leverage the intersectoral nature of its mandate and CI's catalysing, cross-cutting role was emphasized.

13. In response, the Deputy Director-General thanked Member States for their support to the CI Sector. He stressed the necessity to fulfil ambitions to support Member States to achieve the cross-cutting implementation of the SDGs in their own respective contexts.