



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and seventy-seventh session

# 177 EX/2

PARIS, 26 September 2007  
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## Item 1 of the provisional agenda

### **REPORT BY THE BUREAU ON QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT APPEAR TO REQUIRE DEBATE**

After examination of the revised provisional agenda for the 177th session, it would appear that the following item may be defined as a question which, in accordance with Rule 14, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, do not appear to require debate.

In conformity with the same rule, however, it is still open to any Member to “request a discussion of any item for which the Bureau has recommended adoption of decisions without discussion”; “in that case, the item mentioned shall be discussed by the Board”.

## Item 59 of the revised provisional agenda

### **RELATIONS WITH THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC) AND DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNESCO AND THAT REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (177 EX/59)**

#### **Proposed draft decision**

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 177 EX/59,
2. Approves the draft memorandum of understanding contained in Annex II to the above-mentioned document;
3. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the memorandum of understanding on behalf of UNESCO.

## **ANNEX II**

### ***DRAFT***

#### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**between**

**the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

**and**

**the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

Inspired by the spirit of cooperation among Member States, which forms the basis of the foundation and operations of SAARC as well as UNESCO,

Founded upon the commonality of aims, goals and concerns, centred upon the development of UNESCO's fields of competence, e.g. education, culture, communication and information, and the sciences, between SAARC and UNESCO,

Considering the need to strengthen cooperation between UNESCO and the Member States of SAARC, and

Realizing that education, culture, communication and information and the sciences play a key role in socio-economic development and cultural progress,

SAARC and UNESCO agree on this Memorandum of Understanding, taking into account:

- the Charter of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation;
- the Constitution of UNESCO and its Medium-Term Strategy.

Accordingly, SAARC and UNESCO agree to cooperate mutually, as appropriate and possible and in agreed ways, to help Member States to:

1. achieve education for all, agreed upon at the World Education Forum, Dakar, 2000;
2. achieve education-related SAARC Development Goals (SDGs);
3. promote pluralism through education by promoting dialogue among civilizations;
4. promote science and technology education, quality education and teacher training through increased use of ICTs and distance learning;
5. conserve the cultural, tangible and intangible, heritage of the Member States; promote and protect the cultural diversity of the Member States, in particular their cultural, natural and intangible heritage as well as through their cultural expressions, while supporting a fruitful intercultural and interreligious dialogue, notably through: (i) protecting and safeguarding activities for cultural heritage; (ii) promoting accession to and implementation of UNESCO's relevant standard-setting instruments; and (iii) enhancing capacity-building initiatives in these fields;
6. protect their environment and ecosystem;

7. build the capacity required for further advancement of education, culture, communication and information and the sciences in the Member States;
8. facilitate technical cooperation including capacity-building in the areas of education, culture, communication and information and the sciences;
9. promote freedom of expression and universal access to information.

To achieve the aforesaid aims, SAARC and UNESCO may:

- (i) inform each other of their initiatives and plans relevant to education, culture, communication and information and sciences;
- (ii) exchange reports, technical publications and other documentation relevant to education, culture, communication and information and science activities;
- (iii) promote research, analysis and dissemination of information on such themes as enhancing technical cooperation and human resource development, including programmes in the mutually agreed areas;
- (iv) develop mutually agreed projects and programmes of collaboration.

This Memorandum of Understanding enters into force upon signature by the Secretary-General of SAARC and the Director-General of UNESCO.

Signature.....

Koïchiro Matsuura  
Director-General (UNESCO)

Date.....

Signature.....

Chenkyab Dorji  
Secretary-General of SAARC

Date.....