

Hundred and sixty-fifth Session

165 EX/8
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Item 3.2.2 of the provisional agenda

UNESCO/UNICEF JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SUMMARY

This document describes briefly the history of the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education, established in 1989 (131 EX/Decision 5.2.7), in view of the forthcoming eighth meeting of the Committee on 25 November, the Executive Board is requested to designate six members. The document further raises the question of the usefulness of the Committee and its future.

Decision proposed: paragraph 7.

BACKGROUND

1. UNESCO and UNICEF have a long history of collaboration in education dating back to the 1960s. It was formalized in 1989 when the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education (JCE) was established through convergent decisions of the Executive Boards of UNESCO and UNICEF to act as a source of strategic recommendations concerning collaboration between the two Organizations. Document 131 EX/Decision 5.2.7 of the Executive Board of UNESCO, establishing the Joint Committee and setting its terms of reference, is annexed for purposes of information.

2. The Joint Committee is composed of six representatives from each of the two Executive Boards and is led by the Executive Heads. In principle, it meets biennially. In addition, annual inter-secretariat meetings are held at the headquarters of one or the other organization in order to review the progress of collaborative activities, set priorities and draw up work plans for the year ahead, identify new challenges and prepare for upcoming JCE meetings. A cooperative agreement signed by the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of UNICEF in 1991 was renewed in the Framework Agreement on Collaboration between UNESCO and UNICEF in 1999.

3. At the seventh and most recent JCE meeting held at UNICEF Headquarters, New York, in February 1999, the Members of the UNESCO Executive Board were Cuba, Indonesia, Senegal, Slovakia, United Kingdom and Yemen. It is to be noted that Indonesia and Yemen are no longer Members of the Executive Board. In accordance with paragraph 1 of the Terms of reference of the joint UNESCO/UNICEF Committee to make recommendations on education, it is stipulated that "six serving Members from the Executive Board of UNESCO" are to be designated by the Board.

4. The eighth meeting, which was rescheduled from 2001 to 2002 because of the planned World Summit on Children, will take place at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on 25 November 2002. In light of the recommendations made by the seventh meeting in New York, the agenda will focus on two major issues: collaboration between UNESCO and UNICEF in education for all at the country, regional and international levels; and collaboration between the two organizations in girls' education emphasizing results, impacts and major challenges.

5. The nature of the collaboration between UNESCO and UNICEF became closer during the preparation of the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990) and intensified further in the period up to the World Education Forum held in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. Since Dakar, it has become particularly productive as expressed in regular, bilateral consultations at the top level of the two organizations, the close collaboration in the coordination mechanisms established by UNESCO for the Dakar Follow-up work, namely the Working Group on Education for All and the High-Level Group, and country collaboration through Memoranda of Agreements. Furthermore, UNESCO participates actively in the work on the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, which is coordinated by UNICEF.

6. In view of the above-mentioned well-functioning collaborative arrangements which have been developed and intensified since the last JCE meeting, the Executive Board of UNESCO is invited to consider the extent to which the JCE may have outlived its usefulness as these arrangements may be considered both less expensive and more efficient ways of monitoring and guiding cooperation between the two organizations.

7. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 165 EX/8,

2. Recalling 148 EX/Decision 7.1 and 154 EX/Decision 3.3.3 in which it designated Members of the Executive Board to serve on the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education,
3. Decides to designate the following States Members of the Executive Board...;
4. Authorizes the JCE to discuss its future at its eighth meeting in the light of alternative positive collaborative arrangements between the two organizations and to make recommendations thereon, subject to a similar resolution adopted by the UNICEF Executive Board.

ANNEX

**131 EX/DECISION 5.2.7 – ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT UNESCO/UNICEF
COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON EDUCATION**
(131 EX/39 and 131 EX/48)

The Executive Board,

1. Convinced that in view of the close relationship between UNESCO and UNICEF a regular high-level exchange of views on strategies, approaches, and new challenges in areas of mutual interest to the two organizations would be beneficial,
2. Having been informed of resolution 1989/17 adopted by the UNICEF Executive Board at its 1989 session, by which it called for the establishment of a joint committee to make recommendations on education,
3. Believing that the meetings of such a consultative committee, if held at two-yearly intervals to coincide with meetings of the Boards of one or the other organization, would have minimal financial implications for UNESCO,
4. Decides to accept UNICEF's invitation to establish a joint UNESCO/UNICEF committee to make recommendations on education, the terms of reference of which are annexed to the present decision;
5. Also decides to appoint, at its 133rd session, six members to serve on the committee;
6. Further decides to review the form of this cooperation after two years, taking into account the experience gained.

**Terms of reference of the joint UNESCO/UNICEF Committee
to make recommendations on education**

1. The Committee shall consist of 12 members, six serving Members from the Executive Board of UNESCO and six from the Executive Board of UNICEF, designated by their respective Boards.
2. The Committee, the functions of which are purely consultative, will work within the educational policy directions as defined by the General Conference of UNESCO.
3. The recommendations of the Committee, to be addressed to the Executive Boards of UNESCO and UNICEF, will relate to fields of action common to the two organizations, and will draw the attention of the two Executive Boards to new challenges and important trends in those areas.
4. Through its recommendations, the Committee will endeavour to improve and expand the cooperation between UNESCO and UNICEF.
5. The Committee will hold regular meetings every two years, to coincide with meetings of the Boards of one or the other organization; special meetings at intervals in between may be held as required. The first regular meeting will be held in 1990.
6. The Committee will be served by a joint secretariat formed of UNESCO and UNICEF staff.
7. The costs of Committee meetings will be borne jointly by UNESCO and UNICEF.