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**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

SUMMARY

This report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of progress in the follow-up of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its previous sessions.

CONTENTS

	Page
1. 164 EX/Decision 7.1.2: The United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage 2002.....	1
2. 166 EX/Decision 3.5.1: UNESCO’s contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).....	5
3. 165 EX/Decision 9.3: Relations with partners in Member States: Use of UNESCO’s name/emblem	7

164 EX/Decision 7.1.2***The United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage 2002***

1. The idea of developing a Special Project for the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage figures in paragraph 04110 of document 31 C/5. Immediately after the closing of the 31st General Conference of UNESCO, the United Nations General Assembly, on 21 November 2001, adopted resolution 56/8 proclaiming 2002 as the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage and invited UNESCO to serve as lead agency for the year. At its 164th session, the Executive Board, by 164 EX/Decision 7.1.2, requested the Director-General to report to it at its 167th session on the implementation of this decision.
2. The resolution of the United Nations General Assembly was adopted after the approval of the Programme and Budget for 2002-2003 (31 C/5). The Secretariat had to cope with the fact that the preparation of the programme of an international year and the distribution of information within the United Nations system, to Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the scientific community and the media normally would take up to one year, as was the case with the International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2001. Nevertheless, drawing from the experience gained in the preparation and implementation of the activities of the year 2001, the Secretariat was able to shorten this period to four months and to organize the official launch of the Year during a conference at United Nations Headquarters on 3 April 2002.
3. The Director-General proposed to base the activities of the Year on the **two principal themes of “dialogue” and “development”** and foresaw three main objectives for the Year: to intensify the implementation of programmes, activities and projects aimed at promoting and protecting the world cultural heritage; to promote education and raise public awareness to foster respect for national and world cultural heritage; to encourage voluntary contributions to finance and support activities aimed at promoting and protecting national and world cultural heritage. The Director-General set up an intersectoral taskforce and the Executive Office of the Culture Sector managed the secretariat for the Year.
4. The immediate task was the publication of **information material on the Year** in the form of a kit explaining the riches and diversity of cultural heritage. The kit describes some 20 different manifestations of such heritage reaching from cultural heritage sites to handicrafts, the digital heritage, oral traditions and traditional sports and games; and it sums up the programmes developed by UNESCO in these areas during more than 50 years. By proposing an open notion of cultural heritage, which can develop new objects and put forward new meanings as it reflects living culture rather than an ossified image of the past, the kit encountered an enormous success with National Commissions and NGOs. It was viewed as a tool to raise awareness on the indivisibility of the tangible and the intangible expressions of cultural heritage, protecting cultures and the dialogue between them. This notion is also conveyed by the logo designed for the Year, which expresses via a calligraphic and manual approach the fundamental idea of “culture, mirror of humanity”. The success and impact of this information material that was also put on the Web can be judged from the countless requests for the use of the Year’s logo not only by national authorities, but also by numerous grass-roots organizations in all regions, as well as continuous offers to translate the material into local languages. Several countries launched national campaigns for the Year and created specific websites for this purpose.
5. The Secretariat published and constantly updated a calendar of the Year, including references to some 300 initiatives at national, regional and international level. National campaigns aiming at awareness-raising among the general public for the values enshrined in cultural heritage included the organization of exhibitions, festivals, photo competitions, youth contests, awarding of prizes for

the conservation of monuments and in artistic disciplines, as well as the striking of commemorative medals, the edition of postal stamps, folders and publications on the national heritage. Several countries also initiated national heritage days, weeks or months with free access to museums and sites, conferences, lectures and radio and television productions. NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO launched the campaign *Heritage for a Culture of Peace* with the aim of capitalizing local heritage as an awareness-raising and action tool for a culture of peace.

6. A major focus was laid on major regional and international conferences with the aim of advancing the international consensus on ways and means to effectively **protect and safeguard cultural heritage** while advancing a global and holistic approach to the notion of cultural heritage. The central event was the international congress entitled *World Heritage 2002: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility*, held in Venice in November 2002, in cooperation with the Italian authorities. Nine associated workshops, in celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the World Heritage Convention of 1972, gathered more than 600 participants. The need was stressed for UNESCO to strengthen its role in conserving our World Heritage in partnership with the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, civil society and the private sector, and hence the new World Heritage Partnership Initiative was launched for an initial period from 2002 to 2007 focusing especially on public-private partnerships. As of June 2003, the number of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention totals 176 States Parties, 12 of which have joined since 2001. In the same vein, the total number of properties on the World Heritage List as of July 2003 is 754 including 582 cultural sites.

7. In September 2002, UNESCO organized the **third Round Table of Ministers of Culture on Intangible Cultural Heritage – a Mirror of Diversity** in Istanbul, at the generous invitation of the Turkish authorities. Representatives of 110 countries, including 71 ministers of culture, as well as of nine intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated in this two-day meeting, at the end of which the *Istanbul Declaration* was adopted, containing a set of guiding principles for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and aiming at building international solidarity in this domain. In this context, the idea of drafting a **Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage** was endorsed.

8. During the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, the drafting of this Convention was one of UNESCO's prime objectives, aiming to build a normative framework for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage that would eventually become as effective as the World Heritage Convention of 1972 is for tangible cultural and natural heritage. During the Year, a series of expert meetings were held with a view to elaborating a working definition of the "intangible cultural heritage" together with a glossary. As of September 2002, in the course of three intergovernmental expert meetings, a draft convention was elaborated for submission to the 32nd session of the General Conference of UNESCO in 2003.

9. During the Year, preparations for the second **Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity** were made and 66 candidature files were received with the participation of more than 70 countries from all regions. Preparatory assistance was granted to 41 projects, providing expertise, facilitating the organization of meetings at the local and national level, consultations and the provision of inventories of indicative lists, workshops and seminars, as well as the compilation of required documentation and the undertaking of fieldwork.

10. Finally, in the field of intangible heritage, a partnership with Discovery Channel has resulted in the production of a series of short films (vignettes) on nine endangered languages in different countries and UNESCO's Beijing Office produced 33 hours of video recordings of the She and Manchu languages.

11. In numerous operational projects in the field, UNESCO has demonstrated that cultural heritage can be an instrument for peace and reconciliation by organizing intercommunity reconciliation activities focusing on the joint safeguarding of heritage affected by conflicts. Foremost among these is the programme for the safeguarding and development of the site of Angkor, Cambodia. Activities have further included a workshop for conservation specialists of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the safeguarding of cultural sites of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the support of the Republic of Korea, the start of reconstruction works of the Mostar Old Bridge in Bosnia and Herzegovina together with the World Bank, an expert mission to Kosovo in order to evaluate and develop recommendations on the status and safeguarding of the heritage of the different communities, the training of museum professionals in Timor-Leste as part of the project to create the Timor-Leste Cultural Centre and National Museum, the setting up of the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage with special attention being paid to the rehabilitation to the Kabul Museum and the sites of Bamiyan, Herat and Jam, studies for the restoration of two monuments – one Orthodox, the other Muslim – in the Republic of Cyprus.

12. With the aim of **fostering intercultural dialogue** and encouraging positive convergence between cultures through the presentation and recognition of a common heritage and plural identities, UNESCO paid special attention to the tangible and oral heritage in Africa and the Caribbean, with special reference to the slave trade and with a view to establishing slavery museums in Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Liberia, and designing cultural tourism routes documenting oral traditions related to the tragedy. This work will directly feed into the programme for 2004, proclaimed by the United Nations as the "International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition". Under the Arabia Plan which seeks to foster intercultural dialogue with the Arab region, a film on the Arab cultural heritage has been produced. With regard to the Mediterranean region, the project entitled "Navigation of Knowledge" was launched in May 2002. Subsidized by the European Union, it will bring together scientists from nine countries, who have shared concerns for the underwater cultural heritage and the historical Mediterranean dockyards threatened by neglect.

13. Through educational projects, UNESCO has sought to mobilize young people to protect and promote cultural heritage while strengthening intercultural dialogue. During the United Nations Year, special attention was given to the wide distribution of heritage educational material. The education kit "World Heritage in Young Hands" has been translated into more than 20 languages and is locally used by teachers. Some eight teacher-training seminars and an international conference in Aswan/Cairo have been organized. The Organization also set up a website on formal and non-formal arts education containing the findings of regional consultations in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and the Arab region, with a view to assisting policy-makers at the national and regional level to frame their art policies.

14. Committed to the notion that culture and especially **cultural heritage is a condition for sustainable development**, UNESCO implemented various projects relating to the cross-cutting theme *Eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty*. These are:

- development of cultural ecotourism in mountainous regions in selected developing countries aiming at poverty eradication through tourism, reduction of rural-urban migration and preservation of cultural and natural heritage;
- strategy for the sustainable development of tourism in the Sahara aiming at fostering the incorporation of poverty reduction in the Sahara into tourism development strategies in ten countries;

- traditional crafts as a window to job opportunities for the poorest youth, aiming at providing disadvantaged children and youth with skills in traditional craftsmanship, imparting awareness of their cultural heritage;
- youth development and poverty reduction through sustainable community tourism, focusing on unemployed youth, primarily in rural communities with a potential for the development of sustainable heritage tourism in selected countries in the Caribbean.

15. The United Nations General Assembly devoted one day of plenary meetings at its fifty-seventh session, on 4 December 2002, to mark the end of the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage. Representatives from Member States from all regions took the floor and reaffirmed the symbolic importance of the Year. They specifically underlined the common responsibility for cultural heritage, its role in promoting mutual understanding and in reconciling history with modern times, as well as the important role played by local communities in its safeguarding. They further stressed the need for further progress in international legal protection of cultural heritage and called for international strategies and concerted action for its safeguarding. Pursuant to the discussion, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/158 reaffirming, *inter alia*, the importance of further developing international mechanisms for safeguarding and protecting the world cultural heritage and encouraging UNESCO to explore ways to intensify international cooperation in this regard. The resolution also invites the Director-General of UNESCO to address and present to the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, an overview of the activities undertaken during the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage.

16. With the aim of stemming up support for UNESCO's action, a press luncheon was organized at the United Nations Headquarters with the participation of representatives of 15 Member States who are generously financing operational projects of UNESCO for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of humanity through extrabudgetary funds. Furthermore, a photographic exhibition on selected UNESCO World Heritage sites "Our Past Our Future" was organized in cooperation with the mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations.

17. The results of the United Nations Year cannot be immediately measured, but it can be affirmed that the Year offered an excellent opportunity to raise awareness among UNESCO's stakeholders on the importance of the safeguarding of cultural heritage. During the Year, several countries announced new extrabudgetary contributions to UNESCO in recognition of the Organization's unique expertise and pivotal role as a coordinator of international efforts to safeguard cultural heritage.

166 EX/Decision 3.5.1

UNESCO's contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

1. By 166 EX/Decision 3.5.1, the Executive Board, having examined document 166 EX/19 on UNESCO's contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003 and Tunis, 2005), "... encourages the Director-General to continue to involve non-governmental organizations and civil society closely in the WSIS process; and requests the Director-General to report to it at its 167th session on the consultations made and recommendations prepared for the WSIS, and at its 169th session on the results of the Summit meeting in Geneva."
2. During the period under review, the Organization has continued to be actively involved in the WSIS preparation process. UNESCO, which was represented during all events for the WSIS preparation including the second meeting of the WSIS Preparatory Committee (Geneva, 17-28 February), also ensured a strong presence during the Pan-Arab Regional Conference for the WSIS that took place from 16 to 18 June in Cairo, Egypt. Participants of the 10th Quadrennial and Statutory Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO of the Africa Region (Yaounde, 2-7 June 2003) were briefed on the Summit preparations during a special working session.
3. From 15 to 18 July 2003, UNESCO hosted the WSIS intersessional meeting bringing together more than 700 participants, both governmental representatives and observers from intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, to refine the working documents for the Draft Declaration of Principles and the Draft Plan of Action.
4. Prior to the meeting, UNESCO provided in-depth comments on these two documents and briefed the Permanent Delegations of Member States to UNESCO on this contribution that was based on the concept of knowledge societies rather than on that of a global information society. It focused on key principles that UNESCO considers as essential for the development of equitable knowledge societies, namely cultural and linguistic diversity, equal access to education, universal access to information and freedom of expression.
5. In the framework of its activities aimed at providing intellectual input to the Summit process, UNESCO has launched a series of publications (available in English and French) aimed at providing background for discussing the issues of UNESCO's concern related to the information society.
6. UNESCO became the co-manager, with ITU and FAO, of the Taskforce on ICTs of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE). In mobilizing for the WSIS, the core duties of the taskforce are to coordinate and facilitate the integration of gender concerns in the WSIS, and to increase the visibility of the United Nation's work in the field of gender and ICTs. The taskforce has more specifically been mandated by the IANWGE to facilitate United Nations activities in the run up to the WSIS, to coordinate joint United Nations events at the WSIS and the development of fact sheets based on the WSIS themes, and to prepare a publication on *Aspects of the Information Society from a Gender Perspective* for the 2005 Summit in Tunis. An electronic forum has been established by the International Research and Training for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) which is operational. A paper on *Gender and the information society* has been prepared as one of UNESCO's contributions to the WSIS.
7. Finally, UNESCO, through the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, has been nominated as a member of the International Advisory Panel (IAP) of the "ICT4D" platform, an important WSIS side event, with particular responsibility for the priority theme "Enhancing Human Capacity and Empowerment" (capacity-building, formal and non-formal education, skills development, e-learning).

165 EX/Decision 9.3***Relations with partners in Member States:
Use of UNESCO's name/emblem***

1. The following steps have been taken following the examination by the Executive Board at its 165th session of the report by the Director-General on the progress made in the preparation of guidelines for selecting partners in the Member States, including the rules and regulations governing the use of UNESCO's name and emblem by these partners (165 EX/37 and 165 EX/51 Part II).
2. In February 2003, the United Nations Secretary-General established a High-Level Panel for reviewing relations between the United Nations system and civil society, including parliamentarians and the private sector. This panel chaired by the former President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, will also examine relevant guidelines of the United Nations system. A first report on the outcome of the work of this task force is expected for the first semester of 2004.
3. Pending this report, which is likely to affect relevant UNESCO policies, several measures have been taken by the Secretariat in order to improve the regulatory framework for developing UNESCO's relations with partners, including the rules and provisions governing the use of the name/emblem of UNESCO by its partners:
 - (i) in recent training seminars, National Commissions were sensitized about their crucial role in establishing partnerships at national levels and in monitoring the use of UNESCO's name and/or emblem within Member States; specific proposals for relevant guidelines have been collected from National Commissions;
 - (ii) in cooperation with the Legal Adviser, several National Commissions were advised to take action against reported misuse of UNESCO's name and/or emblem in specific Member States;
 - (iii) in the recently established Working Group between UNESCO and the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, the Federation was sensitized about the need for protecting UNESCO's name and temple emblem;
 - (iv) in cooperation with the Bureau of Public Information, terms of reference were finalized for subcontracting professional services for the elaboration of a graphic identity of the Organization;
 - (v) at the occasion of the next meeting of the United Nations system's focal point for private sector relations to be hosted by UNESCO, the experience gathered within the United Nations system with respect to the implementation of partnership guidelines will be reviewed;
 - (vi) relevant provisions within UNESCO's Manual (sponsorship, partnerships) are presently being revised.