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**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIC SCIENCES PROGRAMME**

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared in pursuance of 165 EX/Decision 3.3.1 that noted the various options presented by the Director-General concerning the establishment of an international basic sciences programme (IBSP) and invited him to convene an Ad hoc Committee of Experts representative of the different geographical regions to continue consultations and prepare a preliminary draft.

This document presents the finalized proposal on the establishment of an IBSP that stems from the recommendations of the Ad hoc Committee and takes account of preceding recommendations by the Executive Board and by principal partners of UNESCO in the basic sciences.

The document outlines the goals of the IBSP and an option recommended for its design, statutes, monitoring mechanisms, the profile of its projects, budgetary considerations and a possible time frame for launching the programme. The document advocates that IBSP be conceived on the basis of a region-specific approach and that national, regional and international centres of excellence or benchmark centres in the basic sciences, as well as science education, be key elements for the implementation and development of the IBSP.

Should the Executive Board so decide, the proposal by the Director-General on IBSP that this document contains would be submitted for consideration and endorsement by the General Conference at its forthcoming 32nd session.

Decision proposed: paragraph 32.

Introduction

1. On a number of occasions, the Executive Board has demonstrated its will to explore the opportunity of establishing an international basic sciences programme (160 EX/Decision 3.3.2, 162 EX/Decision 3.3.1, 165 EX/Decision 3.3.1). Such a programme, if established in an optimum way, would considerably reinforce the existing programme in the basic sciences that for many years has been providing versatile services to Member States, in particular for building national capacities in science and science education.
2. In pursuance of in-depth discussions at its 165th session, the Board invited the Director-General to convene an Ad hoc Committee of Experts representing the different geographical regions to carry out consultations and to prepare the preliminary draft of an international basic sciences programme (IBSP) in the framework of an optimum option selected taking account of alternatives presented in document 165 EX/9. The Committee, appointed after consultation with the electoral groups, met on 19 and 20 May 2003. It elaborated the recommendations on IBSP sought by the Executive Board and reported them to the Director-General.¹
3. This document introduces a proposal on the establishment of the IBSP, which the Executive Board may use as a basis for its consideration and decision. The proposal stems from the recommendations of the Committee, takes account of discussions held at previous sessions of the Executive Board, and of consultations between UNESCO and its principal partners in the basic sciences.

Rationale

4. As emphasized by the World Conference on Science (WCS, Budapest, 1999) in its *Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge*, the inherent function of the scientific endeavour is to carry out a thorough inquiry into nature, leading to new knowledge. This knowledge provides an understanding of natural phenomena, and gives rise to the educational, cultural and intellectual enrichment of humanity, which in turn leads to technological advances, and so offers novel opportunities to meet basic human needs, yield economic benefits and promote science-based sustainable development.
5. Although the basic sciences have nowadays become an indispensable means for development, the benefits of science are still unevenly distributed, and many countries find themselves excluded from the endeavour to create, and, consequently, benefit from, scientific knowledge in the basic sciences. The divide in the basic sciences cannot but deepen the divide in science education, technology, agriculture, health care, information technology and finally between North and South.
6. Adequate national capacity in the basic sciences is a major prerequisite for harnessing science in the service of society. Efficient applied research, technology transfer, modern education, health care and industry call for a sound national basic science infrastructure and necessitate a commitment to strengthen basic sciences capacities through national efforts and international cooperation. However, there exists a lack of support for the basic sciences in many countries. Moreover, a strategy of investment in favour of applied research, which exclusively seeks immediate short-term return, has an adverse long-term effect on national basic science and its service to society. There is, therefore, a pressing need for determined action to develop basic science and allow it to exercise its creative power in response to the needs of all societies.

¹ The report of the Committee is available upon request.

7. The WCS appealed for worldwide action to ensure that science becomes a truly shared asset, benefiting all people. The welfare of an emerging knowledge society and the future of humankind have become more dependent on an equitable production, distribution and use of knowledge than ever before. As pointed out in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 (31 C/4), enhancing scientific, technical and human capacities to participate in the emerging knowledge societies is one of UNESCO's three strategic objectives in science. This objective implies a resolute and sustained effort to be undertaken by the Organization.

Emerging partnerships

8. The Executive Board's search for significant new initiatives in the basic sciences, and its invitation to Member States to strengthen national science and enhance international and regional cooperation in the basic sciences (165 EX/Decision 3.3.1) is an important and timely step that coincides with actions being taken by other international bodies concerned with basic sciences.

9. The 27th General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) (Rio de Janeiro, September 2002) – the forum of international scientific unions and national academies/research councils – emphasized the importance of ICSU's taking a stance in support of basic sciences. As a result, in 2003, ICSU is setting up an ad hoc Working Group for the elaboration of a condensed policy statement, addressed to the scientific community, governmental authorities and the public at large, on the value of basic science and reinforced reciprocal commitment between science and society.

10. The International Conference on IT-Based Capacity-Building in Science (Okinawa, January 2003) and the Science Council of Japan recently issued the *Okinawa Statement*. This Statement highlights the role of science in sustainable development and recommends actions to be taken for capacity-building in science. It further invites national institutions, UNESCO and other international organizations to take initiatives in the worldwide promotion of capacity-building in science by applying information and communication technologies, in particular at all levels of science and mathematics education.

11. The European Life Sciences Forum held a meeting on Life Sciences in the European Research Council (UNESCO, Paris, February 2003) to examine the proposal to create a European Research Council (ERC) that would develop a dynamic for basic research in Europe and promote scientific excellence on a broad front. The proposed ERC would embrace all basic disciplines and act as a catalyser of institutional reforms, new interdisciplinary research, the establishment of leading-edge collaborative research centres in basic and strategic research areas, capacity-building activities and research networking. Thus, an important rethinking of the European research infrastructure is under way and calls for substantial region-specific action.

12. At its 165th session, the Executive Board highlighted the priority of the existing programme in the basic sciences and expressed overwhelming support for the initiative to create an IBSP that responds to basic national needs. The Director-General also welcomes the fact that the Committee of Experts has clearly recommended the establishment of the IBSP that will provide a much needed international umbrella for consolidation of efforts of many actors involved in the promotion of the basic sciences and science education and will also serve as a clearing-house for the actions of these actors. The Committee emphasized the unique mandate of UNESCO for basic science within the United Nations system, its universal intergovernmental character, its openness to all countries and the worldwide effort to promote principles and ethical norms to guide scientific and technological development and social transformation.

13. These and many other developments demonstrate that an initiative to seek an innovative approach to international cooperation in the basic sciences is consistent with expectations of the scientific community, Member States and international organizations. They illustrate that there is place for an IBSP that would offer an opportunity for partnership and constitute a key input by the Organization to the follow-up to the World Conference on Science.

Goals and framework

14. The rationale of the principal goals of an IBSP stems from continuing cooperation and dialogue, within UNESCO's programme, with Member States and international partner organizations. The consultations on IBSP held so far demonstrate a consensus on its goals articulated in the report by the Director-General (165 EX/9), namely:

- building national capacities for basic research, training, science education and popularization of science through international and regional cooperation in development-oriented areas of national priority;
- transfer and sharing of scientific information and excellence in science through North-South and South-South cooperation;
- provision of scientific expertise for, and advice to, policy- and decision-makers, and increasing public awareness of ethical issues that progress in science entails.

15. An IBSP oriented towards such goals and based on a region-specific approach would be in a position to meet expectations of Member States and stimulate their commitment to this programme. In the basic sciences, it would constitute a major UNESCO action to implement a number of the WCS recommendations (paragraphs 7-9, 12, 17-21, 22-28, 41, 48, 61-64 and 71-76 of the *Science Agenda – Framework for Action*) and to achieve strategic objectives 4-6 that the Organization set in its Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007.

16. In pursuance of the discussion at the 165th session of the Executive Board and the evaluation by the Committee of Experts of possible options for IBSP (options A, B, C, D, E in document 165 EX/9), it is proposed that an amended option C be selected as a framework for IBSP, that is to say, that the IBSP be established as:

“A worldwide network of centres of excellence or benchmark centres for development oriented to research and education in the basic sciences to make it possible to share, jointly generate and use scientific knowledge, in a spirit of openness and solidarity, while maintaining regional diversity and promoting the range of basic science disciplines and interdisciplinary initiatives”.

17. The following points should be highlighted in the rationale of the proposed option:

- (a) The option assigns the principal role to existing national, regional and international centres of excellence that have proved to be major actors in promoting national research capacities and the use of scientific knowledge in areas most needed by countries.
- (b) By relying on the services of many existing centres, the network will also foster excellence in national, regional and international institutions and involve them in its activity in line with the needs of Member States and international partners. It is proposed that the IBSP definition of centres of excellence should be broad. The reference to a centre of excellence could embrace a variety of national, regional or international institutions able to provide services at a standard sought by Member States

or regions, and a satisfactory rationale for investment in their activity by interested customers. Moreover, a centre of excellence could be a research or training institution, a university or one of its departments, a laboratory, science museum or library, etc. In due time, it might be possible to envisage a centre that has successfully participated in the implementation of IBSP projects being granted the status of an IBSP centre of excellence recognized by UNESCO, or an affiliated UNESCO centre in the basic sciences, in order to stimulate further support to the centre from UNESCO partners and other stakeholders in science.

- (c) UNESCO has considerable experience in promoting centres of excellence and their networks in the basic sciences. Mention can be made of the establishment of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, the development of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and its affiliated centres in Africa, Asia and the Arab region, and the network of over 40 centres of excellence built up in the framework of cooperation between the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and UNESCO. The International Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics (Nice), the Banach International Mathematical Centre (Warsaw), the Euler Mathematical Centre (Saint Petersburg), the Centre for Membrane Science and Technology (New South Wales), over 60 centres of excellence working within the Molecular and Cell Biology Network (MCBN), and the recently founded SESAME Centre (Allan, Jordan) provide further, but not exhaustive, examples of scientific institutions available for a consolidated international action within IBSP.
- (d) The profile of centres of excellence covers a wide range of key areas in the basic sciences, and their programmes incorporate a wide variety of actions, such as the implementation of research projects and interdisciplinary programmes, training of researchers and science teachers, sharing of scientific information and provision of scientific literature and equipment, promotion of science education, and science and technology extension work. In principle, these programmes offer opportunities for all required modalities of action, including research grants, fellowships, UNESCO Chairs and professorships, workshops, training courses, etc. Therefore, the proposed option would provide a flexible framework to address those issues that are inherent to option C and other alternative options for IBSP.
- (e) Member States may take advantage of international cooperation within the IBSP to help reinforce their national capacities in science and the use of scientific knowledge, and to implement projects called for by their national development plans. In this context, Member States may use or establish those centres of excellence which they need most and in which they can envisage the necessary investments. The recognized international scientific standard of the network of centres of excellence would ensure efficiency of the investments made in the centres' activities.
- (f) UNESCO's programme activities in the basic sciences provide evidence of the fact that some region-specific infrastructures and networks of national scientific institutions have already crystallized in line with priorities Member States set to meet their national needs. It should also be recalled that, at the 31st session of UNESCO's General Conference, delegates from African countries called for greater efficiency of investment in their regional programmes. Bearing this in mind, the IBSP may design region-specific actions ("regional IBSP Webs") as the basic integral elements, oriented to meet the expectations and needs of countries in the regions, avoiding a fragmentation of regional activity and helping to enhance the returns on investments made.

- (g) Within their programmes, international scientific unions in the basic sciences and other international partners are closely involved in the use and promotion of centres of excellence at international, regional and national levels. A number of international agencies have come together to establish research and development centres in countries of the South. Illustrative examples are the International Centres for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in India and Italy, the International Crop Research Institutes for the Semi-Arid Tropics in Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, and the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. There exists, therefore, a practical opportunity to benefit from cooperation with partners and to rely on their participation and support within the IBSP.

18. These reasons are conducive to the conclusion that option C, referred to above, may offer a pragmatic scenario for the IBSP. The Committee of Experts made an interesting proposal to name the programme the *International Basic Sciences Platform* and thus emphasize that the IBSP would be a foundation for an innovative comprehensive international action and not one more initiative to be added to the current programme.

Possible orientation of projects

19. The choice of concrete IBSP projects and lines of action remains, of course, the prerogative of Member States and partners participating in the IBSP. The project proposals may be submitted by Member States during the 2004-2005 biennium and they would be presented in draft document 33 C/5 for consideration at the next session of the General Conference. Nonetheless some recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and by UNESCO's partners in the basic sciences in international organizations and national institutions are highlighted here.

- (a) The people talented in science constitute a valuable national resource, which is available in all countries including developing and least developed countries. In this light, the training of young men and women in the basic sciences is a basic prerequisite to develop their skills and should be one of the priority lines of action of the IBSP.
- (b) Addressing needs of the least developed countries is one of the most important actions in order to combat the divide in the basic sciences. Such an action should strengthen national infrastructures in science education and basic research oriented to developmental needs.
- (c) In the framework of the IBSP, the experience of OECD's Global Science Forum can be followed and continuing dialogue introduced between the scientific community, decision-makers and governmental institutions on the basic sciences and the services they are to provide. The dialogue should focus on identifying priorities, opportunities for cooperation and sources of funding. Such a dialogue, especially at regional level, should facilitate selection of IBSP priority projects, to be co-financed by governments and donor agencies.
- (d) Improvement of science education at all levels constitutes one of the key actions to be undertaken. New science teaching is called for to make science attractive to new generations, as well as a global effort to develop fundamental human resources in science in developing countries. An integrative approach in science education should encompass the transfer of knowledge and ethical aspects of science concerned with human behaviour.

- (e) The ICTP has proposed that its scheme for Affiliated Centres be further developed within the IBSP. Also TWAS would be prepared to expand the activity of its network of over 40 centres of excellence in the South in cooperation with UNESCO and in conjunction with IBSP. It would do so by linking these centres with their counterparts in the North. IUPAC proposed its cooperation in the design and creation of a centre of excellence in chemical safety and the environment, and analytical chemistry centres as applied to local needs to meet international standards.
- (f) The science committee of the French National Commission for UNESCO has requested that the activity of the International Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics (CIMPA) in Nice and its cooperation with the ICTP be developed within the IBSP. Other centres of excellence that are at the initial stage of their activity and still rely on support from the founding countries may also be given the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the IBSP.
- (g) Within its strategic recommendations on principal lines of action to be taken in Africa in science, an important international seminar “UNESCO and NEPAD: From vision to action” (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, March 2003) pointed out that “in order to strengthen regional cooperation on capacity-building in science and technology, there is a need to reactivate or create, as from the 2004-2005 biennium, scientific networks and associations with a view to putting into place or strengthening scientific centres of excellence. The strengthening of the priority given to scientific capacity-building and management should materialize by organizing, on a regular basis, a conference of ministers responsible for science and technology applications in Africa”. It is noteworthy that this recommendation not only provides an orientation for IBSP projects, but also a promising practical mechanism to identify intergovernmental commitment to regional projects.

20. The following criteria could be recommended for identification and evaluation of an IBSP project:

- (a) the project has a well-defined goal at the national and/or regional level, and formulates the expected results to be achieved through an activity in the basic sciences and science education during a given biennial period; a long-term project embracing more than one biennium is divided into biennial phases;
- (b) the project specifies partnerships proposed or being sought and is of a scope that goes beyond the scale of activities that can be fully supported within the existing regular programme in the basic sciences;
- (c) the project is to be implemented with participation of a national, regional or international centre of excellence or benchmark centre, or a network of these centres and there is evidence of the commitment of Member States and/or international partners to assist in ensuring logistic support and participate in the project on a cost-sharing basis.

Statutes

21. The existing long-standing regular programme in the basic sciences has not benefited from the type of intergovernmental mechanisms of cooperation practised in IGCP, IHP, IOC and MAB. It would therefore seem expedient to heed the experience UNESCO has gained in the use of these mechanisms when creating IBSP. The IBSP is not meant to replace the existing programme in the

basic sciences that has a wide profile and yields considerable results. In its statutes, IBSP should be a new integral element of the present programme introduced to ensure substantially enhanced cooperation with a view to increasing the outcome of the programme as a whole, and with emphasis on region-specific actions.

22. Following the analysis by the Committee of Experts, the working and institutional set-up of the IGCP appears to be the model most suitable for IBSP. The Statutes of the IGCP attribute the central monitoring role to scientists from Member States, no heavy procedures are incurred, and they establish a sound framework for cooperation with a major non-governmental partner, namely the International Union of Geological Sciences. The IGCP maintains interfaces with other UNESCO scientific programmes and is open for interdisciplinary projects. Due to a wide profile, IBSP would have a number of major partners rather than a single partner as in the case of IGCP. The proposal to model the statutes of the IBSP on those of IGCP should preferably be pursued. More rigid intergovernmental statutes, similar to those of the IHP, MAB or IOC, should doubtless be avoided, owing to the very nature of the preferred option.

23. If the IBSP approach is used and IBSP statutes are oriented towards the goals referred to in paragraphs 14 to 18 above, they would give Member States a new role in the design and subsequent use of the basic sciences programmes.

24. Within these statutes, the IBSP would become a new platform for intergovernmental cooperation, and, as an integral part of UNESCO would be intergovernmental in underlying nature. The statutes would also provide new ground for partnership with major international scientific partners such as ICSU (scientific unions in physics, mathematics, chemistry and the biological sciences), TWAS, etc., in particular at the regional level and in interdisciplinary areas. A role of a partner in the IBSP may be specified in an ad hoc bilateral memorandum to be signed with UNESCO. Memoranda on *Cooperation in the WCS Follow-up*, which UNESCO signed with ICSU and TWAS, may provide a useful model for those on cooperation within the IBSP.

Monitoring

25. In the framework of the model statutes suggested above, it is proposed that:

- (a) IBSP be governed by a Scientific Board appointed by the Director-General; under UNESCO's regulations for categories of meetings the Scientific Board would be a "category V" body, i.e. an "Advisory Committee", which is a standing committee governed by statutes approved by the Executive Board and composed of specialists serving either in an individual capacity or as representatives of relevant NGOs;
- (b) the Board be composed of about 24 renowned scientists (four from each region) selected by the Director-General in consultation with electoral groups at UNESCO, and with the representatives of the principal partners having signed with UNESCO a memorandum on cooperation within IBSP;
- (c) the members of the Board elect the Chairperson of the IBSP Scientific Board for a term of two years, renewable for a further two years;
- (d) the Scientific Board meet once a year to assess annual reports of ongoing projects, select new projects and, once every two years, elaborate recommendations for the biennial programme and budget and evaluate the biennial outcome of the IBSP;
- (e) the Chairperson of IBSP report on IBSP to the General Conference, together with the Chairpersons of the other UNESCO intergovernmental and international programmes;

- (f) the Chairperson of IBSP take part in the activity of the group of Chairpersons of IGCP, IHP, IOC, MAB and MOST, in order to promote a concerted joint action in science for sustainable development, and participate in the elaboration of the Joint Statement of those Chairpersons at the sessions of the General Conference;
- (g) the Secretariat for IBSP be provided by appropriate staff and resources to be made available by the Director-General.

26. Draft statutes to this effect can be submitted to the Executive Board at a future session if the IBSP proposal is accepted. The activity of the Scientific Board may rely on back-up from National IBSP Committees that Member States may wish to establish, as is the case in IGCP and other intergovernmental programmes. The members of the Board representing a given region may also create a regional working group to closely cooperate with Member States and UNESCO partners in building up and implementing a regional action of the IBSP. As transpired at the discussion at the Committee of Experts, “regional webs” may constitute key elements of the IBSP activity. The Scientific Board could in due course consider the creation of these webs, their modes of action and other pertinent issues once the IBSP has been launched.

Budgetary aspects

27. As emphasized in document 165 EX/9, the existing regular programme in the basic sciences, the budget of which is limited, should continue to provide the important services it is offering Member States. Notwithstanding this, a pragmatic proposal on the establishment of the IBSP may not necessarily foresee new budgetary provisions for the Organization’s activity in the basic sciences. There are some reasons that make such an approach feasible, albeit not obligatory.

28. The IBSP could benefit from some limited support from the regular programme budget and a symbiosis with its activities, since the preparation and launching of IBSP projects in the regions would constitute one of the main thrusts of regional programmes – it will be recalled that about 50% of the resources available in the regular budget for activities in the basic sciences are allocated to the field programmes. Moreover, a significant part of the resources UNESCO is providing for international cooperation under the Framework Agreement with ICSU, could be oriented towards the implementation of regional projects in cooperation with ICSU scientific unions and newly established regional offices of ICSU. Costs of the IBSP Scientific Board would be covered through reallocation of resources within the regular programme budget, particularly on a cost-sharing approach similar to that approved by the Executive Board and the General Conference for the Information for All Programme, IGCP or IHP. Recourse to virtual meetings using electronic communication and avoiding expensive simultaneous interpretation would reduce these costs.

29. This would fulfil the recommendation by the Committee of Experts that calls UNESCO to play a catalytic role by providing seed money and stimulating support to IBSP projects from governments and international and regional partners. Institutions participating in IBSP could use UNESCO’s sponsorship as an effective means for fund-raising actions. This sponsorship should have a fixed-term character and should be granted following evaluation and recommendation by an IBSP monitoring body.

30. When contemplating the principal opportunities for building up the budgetary provisions of IBSP, one should recall that in the case of other science programmes promoting intergovernmental cooperation (IGCP, IHP, IOC and MAB), the major part of the financial resources originates from extrabudgetary contributions. The current regular programme in the basic sciences also benefits from such extrabudgetary contributions, amounting in 2002-2003 to US \$18,500,000. These contributions are principally used to develop the activities of centres of excellence. Thus, Member

States could be interested in regional and international cooperation, within the IBSP, for the execution of relevant projects within their national development plans. This would, of course, constitute the motivation and rationale for participation of Member States in the IBSP. Accordingly, the extrabudgetary resources they provide, as well as those coming from donor agencies and partners, would form the major part of IBSP's budget. Bearing in mind the needs of Member States in the building up of national capacities in science and the use of scientific knowledge, one should seek a sizeable budget commensurate with IBSP goals.

Further action to be taken

31. In its report, the Committee of Experts recommended a number of concrete actions to be taken in order to pursue the establishment of IBSP during the 2004-2005 biennium and report, in 2005, to the Executive Board and the 33rd session of the General Conference on the launching of IBSP and its initial activity. Should the Executive Board conclude that the establishment of an IBSP should be pursued, it may also decide to submit the present report together with the Board recommendations for consideration at the 32nd session of the General Conference. The decision to be taken by the General Conference would create an indispensable prerequisite for further action and a launching pad for the establishment of the IBSP.

Proposed draft decision

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

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 165 EX/Decision 3.3.1,
2. Having examined document 167 EX/8,
3. Recognizing that today more than ever, there is a pressing need for a determined action to allow basic science to enhance and exercise its creative power in response to the needs of all societies,
4. Stressing that the goals of the international basic sciences programme (IBSP) and the worldwide effort it entails are consonant with the strategic objectives in science, as set out in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007, and with the Organization's unique mandate for the basic sciences within the United Nations system,
5. Highlighting opportunities that the IBSP may offer for strengthening national capacities in science, sharing scientific knowledge, promoting science education and reducing the divide in the basic sciences,
6. Taking into consideration the favourable attitude of the principal partner organizations of UNESCO in the basic sciences towards participation in the IBSP,
7. Seeking to introduce a significant initiative in order to set up a new international platform in the basic sciences for implementation of the follow-up to the World Conference on Science through a concerted goal-oriented partnership between governmental institutions and international scientific organizations,
8. Endorses the proposal on the establishment of the IBSP;

9. Recommends to the General Conference that it approve the proposal by the Director-General to establish the IBSP; and, if it does so, to also invite Member States to inform the Director-General of relevant national and regional institutions and projects in the basic sciences and science education that they would suggest for implementation in the framework of the proposed IBSP;
10. Also recommends that the General Conference invite the Director-General to take measures that will be necessary for implementation of the General Conference resolutions and the Executive Board decisions as regards the IBSP, and to submit a progress report on the IBSP, accompanied by draft statutes for an IBSP Scientific Board (in category V format) on the IBSP to the Executive Board at one of its forthcoming sessions.