

Hundred and sixty-seventh Session

167 EX/10
PARIS, 7 August 2003
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Item 3.6.1 of the provisional agenda

JERUSALEM AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 166 EX/DECISION 3.4.1

SUMMARY

The Director-General submits this document in accordance with 30 C/Resolution 28 of the General Conference and the decisions of the Executive Board relating to the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Jerusalem, and particularly the provisions of 166 EX/Decision 3.4.1.

1. By 166 EX/Decision 3.4.1, the Executive Board decided to include this item on the agenda of its 167th session, having noted that “despite the sustained and praiseworthy efforts of the Director-General to implement the numerous resolutions of the General Conference and the decisions of the Executive Board on the safeguarding of Jerusalem”, it had not been possible to implement those decisions and resolutions. The Executive Board also reaffirmed all its previous decisions on the subject and invited the Director-General to pursue his efforts to secure their implementation.
2. Pursuant to 30 C/Resolution 28 of the General Conference and 159 EX/Decision 3.4.1 of the Executive Board, the Director-General entrusted Professor Oleg Grabar, a specialist in the History of art and Islamic architecture at Princeton University (United States of America), with a mission to Jerusalem, requesting him “to prepare a report on the needs of the Old City and its surroundings with respect to protection of the environment and of the cultural heritage”.
3. In pursuance of the decisions of the Executive Board at its 160th, 161st, 162nd, 164th, 165th and 166th sessions, the Director-General continued his efforts to make it possible for Professor Grabar to carry out his mission in Jerusalem. At the time of drafting this document, the mission in question – of a technical and professional nature – has not been performed, although an exchange of correspondence between the UNESCO Secretariat and the Israeli authorities had indicated that while the latter were willing to consider this initiative, they were not able to take any action on it for the time being. Recent developments in the region raise hopes that progress could be made in this respect.