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Cultural Organization

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179 EX/10

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE TECHNICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF A POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD-SETTING INSTRUMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS AND ENDANGERED LANGUAGES, INCLUDING A STUDY OF THE OUTCOMES FROM THE PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY UNESCO RELATED TO THIS ISSUE

SUMMARY

This document is submitted as a progress report on the follow-up to 176 EX/Decision 59.

It is supplemented by document 179 EX/INF.6 and Corr.

Decision proposed: paragraph 4.

1. In 176 EX/Decision 59, the Executive Board invited the Director-General “to conduct a preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of a possible international standard-setting instrument for the protection of indigenous and endangered languages, including a study of the outcomes from the programmes implemented by UNESCO related to this issue, and to submit such a preliminary study to the Executive Board for examination at its 179th session”, and “to convene a meeting of experts, including representatives of indigenous peoples, to assist him in the preparation of such a preliminary study, and to seek extrabudgetary funding for it”.
2. The basic outline for discussion with a view to drafting this study, including a part on the outcomes of the programmes implemented by UNESCO related to this issue, is submitted to the Board, for information, in document 179 EX/INF.6. The basic outline was prepared by Professor Janet Blake, international consultant, assistant at the Environmental Sciences Research Institute, Shahid Beheshti University (Tehran), and member of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Cultural Property*.
3. In accordance with the terms of 176 EX/Decision 59, the basic outline will be submitted for examination by a group of experts asked to assist the Secretariat in undertaking the preliminary study. This meeting will be convened as soon as the necessary extrabudgetary funds have been raised, which is not yet the case. On this basis, a report will be drawn up by the Director-General for consideration by the Executive Board.

Draft decision proposed

4. In view of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 176 EX/Decision 59,
2. Having examined document 179 EX/10,
3. Takes note of the progress achieved with a view to the drafting of a preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of a possible international standard-setting instrument for the protection of indigenous and endangered languages, including a study of the outcomes from the programmes implemented by UNESCO related to this issue;
4. Invites the Director-General to continue to seek extrabudgetary funding to this end, and to report to it on progress made in preparing the study at its 180th session.