



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-first session

191 EX/10

PARIS, 4 March 2013
Original: English

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF 190 EX/DECISION 14 ON “THE TWO PALESTINIAN SITES OF AL-HARAM AL-IBRAHIMI/TOMB OF THE PATRIARCHS IN AL-KHALIL/HEBRON AND THE BILÂL BIN RÂBÂH MOSQUE/RACHEL’S TOMB IN BETHLEHEM”

SUMMARY

This document is presented pursuant to 190 EX/Decision 14, by which the examination of this item was adjourned to the 191st session of the Executive Board.

No decision is proposed.

1. At the 184th session of the Executive Board, an item 184 EX/37 concerning “the two Palestinian sites of al-Haram al-Ibrahimi/Tomb of the Patriarchs in al-Khalil/Hebron and the Bilâl bin Râbâh Mosque/Rachel’s Tomb in Bethlehem” was submitted at the request of a number of Member States, in relation to the decision of the Israeli authorities, announced in February 2010, to include the two above-mentioned sites located in Hebron and Bethlehem in Israel’s National Heritage Programme.
2. The Executive Board adopted 184 EX/Decision 37 postponing the examination of this item until its 185th session, at which no consensus could be reached, despite considerable efforts. 185 EX/Decision 15 was adopted following a roll-call vote. At its 186th, 187th and 189th sessions, the Executive Board adopted similar decisions by roll-call vote, recalling its previous decisions.
3. At its 190th session, following a roll-call vote in the Programme and External Relations Commission of 28 votes in favour, 23 votes against and 4 abstentions, the Executive Board adopted 190 EX/Decision 14, by which it adjourned the debate on this item to the 191st session. The draft decision 190 EX/PX/DR.7 submitted by Algeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates was annexed to this decision.
4. By letters dated 11 January and 8 November 2012, the Permanent Delegation of Palestine to UNESCO drew the attention of the Director-General to the alleged destruction of ancient houses occurring in the Old City of Hebron due to the construction of a road linking the Old City to the Israeli settlement of Kiriath Arba and to the foreseen construction of a concrete wall along this road, and requesting that this information be reflected in the present document for the information of the Members of the Executive Board. Further to these letters, the Secretariat contacted the Permanent Delegation of Israel to UNESCO regarding the alleged destruction. In its response of 12 March

2012 (reiterated on 18 December 2012), the Israeli Ambassador states that “an investigation of the matter by the relevant Israeli authorities reveals that no destruction of or damage to historical monuments in Hebron occurred during the construction of the road.” The attention of the UNESCO Secretariat was also brought to the damage occurred to historic buildings in the surrounding areas.

5. Should additional information become available, the Director-General is prepared to issue an addendum to the present document before the 191st session of the Executive Board, in order to inform the Members of the Executive Board of any relevant recent developments.



United Nations
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191 EX/10

Add.

PARIS, 23 April 2013
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Item 10 of the agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF 190 EX/DECISION 14 ON “THE TWO PALESTINIAN SITES OF AL-HARAM AL-IBRAHIMI/TOMB OF THE PATRIARCHS IN AL-KHALIL/HEBRON AND THE BILÂL BIN RÂBÂH MOSQUE/RACHEL’S TOMB IN BETHLEHEM”

ADDENDUM

The Executive Board,

1. Having considered document 191EX/10,
2. Acknowledges the Director-General good offices mission to lead to an understanding between all concerned parties and to the implementation of resolution 34COM7A20 (Brasilia consensus resolution) as reflected by the Israeli representative’s letter of 23 April 2013 to the Director-General and thanks her for these efforts;
3. Decides to include this item on the agenda of the 192nd session of the Executive Board and invites the Director-General to submit to it a follow-up report thereon.