



29 C/6

*General Conference
Twenty-ninth Session, Paris 1997*

Item 3.3 of the provisional agenda

Recommendations by the Executive Board on the Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999

OUTLINE

In accordance with Article V.B.6(a) of the Constitution, the Executive Board submits to the General Conference the recommendations that it drew up at its 151st session concerning the Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999 (151 EX/Decision 5.1A).



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

151 EX/DECISION 5.1A - RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 1998-1999

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined the Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999 (29 C/5),¹
2. Bearing in mind the orientations set out in the Medium-Term Strategy for 1996-2001 (28 C/4 Approved),
3. Recalling 150 EX/Decision 5.1 concerning the Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999,
4. Appreciating the efforts made to improve the readability of document 29 C/5 and to present a considerable amount of information, including comparative data from document 28 C/5, useful for understanding the proposals made,
5. Reaffirming the recommendations contained in paragraphs 71 and 72 of 150 EX/Decision 5.1, and considering that the efforts for improvement should be continued, in particular with a view to defining more precisely the activities geared to the objectives to be attained and the results expected during a given biennial period, indicating the costs and the necessary resources, and, where possible, the proposed duration of the projects; and specifying more clearly the results expected from co-operation with major international, governmental and non-governmental partners,
6. Stressing the need to establish and develop efficient systems for monitoring, reporting and evaluation, with a view to guiding the adjustments to be made at appropriate times and to facilitating the monitoring of programme execution by the governing bodies; and consequently to reinforce the Central Evaluation Unit,
7. Submits to the General Conference the Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999 (29 C/5), together with the following recommendations, for examination and for decision on the programme and budget to be adopted;²

I

Major Programme I - Education for all throughout life

8. Welcomes the budget reinforcement proposed for this major programme;
9. Reaffirms that the highest priority should be given to basic education for all in line with the Framework of Action adopted at the Jomtien World Conference on Education for All (March 1990), and that special emphasis should be placed on the educational needs of girls and women and of disadvantaged and marginalized youth, including school drop-outs and street and working children;
10. Welcomes the importance given to the strengthening of the follow-up to the Education-for-All Initiative of the nine high-population countries, and

1. Composed of three documents: Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999; Technical Annex and Proposed Resolutions.
2. In conformity with Article IV.B, paragraph 2, and Article V.B, paragraph 6, of the Constitution.

recommends that efforts should be intensified to promote basic education for all in these nine countries, in Africa and in the least-developed countries, particularly as regards education of girls and women, literacy and teacher training;

11. Reaffirms the need to strengthen early childhood education, special needs education and preventive education;
12. Recommends that innovative actions, employing, *inter alia*, distance education, be undertaken to reinforce literacy, post-literacy and basic adult education as well as skills training and continuing education, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth International Conference on Adult Education (Hamburg, July 1997);
13. Stresses the importance that should be attached to improving the quality and relevance of basic education, putting emphasis on basic scientific literacy and practical skills for daily life and employment, adapted to the specific needs and language of the learners;
14. Reaffirms the importance of promoting reflection and debate in Member States on the Report of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century with a view to fostering the reform of education systems to meet present and future challenges;
15. Recommends that increased emphasis be placed on promoting science and technology education, particularly at primary and secondary levels, and on strengthening technical and vocational education, in particular through the reinforcement of the UNEVOC project and of its regional approach; recommends further, in this context, the development of a model for technical and vocational education and training for the Asia-Pacific region;
16. Recognizing the vital role of teachers in ensuring the quality and relevance of education, stresses the need to reinforce Member States' capacity to strengthen teacher education and to improve their status as a follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the 45th session of the International Conference on Education;
17. Welcomes the emphasis placed on the renewal of universities and other higher education institutions and recommends, to this end, the convening of a World Conference on Higher Education in 1998;
18. Reaffirms the importance of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs programme in fostering inter-university co-operation and the transfer of knowledge, and stresses, in this regard, the need to develop further the concept and the criteria for selecting appropriate institutions, in close collaboration with competent international institutions and organizations such as the United Nations University, paying particular attention to ensuring a better balance in the geographical distribution of Chairs and in the subjects or themes covered by them;
19. Emphasizes the importance of encouraging Member States to mobilize the various segments of civil society with a view to their participation in the development of education;

20. Recommends that continued efforts be made to mobilize the support of institutional partners of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, regional development banks as well as bilateral donors in attaining the goal of basic education for all, to enhance inter-agency co-operation and, to that end, to jointly prepare for a follow-up conference to the Jomtien World Conference on Education for All;
21. Reiterates, in this connection, the appeal addressed by the International Conference on Education at its 45th session (October 1996), to international organizations and donors to support educational projects in developing countries, particularly in Africa, the Education-for-All project and the E-9 initiative for education without frontiers;
22. Considers that a more coherent approach should be achieved for the UNESCO education institutes - including those whose establishment as UNESCO institutes is proposed to the General Conference (the Institute for Information Technologies in Education - Moscow) or is under consideration (the International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education - Baoding, China and the International Institute for Peace and Capacity-building - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) - with a view to ensuring a clear division of tasks and avoiding duplication of efforts among the institutes and vis-à-vis the Secretariat;
23. Underlines the need to allocate to all these institutes the necessary resources so that they may discharge, with maximum efficiency, all the tasks assigned to them by the General Conference;

Major Programme II - The sciences in the service of development

24. Reaffirms the importance that should be attached to improving university-level teaching and research in basic and engineering sciences, to strengthening co-operation with competent scientific networks and institutions, such as the Inter-regional Network of Scientists of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to supporting the development of new national, regional and international scientific networks - both South-South and South-North;
25. Considers that the objectives of the World Science Conference to be held in 1999 should be more clearly defined, indicating the complementary roles of the natural and the social and human sciences, in collaboration with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and with other partners (relevant institutions of the United Nations system as well as competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations); recommends that a wide range of expertise drawn, on a balanced basis, from all regions of the world be associated with the preparation of this conference, including in the framework of the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB); recommends also that collaboration with partner institutions should be reinforced in preparing the conference and in ensuring its follow-up;
26. Stresses the need to clarify further - before its establishment - the mandate of the proposed World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology, in the light *inter alia* of the conclusions of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on sustainable development (June, 1997) and of the expected outcome of the World Science Conference; recommends that this

Commission should have a flexible and transparent structure, enabling it to have recourse to networking with corresponding members in the different regions, and to associate with its work the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences (ICPHS), the International Council of Social Sciences (ICSS) and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), other competent scientific institutions and the five intergovernmental scientific programmes of UNESCO, with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts;

27. Recommends that efforts should be intensified to strengthen co-operation between university and industry, especially in developing countries and the LDCs, through the UNISPAR programme;
28. Welcomes the support envisaged for the maintenance of scientific equipment in developing countries, particularly in Africa, and reiterates its recommendation to encourage the Director-General to reinforce the involvement of all the Sectors, with the Member States concerned, in the development and implementation of activities and training related to the umbrella project 'Culture of maintenance' and to ensure appropriate interdisciplinary and intersectoral co-ordination;³
29. Reaffirms the importance that should be attached to the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 and recommends that efforts should be strengthened to sensitize Member States and international financial institutions to the importance of implementing the 300 projects proposed under the World Solar Programme; recommends further that UNESCO collaborate more closely with competent institutions of the United Nations system with a view to transforming the programme into a joint United Nations endeavour and to ensuring funding necessary for its implementation both from regular and extrabudgetary resources. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the successful launching of the global renewable energy education and training programme and facilitating, in liaison with its Chairman, the activation of the African Solar Council;
30. While reaffirming its adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stresses the need for ensuring respect for pluralism and cultural diversity in the implementation of the project on 'universal ethics' which should contribute towards reinforcing the dialogue between cultures, ensuring a deeper knowledge and a better understanding of their most fundamental values;
31. Reaffirms the importance of philosophy education and recommends that the activities aimed at improving philosophy curricula at all levels of education be reinforced, as appropriate, through the creation of UNESCO Chairs in philosophy, particularly in developing countries, and the development of networks for philosophy education;
32. Reaffirms the need to develop transdisciplinary approaches to facilitate the sustainable management of complex environmental issues and welcomes in this connection the initiatives taken in the framework of the two intersectoral projects ('Environment and development in coastal regions and in small islands', and 'Cities: management of social transformations and the environment'); recommends that the use of such approaches be extended to other activities, including those on behalf of population groups affected by natural hazards or

3. In line with 151 EX/Decision 10.4.

technological disasters, placing emphasis on the preventive dimension of such activities; recommends the reinforcement of the activities relating to regions prone to natural disasters, under Programme II.4.2, 'Earth sciences, earth system management and natural hazards'; and stresses the need in this context to take into account the conclusions of the Rio +5 conference to be held in June 1997;

33. Stresses, in view of the growing scarcity of water resources worldwide, the importance that should be attached in document 29 C/5 to developing an integrated approach to the management of ground, surface and fresh water resources, in both rural and urban areas, in order to enhance their sustainable use;
34. Stresses the importance of the activities under TEMA (Training, Education and Mutual Assistance in the Marine Sciences) within the programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;
35. Welcomes the recapitulatory table, as presented in the Technical Annex of document 29 C/5 (paras. 284-293), as an instrument for enhancing the visibility and coherence of all of UNESCO's activities in the social and human sciences, including human rights and philosophy and ethics; in this context, the re-establishment of a major programme in social and human sciences should not be ruled out;
36. Notes with satisfaction the budgetary reinforcement proposed for the activities in the field of social and human sciences, and in particular those under the MOST programme;
37. Underlines the need to reorient UNESCO's activities so as to meet better the interests, needs and aspirations of youth and to identify more effective ways of associating closely young people and youth organizations from all regions of the world in the design and implementation of activities in all of UNESCO's programmes, especially those in favour of youth;

Major Programme III - Cultural development: the heritage and creativity

38. Stresses the importance of reinforcing intercultural dialogue as a factor of peace, tolerance and mutual understanding among peoples;
39. Recommends that an evaluation be carried out of the World Decade for Cultural Development, which comes to an end in 1997, with a view to identifying the most appropriate means for continuing to foster the acknowledgement of the cultural dimension of development;
40. Stresses the importance of encouraging the continuation of discussions and reflection in Member States on the questions raised in the Report of the World Commission on Culture and Development, 'Our Creative Diversity', and of making the results of such discussions and reflection available to Member States;
41. Recommends that measures be taken to ensure the appropriate follow-up to the recommendations of the Conference on Cultural Life in Central and East European countries (Budapest, 1997) and the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, 1998);

42. Considers that the World Culture Report, which should take full account of cultural and linguistic diversity, should contribute to the improvement of international cultural statistics, to the elaboration of national and international cultural indicators and to the development of innovative cultural policies;
43. Recommends that in the proposals concerning the safeguarding of the natural and cultural heritage, care be taken to use terminology which clearly reflects the spirit of international co-operation enshrined in UNESCO's Constitution;
44. Recommends that, in the framework of the action for the safeguarding and revitalization of the intangible heritage, emphasis should be placed on the preservation of oral traditions, and endangered languages and forms of cultural expression, in particular those of minorities and indigenous peoples; recommends also that the Harare Conference on Linguistic Policies in Africa (March, 1997) be appropriately followed up;
45. Recommends further that support be given to the study of the impact of historical gardens on societies in Central and South Asia and their role in modern times as centres of cultural tourism, with a view to declaring one such garden as a regional research centre;
46. Notes with satisfaction the new emphasis placed in document 29 C/5, under Programme III.2, 'Promotion of living cultures', on the role of traditional cultures in fostering creativity, and in this context recommends the strengthening of existing networks;

Major Programme IV - Communication, information and informatics

47. Reaffirms the importance of the two components of UNESCO's strategy in the area of communication, information and informatics: to promote the free flow of information and to broaden access to it; and to strengthen the capacities of Member States, especially developing countries;
48. Recalls the priority to be given to the promotion of the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press as well as the pluralism and the independence of the media;
49. Stresses the importance of actions aimed at encouraging the reduction of violence in the media, especially on the screen, and at identifying ways and means of protecting children; and recommends that in close co-operation with Major Programme I, these actions be further developed within a more encompassing concept of media education;
50. Welcomes activities aimed at enhancing the role of women in the media, particularly through the WOMMED/FEMMED network;
51. Welcomes the extended mandate of the General Information Programme (PGI), which meets the new needs of Member States and stresses the necessity to provide it with support through extrabudgetary resources;

52. Reaffirms the importance of the role of libraries and emphasizes the necessity to provide support for the 'Reading for All' initiative to enhance access to reading for all classes of society, particularly in developing countries;
53. Stresses the importance of the Memory of the World Programme for ensuring the preservation and diffusion of important and/or endangered works, which form part of the heritage of humanity and which are held in museums, libraries and audiovisual or print archives; stresses also the need to clarify further the criteria for selection of such works and to address legal questions relating to the use of documents placed on the Internet; and considers that this programme should be further strengthened with support from extrabudgetary resources;
54. Emphasizes the priority that should be given to the development of archives in Member States and expresses the wish, in this connection, that efforts be pursued to improve the quality of the archival services of UNESCO;
55. Notes the importance attached to reflection on the ethical and socio-cultural challenges of the information society and to the possibilities that the new information and communication technologies offer for the development of education, science and culture; and stresses the need for intersectoral collaboration in the implementation of the proposed actions, as well as inter-agency co-operation in this area;
56. Reaffirms that a high priority should continue to be given to strengthening the capacities of Member States, particularly developing countries, in the fields of communication, information and informatics, with emphasis on training, and welcomes the budgetary reinforcement proposed for these activities; recommends, in this connection, the organization of regional seminars for training informatics professionals in the use of information highways for education, training and research purposes;
57. Considers in particular that, while supporting the access of developing countries to new information and communication technologies, the Organization should continue its action to promote the development of print media, radio and television, and underlines in this regard, the importance of training in the use and maintenance of equipment;

Transdisciplinary projects and activities

Educating for a sustainable future (environment, population, development)

58. Reaffirms, while noting the recommendations of the external evaluation recently carried out, that the transdisciplinary project 'Educating for a sustainable future' should be reoriented and focus its action primarily on education, and recommends that the project should be based on intersectoral and inter-agency collaboration;

Towards a culture of peace

59. Reaffirms that all of UNESCO's activities ought to contribute to peace in accordance with the constitutional mandate of the Organization and therefore whilst expressing its agreement with the objectives of the transdisciplinary project 'Towards a culture of peace', considers that the conceptual basis of the project

needs to be further developed and that the 'added value' it brings to UNESCO's action for peace needs to be more clearly demonstrated; therefore proposes that the General Conference invite the Director-General to submit a thorough evaluation report on this project to the Executive Board at its 155th session;

60. Recommends that priority be given to concrete activities, such as the Associated Schools Project;
61. Reaffirms that co-operation with armed forces should fall clearly within the fields of UNESCO's competence and that initiatives in this regard should only be undertaken in close co-operation with the Member States and through the usual channels of communication;
62. Notes with satisfaction the proposal to concentrate efforts and resources on action in the fields of education and training for peace, human rights, democracy, tolerance and international understanding; underlines the importance of elaborating teaching materials and pedagogical aids in these fields, and recommends that priority be given to their translation into different languages as well as to their dissemination in all regions;
63. Recommends also that support be given to the efforts of Member States aimed at promoting linguistic diversity in education, in particular through teachers' exchange programmes;
64. Stresses the importance of initiatives taken in Member States or through bilateral or multilateral co-operation which aim at fostering research, the sharing of knowledge and teaching in the fields of history and geography, including the revision of textbooks and curricula - which deserve full support by UNESCO;
65. Considers that the activities that will be carried out by UNESCO on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should focus on making better known the existing normative instruments relevant to UNESCO's fields of competence, with particular attention to those relating to women, and recommends that these activities be carried out in close co-operation with the other institutions of the United Nations system;
66. Recommends that the activities relating to the struggle against all forms of racism, intolerance and discrimination, as well as those aimed at promoting intercultural and inter-faith dialogue be reinforced;
67. Stresses the importance of ensuring an appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Action Plan of the International Year for Tolerance, including the celebration of the International Day for Tolerance (16 November), in particular through the establishment and development of networks for tolerance in different regions;
68. Recommends that a programme for the reconstruction of peace and democracy for sustainable development in the Great Lakes region of Africa be developed within UNESCO's fields of competence, and in partnership with the other international organizations concerned and Member States;

69. Further recommends that, in close co-operation with the competent authorities of the Republic of Albania and in close co-ordination with the other international organizations concerned, a plan of action be implemented for the rehabilitation of educational, cultural and scientific institutions and the restoration of the cultural and architectural heritage of Albania;
70. Recommends, lastly, that, in the framework of the intercultural project on the 'Slave Route', support be given, in addition to that provided to the Gorée Memorial, to other memorial sites, locations and institutions of historic importance in all regions of the world, such as the Museum and the International Centre for Studies and Research on the black Diaspora and its relations with Africa, in Ouidah (Benin), the Museum of Matanzas (Cuba) and the Museum of the Croix de Bosales (Haiti);

Fellowship and Equipment Services

71. Stresses the need, in the management of the fellowships as well as study and travel grants provided under the regular programme and extrabudgetary resources, to give priority to requests emanating from young people;

Priority Africa Department

72. Recommends:
- (a) to assign to the Priority Africa Department, in addition to the tasks already envisaged, a mission of forward and future-oriented thinking on the development of the situation now prevailing in Africa, in order to make the Organization's policies and activities correspond more closely to it;
 - (b) to entrust the Priority Africa Department with the implementation of a limited number of specific projects, five at most, that should be identified in the light of the priorities required by the new African context and whose results should be measurable within a specified time;
 - (c) to envisage that the continuation of the Priority Africa Programme, in view of its exceptional nature, should be limited in time (six years at most) so as to enable a full evaluation to be carried out;

Participation Programme

73. Welcomes the establishment of a separate budget line for the Participation Programme, as a measure which should lead to further improving the functioning of this programme as a means of enhancing the participation of Member States and their National Commissions in achieving UNESCO's objectives, and recommends that the Participation Programme be presented under a separate section of Part II.A of the Programme and Budget;

New Partnerships

74. Notes with satisfaction the emphasis placed, in document 29 C/5, on mobilizing new partners within civil society, and reaffirms the need to ensure that such partnerships are forged through co-operation with the National Commissions

which, as principal focal points for UNESCO's activities in Member States, are essential actors in the decentralization process and have a vital role to play in facilitating interactive relations among the Organization's various national partners and in promoting public awareness of its ideals and activities;

II

75. Having examined the Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999 (29 C/5, Corr. (Technical Annex) and Corr.2), prepared by the Director-General and submitted to the Executive Board in accordance with Article VI.3(a) of the Constitution,
76. Submits, as provided for in Article V.6(a) of the Constitution, this draft with the following recommendations to the General Conference for approval;
77. Noting that document 29 C/5 presented in three volumes contains additional useful information and is more readable and transparent,
78. Further noting that most of the directives contained in 150 EX/Decision 5.1, paragraph 83, have been applied by the Director-General,
79. Noting with regret the continuing presence of a large number of high-level posts in the Secretariat and the new proposal in document 29 C/5 which would further aggravate this situation,
80. Recalling its recommendation to the Director-General as contained in 150 EX/Decision 5.1, especially paragraphs 73 to 76, to prepare a Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999 (29 C/5) of up to but not in any circumstances exceeding \$544,367,250,
81. Drawing the attention of the General Conference to the downward trend of budgets of international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, to nominal zero growth and even less, and to the desire of certain Member States to maintain nominal zero growth for the budget of UNESCO,
82. Further drawing the attention of the General Conference to the similar trend in national budgets of almost all Member States, caused by the severe financial constraints they are facing,
83. Also drawing the attention of the General Conference to the strong wish of Members of the Executive Board to restrict the budget for 1998-1999 to a level reflecting the above considerations,
84. Recommends that the General Conference approve a budget ceiling which under no circumstances exceeds \$544,367,250 for the biennium 1998-1999;
85. Recommends that the General Conference examine different options within this limit;
86. Considers that, in the appropriation resolution, it is necessary to stipulate the number of established posts for the 1998-1999 biennium, including the staff assigned to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the World Heritage Centre (WHC);

87. Recommends that the same resolution should indicate the posts assigned to the International Bureau of Education (IBE), the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) and the UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE);
88. Considers that the amounts earmarked for the operations of IOC and WHC should not under any circumstances be modified by transferring funds to other Parts of the budget;
89. Recommends that the General Conference should consider that all parts of document 29 C/5 form an integral whole and, as such, should be subjected to formal approval in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 2, and Article IX, paragraph 2, of the Constitution;
90. Further recommends that the General Conference decide to publish the approved 29 C/5 documents in a one-volume format, which would be more user-friendly for partners of the Organization in Member States;
91. Invites the General Conference to include within the budget ceiling the expenses mentioned in paragraph 1804 of the Technical Annex of document 29 C/5; recommends that it provide within the 29 C/5 budget ceiling a budgetary line of \$8.7 million for inside and outside structural repairs (for safety reasons), and not for embellishments, and for the complete cabling of Headquarters; it being understood that this amount could nevertheless be revised subsequently, in the light of the Director-General's report on the progress of work;
92. Recommends that the General Conference invite the Director-General to execute in an effective and rational manner the programme of work and budget approved within funds available from assessed contributions and miscellaneous income and to restrict the periods and amounts of external and internal borrowing to the strict minimum with a view to phasing out external borrowing as soon as possible;
93. Recommends also that the General Conference invite the Director-General to continue to fully participate in the common services of the Joint Machinery of the United Nations system, including the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, and to continue his efforts to help improve those services;
94. Further recommends to the General Conference that, except for Part VII, no transfer modifying the amounts originally approved for each appropriation line by more than 10 per cent may be made; recommends lastly that necessary rules for budgetary transfers be established in the Financial Regulations.



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21 October 1997
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Item 3.3 of the agenda

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1998-1999**

ADDENDUM

At its 152nd session, the Executive Board adopted the following decision for consideration by the General Conference:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined the Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999 (29 C/5 Draft) prepared by the Director-General and submitted to the Executive Board in accordance with Article VI.3(a) of the Constitution and document 29 C/5 Rev.1,
2. Submits, as provided for in Article V.6(a) of the Constitution, this draft with the following recommendations to the General Conference for approval;
3. Recalling its recommendation to the Director-General as contained in 150 EX/Decision 5.1, paragraphs 73 to 76, and 151 EX/Decision 5.1, paragraphs 80 to 84, to prepare a Draft Programme and Budget for 1998-1999 (29 C/5) of up to but not in any circumstances exceeding \$544,367,250,
4. Aware of the ever-growing needs of Member States in the fields of UNESCO's competence and the desire of some Member States to see at least some modest growth in the biennial budget of the Organization,
5. Welcoming the return of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to UNESCO and considering that its assessed contribution will enhance the finances of the Organization,
6. Drawing the attention of the General Conference to the downward trend of budgets of international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, to nominal zero growth and even less, and to the desire of certain Member States to maintain nominal zero growth for the budget of UNESCO,

7. Further drawing the attention of the General Conference to the similar trend in national budgets of almost all Member States, caused by the severe financial constraints they are facing,
8. Recommends that the General Conference, in the light of the above considerations approve a budget ceiling of \$544,367,250 for the biennium 1998-1999 and consequently invites the Director-General to submit an appropriate document reflecting the amount of a budget of \$544,367,250 as contained in 29 C/5 Rev.1, Annex II.A, penultimate columns.