

Hundred and sixty-first Session

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**RELATIONS BETWEEN THE THREE ORGANS OF UNESCO:
ROLE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
WITH RESPECT TO THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY (C/4)
AND THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET (C/5)**

SUMMARY

This document was prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of 160 EX/Decision 6.2, which reads as follows:

“3. Decides to consider at its 161st session Recommendation 1, contained in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of document 161 EX/20, taking into account the discussions which took place during the 160th session” (see documents 160 EX/SR.11 and 13).

1. At its 160th session, the Executive Board, after examining document 160 EX/20 containing the recommendations relating to the methods of work of the Executive Board which were submitted to it by the Special Committee, decided to examine at its 161st session **Recommendation 1**, which is attached to this document.
2. In paragraph 4 of 160 EX/Decision 6.2, the Executive Board invited the Director-General to provide relevant information on the implications of that recommendation, which can be found in document 161 EX/INF.5.

RECOMMENDATION 1

7. Reform of the General Conference should aim to achieve:

- more democratic accountability of the programme and budget;
- more effective role for the General Conference in determining UNESCO's strategy;
- clearer focus on strategic issues;
- an enhanced role for ministers;
- respect for the proper roles of the Executive Board and the Secretariat;
- more compact meetings with savings to both the UNESCO budget and national budgets.

This reform should take cognizance of the role of National Commissions and experts.

8. The major functions of the General Conference with respect to the Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the Programme and Budget (C/5) should therefore be as follows:

(a) Medium-Term Strategy (C/4)

The General Conference would organize ministerial debates to work out the basic thrust of UNESCO's policy directions. Such debates would clearly bring out the thinking of the Member States and their expectations about UNESCO's future priorities and role and would result in the Medium-Term Strategy that would be approved by the General Conference.

(b) Biennial Programme and Budget (C/5)

The General Conference would approve:

- (i) overall programme priorities and objectives;
- (ii) sectoral priorities and objectives;
- (iii) the overall budget ceiling and the contributions of Member States;
- (iv) sectoral budgetary allocations.

Thereafter, the Secretariat would draft a programme and budget within the strict framework established by the General Conference. The Executive Board would examine such a programme and budget and ensure its compliance with the decisions of the General Conference.

9. Consequently, the preparation of the C/4 and the biennial C/5 would proceed according to the following two-year timetable:

- (i) in the first quarter of the second year of a preceding biennium, the Executive Board would examine the administrative, logistical and other matters referred to it, and would report to the General Conference, submitting proposals for decisions thereon;
- (ii) thereafter, a session of the General Conference would be held to fulfil the role envisaged in the above paragraphs 5 to 8*;
- (iii) subsequent to the General Conference, the Secretariat would draft the programme and budget, within the strict framework established by the General Conference;
- (iv) in the last quarter of the second year of a preceding biennium, the Executive Board would examine the biennial programme and budget and ensure its compliance with General Conference decisions.

* Paragraphs 5 and 6 are contained in 160 EX/20.