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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

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Conseil exécutif
执行局

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Comptes rendus analytiques

Actas resumidas

Краткие отчеты

المحاضر المختصرة

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All the terms used in this collection of texts to designate the person discharging duties or functions are to be interpreted as implying that men and women are equally eligible to fill any post or seat associated with the discharge of these duties and functions.

LIST OF MEMBERS

(Representatives and alternates)

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(The President of the General Conference sits ex officio in an advisory capacity on the Executive Board – Article V.A.1(a) of the Constitution)

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Mr Md Masudul KABIR
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Mr Md. Waliur RAHMAN

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Ms Chafica HADDAD

Haiti

Representative *To be communicated*
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Mr Hassan NEDAL
Mr Ghassan Shoghri
Mr M. Mohammad ABU DALLA
Ms Iman HASSAN

Thailand

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MR VIRAPHAND VACHARATHIT
Ms Churairat SANGBOONNUM
Ms Orachart SUEBSITH
Ms Duriya AMATAVIVAT

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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(*Chair of the Special Committee – SP*)
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Mr Igor POPOVSKI
Ms Elena DIMCHOVA
Mr Jovan POPOVSKI
Ms Lidija TOPUZOVSKA

Tunisia

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Alternates Mr Khémaïs CHAMMARI
Mr Mohamed Lassaad BEN LAMINE
Ms Yosra SOUIDEN
Ms Radhia Jebali

United Arab Emirates

Representative Mr Abdulla ALNEAIMI

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Representative Mr Matthew SUDDERS
(*CHAIR OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMISSION – FA*)
Alternates Mr William John MORGAN
Mr James BRIDGE
Ms Hilary IZON

United States of America

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Alternates Mr Michael GUNZBURGER
Mr Rene GUTEL
Ms Kathleen KAVALEC
Mr Craig KUEHL
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Mr Bakhromjon ALOEV
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Mr Iván AVILA-BELLOSO
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Ms Anais ORTEGA
Mr Saul HERÁNDEZ
Ms Ariani Daniela JIMÉNEZ RAMIREZ
Mr Hacen MOHAMMEDI

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Alternates Mr Duc Han CUNG
Ms THI THAN BINH NGUYEN

Zimbabwe

Representative Mr Ngwabi Mulunge BHEBE
Alternates Mr David HAMADZIRIPI
Mr Dawson MUNJERI
Mr Themba Petros NDHLOVU
Mr Mufaro CHARAMBIRA
Mr Mennais MACHAWIRA

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Mr Getachew ENGIDA (Deputy Director-General)
Mr Qian TANG (Assistant Director-General for Education)
Ms Gretchen KALONJI (Director-General for Natural Sciences)
Ms Wendy WATSON-WRIGHT (Assistant Director-General, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – IOC)
Ms Maria del Pilar ÁLVAREZ LASO (Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences)
Mr Francesco BANDARIN (Assistant Director-General for Culture)
Mr Jānis KĀRKLIŅŠ (Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information)
Mr Hans D'ORVILLE (Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning)
Mr Eric FALT (Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation and Public Information)
Ms Khadija ZAMMOURI RIBES (Assistant Director-General for Administration)
Ms Lalla Aïcha BEN BARKA (Assistant Director-General for the Africa Department)
Mr Ryuhei HOSOYA (Director of Cabinet of the Director-General)
Ms Maria VICIEN-MILBURN (Legal Adviser)
Mr Michael MILLWARD (Secretary of the Executive Board) and other members of the Secretariat

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FIRST MEETING

Friday, 11 November 2011. 10.20 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Temporary Chair: Ms Bogyay (Hungary, President of the General Conference)

later, Chair: Ms Cummins (Barbados)

Opening of the 188th session and organization of work

Item 1: Opening of the session by the President of the General Conference (Temporary Chair)

1. **The Chair** (Ms Bogyay – President of the General Conference) declared the 188th session of the Executive Board open. She thanked the outgoing Members of the Board for their hard work in pursuit of the goals of UNESCO, and welcomed the new Members, wished them good luck, and looked forward to their contributions.

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda (188 EX/1 Prov.)

2. **The Chair**, seeing no objections, took it that the Board wished to adopt the provisional agenda contained in document 188 EX/1 Prov.

3. *The provisional agenda contained in document 188 EX/1 Prov. was adopted.*

Item 3: Election of the Chair of the Executive Board

4. **The Chair** informed the Members of the Board that she had received a letter of candidature for the office of Chair of the Executive Board from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados proposing the name of Ms Alissandra Cummins (Barbados). A second letter received from the Chair for Group III expressed unanimous support from Group III Member States for Ms Cummins' candidacy.

5.1 **El Sr. Pozo** (Ecuador) dice que, en nombre de los 10 países del grupo de América Latina y el Caribe que son miembros del Consejo, tiene el especial agrado de presentar a la Sra. Alissandra Cummins, candidata a la presidencia del Consejo, de quien pasa a hacer una semblanza. En ella pone de relieve su destacada trayectoria en la UNESCO, en todo tipo de entidades gubernamentales y no gubernamentales, comprendidas las ONG internacionales, en la esfera del patrimonio cultural, de la que es especialista, y en otros ámbitos como el académico, en el que se ha ocupado de la gestión de recursos de patrimonio y de la planificación estratégica y el desarrollo comunitario.

5.2 A continuación da más detalles sobre la actuación de la Sra. Cummins y pone de relieve que, además de ser la representante de Barbados ante el Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO, ejerce los cargos de directora de la Sociedad Histórica del Museo de Barbados y de presidenta del Comité Nacional de Galerías de Arte y de la Comisión Nacional de Barbados para la UNESCO. De 1998 a 2001 formó parte del Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO y durante la 31ª reunión de la Conferencia General, fue la Presidenta de su Comisión I. En 2000 presidió la segunda reunión sobre el proyecto "la Ruta del Esclavo". De 2001 a 2003 fue miembro del Comité Intergubernamental para Fomentar el Retorno de los Bienes Culturales a sus Países de Origen o su Restitución en caso de Apropiación Ilícita del que pasó a ser presidenta de 2003 a 2005. Al frente de la Comisión Nacional de Barbados, conjuntamente con funcionarios de Nueva Zelanda, Islandia y Canadá ideó y puso en marcha

el Grupo de Dirección informal de los presidentes de las comisiones nacionales, que goza de gran respeto en la actualidad, aunque con otra denominación. Tras la elección de Barbados para un segundo mandato en el Consejo Ejecutivo en 2009, la Sra. Cummins presidió su Comisión Administrativa y de Hacienda de la 184ª a la 187ª reunión. Durante la 36ª reunión de la Conferencia General que acaba de concluir, fue Presidenta de la Comisión Administrativa a quien correspondió la delicada e importante misión de fijar el tope presupuestario para el bienio.

5.3 Por lo que se refiere a su actividad en el campo del patrimonio, de 2004 a 2010 la Sra. Cummins presidió el Consejo Internacional de Museos, y de 2007 a 2009, el Comité Consultivo Internacional del Programa Memoria del Mundo de la UNESCO. En 2007 fue nombrada representante de Barbados ante el Comité de Patrimonio Mundial, del que fue relatora en 2008 y vicepresidenta en 2009 y 2011. Su aporte ha contribuido a realzar la influencia y la protección del patrimonio cultural en su país y en la región. En 1999 fue nombrada Enviada Especial para el Patrimonio Cultural. En 2005 la Sra. Cummins recibió la Gold Crown of Merit en reconocimiento de sus múltiples servicios al fomento patrimonial y museístico.

5.4 Por último, el orador señala que a lo largo de sus 15 años de asociación con la UNESCO, en un gran número de cargos y funciones desempeñados con energía, eficiencia e integridad, la Sra. Cummins ha sabido conjugar sus dotes de líder con la defensa de los intereses de todos. En 2006 la UNESCO la distinguió como una de las 60 mujeres eminentes que, en distintas partes del mundo y en distintos momentos de la historia de la Organización, han aportado y continúan aportando de diversas maneras una contribución significativa a sus ideales y acciones en el ámbito de la educación, la cultura, las ciencias y la comunicación.

(5.1) **Mr Pozo** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the 10 countries of the Latin America and Caribbean Group that were Members of the Board, said that he was particularly pleased to introduce Ms Alissandra Cummins, candidate to the office of Chairperson of the Board, and he would give a brief description of her background. What stood out was her distinguished track record in UNESCO, in all kinds of governmental and non-governmental bodies, including international NGOs, in the field of the cultural heritage in which she was a specialist, and in other fields including academia, in which she had worked on the management of heritage resources, strategic planning and community development.

(5.2) There was much more to be said about Ms Cummins, including the fact that in addition to representing Barbados on the Executive Board of UNESCO, she had performed the duties of Director of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, Chairperson of the National Art Gallery Committee and Chairperson of the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO. From 1998 to 2001, she was on the UNESCO Executive Board and at the 31st session of the General Conference she chaired Commission 1. In 2000, she chaired the second meeting on the Slave Route project. From 2001 to 2003, she was a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, which she went on to chair from 2003 to 2005. At the head of the Barbados National Commission, she devised and initiated,

together with officials from New Zealand, Iceland and Canada, the informal steering group of Presidents/Chairs of National Commissions, which enjoyed considerable respect at present, albeit under a different name. After Barbados had been elected to the Executive Board in 2009 for a second term of office, Ms Cummins chaired the Finance and Administrative Commission from the 184th to the 187th sessions. At the 36th session of the General Conference, which has just ended, she had chaired the ADM Commission (finance and administration), which had the sensitive and important task of setting the budget ceiling for the biennium.

(5.3) With regard to her work in the field of heritage, from 2004 to 2010 Ms Cummins was President of the International Council of Museums and from 2007 to 2008 she chaired UNESCO's International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Programme. In 2007, she was appointed representative of Barbados to the World Heritage Committee, of which she was Rapporteur in 2008 and Vice-Chairperson in 2009 and 2011. She contributed widely to the influence and protection of cultural heritage in her country and in the region. In 1999, she was appointed Special Envoy for Cultural Heritage. In 2005, Ms Cummins was awarded the Gold Crown of Merit in recognition of her many services to heritage and museum development.

(5.4) In conclusion, throughout 15 years of association with UNESCO, in a great many offices and functions that she had discharged with energy, efficiency and integrity, Ms Cummins had combined her talents as a leader with the defence of the interests of all. In 2006, UNESCO recognized her as one of 60 eminent women who, in different parts of the world and at different moments in the history of the Organization, had made, and in many ways were still making, significant contributions to its ideals and action, in the fields of education, culture, science and communication.

6. **The Chair** expressed her admiration for Ms Cummins' experience, and after reading out paragraph 1 of Rule 10 and paragraph 1 of Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, invited the Board to elect its Chair.

7.1 *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

7.2 *At the request of the Chair, Mr Farah (Djibouti) and Mr Oberoi (India) acted as tellers, with the assistance of the Legal Adviser.*

7.3 *The result of the vote was as follows:*

Number of Members:	58
Number of Members absent:	1
Number of blank or invalid ballot papers:	0
Number of votes recorded:	57
Majority required:	29
In favour:	53
Against:	0
Abstentions:	4

7.4 *Having obtained the required majority, Ms Cummins was **elected** Chair of the Executive Board.*

(Applause)

8.1 **The Chair** *in extenso*:

Dear Alessandra, I think you were born to lead this very important and noble body of UNESCO. I know

that your involvement with UNESCO has been long and intense, holding positions in different key organs, including the Executive Board, General Conference and the World Heritage Committee. Your knowledge and experience of UNESCO is multifaceted and goes back beyond activities at Headquarters. As the Chairperson of the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO, you bring to the Board a unique insight of the national stakeholders and the local dynamics of engaging with UNESCO to benefit from its expertise. I also know of your prolific career outside of UNESCO and your contribution to the promotion and preservation of the cultural heritage of your region. I am confident that your new role as the Chairperson of the Executive Board will be a continuation of your rich, and successful, professional career and background and will be guided by your dedication to the mandate of this Organization.

8.2 Madam Chair, as you are aware, in my capacity as the President of the General Conference, I shall be sitting *ex officio* on the Board in an advisory capacity in the coming two years. I very much look forward to establishing our new working group, as decided yesterday evening, and also to our joint follow-up to the work of the Independent External Evaluation of UNESCO (IEE), just to mention two. I should like to assure you of my full support and I wish you every success in your work during the current and future sessions of the Board. Madam Chairperson, it is with great pleasure that I invite you to take the seat of Chairperson of the Board.

(Applause)

Ms Cummins (Barbados) took the Chair.

9.1 **The Chair** (Ms Alissandra Cummins, Barbados) *in extenso*:

Madam President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished colleagues, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, let me first thank you, Madam President, for your very generous remarks. I am honoured to have been elected to this distinguished position as Chairperson of the Executive Board. To you, my colleague Members of the Executive Board, I express my deepest gratitude. I commit myself to executing my functions in a manner that justifies the confidence and trust that you have placed in me at this critical juncture. I must acknowledge, at the outset, the formidable example provided by my immediate predecessor, H.E. Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova, with whom I had the privilege to serve in the previous Executive Board. She has set an exceptional example of leadership and I hope to rely on her, and on you, Madam President, for sound advice in the years to come. I have already worked with some of you for the last two years and with a number of you for some years before that. I look forward to continued collaboration with those of you who I have met before and to those who are newly appointed to this Board and whom we welcome to the first meeting in their new capacity today. I take this opportunity to reiterate to the members of my group, Group III, comprising the Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean, my sincere thanks and appreciation for its endorsement. I acknowledge the spirit in which I was nominated as a candidate from Group III. The Caribbean is pleased to assume its responsibility to serve this term. To the representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) whose foreign ministers gave my candidature their endorsement, I say a special thank you. My own government recognized the significance of election to the pivotal position of Chairperson of the Executive Board and is proud that someone from our small island has been

afforded the privilege to continue, in another capacity, to contribute to the work of this esteemed Organization. The Government of Barbados pledges its continued commitment to UNESCO and the ideals embodied in its Constitution. Once again, my heartfelt thanks to you all.

9.2 This Board starts its work at a time of global upheaval and daunting challenges. The people and governments of some States in this Organization are engaged in a titanic struggle against the devastating effects of natural disasters. Some are grappling with internal conflict. Still others must confront the destructive and debilitating effects of war. The global economic climate is testing governments in every region of the world. In many countries there are people, in particular those least able to cope, who are beset by even greater hardship. It seems that everywhere there is alarm at the current state of affairs and apprehension at what lies ahead. In the midst of all this, UNESCO must steer a course that balances our remit with our resources in addressing the twin goals of achieving sustainable development while cultivating a culture of peace.

9.3 No society can develop and sustain itself without the sound foundation of a philosophical underpinning. The concept of development and the sustainability of life on Earth are now inextricably linked in our consciousness as is the need for efforts to continue for a balanced approach to life. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) signals an opportunity for review and reflection in the move forward towards sustainable development and the greening of our economies – strategies emanating from the basic necessities for survival. It is thus timely that this philosophical stage be set for these twin endeavours by UNESCO as we seek to address global challenges such as climate change, drought, human rights, migration and population – issues which should not be driven solely by market forces or capital investment, but through multilateralism and synergies across multilateral environmental agreements. As the Director General moves decisively to position the Organization in the context of the Rio+20 agenda, UNESCO is uniquely placed, with its multidisciplinary framework in basic education, science, culture and information, to bring credibility to the process of ensuring complementarity of action across United Nations agencies.

9.4 The distinguished Heads of State and Government who participated in the Leaders' Forum highlighted the challenges we face in our individual States. We have also been reminded of the turbulence in the international community. The scale of our task lies starkly before us. Many said that both UNESCO and its Member States now stand at a crossroads. We must see this, therefore, not just as a monumental challenge but as a unique opportunity. Aimé Césaire endorsed this perspective when he wrote in *Discourse on Colonialism* – and let me paraphrase here – a civilization that withdraws into itself atrophies; that for civilizations, exchange is oxygen. To have been a crossroads means being the receptacle of all philosophies, the meeting place of all sentiments, the best centre for the redistribution of energy. UNESCO has the capacity, as a crossroads, to be both the receptacle and the redistributor of our ideas and aspirations. It can ensure that exchange will be the oxygen for this global initiative. Within the Organization, we have already started a process of reform to be better equipped to pursue our mission and execute our programmes to keep pace with a rapidly changing world. Circumstances require that we redouble our efforts. I am encouraged,

Madam Director-General, by your statement at the opening of the General Conference, in which you enumerated some of the changes that have been occurring over the 70-year life of this Organization, and reminded us that change is nothing new for UNESCO. We know from experience that when the challenge is greatest, we rise to the occasion. We must work more diligently and bring our creativity to bear in order to meet the expectations of the people who depend on us throughout the UNESCO family. The question for us now is how we in the Executive Board can work the most efficiently to treat the urgent mandate entrusted to us by the recently concluded General Conference. As Members of the Executive Board we are charged with the responsibility for ensuring the execution of the General Conference resolutions, the examination and monitoring of its programmes and initiatives, as well as the prudent management and conservation of UNESCO's human, financial and intellectual resources. Our role is clear. We have been tasked with supporting the Director-General in her quest to identify greater savings, ensure greater focus and initiate careful discipline as she moves forward with the execution of the UNESCO mission. We have all acknowledged that hard choices will have to be made, but in the end we are all committed to ensuring the proper dispensation of our functions and responsibilities while reaffirming the central mission of this Organization: building peace in the minds of men.

9.5 In one of the most memorable passages from *Beyond a Boundary*, the late Caribbean author and thinker, C. L. R. James, wrote "I discovered that it is not the quality of goods and utility which matter, but movement; not where you are or what you have, but where you have come from, where you are going and the rate at which you are getting there." I therefore pledge to you, my distinguished colleagues, that I remain committed to ensuring that the Executive Board of UNESCO will continue on a steady path of sound deliberation and decisive action by moving forward to meet the aspirations of all of our citizens, as enshrined in the Constitution, the resolutions and the programme of this Organization. Thank you for your attention.

(Applause)

10. **The Director-General in extenso:**

Madam Chairperson of the Executive Board, I would like to join the President of the General Conference in congratulating you on this brilliant election. After your passionate, inspiring, encouraging, insightful speech, I think it is very difficult to say more words of praise for what you have contributed to this Organization. We have heard from the Ambassador of Ecuador of your brilliant professional career and, most importantly, of your deep engagement over many years with UNESCO's mandate of building peace in the minds of people and contributing to the sustainable development of humanity, of course, putting an accent on small island developing States, with all their huge challenges. Your contribution to the preservation of heritage and to culture and development is outstanding. Let me say that I am looking forward to working with you in promoting this important UNESCO mandate. You have a vision that I think we all can support because, as you have aptly cited from the insightful Caribbean writer, what matters is where we start from, where we are going and how we get there. I think right now UNESCO is exactly at this point. We have to reach out to our important mandate and ambitions. We start with turbulent times and with difficulties. But I am sure that working together, we will reach the point where

we can build peace in the minds of people. I would like to thank you for your dedicated engagement. I am very much looking forward to working with you and with the President of the General Conference so that we can move forward with this important UNESCO agenda. I must also take this opportunity to happily note that once again there are three women at the helm of this Organization.

(Applause)

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE DECEASED ON ARMISTICE DAY

11. **The Chair**, noting the hour, called for a minute of silence.

The Board observed one minute's silence in tribute to the memory of the deceased on Armistice Day.

Item 4: Election of the Vice-Chairs of the Executive Board

12. **The Chair** invited the electoral groups to announce their candidates for election as Vice-Chairs of the Executive Board.

13. **Mr Killion** (United States of America) congratulated the Chair on her election, and pledged his support, and that of the United States of America, both to the Board and to the Organization. Speaking on behalf of Group I, he was pleased to nominate Belgium, a country with an important diplomatic tradition, despite its size, and whose representative, Ms Chainaye, was a respected figure within UNESCO with considerable, relevant experience, including a recent post as Director of Human Rights in the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

14. **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom) congratulated the Chair on her election and seconded the nomination of Belgium, considering its representative to be both extremely capable and an excellent leader.

15. **Mr Budjaku** (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) congratulated the Chair on her election, and expressed his satisfaction that three women were again leading the Organization. Their abilities and experience would serve to continue the reform process and to strengthen UNESCO's role in the future, a matter of global importance at the present time. He then nominated Slovakia as Vice-Chair for Group II.

16. **Ms Kaiserova** (Czech Republic) joined her colleagues in congratulating the Chair on her election, and seconded the nomination of Slovakia, citing the devotion to UNESCO of its representative, Mr Grexa, who was Group II's most experienced Member on the Executive Board.

17. **El Sr. Pozo** (Ecuador), tras afirmar su propósito de contribuir a que se siga nombrando a mujeres para desempeñar los más altos cargos de la Organización, dice que tiene el honor de anunciar que la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, en la persona de su representante, la Sra. Sánchez Bello, de quien destaca la energía, la dedicación y la seriedad por todos conocidas, ha sido designada para ejercer las funciones de vicepresidenta por el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

(17) **Mr Pozo** (Ecuador) confirmed his proposal to contribute to the appointment of women to the highest posts in the Organization, and said that he had the honour of announcing that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in the person of its representative, Ms Sánchez Bello, whose exceptional energy, dedication and sense of responsibility were known to

all, had been nominated to perform the duties of Vice-Chair for the Latin America and Caribbean Group.

18. **Mme da Rocha** (Brésil) félicite la Présidente de son élection et s'associe au représentant de l'Équateur pour saluer la représentante de la République bolivarienne du Venezuela, dont elle se dit certaine qu'elle exerce avec compétence les fonctions de Vice-Présidente pour le groupe III.

19. **Mr Vacharathit** (Thailand) associated Group IV to the chorus of those congratulating the Chair on her election and was confident that his group would cooperate with her and the Executive Board in the future. He nominated India as Vice-Chair for the Executive Board for Group IV whose representative, Mr Oberoi, was highly capable and distinguished and would represent the group well in his work with the Board.

20. **Mr Kiso** (Japan) congratulated the Chair on her election and seconded the nomination of India to position as Vice-Chair, noting Mr Oberoi's humour, hard work and the respect accorded to him by all Asia and the Pacific (ASPAC) representatives.

21. **M. Adoua** (Congo), après avoir félicité à son tour la Présidente, indique que le groupe africain a retenu à l'unanimité la candidature de Djibouti à la vice-présidence du Conseil exécutif. Il souligne la disponibilité, l'engagement et la compétence, connus de tous, du représentant de ce pays.

22. **Mr Toga** (Ethiopia) joined his colleagues in congratulating the Chair on her election and pledged the support of Ethiopia and that of Africa. The presence of women in UNESCO's three top positions was a sign that the Organization was in safe hands. He seconded the nomination of Djibouti as Vice-Chair because its representative, Mr Farah, had had a distinguished diplomatic career with considerable experience in UNESCO's work.

23.1 **M. El Zahaby** (Egypte) salue les nouveaux membres du Conseil puis, citant plusieurs éminentes personnalités, rappelle la lourde tâche qui sera la leur, face notamment aux multiples crises qui traduisent, selon lui, une crise plus profonde des civilisations et des valeurs. Cette crise aggrave encore le fossé entre le Nord et le Sud, comme l'a montré la Conférence générale qui vient de s'achever. Toutes les compétences devront donc être mises à profit et chacun devra contribuer à la réforme de l'Organisation pour donner à celle-ci les moyens d'atteindre ses objectifs, qui répondent tous à une même visée : l'édification de la paix.

23.2 مواصلاً حديثه باللغة الفرنسية، قال إن مجموعة الدول العربية قد قررت بالإجماع ترشيح السيد زياد الدريس، السفير المندوب الدائم للمملكة العربية السعودية لدى اليونسكو، ليكون نائباً لرئيسة المجلس التنفيذي عن المجموعة. وقال إن الجميع يعرفون أن زياد الدريس كاتب عربي ذو حديث عذب وقادر في الوقت ذاته على إيصال الغاية من الكلام.

(23.2) Continuing in Arabic, he said that the Arab States group had decided unanimously to nominate Mr Ziad Aldrees, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO, to be Vice-Chair of the Executive Board for that group. It was well known that he was an Arab writer who was at one and the same time soft-spoken and extremely skilled in getting his message across.

24. ضم السيد النعمي (الإمارات العربية المتحدة) صوته إلى الذين قاموا بتهنئة رئيسة المجلس الجديدة على توليها هذا المنصب، وأكد أن وفد دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة يؤيد ترشيح السيد زياد الدريس، المندوب الدائم للمملكة العربية

السعودية لدى اليونسكو، ليكون نائباً لرئيسة المجلس في فترة العامين القادمة.

(24) **Mr Neaimi** (United Arab Emirates) added his voice to those who had congratulated the new Chair of the Board on her assumption of that office, and said that the delegation of the United Arab Emirates supported the nomination of Mr Ziad Aldrees, the Permanent Delegate of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO, for the post of Vice-Chair for the coming biennium.

25. **The Chair** said that the electoral groups had achieved consensus in nominating the following candidates for election as Vice-Chairs of the Executive Board: Belgium (Group I), Slovakia (Group II), Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Group III), India (Group IV), Djibouti (Group V(a)) and Saudi Arabia (Group V(b)).

26. *Belgium, Slovakia, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, India, Djibouti and Saudi Arabia were elected Vice-Chairs of the Executive Board by acclamation.*

(Applause)

27. **The Chair** congratulated the Vice-Chairs on their election and invited them to take the floor.

28. **M. Farah** (Djibouti) (Vice-Président pour le groupe V (a)) se dit très sensible à l'honneur qui est fait à son pays. Il promet de porter haut la voix de l'Afrique au sein du Conseil et de servir au mieux la cause de l'Organisation, de concert avec tous les membres du groupe africain, comme le représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire l'a si bien fait avant lui. Revenant sur les difficultés dans lesquelles l'Organisation se trouve plongée, M. Farah assure la Directrice générale du plein soutien de son groupe pour mener, avec sang-froid, les mesures radicales qui seules permettront à l'UNESCO de poursuivre sa mission et de renforcer son leadership.

29. **Mr Oberoi** (India) (Vice-Chair for Group IV), speaking on behalf of India and Group IV, congratulated the Chair on her election and, pledging his support and cooperation to overcome current challenges, looked forward to her stewardship over the following two years, which he felt would be very productive. He thanked the Asia and the Pacific (ASPAC) group for their confidence and assured the group that he would endeavour to meet their aspirations and expectations. Coming from a democracy, he considered the role of teller to be one of notable importance and was deeply honoured to have been asked to take on the position. When he had inquired as to why he had been chosen, the representative of the Secretariat who had approached him had answered that he had been the first person seen having coffee that morning. Then, realizing her faux pas, she had corrected herself by adding that examination of his curriculum vitae had revealed that he was the only Member who had not done mathematics in secondary school. To conclude, he said that if the Organization could upraise itself while remaining down to earth, it would indeed have a great future.

30.1 **Mr Grexa** (Slovakia) (Vice-Chair for Group II) congratulated the Chair on her election and welcomed the opportunity to work under her leadership, both as a Board Member and as the Vice-Chair for Group II. He offered thanks for the trust and support he had received in assuming the responsibility of the Vice-Chair position, in particular to the members of Group II who shared at times differing sensibilities while always sharing mutual understanding. Group II had proposed a clean slate on Executive Board elections in 2009 and again in 2011 and would hopefully do so again in 2013. Accordingly,

Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had taken a seat on the Executive Board for the first time as independent States and he extended congratulations to them in that regard.

30.2 Poursuivant en français, M. Grexa se déclare fier de ce que trois femmes d'exception au sein de l'Organisation – la Directrice générale, la Présidente de la Conférence générale et l'ex-Présidente du Conseil exécutif – soient toutes trois issues du groupe II.

30.3 Продолжая по-русски, оратор отмечает, что за последние два года Совет хорошо поработал, особенно благодаря своему Председателю, хотя, по словам поэта, приходилось иногда «наступать на горло собственной песне». Если поэзия сопротивляется переводу, то в Совете, однако, общее звучание получилось неплохо.

(30.3) Continuing in Russian, he said that over the past two years, the Board had worked well, especially thanks to its Chair, even if, in the words of the poet, it had occasionally had to “step on the throat of its own song”. While poetry did not lend itself easily to translation, in the Board, on the other hand, the joint tone achieved had turned out quite well.

30.4 Reprenant en français, M. Grexa dit que la situation financière est certes préoccupante, mais ne doit pas faire oublier les menaces qui pèsent sur l'universalité de l'Organisation. L'UNESCO devra tout mettre en œuvre pour sortir renforcée de cette zone de turbulences dans laquelle elle est, en quelque sorte, délibérément entrée.

31. **Mme Chainaye** (Belgique) se dit consciente des lourdes responsabilités qui incombent aux Vice-Présidents, et assure que la Belgique s'emploiera à défendre les intérêts du groupe I, en étroite collaboration avec les représentants des autres groupes électoraux. Il sera en effet très important de maintenir une cohésion forte au sein du Conseil exécutif afin que celui-ci puisse guider l'Organisation dans les moments difficiles à venir.

32. **La Sra. Sánchez Bello** (República Bolivariana de Venezuela) felicita calurosamente a la Presidenta, a quien asegura que podrá contar con el apoyo del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe para dirigir las labores del Consejo en los momentos particularmente difíciles que atraviesa la Organización, dice que no escatimará esfuerzos para estar a la altura de la responsabilidad que le ha encomendado su grupo electoral tras el desollante desempeño en esa función de la Sra. Wimpfheimer y, por último, congratula a los demás vicepresidentes por su elección, lo cual augura un excelente trabajo de equipo.

(32) **Ms Sánchez Bello** (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) warmly congratulated the Chair and assured her that she could rely on the support of the Latin America and Caribbean Group in guiding the work of the Board in the particularly difficult times facing the Organization. She would spare no effort to rise to the responsibility entrusted to her by her electoral group after Ms Wimpfheimer's outstanding performance in that office and, lastly, she congratulated the other Vice-Chairs on their election, which boded well for excellent team work in the future.

33. قال السيد الدريس (المملكة العربية السعودية) إنه لن يطيل الكلام بل سكتفي بنوحيه ثلاث رسائل سريعة: فهنا في الرسالة الأولى الرئيسة الجديدة بمنصبتها وأشاد بحسن اختيارها رئيسة للمجلس. وشكر في الرسالة الثانية مجموعة الدول العربية على جهودها، ولا سيما مصر، رئيسة المجموعة، وأيضاً المغرب، نائب رئيس المجموعة، وخص بالذكر السيدة عزيزة بناني، رئيسة سابقة للمجلس، مثنياً على نشاطها

وفعاليتها، وأشار إلى أن ملء الفراغ الذي تخلفه السيدة عزيزة بناني أمر صعب ولكنه قدر من يأتي بعدها. ووجه الرسالة الثالثة إلى ممثل الهند قائلاً إنه استفاد من درسه وهو أنه ينبغي تحاشي تناول القهوة مبكراً في اليونسكو.

(33) **Mr Aldrees** (Saudi Arabia) said that he did not propose to speak at length, but that he merely wished to touch briefly on three different points. First, he congratulated the new Chair on her office and commended her selection as Chair of the Board. Secondly, he thanked the Arab States group, and especially the Chair of the group, Egypt, and the Vice-Chair of the group, Morocco, for their efforts. He singled out Ms Aziza Bennani, a former Chair of the Board, commending her dynamism and effectiveness; while it would be difficult to fill the void she had left behind, he nevertheless expressed his appreciation for her successor. Thirdly, taking a cue from the representative of India, he said that one should avoid drinking coffee early in the morning at UNESCO.

34. **The Chair** invited the newly elected Vice-Chairs to join her for consultations on the office of Chairs of the Commissions and Committees.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m.
and resumed at 12.15 p.m.*

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ELECTION OF THEIR CHAIRS

Item 5: Programme and External Relations Commission (PX)

Item 6: Finance and Administrative Commission (FA)

Item 7: Special Committee (SP)

Item 8: Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR)

Item 9: Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)

The Executive Board continued its consultations on the membership of the committees.

The meeting rose at 1.00 p.m.

SECOND MEETING

Friday 11 November 2011 at 3.15 p.m.

Chair: Ms Cummins

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEES AND OF THE AD HOC PREPARATORY GROUP

Item 10: Proposed terms of reference of the Special Committee (SP) (188 EX/DR.1)

Item 11: Proposed terms of reference of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) (188 EX/DR.2)

Item 12: Proposed terms of reference of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) (188 EX/DR.3 Rev.)

1. **The Chair** said that the proposed terms of reference of the Special Committee, as set out in document 188 EX/DR.1, were identical to those adopted by the Executive Board at its 183rd session, the proposed terms of reference of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendation, as set out in document 188 EX/DR.2, were identical to those adopted by the Executive Board at its 183rd session with some minor corrections reflecting the actual terms of reference as applied in 2009-2011, and the proposed terms of reference of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations, as set out in 188 EX/DR.3 Rev., were identical to those adopted by the Executive Board at its 187th session. She therefore proposed that the Board adopt the respective draft decisions individually.

2. *The proposed terms of reference of the Special Committee, as contained in document 188 EX/DR.1, were adopted.*

3. *The proposed terms of reference of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, as contained in document 188 EX/DR.2, were adopted.*

4. *The proposed terms of reference of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations, as contained in document 188 EX/DR.3 Rev., were adopted.*

Item 13: Mandate of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group of the Executive Board (188 EX/DR.4)

5. **The Chair** reminded Members that the Board, at its 186th session, had decided to establish, at the current session, on an experimental basis, an ad hoc group comprising 18 Member States, three from each electoral group, with enhanced participation by all UNESCO Member States, to support the preparation of its two plenary commissions, and recalled that its Chair would be elected by the Group at its first meeting.

6. **The Secretary** read out the list of Members of the Executive Board proposed by each electoral group to serve on the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group in 2012-2013: Denmark, Italy, United States of America (Group I); Czech Republic, Russian Federation, Slovakia (Group II); Brazil, Mexico, Saint Lucia (Group III); Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea (Group IV); Djibouti, Gabon, Namibia (Group V(a)); Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia (Group V(b)).

7. **طلب السيد الذهبي (مصر)** من الأمانة أن تقدم، قبل الشروع في اعتماد مشروع القرار، توضيحات عن صلاحية

هذا الفريق مقارنةً بصلاحيات مكتب المجلس التنفيذي للتأكد من عدم وجود تعارض فيما بينهما.

(7) **M. El Zahaby** (Égypte) demande au Secrétariat de fournir, avant que l'on n'en vienne à l'adoption du projet de décision, des éclaircissements sur la compétence de ce groupe au regard des compétences du Bureau du Conseil exécutif afin de s'assurer qu'il n'y a pas conflit entre les deux.

8. **The Chair** asked Egypt to make specific reference to the document in order to clarify his question.

9. **أشار السيد الذهبي (مصر)** إلى أن ما يرد في الفقرة 1 والفقرة الفرعية (ج) من الفقرة 2 بشأن تنظيم أعمال لجنة البرنامج والعلاقات الخارجية واللجنة المالية والإدارية يندرج أيضاً في اختصاصات مكتب المجلس التنفيذي، وطلب من الأمانة توضيح هذا الأمر.

(9) **M. El Zahaby** (Égypte) note que les dispositions du paragraphe 1 et de l'alinéa (c) du paragraphe 2 concernant l'organisation des travaux de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures et de la Commission administrative relèvent également des attributions du Bureau du Conseil exécutif et il demande au Secrétariat de clarifier ce point.

10. **The Chair** explained that the Bureau of the Executive Board and the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group were complementary to one another. The Bureau was responsible for preparing the agenda of the Executive Board, while the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group would be tasked with in-depth examination of a limited number of agenda items, determined in advance through consultation between the Chair of the Executive Board and the Chairs of the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) and the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA), as had been the case previously with the Group of Experts on Financial and Administrative Matters. With regard to 188 EX/DR.4, paragraph 2 (d), the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group sought to provide substantive input for the draft Executive Board report to the General Conference on the implementation of the C/5 document rather than to determine the report's contents, which would fall under the purview of the Bureau and the Chair.

11. **M. El Zahaby** (Égypte), remercie la Présidente des utiles éclaircissements qu'elle vient de donner. De même, il lui paraît nécessaire de mieux préciser, dès le départ, différents aspects des méthodes de travail décrites dans la Partie IV du projet de décision, notamment en ce qui concerne le nombre et la durée des réunions du nouvel organe.

12.1 **The Chair** stated that, as indicated in document 188 EX/DR.4, the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group would be scheduled to meet in advance of each session of the Executive Board. Should an item possibly require more in-depth analysis or more urgent consideration, the need for additional meetings of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group would be decided on by the Chair, the Bureau of the Executive Board and the Group itself. The Ad Hoc Preparatory Group was experimental, with a mandate of two years. Some methods for executing its work would be determined during the course of its work and some methods from the Group of Experts on Financial and Administrative Matters would be applied with regard to the preparation and subsequent transmission of work to the PX Commission and the FA Commission for their consideration.

12.2 Seeing no objections, she took it that the Board wished to adopt the mandate of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group of the Executive Board contained in document 188 EX/DR.4.

13. *It was so decided.*

GENERAL MATTERS

Item 14: Amendment of Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board concerning the change of name of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations (188 EX/2)

14. **The Chair** said that the amendment of Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedures of the Executive Board concerned replacing the name of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations by "Committee on Non-Governmental Partners", as indicated in the draft decision contained in document 188 EX/2.

15. **Mr Toga** (Ethiopia) asked what was the rationale motivating the change and what was its substantive effect.

16. **The Secretary** said that over the course of the previous biennium, the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations had examined the possibility of updating and expanding its mandate, and had made proposals to that end to the Executive Board at its 187th session. The change was technical and aligned the name of the Committee with the mandate and terms of reference that had just been adopted by the Executive Board and with the new Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session. The Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board would be changed automatically to reflect the new name, should the amendment be accepted.

17. **The Chair**, seeing no objections, took it that the Board wished to amend Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedures of the Executive Board by adopting the draft decision contained in document 188 EX/2.

18. *The amendment of Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board concerning the change of name of the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations to the "Committee on Non-Governmental Partners", as contained in document 188 EX/2, was adopted.*

Item 15: Proposed dates for the 189th session of the Executive Board, and tentative dates for the 190th, 191st, 192nd and 193rd sessions (188 EX/INF.1 Prov. Rev.)

19. **The Chair** said that in accordance with Rule 2 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board determined at each session the date and place of the following session. The date could be modified, if necessary, by the Chair. Document 188 EX/INF.1 Prov. Rev. contained the dates proposed for the 189th session of the Executive Board, which had been brought forward following the statement made by the Director-General at the plenary session of the 36th session of the General Conference the day before, on the budgetary situation of the Organization. The dates for subsequent sessions were purely indicative.

20. **Mme da Rocha** (Brésil) se demande s'il ne serait pas possible, compte tenu de la situation financière, de réduire la durée proposée de la 189^e session.

21. **The Chair** said that the point raised by the representative of Brazil was a valid one. She asked the Secretary to explain how he anticipated the work of the Board unfolding during that session and asked Board Members to comment on the proposed duration.

22. رأى السيد الذهبي (مصر) أن المدة المخصصة للدورة القادمة للمجلس التنفيذي، وهي تسعة أيام، غير كافية. وأشار إلى أن المؤتمر العام عقد هذا العام في أثناء احتفال المسلمين بعيد الأضحى وأن دورة المجلس التنفيذي الثانية والتسعين بعد المائة ستزامن أيضاً مع عيد الأضحى الذي سيقع يوم 15 أو 16 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر، إذ إنها ستعقد في الفترة الممتدة من 2 إلى 17 أكتوبر 2013. وأوضح أنه لا يطلب وإنما يرجى مراعاة هذا الأمر وتقديم موعد بداية الدورة بحيث يكون يوم 30 أيلول/سبتمبر لكي تنتهي دورة المجلس التنفيذي قبل العيد المذكور.

(22) **M. El Zahaby** (Égypte) juge insuffisante la durée de neuf jours prévue pour la prochaine session du Conseil exécutif. Il note que la Conférence générale s'est réunie cette année pendant la période de célébration par les musulmans de l'aïd-el-adha et que la 192^e session du Conseil exécutif coïncidera également avec la célébration de cette fête le 15 ou le 16 octobre, puisqu'elle se tiendra du 2 au 17 octobre 2013. Il exprime simplement le souhait que l'on tienne compte de ce fait et que l'on avance au 30 septembre la date d'ouverture de la session de façon que la clôture des travaux intervienne avant la fête en question.

23. **El Sr. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) hubiese preferido que el punto 15 se examinara conjuntamente con el siguiente, "Lista indicativa de los asuntos que examinará el Consejo Ejecutivo en 2012-2013". Opina que si para la 189^a reunión se previera un orden del día menos burocrático que el anunciado en el marco del punto 16, y más cercano a la realidad actual y a lo que propone la Directora General, el número de días propuesto tendría que alcanzar.

(23) **M. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) aurait préféré que le point 15 soit examiné conjointement avec le suivant, « Liste indicative des questions que le Conseil exécutif aura à traiter en 2012-2013 ». Si l'on prévoyait pour la 189^e session un ordre du jour moins bureaucratique que celui qui est annoncé au titre du point 16, et plus proche des réalités de l'heure et des propositions de la Directrice générale, le nombre de jours proposé devrait selon lui être suffisant.

24. **The Chair** said that the representative of Cuba had raised an important issue regarding the number of procedural and administrative items on the proposed agenda when there were core issues which would require examination in depth.

25. **The Director-General** said that she appreciated the Board's willingness to bring forward the 189th session of the Executive Board. An earlier session was needed in order to consult with the Executive Board and tackle priority issues, namely the Organization's difficult budgetary situation, the necessary concomitant reforms, and the outlook for the core programme and budget. As had perhaps not been made sufficiently clear, the proposed schedule for the 189th session was shorter than a usual session of the Board while the 190th session was correspondingly longer and their agendas might be quite different. She had suggested to the Bureau of the Executive Board that it might like to examine the list of items to be considered, particularly those following on from the decisions of the General Conference, and

redistribute items requiring more preparation time to the 190th session of the Board, thereby giving focus to priority issues at the 189th session.

26. **The Secretary** said that the length of Executive Board sessions was a constant balancing act between the desire to have short sessions and the number of items on the agenda. The Secretariat was aware that Members were unhappy with sessions stretching into the evening and that parallel meetings were problematic for small delegations. While some adjustment was possible, the Board ultimately had to deal with the items on the agenda.

27. **Ms Lacœuilhe** (Saint Lucia) said that she understood the need to bring forward the 189th session of the Executive Board but sought reassurance that difficulties incumbent in it being so much earlier could be overcome, citing her concern that even with a reduced agenda and a number of items postponed, there was very little time for the preparation of documents and a long gap until the 190th session, which could prove problematic should the Director-General require further consultation with the Board. Starting the 190th session on 11 September would mean the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group of the Executive Board meeting in August and she asked if documents would be ready in time.

28. **M. Bessikri** (Algérie) souscrit pleinement à la proposition de la Directrice générale tendant à tenir une session d'un caractère spécial vers la fin du mois de février ou au début du mois de mars. Cela est indispensable pour régler le problème de la situation financière de l'Organisation, mais il importe que l'ordre du jour soit réduit à l'essentiel.

29. **Mr Andreassen** (Denmark) said that it was of highest importance to hold the 189th session in February and March to address the dramatic cash-flow situation described by the Director General in her address the previous day. Every meeting day was costly. If one session were to be expanded, then the subsequent session must be reduced so that the total number of meeting days remained the same.

30. **M. El Zahaby** (Égypte) craint lui aussi qu'en cas d'avancement des dates de la 189^e session, les délais statutaires pour l'envoi des documents ne puissent être respectés. Il suggère d'envisager plutôt la tenue d'une session extraordinaire, d'une durée d'un jour ou deux, qui serait exclusivement consacrée à la question de la situation financière.

31. **The Director-General** said that it was not her place to impose the proposal on the Executive Board; she was amenable to any solution Board Members felt was most appropriate, but an earlier Board session would allow her to address difficult decisions, find solutions and maintain the dialogue she needed with the Executive Board, with a reduced agenda focused on the Organization's core priorities in the face of the difficult financial situation. She wanted frank discussion on how to focus programmes and deliverables to best serve the Organization and emphasized that the discussion about the budget was not merely one of figures, but also one on UNESCO's work. When preparing the agenda, the Bureau of the Executive Board would have the leeway to decide which items were imperatively linked to the delivery of core programmes and the financial situation, and which items required more in-depth preparation, or were not urgent, and could be addressed at the 190th session. With the Chair's approval, she hoped to hold an information

meeting at the end of January. That, and other information meetings, would be held as usual and the Secretariat would continue to prepare for the 190th session. Following Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's initiative at the United Nations, she intended to introduce a reform proposal setting limits to the number of pages in documents.

32. **El Sr. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) coincide plenamente con la Directora General y es partidario de que la Secretaría y la Mesa acometan sin demora la tarea de preparar un orden del día restringido que se concentre en lo esencial, esto es, las prioridades, la acción de la UNESCO y la situación financiera, resultante de un no pago decidido unilateralmente.

(32) **M. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) souscrit pleinement aux propos de la Directrice générale, estimant que le Secrétariat et le Bureau devraient sans tarder entreprendre d'établir un ordre du jour restreint qui se concentre sur l'essentiel, à savoir les priorités, l'action de l'UNESCO et la situation financière, laquelle découle d'une décision unilatérale de non-paiement.

33. **Ms Faye** (Gambia) supported the Cuban delegate's endorsement of the Director-General's proposal and said that a Board session in February was necessary to ensure the Organization was on the right footing. The proposal to move forward the dates of the 189th session of the Executive Board was due to extraordinary circumstances and thus it would be logical to examine a reduced number of items, with further items deferred to a later, and longer session.

34. **The Chair** said that a consensus seemed to be forming around the idea that the 189th session would be approached in a different way owing to the extraordinary circumstances faced by the Organization and that that session would be shorter and the 190th session consequently longer. She sought clarification as to how the lengthy intersessional period of work of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group would be handled.

35. **The Secretary** said that to formulate a tighter agenda, the Secretariat would shortly extract the follow-up from the resolutions adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session, then prepare an initial draft agenda that would be examined internally to identify the items to be taken up in February and those that could be proposed for postponement, owing to the time needed for their preparation, to the 190th session, following consultation with the Executive Board. In mid-December, the Chair would then submit the provisional version of the draft agenda to the Bureau of the Executive Board with a copy to all Member States, which would have the opportunity to comment thereon. A revised provisional agenda would be sent by the statutory dispatch date, 27 January 2012, according to the proposed dates for the 189th session. The Members of the Board would then have a further opportunity to react, bearing in mind that the agenda was only officially adopted at the first plenary meeting of the Board. The timeframe was therefore workable and it would be possible to lighten the agenda on the basis of proposals from both the Secretariat and Members of the Board.

36. **Ms Lacœuilhe** (Saint Lucia) said that she appreciated the clarification and considered that the best course of action was to defer decision on the dates of the 190th session of the Executive Board to the 189th session, when further developments could be taken into

account. She supported the Director-General's request to move the dates of the 189th session.

37. **Mr El Zahaby** (Egypt) asked if the regularly scheduled information meeting for the Board would still take place, and if so, when. He proposed, in order to reduce per diem and other costs, starting the 189th session of the Board on a Monday and ending it on a Friday, rather than beginning on a Thursday and ending on a Tuesday, as proposed in document 188 EX/INF.1 Prov. Rev.

38. **The Chair** said that Egypt's point was well taken and that the Secretary was currently reviewing his proposal.

39. **هنأت السيدة الطرهوني** (تونس) رئيسة المجلس على توليها هذا المنصب وأكدت لها استعداد وفد بلدها لمساعدتها في أداء مهامها النبيلة. ورأت أن من المناسب، بعد ما قدمه أمين المجلس والمديرة العامة من توضيح، الاستجابة للدعوة التي وُجّهت إلى أعضاء المجلس بعقد دورة الربيع في شباط/فبراير، وأشارت إلى أن الجزء الأكبر من الدورة سيكون في آذار/مارس، وهو شهر ربيعي ملائم لهذه الدورة، وأن إجراء تغيير جزئي في موعد البداية، كان نبدأ يوم الاثنين أو يوم الخميس، يعد أمراً ثانوياً يمكن أن يبت فيه مكتب المجلس.

(39) **Mme Tarhouni** (Tunisie) félicite la Présidente du Conseil exécutif pour son accession à cette fonction et l'assure que la délégation de son pays est prête à l'aider à assumer ses nobles tâches. Il conviendrait, à son avis, après les explications données par le Secrétaire du Conseil exécutif et la Directrice générale, de répondre à la demande adressée aux membres du Conseil de tenir la session de printemps en février. La plus grande partie de la session se situerait en mars, mois du printemps, donc approprié pour cette session. La légère modification de la date d'ouverture de la session, de telle façon que les travaux commencent le lundi ou le jeudi, est selon elle une question secondaire qui peut être réglée par le Bureau du Conseil.

40. **Mr Toga** (Ethiopia) said that his delegation also supported the Director-General's proposal and that the earlier date for the 189th session of the Board was needed in the light of the situation the Organization faced. Given the difficult financial situation and since each day had a cost, nine working days could prove sufficient for the 189th session. The Director-General and the Bureau of the Executive Board should propose an agenda of urgent, priority items to be dealt with at the 189th session with other items moved to the 190th session. An agenda that included a work programme with estimates of time needed to examine each item would be helpful in the future when determining the number of days needed for each session.

41. **M. Fazelly** (Afghanistan) se dit d'avis que les dates de la session suivante doivent être déterminées sur les seules bases des décisions prises par la Conférence générale, mais non en fonction d'une crise qui pourrait par ailleurs imposer à tout instant la convocation d'urgence d'une session extraordinaire, comme le prévoit le Règlement intérieur du Conseil.

42. **The Chair** thanked the representatives for their contributions and observed that there was widespread understanding of the rationale to bring forward the 189th session of the Board and of the need to focus its agenda. It was important to move not only with deliberate speed but also with sound logic. A shorter agenda for the 189th session was possible, but that would have an impact on the 190th session. It was important to maintain

balance between the two. The intersessional period should not be too long, at the risk of affecting the Board's ability to deliver its work, not just within the year but within the biennium. Members would be consulted on the best course of action to meet the Director-General's needs, but must be aware that sacrifices would be necessary. She agreed that the consideration of dates for the 190th session could be deferred.

43. **The Secretary** said that the 189th session could begin on Monday 27 February 2012 with the first meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board, with three days set aside for meetings of the committees, and then three days of plenary meetings from 1 to 3 March, which included a meeting on a Saturday. The plenary meetings could continue on Monday 5 March, as might be necessary given that many items would likely require plenary discussions. There could be two or three days of commissions, if necessary, and the Board would conclude on Saturday 10 March. The proposal would indeed have an impact on per diems. The proposal currently contained no indication as to which committees would meet because the agenda might not call for all committees to meet.

44. **The Chair** said that although the situation was not ideal, extraordinary times called for extraordinary measures. Effort and time would be required of the Members in order to meet the agenda and timetable that would be set.

45. **Mme Chainaye** (Belgique) se déclare favorable aux propositions de la Directrice générale concernant l'avancement de la prochaine session, mais voudrait savoir dans quel sens les nouvelles dates proposées auraient une incidence sur le paiement des indemnités journalières (*per diem*).

46. **Le Secrétaire** dit que le calendrier précise toujours le nombre de jours calendaires de la session, car les indemnités journalières sont versées pour toute la durée du séjour à Paris, jours non ouvrables compris. Ainsi, la décision de siéger les samedis permettrait-elle, en écourtant la session, de réaliser des économies.

47. **Ms Laccœuilhe** (Saint Lucia) considered that the general policy, or plenary debate, usually held at the start of each session of the Executive Board, was not needed at the 189th session, given that the session's focus was to deal with urgent, priority issues.

48. **The Chair** said that the representative of Saint Lucia's point was sound and warranted further consideration.

49. **El Sr. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) desea que haya un debate plenario y subraya su importancia.

(49) **M. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) souhaite la tenue d'un débat plénier, dont il souligne l'importance.

50. **The Chair**, responding to the representative of Cuba, said that the plenary debate at the 189th session of the Executive Board was likely to focus specifically on the items under examination rather than be wide-ranging, but, understanding his concern, said that the proposal to eliminate the plenary debate was simply a matter for consideration and had not been decided upon.

51. **Mr Andreasen** (Denmark) suggested establishing, if needed, open-ended working groups that would supplement information meetings to deal with the gap between the 189th and 190th sessions.

52. **The Chair** said that everything had an impact and that all eventualities would be considered. Seeing no objections, she took it that the Board wished to adopt the proposal to hold the 189th session of the Executive Board from Monday 27 February 2012 to Saturday 10 March 2012.

53. *It was so decided.*

54. **Mr Oberoi** (India) (Vice Chair for Group IV) said that in a sort of magic trick beginning the 189th session of the Board on a Monday and working on two Saturdays meant reducing time but increasing the number of days. He had not fully understood the logic behind that decision. The Bureau of the Executive Board had yet to prioritize and make decisions as to the essential agenda items to consider. The session should not use two Saturdays, and should begin on Monday. Both the number of days and the number of agenda items should be reduced, while the plenary debate, which was extremely important, should be preserved.

55. **The Chair** said that the 189th session would indeed begin on a Monday and included the possibility of working on Saturday, as was the case with every session of the Executive Board. The Secretariat had forewarned the Board of the likelihood of Saturday sessions being needed in order to meet the agenda and targets that would be set. Final decision on matter had yet to be taken by the Bureau of the Executive Board, but, in principle, the range of dates had been agreed to.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ELECTION OF THEIR CHAIRS (continued)

ITEM 7: SPECIAL COMMITTEE (SP) (continued)

ITEM 8: COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CR) (continued)

ITEM 9: COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO) (continued)

AD HOC PREPARATORY GROUP OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (continued)

56.1 **The Secretary** read out the list of Members of the Executive Board proposed by each electoral group to serve on the Special Committee (SP): Belgium, Denmark, Monaco (Group I); Russian Federation, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uzbekistan (Group II); Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti (Group III); Indonesia, Japan, Viet Nam (Group IV); Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria (Group V(a)); Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates (Group V(b)).

56.2. The list of Members of the Executive Board proposed by each electoral group to serve on the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) was: Austria, France, Italy, Spain, United States of America (Group I); Belarus, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Slovakia the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Group II); Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Saint Lucia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Group III); China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Thailand (Group IV); Angola, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Zimbabwe (Group V(a)); Algeria, Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates (Group V(b)).

56.3 The list of Members of the Executive Board proposed by each electoral group to serve on the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) was: Austria, Belgium, France, Italy (Group I); Belarus, Russian Federation and Uzbekistan, which left one vacancy (Group II); Brazil, Grenada, Peru, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Group III); China, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea (Group IV); Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Mali (Group V(a)); Algeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic (Group V(b)).

56.4 The list of Members of the Executive Board proposed by each electoral group to serve on the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group was: Denmark, Italy, United States of America (Group I); Czech Republic, Russian Federation, Slovakia (Group II); Brazil, Mexico, Saint Lucia (Group III); Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea (Group IV); Djibouti, Gabon, Namibia (Group V(a)); Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia (Group V(b)).

57. *The membership of the permanent committees and the Ad Hoc Preparatory Group was approved.*

Election of the Chairs of the commissions and the committees (continued)

58. **The Secretary** read out the list of Members of the Executive Board proposed by each electoral group to serve as Chairs of the permanent commissions and committees of the Executive Board, on which consensus had been reached: Programme and External Relations Commission – Congo; Financial and Administrative Commission – United Kingdom; Special Committee – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Committee on Convention and Recommendations – Kazakhstan; Committee on Non-Governmental Partners – Egypt. The Vice-Chairs would provide the names of the Chairs concerned.

59. **M. Farah** (Djibouti) (Vice-Président pour le groupe V (a)) désigne M. Adoua (Congo) comme candidat à la présidence de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures (PX).

60. **Mme Chainaye** (Belgique) (Vice-Président pour le groupe I) désigne M. Sudders (Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord) comme candidat à la présidence de la Commission financière et administrative (FA).

61. **M. Grexa** (Slovaquie) (Vice-Président pour le groupe II) désigne M. Budjaku (ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine) comme candidat à la présidence du Comité spécial (SP).

62. **Mr Oberoi** (India) (Vice-Chair for Group IV) nominated Mr Suleimenov (Kazakhstan) to chair the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations.

63. **عَيْنَ السَّيِّدِ الدَّرِيْسِ (المملكة العربية السعودية) نائِبِ رَئِيسِ المَجمُوعَةِ الخَامِسَةِ (ب)) مَعَالِي الوَظِيْرِ الدَكتُورِ مَعْتَزِ خورْشيدِ مَمْتَلِ مِصرِ رَئِيسَا للَجَنَةِ المَخْتَصَةِ بالشَّرْكَاءِ غَيرِ الحُكُومِيَّينِ.**

(63) **M. Aldrees** (Royaume d'Arabie saoudite) désigne Son Exc. M. Motaz Khorshid, ministre, représentant de l'Égypte, comme candidat à la présidence du Comité sur les partenaires non-gouvernementaux.

64. **Ms Lacœuilhe** (Saint Lucia) noted that an alternate rather than a representative had been nominated as Chair of one committee, which appeared to contradict

the provisions of Rule 16.2 of the Board's Rules of Procedure. She would appreciate clarification on that point.

65. **The Chair** invited the Vice-Chair for Group IV to take the floor.

66. **Mr Oberoi** (India) (Vice-Chair for Group IV) nominated Mr Tasmagambetov (Kazakhstan) to chair the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations.

67. **Mr El Zahaby** (Egypt) sought clarification from the Legal Adviser, for the future, regarding the point raised by the representative of Saint Lucia as to the question of a Chair's position as a representative of a Member State or, in some way, a representative of the Executive Board, as that had been a matter of concern in the past.

68. **Ms Vicien Milburn** (Legal Adviser) *in extenso*:

It is my understanding that the Chairs of the permanent committees or commissions are elected in their personal capacity, and not as representatives of Member States. It is *intuitu personae*, so that is the rationale for the rule, and that is why there is a requirement that it be the particular person who chairs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

69. **Ms Lacœuilhe** (Saint Lucia) said that she would have loved to have had, as an alternate, the opportunity to act as a Chair. However, Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board stated quite clearly that the Chairs of the permanent commissions and committees should be elected from among the representatives appointed by the Members of the Board.

70. **The Chair** said that if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Board agreed to suspend Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, in accordance with Rule 67, and to elect the nominees by acclamation.

71. *It was so decided.*

72. **Mr Adoua** (Congo) was **elected** Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX).

73. **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) was **elected** Chair of the Financial and Administrative Commission (FA).

74. **Mr Budjaku** (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) was **elected** Chair of the Special Committee (SP).

75. **Mr Tasmagambetov** (Kazakhstan) was **elected** Chair of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR).

76. **Mr Khorshid** (Egypt) was **elected** Chairperson of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP).

Item 16: Tentative list of matters to be considered by the Executive Board in 2012-2013 (188 EX/INF.2)

77. **The Chair** emphasized that the list contained in document 188 EX/INF.2 was indicative. Following consultations among the Bureau of the Executive Board and Member States, substantive items for consideration at the earlier 189th session would be retained, bearing in mind the representative of Cuba's observation that many items proposed in the document were statutory or routine. She took it that the Members of the Board wished to take note of the document for information purposes.

78. *It was so decided.*

79. **M. de Canson** (France), revenant sur la question du maintien du débat de politique générale, ou débat plénier, à la session suivante, dit comprendre les délégations qui y sont attachées, mais propose de réduire à titre exceptionnel le temps des interventions de trois minutes, ce qui permettrait selon lui de libérer une demi-journée de travaux.

80. أعرب السيد الرئيس (المملكة العربية السعودية) عن اتفاقه في الرأي مع ممثل فرنسا على الحل الوسط الذي يقضي بتقليص مدة المداخلات، ورأى أن هذه المدة كافية لأن تعيد كل عضو عن فكرته، وأن الاقتراح يفيد أيضاً في تقليص التكاليف المالية. وقال إنه كان يود أن يتخلى المجلس عن المناقشات العامة في الدورات القادمة، لكنه ارتأى أن من المناسب مراعاة رغبة الدول الأعضاء في الإبقاء على المناقشة العامة لأن هناك بعض القضايا التي قد تتطلب إبداء بعض الآراء والمواقف منها.

(80) **M. Aldrees** (Royaume d'Arabie saoudite) souscrit à l'idée émise par le représentant de la France d'une solution intermédiaire, réduisant le temps de parole. À son avis, le temps alloué suffit pour que chaque membre exprime sa pensée et la proposition a en outre le mérite d'entraîner une réduction des coûts. L'orateur voulait en fait que le Conseil exécutif renonce au débat plénier lors des prochaines sessions mais il estime qu'il convient de tenir compte du souhait des États membres de maintenir ce débat car certaines questions requièrent parfois l'expression de certains points de vue et positions.

81. **Mr Killion** (United States of America) supported the suggestion put forward by the representative of France, explaining that he had spent a great deal of his career working in a legislative body where statements were never allowed to exceed three minutes.

82. أيد السيد الذهبي (مصر) ما جاء على لسان ممثل فرنسا وممثل السعودية، وأضاف أن كثيراً من القرارات التي اعتمدها المؤتمر العام في دورته السادسة والثلاثين تطلب من المجلس التنفيذي أن يقدم في دورته التاسعة والثمانين بعد المائة بعض المعلومات التي تتعلق ببعض البرامج القائمة، ورأى في هذا الصدد أن عشرة أيام من العمل قد تكون كافية للحفاظ على جدول أعمال المجلس في الدورة القادمة.

(82) **M. El Zahaby** (Égypte) souscrit aux propos du représentant de la France et de l'Arabie saoudite, en précisant que dans de nombreuses résolutions adoptées à sa 36^e session, la Conférence générale demande au Conseil exécutif de présenter à sa 189^e session des informations concernant certains programmes en cours. À cet égard, il estime que 10 jours de travail devraient être suffisants pour venir à bout de l'ordre du jour de la prochaine session du Conseil.

83. **M. Farah** (Djibouti), soulignant le caractère exceptionnel de la situation, appuie lui aussi la proposition de la France concernant l'organisation du débat plénier à la 189^e session.

84. **The Chair** said that the suggestion to reduce the time-limit for statements in the plenary debate at the 189th session of the Executive Board would be discussed by the Bureau of the Executive Board, in the light of the agenda and the aims to be achieved. As a general point, knowing the targets for each session of the Executive Board beforehand would allow the necessary action to be planned accordingly.

CLOSURE OF THE 188th SESSION

85.1 **The Director-General in extenso:**

Madam Chairperson, I was tempted to say just a few words, but if you would please allow me a little bit more than three minutes. I believe we all deserve a strong and positive conclusion to these several weeks of work – I am talking, of course, about the General Conference and the Executive Board's deliberations. Allow me, first, to officially congratulate all the new Members of the Board and congratulate all the Vice Chairs. I am very much looking forward to working with this Board because we indeed have a challenging agenda ahead of us. Let me come back to what we started with today. We started with a commemoration of an Armistice that was signed and brought hostilities and a terrible war to an end. UNESCO, let us remember, was also born in the wake of another "great and terrible war", with a mission to find new ways to build peace. I will never tire of recalling this. I think it is the Organization's core mandate. To be lasting, we all know that this peace must be built in the minds of men and women. And let me say that this 36th session of the General Conference issued a very clear message by strongly endorsing this mandate. In difficult times, this mandate is pertinent, relevant to all countries and all societies. From all different parts of the world these last three weeks, we heard a very clear message about how important UNESCO's mandate is. This will guide us, give us a compass for the next two years. We have our C/5 document. We have the important agenda items. We also have challenges. I believe that we are at a crossroads in the history of the Organization. I think the right compass is our values. If we do not look at our values, at what UNESCO stands for, we will lose our bearings. Especially in difficult times, we need our core values more than ever. It is essential that every Member State in this Organization is not only engaged, to the extent possible, but also rallies around these values and these principles that we hold dear, and if you will allow me, that each State assumes responsibility in carrying forward our mission.

(The Director-General continued in French)

85.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de poursuivre en français. Nous le savons, l'UNESCO est placée aujourd'hui au centre de beaucoup de regards. Elle est observée par les autres institutions des Nations Unies. Elle est observée par ceux qui espèrent et qui croient en l'action des Nations Unies et en l'action de l'UNESCO. Elle est observée, aussi, par ceux qui doutent de ce système, qui doutent de l'UNESCO. Nous devons leur adresser à tous un message sans équivoque en avançant rapidement sur les questions sensibles évoquées hier, et en tout premier lieu celle du déficit. La Conférence générale a pris hier des décisions importantes. Elle a aussi adopté une résolution non moins importante. Nous avons là quelques pistes pour sortir de nos difficultés. Un groupe de travail va être créé, et j'ai demandé à tous les États membres qui souhaitent y participer de se faire connaître, de partager leurs idées, afin que nous progressions rapidement vers des mesures concrètes.

85.3 Je voudrais rappeler à cet égard que, pour sa part, le Secrétariat a déjà commencé à travailler pour dégager davantage d'économies et pour mettre à profit de manière formelle ou informelle toutes les possibilités d'avancer à grands pas sur le chemin de la réforme. Je suis fermement convaincue que la situation actuelle est aussi l'occasion d'accélérer cette réforme. Ce qui est sûr, c'est que l'on ne peut pas obtenir une coupe de 22 % de notre budget par la seule réduction des coûts administratifs. Il nous faut aussi des moyens pour

continuer, et c'est notre responsabilité commune. Je crois aussi que cela fait partie du rôle important du Conseil exécutif en temps de crise. À la prochaine session, dont je vous remercie d'avoir décidé d'avancer les dates, je vous présenterai un plan d'action concret assorti de mesures concrètes de réduction des coûts et de réaménagement de nos activités. Je voudrais aussi remercier vivement tous les États membres qui m'ont témoigné leur confiance, ainsi qu'au personnel de l'Organisation. Je crois aussi que nous avons besoin de l'unité et de la solidarité de tous les États membres. Je voudrais remercier en particulier les pays en développement, ainsi que les pays moins avancés, qui ont exprimé hier leur soutien et leur engagement pour l'avenir de cette Organisation. Cette unité, je l'ai ressentie hier et je la ressens aujourd'hui clairement autour de cette table ; elle est notre atout le plus précieux et nous nous devons de la préserver.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)

85.4 Ladies and gentlemen, let me pass on another important message today. Yesterday, a resounding majority of Member States made a commitment to move forward with the core mandate of the Organization and recognized our need for strong financial, moral and political support. I am extremely pleased to be able to announce that the UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al Missned has pledged to increase her support to UNESCO's core education activities as a direct response to the financial difficulties faced by the Organization. Her Highness is particularly concerned that the decision of some Member States to withhold contributions will have serious and adverse consequences on UNESCO's core programmes and constitute a marked setback for sustainable development and peace, at a time when international cooperation is critical for achieving quality, universal education. She has called on all partners to join her in this initiative, given the challenges ahead, four years short of the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and following the commitment made by Heads of State at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly (MDG Summit) in New York in the year 2010. Her Highness has stated that the financial difficulties faced by the Organization are liable to affect its core programmes. This emergency initiative, ladies and gentlemen, will support the programme and budget adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session, in particular, the reinforcement of leadership for education for all through advocacy, partnership and monitoring, with a special emphasis on girls and women. Concerted attention will be placed on the least developed countries which are furthest away from reaching the education for all goals. Let me also inform you that the modalities for this important initiative will be worked out in the next few weeks with all the speed and urgency required to minimize the possible negative impact on the core programme adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session. Let me also mention that Her Highness is also the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for MDG 2 (universal primary education), where UNESCO is also the lead agency, and MDG 3, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. She has provided long-time support to UNESCO's activities, notably for literacy, curriculum development, teacher education and rehabilitation of higher education in Iraq, emergency support to education in Gaza, and support for the publication of the *Education under Attack* series. Let me

add that this is a very important gesture of solidarity and, I would say, an uncompromising commitment to education, to attaining the education for all MDG 2 and to the right to education. It is also a good example of the strong financial, political and moral support for our Organization for which, as the Director-General, I am extremely grateful. I believe this kind of support will be provided also by other partners, countries, governments, the private sector, philanthropists and civil society members who support our core UNESCO mandate. I believe we need, in the future, strong financial support, and, of course, strong guidance by the General Conference and by the Executive Board in the further reform of this Organization. I hope that, by such gestures of support, we can survive these difficult, turbulent times while preserving the core values and core mandate of this Organization so that we exit this complicated situation even stronger, better recognized, better equipped internally, better organized as a staff and as a presence on the field, a more reliable partner to the other United Nations agencies and with concrete results of delivering public goods to the people who need our support and encouragement. Thank you, Madam Chair.

(Applause)

86. أعرب السيد الرئيس (المملكة العربية السعودية) عن أسفه لعدم وصول أخبار مفرحة من الحكومة السعودية حتى ذلك الوقت، إذ إن الموضوع ما زال تحت النقاش. وقال إنه، تعاضداً مع ما ذكرته السيدة بوكوفا في اليوم السابق، نشر في تويتر بالعربية معلومات عن صندوق الطوارئ الذي أعلنت اليونسكو إنشائه وحث الأصدقاء والمتابعين لأنشطته على المساهمة في دعم هذا الصندوق. وذكر أنه جرى نقاش طويل وطرحت عليه أسئلة كثيرة في تويتر من المتابعين تسأل فيها بعضهم عما يدفع الأفراد إلى دعم اليونسكو مع أنهم غير مسؤولين عن المشكلة التي حدثت، ورأى بعضهم الآخر أن ميزانية اليونسكو ليست كبيرة وأن باستطاعة دولة واحدة أو دولتين تغطيتها. وقال إنه رد عليهم باختصار مؤكداً لهم أن من يساهم في صندوق الطوارئ لا يفعل ذلك لأن اليونسكو محتاجة إلى المال، بل لكي بحمي صورتها وحرمتها وأخلاقياتها من أن تنهزم أو تضعف أمام التهديد أو الحرمان المالي. وأشار إلى أن رسالته كانت موجهة بوضوح إلى الجميع، وعلى الأقل إلى المتابعين العرب، والسعوديين بوجه خاص. وأعلن من هذا المنطلق أن أعضاء وفد المملكة العربية السعودية الدائم لدى اليونسكو قد وافقوا جميعاً على التبرع براتب شهر تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر للمنظمة. وقال إنه يدرك أنها مساهمة رمزية جداً لأن تسد احتياجات اليونسكو المالية لكنها ستكون إسهاماً في الاعتراف بضرورة حماية اليونسكو وتعبيراً عن تعاضد أعضاء الوفد السعودي مع المنظمة وتقديم في الختام بجزيل الشكر إلى المديرية العامة مؤكداً لها أن وفد بلده يؤيدها في مساعيها.

(86) **M. Aldrees** (Royaume d'Arabie saoudite) regrette de ne pas avoir encore reçu de bonnes nouvelles du Gouvernement saoudien, car la question est toujours en discussion. Il indique, à l'appui des propos tenus par Mme Bokova la veille, qu'il a diffusé sur Twitter en arabe des informations sur le fonds d'urgence dont l'UNESCO a annoncé la création et il a incité les amis et abonnés qui suivent son activité à contribuer à soutenir ce fonds. Un long débat s'est déroulé au cours duquel de nombreuses questions lui ont été posées sur Twitter par des abonnés dont certains se sont demandé pourquoi des particuliers devaient soutenir l'UNESCO alors qu'ils n'étaient pas responsables du problème survenu tandis que d'autres ont estimé que le budget de l'Organisation n'était pas si considérable et qu'un État ou deux pouvaient à eux seuls y pourvoir. Ce à quoi il a répondu en substance que quiconque contribuerait à ce fonds d'urgence le ferait non pas parce que l'UNESCO avait besoin de fonds mais pour empêcher

que l'image, l'indépendance et l'éthique de l'Organisation ne soient battues en brèche ou affaiblies sous l'effet de la menace ou de la privation financière. Son message, tient-il à préciser, était clairement destiné à tous, et en tout cas aux abonnés arabes et saoudiens en particulier. À ce propos, il annonce que les membres de la délégation permanente du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite auprès de l'UNESCO sont tous convenus de faire don à l'Organisation de leur traitement du mois de novembre. Il a conscience que cette contribution est très symbolique et ne saurait couvrir les besoins financiers de l'UNESCO mais c'est une manière de reconnaître la nécessité de défendre l'Organisation et de lui exprimer le soutien des membres de la délégation saoudienne. En conclusion, il remercie vivement la Directrice générale et l'assure que la délégation de son pays la soutient dans ses efforts.

87. **The Chair** welcomed the announcement made by representative of Saudi Arabia and thanked him for his support.

88. **Mme Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe** (Gabon), s'exprimant au nom du Président de son pays, félicite Mme Cummins de son élection et remercie tous les États membres qui ont voté pour le Gabon, lequel ne ménagera aucun effort pour se montrer digne de la confiance qui lui a été témoignée, en œuvrant avec tous pour appuyer la ferme volonté de réforme et de modernisation manifestée par la Directrice générale. Saluant la présence de nombreuses femmes aux plus hauts niveaux de l'Organisation, elle se félicite de ce que ce soit sous la houlette de trois d'entre elles que la Palestine est enfin devenue membre à part entière de l'UNESCO. Le « *soft power* » des femmes, note-t-elle, contribue à placer les relations internationales sous le signe de l'éthique. Enfin, le Gabon souscrit au calendrier indicatif qui a été adopté concernant la tenue de la 189^e session.

89. **The Chair** commended Gabon's immediate response to the Director-General's call. It was courageous and deeply appreciated.

90. **M. Adoua** (Congo) se dit honoré et touché par la confiance que les membres du Conseil viennent d'accorder à l'Afrique en lui confiant la présidence de la Commission PX. Remerciant les membres du groupe africain qui l'ont soutenu, ainsi que les autres groupes électoraux, il exprime son soutien à la Directrice générale en cette période difficile que traverse l'UNESCO.

91. **Ms Grazette** (Barbados), conveying a message on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados, said that it was an honour and a privilege for a small country like Barbados to see a Barbadian assume the office of the Chair. Ms Cummins was extremely capable and experienced, and would undoubtedly lead with great skill and understanding. The office of Chair of the Executive Board was one of high responsibility, a fact that the Government of Barbados would not take lightly. Barbados was committed to UNESCO and its lofty goals. It supported the United Nations system of multilateralism because it allowed for the widest participation possible, thusly bringing about positive change worldwide. UNESCO was unique because of its representative and broad mandate. Barbados was confident that Ms Cummins would meet Members' high expectations and would bring added value to the Organization in challenging times. To conclude, she extended the thanks and

congratulations of the Government and people of Barbados to the Members of the Board for supporting Barbados' candidature, and said that her delegation looked forward to working assiduously with Board.

92. **Ms Mufti** (Pakistan) expressed her country's resolve to work closely with the new Members of the Executive Board to achieve their shared vision and goals. The mystic philosopher, Ashfaq Ahmed, had said that small and large diamonds, when placed together, reflected the character and brilliance of each other. The Board, indeed the Organization as a whole, were those diamonds. That was the value of being together. The peace that was in the hearts and souls of people should be passed onto others, starting from that very room. Members should work together to make a difference and to initiate change.

93.1 **M. Farah** (Djibouti) (Vice-Président pour le groupe Afrique) dit que si les pays africains ne figurent pas parmi les plus gros contributeurs financiers, cela n'enlève rien à leur engagement au sein de l'Organisation. Dans cette période de crise, où le continent africain apparaît particulièrement menacé, la priorité Afrique doit demeurer un élément essentiel de la mission de l'UNESCO. La suspension de certains programmes ne doit pas être synonyme de mise en sommeil de l'Organisation. Au contraire, le Secrétariat et les membres du Conseil se doivent d'être plus actifs et plus réactifs que jamais et d'approfondir leur réflexion sur la raison d'être de l'Organisation pour mieux en cerner les priorités.

93.2 Les défis à relever constituent un véritable test pour l'Organisation, qui devra poursuivre sa réforme, mais aussi corriger certaines anomalies, comme le niveau de son Fonds de roulement, moins élevé que dans d'autres organismes des Nations Unies. Le fonds d'urgence multi-donateurs dont la Directrice générale a annoncé la création lors de la séance de clôture de la Conférence générale ne doit pas, quant à lui, être le reflet des disparités entre le Nord et le Sud, mais devenir le symbole de l'unité et de la solidarité de tous les États membres. Le don généreux du Gabon constitue à cet égard un geste fort.

94. **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom) said that it was always a great honour to represent one's country, but it was a greater honour to secure the support of fellow States in the governing structures of an institution such as UNESCO. He looked forward to his role as Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA), which would indeed be a challenge in challenging times. The FA Commission would assay the matters being examined in order to take the best, most informed decisions. Optimism was finding opportunity in difficulty, while insanity was doing the same thing repeatedly, expecting different results. The FA Commission would consequently adopt an approach to its work that was optimistic rather than insane. He vowed that the honour would not make him vainglorious, explaining that when he had been researching governance indicators in a remote village, he

had asked the local people how they chose their leaders, to which they had replied that he, Mr Sudders, should be their leader. When asked if that was on account of his good looks or charisma, they had replied that their previous leader had stolen their food while manifestly Mr Sudders had already eaten.

95. **M. Fazelly** (Afghanistan) note que l'Afghanistan figure parmi les premières victimes des décisions prises en raison du déficit budgétaire. Certains des fonds alloués aux activités menées en Afghanistan étaient directement destinés à alphabétiser les soldats chargés de garantir la paix et de lutter contre le terrorisme international après le départ des troupes internationales. Alors que de nombreux pays, au premier rang desquels les États-Unis, ont payé un lourd tribut en vies humaines pour défendre la paix en Afghanistan, il est difficile de comprendre pareille défection, qui met en péril la transition. En tout cas, seules la justice et les valeurs de l'UNESCO, en particulier la paix, ont dicté le vote de l'Afghanistan. De même, le Ministre afghan de l'éducation n'a adressé qu'une seule requête à la Directrice générale : que l'UNESCO fasse de l'Afghanistan une zone de paix. Enfin, M. Fazelly annonce que son pays, qui s'est toujours acquitté de ses obligations financières à l'égard de l'Organisation, versera sa contribution pour 2012 dès les premiers jours de l'année.

96. **The Chair**, thanking Afghanistan for its pledge of support, appreciated that country's difficulties and, while it appeared that promises made could not be fulfilled, believed that the responses given by numerous Member States attested to the continued will to build bridges. Even greater resolve was needed to achieve the Organization's goals and, working together with potential partners, it would find a way to help transform the country from a zone of war to one of peace. The task might currently seem insurmountable, but miracles did happen. The Organization intended to move forward and would not neglect its promises to Afghanistan. Every opportunity must be afforded to the Director-General to ensure that that could be carried out.

97. **Mr Killion** (United States of America) said that UNESCO was a very special organization. Its mandate was peace. Its work to build the foundations of peace through literacy, basic education, clean water and a free press, was indispensable and must continue. Although the United States of America was not currently permitted to provide financial support, it remained committed to its membership and participation and to the work of the Organization. It would continue to look for multiple, practical ways to support UNESCO moving forward and was committed to the work and future of that great organization.

98. **The Chair** thanked those participating for their dedication, wished them safe travels, and declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.