

Hundred and sixty-sixth Session

166 EX/5

Part I

PARIS, 26 March 2003

Original: English/French

Item 3.1.2 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

PART I

SUMMARY

This report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of progress in the follow-up of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its previous sessions.

Part I concerns issues related to programme implementation.

CONTENTS

	Page
1. 162 EX/Decision 3.3.1: Follow-up to the World Conference on Science.....	1
2. 165 EX/Decision 3.3.1: Ad hoc committee of experts on an international basic sciences programme	4
3. 164 EX/Decision 8.4: Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.....	5
4. 164 EX/Decision 3.3.2: The Director-General’s interim progress report on the implementation of activities for the International Year of Freshwater.....	8
5. 165 EX/Decision 8.4: Recommendations by the External Auditor on the Natural Sciences Sector	12
6. 31 C/Resolution 22: Report by the Director-General on the measures taken to evaluate the impact of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights.....	19
7. 164 EX/Decision 3.4.1: Follow-up to the Round Table of Ministers of Science and Bioethics.....	21
8. 165 EX/Decision 3.4.3: Report by the Director-General on the work done by the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) since its second session.....	23
9. 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2: Follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance	24
10. 165 EX/Decision 3.4.1: Progress report by the Director-General on the elaboration of an overall strategy on human rights	28
11. 164 EX/Decision 7.1.5: International Fund for the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation.....	31
12. 164 EX/Decision 3.5.2: Progress of work on the preliminary draft of an international convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage	32
13. 164 EX/Decision 7.1.3: Report by the Director-General on UNESCO’s contribution to the implementation of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations	34
14. 164 EX/Decision 7.1.6: Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (2001-2010).....	36
15. 164 EX/Decision 8.6: Follow-up to the International Seminar on Forward-looking approaches and innovative strategies to promote the development of Africa in the twenty-first century and in support of NEPAD.....	41
16. 164 EX/Decision 7.2: Efforts to reinforce National Commissions’ operational capacities	43

162 EX/Decision 3.3.1

Follow-up to the World Conference on Science

1. The last report on the progress achieved in the follow-up to the World Conference on Science (WCS) held in Budapest in June 1999 was considered at the 162nd session of the Executive Board and the Board decided that at its 166th session it should be informed of the implementation of its recommendations (162 EX/Decision 3.3.1, para. 7(a)-(d)). The principal developments since the 162nd session can be summarized as follows.
2. The year 2002 saw the start of the implementation of the Medium-Term Strategy 2002-2007 which heralds a major phase in the follow-up to the WCS that embraces three successive biennial periods of fully-fledged partnership that have been built up during two years after the Budapest event. The Strategy envisages that “UNESCO will address contemporary challenges in an integrated framework, responding to the new social contract between science and society for the twenty-first century as defined by the results of the WCS”. The response to the WCS combines a strategic orientation of the entire programme in science and allied areas and a particular focus on selected actions. In line with strategic objective 4, work is being done especially through the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology in order to promote principles and ethical norms to guide scientific and technological development and social transformation. Strategic objective 5 seeks to improve human security by better management of the environment and social change. In this area, water resources and supporting ecosystems have been accorded the highest priority in recognition of their central place in the provision of environmental security and the five intergovernmental programmes of UNESCO are the privileged tools to address major challenges for sustainable development. The enhancement of scientific, technical and human capacities to participate in the emerging knowledge societies is strategic objective 6 of the Organization in its programmes in the basic and engineering sciences, science policies, science education, as well as the environment, and information technologies.
3. In its capacity as clearing house, in 2002 UNESCO prepared and issued the Analytical Report to governments and international partners on the follow-up to the WCS. The report entitled “Harnessing science to society” provides a comprehensive survey of the returns of the Conference, the execution of the follow-up and further action to be taken. When preparing the report, UNESCO approached its Member States, ICSU, over 150 international scientific NGOs, including ICSU’s own scientific unions, and 40 intergovernmental organizations, including relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations. While covering UNESCO’s own activities, the report refers to many other activities carried out by other institutions and provides information on wise practices and opportunities for initiatives and cooperation. The report is available on the Internet (www.unesco.org/science/wcs/report_wcs.pdf).
4. In line with the recommendation of the Executive Board (162 EX/Decision 3.3.1, para. 7(e)), the chapter of the Analytical Report on “regional follow-up highlights”, and an important dimension of the follow-up action stem from consultations with the field offices. As is apparent from these consultations and regional reports, regional programmes of action were conceived, and, as stipulated in the Medium-Term Strategy, the Organization will develop specific regional and subregional strategies in consonance with local priorities and specific agendas.
5. Many activities have already been undertaken beyond the framework of the Analytical Report, in particular at national and regional levels. They embrace, for example, the adoption of a National Action Plan for the Republic of Tajikistan; the establishment of the National Council for Scientific Progress in the Islamic Republic of Iran 2020 that will provide a scientific approach for the extension of science and technology in response to social needs and world peace, in line with

the WCS Science Agenda. A regional UNESCO Chair in women science and technology was inaugurated at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Buenos Aires (Argentina, December 2001). The Conference on “Trace elements in biological processes and review of trace element research in Africa” was held in Nairobi (Kenya, March 2002). An agreement was signed between UNESCO and the Chilean Government to start up the new Water Centre for Arid and Semi-arid Regions of Latin America and the Caribbean (Paris, June 2002). In 2002, the G.B. Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development undertook an in-depth study for the promotion of large-scale cultivation of potential medicinal and aromatic plants to conserve biodiversity in the Himalayas and improve the local population’s socio-economic conditions.

6. A significant step was also achieved by the decision of the Executive Board to establish the International Centre for Synchrotron Light for Experimental Sciences and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME). It should be recalled that the Consultative Meeting (Paris, June 1999) of representatives of States and territorial authorities interested in the SESAME project asked the Director-General of UNESCO to include the proposal for the establishment of the Centre in the follow-up to the WCS. Subsequently, the project was brought to the attention of the Budapest Conference and the world scientific community broadly supported the idea. At its 162nd session, the Executive Board examined the report by the Director-General on the proposal for the establishment of SESAME under the auspices of UNESCO and recommended the approval of this initiative to the 31st session of the General Conference. The General Conference gave support for the establishment of the Centre under the auspices of UNESCO and delegated to the Executive Board authority for further examining and approving the creation of such a centre in Jordan, including approval of any necessary agreements, in the light of a full feasibility study to be submitted to it. In pursuance of this decision, the Board, at its 164th session, examined the full feasibility study prepared by UNESCO and unanimously approved the recommendation on the establishment of the Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

7. The efforts of the 24 countries and territorial authorities involved in the project have now been rewarded in Amman by the ground-breaking ceremony of the building to host the SESAME Centre which was held on 6 January 2003 under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ben Al-Hussein. Moreover, seven countries have already notified the Director-General of their decision to become members of the Centre. This allowed the Permanent Council of SESAME to be established at the meeting of the SESAME Interim Council held in Amman in conjunction with the ground-breaking ceremony. Tribute should also be paid to the German authorities that so kindly donated the 0.8 GeV BESSY I storage ring and injector system that is to be at the heart of SESAME, to the generous offer of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to host the Centre, to the United States authorities that have provided financial support for the project and to European scientific institutions that have gratuitously hosted trainees from the Middle-East and neighbouring countries in their laboratories.

8. Another important issue being addressed by the Executive Board within the WCS process is the examination of opportunities for innovation of the Organization’s programme in the basic sciences through the establishment of an International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP). This initiative is rooted in 162 EX/Decision 3.3.1, para. 7(d) of the Board that has already been followed up, and a new decision that was taken at the preceding session of the Board (165 EX/Decision 3.3.1).

9. Although a relatively limited time has elapsed since the Conference in Budapest, developments generated by this worldwide forum lead us to the conclusion that the WCS has given impetus to action by many partners. There appears to exist a real need and an opportunity to further develop a worldwide partnership that has the potential to multiply the returns on the Conference. In pursuance of the Executive Board’s invitation (162 EX/Decision 3.3.1, para. 7(e)) and in its capacity as the clearing house to the WCS follow-up, UNESCO is undertaking a responsive action

to prepare a consultation with partners in 2004 (Budapest+5). ICSU was approached and invited to take part in the preparatory phase so as to identify the most practical scenario for consultation with its scientific community. In the course of 2003, the process of preparation will involve Member States, international and regional IGOs and NGOs and the industrial sector.

165 EX/Decision 3.3.1

***Ad hoc committee of experts on
an international basic sciences programme***

1. In pursuance of 165 EX/Decision 3.3.1, concerning the “Report by the Director-General on the results of the feasibility study on the creation of an international basic sciences programme”, a meeting of an ad hoc committee of experts on IBSP will be held on 6 March 2003. The composition of the committee takes account of consultation with the Chairpersons of UNESCO’s electoral groups. In line with the terms of reference stemming from the Executive Board’s decision, the outcome of the committee meeting is to provide a feasible practical framework for the establishment of IBSP. Due to the fact that the meeting was only held very recently it was expedient to give the experts more time to finalize their recommendations on an issue that may have profound implications for the programme in the basic sciences. It is therefore envisaged that it is to the 167th session of the Board that the Director-General will report on the outcome of the committee meeting and the implications of recommendations made.

164 EX/Decision 8.4

Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

1. The key role science has to play in providing a solid underpinning for sound decision – and policy-making on sustainable development was underlined by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The findings and recommendations stemming from this Summit have guided the shaping of UNESCO's programmes – especially science programmes – in the **Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 (32 C/5)**.
2. A major innovation of WSSD were the “**type 2 partnership initiatives**” considered as an official outcome of the Summit. These initiatives are new, multi-stakeholder activities which implement Agenda 21 and the WSSD Plan of Implementation with concrete deliverables and timelines. UNESCO has entered into some 30 such partnerships, most of which fall under the Natural Sciences Sector. These new undertakings are being mainstreamed with UNESCO's programme and budget within document 32 C/5.
3. It is therefore envisaged, in draft document 32 C/5, that all **UNESCO's scientific and environmental programmes** will contribute to the follow-up to the WSSD Plan of Implementation (Johannesburg, 2002), IHP will help to attain a halving of the number of persons without access to safe water and sanitation by 2015 and will seek to strengthen national capacities so as to assist countries to elaborate and implement national policies for integrated water resources management and water efficiency. Promotion of the use of renewable energies will be fostered through UNESCO's continuing contribution to the World Solar Programme. Programmes in earth sciences will contribute to achieving safer human settlements through selected activities devoted to natural disaster reduction and the application of modern geodata techniques, including remote sensing. The Coastal Regions and Small Islands (CSI) programme will build linkages within and among the small islands of the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean, in order to fulfil priorities identified through the 2004 review of the United Nations Programme of Action for SIDS (Barbados+10). In response to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD regarding the oceans and the specific role of IOC, the Commission programmes will help strengthen and build national and local capacities in marine science and the sustainable management of oceans and their resources. Furthermore, in accordance with WSSD recommendations, assistance will be provided to developing countries in formulating their national policies, strategies and programmes in science and technology.
4. As a follow-up to the High-Level Round Table organized during WSSD on the interactions and interdependence of **cultural diversity and biodiversity**, an intersectoral initiative will be developed in bringing together the Culture and the Natural Sciences Sectors (in particular MAB and the Coastal Regions and Small Islands Platform). The major thrust will be to develop comprehensive strategies enhancing synergies among social, cultural and biological aspects of diversity. Activities are also foreseen under the communication and information programme, aimed at enhancing the impact of communication and information for sustainable development.
5. A significant outcome of the Summit was the recommendation to the United Nations General Assembly that it consider the adoption of a **Decade of Education for Sustainable Development**. The draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.71 on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development was adopted, by consensus, by the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. The decision was taken to proclaim the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2005 as the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Detailed information on steps to be taken by the Organization in pursuance to this resolution is provided in document 166 EX/37 Add. It should be noted that in draft document

32 C/5 for the Education Sector, MLA4 Action 2 is for “Leading the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development”.

6. Oceans found a large place in the WSSD Implementation Plan, and the contribution of the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)** to their management has been fully recognized in paragraph 36.d: “Strengthen the ability of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, FAO and other relevant international and regional and subregional organizations to build national and local capacity in marine science and the sustainable management of oceans and their resources”. Therefore, IOC will play an important role within the inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues of the United Nations system, as is mentioned in paragraph 30.c of the Implementation Plan. In terms of general implications thereof for IOC’s programmes in the future, the following has been identified.

7. Regarding its general policy, IOC will:

- strengthen regional cooperation and coordination between the relevant organizations and programmes, in particular those of UNEP Regional Seas and its regional and subregional bodies (30.f);
- assist developing countries in initiating and managing policies and programmes related to sustainable oceans and coasts (30.g);
- develop its activities and programmes within the ecosystem approach (30.d/32.c) and the integrated approach (30.e/31.g);
- set up the new cross-cutting section of TEMA to strengthen IOC’s efforts in capacity-building, with mechanisms such as centres of excellence and training networks (37.c).

8. Several commitments encourage IOC’s mandate and programmes. Therefore, IOC activities will be developed and reinforced in the field mentioned in the Implementation Plan:

- Within the Ocean Sciences Section, the Integrated Coastal Area Management Programme’s activities have been encouraged by paragraph 30.e “Promote integrated, multidisciplinary and multisectoral coastal and ocean management at the national level, and encourage and assist coastal States in developing ocean policies and mechanisms on integrated coastal management” and 36 and to “Improve the scientific understanding and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems as a fundamental basis for sound decision-making, through actions at all levels”
- The Science for Ocean Ecosystems and Marine Environmental Protection Programme’s activities have been encouraged by paragraph 32.d “Develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity, including in coral reefs and wetlands”.
- The Oceans and Climate Programme’s activities have been encouraged by paragraph 37.e “Improve techniques and methodologies for assessing the effects of climate change, and encourage the continuing assessment of those adverse effects by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change”.
- Within the Operational Observing Systems Section, the activities of the Global Ocean Observing System and the Training and Educational and Mutual Assistance in marine sciences programmes, have been encouraged by paragraph 37.c “Strengthen the

institutional capacities of countries and promote international joint observation and research, through improved surface-based monitoring and increased use of satellite data, dissemination of technical and scientific knowledge, and the provision of assistance to vulnerable countries”.

- Within the Ocean Services, paragraph 37.h “Develop and strengthen early warning systems and information networks in disaster management, consistent with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction” calls for the continuation of the current realizations.

9. One of the main outcomes related to oceans, which will have a large implication for IOC’s programmes in the future, is IOC’s full participation in the Global Marine Assessment (36.b).

10. IOC will also contribute to 10 of the partnerships initiated at the WSSD, in which it has engaged itself to provide technical assistance, and, *inter alia*, IOC will continue to play this role for the African Process, for the implementation of the Programme of Interventions and for the second generation of this initiative. These THIP are the following:

- African Process
- International Network of Practitioners and Academics to Support Implementation of Coastal and Ocean Management Programmes
- POGO-IOC Initiative for Intelligent Use and Management of the Oceans
- SWARCOZM Science and Technology, application of isotope techniques for Sustainable Water Resources and Coastal Zone Management
- The H2O (Hilltops-to-Oceans) Partnership and its sub-component FreshCo.
- White Water to Blue Water
- GODAE
- Earth Observation Education Training
- Integrated Global Observing System Partnership
- Application of Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Techniques for the Monitoring and Management of Harmful Algae Blooms in the Benguela Coastal Region.

11. Finally, IOC will play a leading role in the formalization of the new Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, initiated at WSSD, and replacing the Informal WSSD Coordinating Group on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, in which IOC participated.

164 EX/Decision 3.3.2

The Director-General's interim progress report on the implementation of activities for the International Year of Freshwater

Background

1. At its 161st session, the Executive Board approved a decision (161 EX/Decision 8.1.2) welcoming and supporting the initiative of the United Nations General Assembly that proclaimed the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. The Executive Board acknowledged the critical importance of water resources issues in the world today and the need for a high-profile international awareness-raising campaign calling upon Member States, NGOs and civil society organizations and the private sector to provide resources for the activities of the Year at all levels. It also requested the Director-General to ensure that UNESCO plays a pivotal role within the United Nations system in this effort.

2. As a follow-up to the above decision, the Executive Board at its 164th session adopted 164 EX/Decision 3.3.2, in which it recalled the United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/196 of 21 December 2001 welcoming the ongoing system-wide preparations for the Year, took note of the progress reported in document 164 EX/12, and expressed its satisfaction at the pivotal role that UNESCO was playing as one of the two lead agencies of the United Nations system (the other is UN-DESA) for the preparation of activities for the Year. Further, it reiterated its call to Member States, NGOs, civil society and the private sector to contribute at all levels to the celebration of the Year, and endorsed the proposals for UNESCO's activities for the Year.

Recent developments within the framework of the United Nations system

3. The United Nations General Assembly designated by resolution 55/196 the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) as the coordinating entity for the Year. The lead role of UN-DESA and UNESCO for the celebrations of the Year was confirmed at the 22nd session of the Subcommittee (September 2001). However, since 31 December 2001 the subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) ceased to exist, by decision of the United Nations system Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). Meanwhile, the functions of the former Subcommittee on Water Resources have continued through an informal inter-agency mechanism, rather than under a standing Subcommittee. Given the clear need of a formal United Nations-system coordination mechanism in the critical issues of freshwater, the Secretary-General has recently welcomed a proposal of "UN-Water", an action-oriented interagency coordination body to be considered by the CEB. During this period UNESCO and UN/DESA have continued carrying out their lead roles for the Year, being in permanent contact with the other concerned United Nations agencies.

4. The celebration of the International Year of Freshwater has been given added impetus and meaning due to the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the adoption of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, Johannesburg, September 2002). The MDGs have set the target of halving by 2015 the number of people unable to reach, or afford, safe drinking water. It also called for halting the unsustainable exploitation of water resources, by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, considering equitable access and adequate supplies. The WSSD Plan of Implementation has reaffirmed and elaborated further these, setting the target of having in place national water resources management strategies by 2005.

5. Document A/57/132 “Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 – Report of the Secretary-General”, presented at the recently concluded fifty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, October-December 2002), reported on the overall status of the activities for the Year at a global scale and for all United Nations agencies. Among the international activities and initiatives, it highlighted the significance of the presentation of the first issue of the World Water Development Report (WWDR) in the Third World Water Forum (Kyoto, March 2003). It reported on numerous regional initiatives, mainly under the lead of the various regional United Nations economic and social commissions. The importance of the communications strategy was stressed, indicating that the International Year of Freshwater has been included in the agenda of the Communications Group Task Force, with collaboration of the public information departments of several United Nations agencies including UNESCO. The goals pursued include: raising awareness on the links between sustainable development and management of the global freshwater resource; encouraging governments to develop policies and laws to protect water environments; stimulating national governments, NGOs and grassroots organizations to advocate for greater investments in development of water resources; increasing bilateral and multilateral donations for conservation of high priority ecosystems and sustainable development of water supplies. Among the educational material that will be made available during the Year, the Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS), being produced under the auspices of UNESCO, merited special mention. The document reported on the travelling exhibition that was launched at the Water Dome during the WSSD in Johannesburg, celebrating and promoting the International Year of Freshwater. It also described the official logo of the Year. The procedure to obtain authorization for its use can be found in the Year’s website implemented and maintained by UNESCO (see below).

UNESCO activities for the Year

6. As described in document 164 EX/12, UNESCO’s activities for the Year belong basically to four categories:

- (a) Fulfilment of its lead role jointly with UN-DESA within the United Nations system in conducting the preparations and coordination for the International Year of Freshwater.
- (b) Activities it executes out directly on behalf of the United Nations system, particularly developing and hosting the official website of the Year.
- (c) Activities carried out through the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), especially the production of the *World Water Development Report* and publicizing the case studies of WWAP.
- (d) Complementary activities carried out as UNESCO’s contribution to the Year, over and above the responsibilities mentioned, particularly in association with the International Hydrological Programme.

Within this general framework a number of performed, ongoing or planned activities are described in the paragraphs below.

7. The International Year of Freshwater was launched on 12 December 2002 in two parallel acts at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. At UNESCO, the Director-General led the proceedings at an information meeting of Permanent Delegates on the occasion of the International Year of Freshwater. In New York, Ms Louise Fréchette, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, opened the ceremony. A message from the Director-General was conveyed to the gathering in New York.

8. By means of a letter dated 27 September 2002 by Nitin Desai, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to the United Nations Permanent Delegates, the designation of Focal Points in each of the Member States was requested. The letter advised involving the IHP National Committees in this function, following a decision of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP of June 2002. As of 31 January 2003, 31 countries had formally registered Focal Points as shown on the Year's website: Algeria, Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Bolivia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Croatia, Denmark, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

9. UNESCO has set up an ad hoc International Year of Freshwater unit in support of the UNESCO/UN-DESA Secretariat of the Year, discharging various responsibilities, including coordination with UN-DESA in various inter-agency and international issues in the proposal and the response to proposals of activities, developing the Year's website, contacting and advising National and IHP Focal Points, assisting youth initiatives concerning the Year, keeping an updated inventory of the proposed activities at international and national, etc. This effort involves collaboration of IHP and WWAP staff.

10. UNESCO has implemented and manages the official website of the International Year of Freshwater with the web address: www.wateryear2003.org/ in fulfilment of its commitment. The website was formally inaugurated on 12 December 2002, the same day as the launch of the Year. UNESCO carried out the design of the website in collaboration with UN-DESA. In addition to carrying relevant development and news on the Year, the website provides a space for every Member State and United Nations agency where they may post updated information on their events and activities for the Year and educational material by them following an easy, user-friendly procedure. The website encourages collaboration with National Focal Points and NGOs, supplying links to the IYFW website. Teachers and students are likewise encouraged to use the Web. Educational materials produced by UNESCO and other organizations and partners will be posted on the IYFW website (i.e. on wetlands, produced by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands). UNESCO is in the process of negotiating with the Water Education for Teachers programme and its sponsor Nestlé, to display their educational materials about water activities for young people on the IYFW website. The Year's logo and directions on how to secure authorizations for its use are available on the site. Likewise, a press kit is available on the site. The website is functioning in its English version and translations are being carried out into French and Spanish. Funding limitations have not allowed undertaking translations into the other United Nations languages as had been planned. As a parallel and complementary feature to the website, the UNESCO International Year of Freshwater, in cooperation with DIT unit, has launched *SPLASH*, the newsletter of the Year.

11. The first issue of *World Water Development Report* prepared by WWAP will be presented as planned at the Third World Water Forum (WWF3) in Kyoto on World Water Day, 22 March 2003, in a special event with the presence of the Director-General and other eminent personalities. The global launching of the Executive Summary of the WWDR is scheduled for 5 March 2003 in Tokyo in order to maximize media attention on the WWDR. Seven case studies in different regions of the world developed by WWAP for the report will be publicized at the Forum and elsewhere by means of special exhibits. WWAP is also contributing to the presence in Kyoto of the special travelling exhibit launched at WSSD in Johannesburg.

12. The Director-General nominated His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, President of the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) as UNESCO Special Envoy for Water on 18 December 2002. HRH Prince Talal will seek to raise awareness on critical freshwater issues in high-level decision-makers and heads of State and to encourage countries to adopt appropriate institutions, policies and legislation for sustainable water

management. He will participate in several major water events on behalf of UNESCO. Additionally, AGFUND will collaborate with UNESCO in several projects to raise the response capacity of a number of countries to water management challenges. At the Annual Meeting of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors (Paris, 5-6 February 2003) the International Year of Freshwater was discussed and how to best mobilize the support of Ambassadors for raising public awareness and associate their public visibility with UNESCO actions in freshwater.

13. The 15th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP adopted resolution XV-3, where it called for the IHP National Committees and Focal Points to take an active role at national level and serve as National Focal Points for the IYFW to: (i) carry out workshops, symposia and conferences on freshwater resources during the Year; (ii) produce and disseminate educational and awareness-raising material; and (iii) mobilize human and financial resources for such cooperation. As intended, IHP is contributing widely through its National Committees and its global network. As of 31 January 2003, 31 Member States have reported on planned activities for the Year: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. The activities include national and international scientific, technological and management events, educational and awareness-raising initiatives at all levels, use of the media, and establishing prizes in relevant themes.

14. The Pan-African Conference on Water Resources organized by UNESCO, the Economic Commission for Africa and other IGOs will take place in Addis Ababa in November 2003 and is a major event to mark the end of the Year. An African Water Development report will be presented, drawn up on the proposal of, and drafted by, African organizations in the mould of the World Water Development Report. The Water Sciences and Technology Association of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries will hold their sixth International Conference in March 2003 as a contribution to the Year under UNESCO's sponsorship. Numerous other national and international events will be held within the framework of UNESCO's activities for the Year; for instance, the International Symposium: The Basis of Civilization – Water Science, in Rome, Italy, from 5 to 7 December 2003 and the third Conference of the International Water History Association, in Cairo, Egypt, from 11 to 14 December 2003.

15. The activities for the Year should be self-funding according to the norms for International Years. UNESCO is devoting limited "seed" funds of the regular budget to its coordinating role and website development, hence it is critical that the partners in the celebration of the Year provide funds from their own or other sources.

165 EX/Decision 8.4

Recommendations by the External Auditor on the Natural Sciences Sector

Recommendations of the External Auditor	Comments by the Director-General	Status of implementation
Paragraph 108: UNESCO should identify specific desired outcomes for the Natural Sciences Sector's main lines of action in its plans and reports to Member States that are consistent with the broader strategic outcomes identified in the Medium-Term Strategy.	Agreed. Document C/5 and reports to Member States will in future identify specific outcomes for the main lines of action that are consistent with the broader strategic outcomes identified in the Medium-Term Strategy.	Specific desired outcomes are now reflected in draft document 32 C/5 and in the plan of the sixth phase of IHP (2002-2007).
Paragraph 113: UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector should report total spending on outputs, as well as the extrabudgetary and regular programme financial contributions to them.	Agreed. As the External Auditor recognizes efforts are being made in the C/3 document to show how extrabudgetary funding has helped to achieve the goals set in the regular programme budget. In effect the total spending on the outputs set for all programme sectors is now reflected in the C/3 document. Efforts will be made to improve, on a consistent basis, the clarity of the presentation of this information.	Efforts were made in draft document 32 C/3 to improve the clarity of presentation of the outcome of both regular programme and extrabudgetary funded activities. In line with this, the Intergovernmental Council of IHP established at its 12th session the Finance Committee which regularly monitors IHP funding, expenditures by activities and assesses the overall implementation of programmes and adequacy of resources.
Paragraph 117: UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector should demonstrate its comparative advantage by documenting in its plans, and assessing in all its evaluations, the extent to which it brings special skills or expertise to partnership projects.	Agreed. All programme sectors, not just the Natural Sciences Sector, will in future, as the External Auditor suggests, seek to demonstrate their comparative advantage in their plans. The extent to which the sectors have brought special skills or expertise to partnership projects will also be a feature of relevant evaluations.	All programme sectors have sought to identify their comparative advantage relative to other programme partners when preparing their submissions to draft document 32 C/5. IHP is acknowledged within the United Nations system as the only scientific water programme that enjoys global recognition. At field level UNESCO's participation in the UNDAF process helps UNESCO to identify its comparative advantage relative to its partners and to plan accordingly. The way in which UNESCO can demonstrate its comparative advantage is being kept in mind as a focus in planning all evaluations.

Recommendations of the External Auditor	Comments by the Director-General	Status of implementation
<p>Paragraph 124: UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider implementing new management control systems along with the new SISTER and FABS information systems. These should place the primary responsibility at the section head level for managing outputs to achieve expected outcomes, and the responsibility for overseeing the achievement of outcomes (and exceptions) at the Director and ADG levels; • develop work plans that include target dates; a results chain of objectives, outcomes, outputs and activities; an indication of who will do the work or who else will be involved in implementation; and a link to a specific user once the work is completed; • attach the relevant part of the work plan to each employee's performance appraisal, as a basis for the following year's assessment in the new appraisal system that is being developed. 	<p>On the proposal to implement new management control systems, the Director-General considers that the priority should be to secure the consistent application of SISTER and FABS across all programme sectors, and to then take stock in terms of what other systems are needed. However, an exercise to define responsibilities for the achievement of programme outputs and outcomes is currently being conducted by IOS and will take full account of the responsibilities proposed by the External Auditor.</p> <p>The Director-General agrees with the recommendation on work plans. The features proposed by the External Auditor are, in large measure, already features of SISTER and are being applied in the 2002-2003 biennium.</p> <p>The suggestion that the relevant part of a work plan should be attached to each employee's performance appraisal has considerable merit in principle and will be considered as part of HRM's forthcoming review of performance appraisal arrangements in UNESCO generally. However, this may not be as straightforward as it may seem, as many tasks are carried out by more than one individual, sometimes in Headquarters and the field and from different divisions and sectors.</p>	<p>The work plans prepared in early 2003 will seek to clearly identify responsibility at section head level for overseeing the achievement of particular outcomes. Within IHP the newly formed Finance Committee now reviews the execution and achievements of the programme and the performance of the programme specialists.</p> <p>The IOS exercise to define accountability for the achievement of programme outputs and outcomes is now well advanced.</p> <p>HRM has started work on developing a new Performance Appraisal System (PAS) which includes, as one of its key functions, the setting and evaluation of individual objectives which should logically derive from the work plans. Once developed, the new PAS will be submitted to the ACPP and other concerned bodies for review.</p>
<p>Paragraph 133: UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector should investigate and implement better ways for managers to report and use information on staff time and costs.</p>	<p>Agreed. The facility already exists within SISTER to estimate how much time a particular activity will take and to monitor the actual time spent against that estimate. In practice this facility has hardly been used. In response to the External Auditor's concern the Secretariat will promote the use of this facility and include time management in training planned. That said, the Director-General would not want to support an over-elaborate method for capturing data on this programme input – staff time and costs. Instead, greater priority should be given to demonstrating a commitment to meeting measurable, expected results through documented achievements.</p>	<p>Further training on the use of SISTER will encourage the use of the facility which already exists within SISTER, to estimate how much time a particular activity will take and to monitor the actual time spent against that estimate. However, the Director-General maintains his position that he would not support an over-elaborate method for capturing data on programme inputs.</p>

Recommendations of the External Auditor	Comments by the Director-General	Status of implementation
<p>Paragraph 137: UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector should monitor and evaluate the outcomes of main lines of action at appropriate intervals; report the results to Member States in the C/3 document; and continue efforts to develop realistic results measures.</p>	<p>Agreed. All programme sectors are now firmly committed to monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of main lines of action and reporting on them in the regular EX/4 reports to the Executive Board and in the C/3 document. Priority is being given by BSP, working in association with IOS, to developing indicators at the programme planning stage to enable results to be measured. Proposals for strengthening evaluation capacity are contained in document 165 EX/19 (The UNESCO Evaluation Strategy).</p>	<p>The Natural Sciences Sector has pioneered regular meetings of Division Directors during the biennium to review the progress made in achieving results and outcomes. Draft document 32 C/5 now includes a number of performance indicators which will provide a sounder base against which to report on the achievement of expected results in the C/3 document. A number of evaluations in progress and planned (32 C/5 Draft, Annex IX) examine whether expected results have been achieved.</p>
<p>Paragraph 140: UNESCO should carry out a special evaluation of its donors to determine the extent to which UNESCO has added value to the partnership.</p>	<p>Agreed. An evaluation incorporating the issues suggested by the External Auditor is proposed for 2004-2005 in the Medium-Term Evaluation Work Plan (Annex A(ii) of 165 EX/19 – The UNESCO Evaluation Strategy).</p>	<p>This issue features in the UNESCO-wide evaluation of extrabudgetary activities proposed in the Evaluation Plan presented in draft document 32 C/5 (Annex IX). Individual evaluations also cover this issue (for example, the current evaluation of the UNESCO/Flanders FIT project).</p>
<p>Paragraph 143: UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schedule regular meetings between the ADG, Director and the person responsible for each main line of action to review progress, as input to UNESCO’s semi-annual report on budgetary performance to the Board; and • progress reports on budgetary performance should focus on solutions, not problems, and report variances from plans as well as the action the Sector is taking to improve the situation. 	<p>Agreed. Progress meetings along the lines envisaged by the External Auditor have been held since early 2002. Progress reports will incorporate the features suggested by the External Auditor starting with the EX/4 report to the spring 2003 session of the Executive Board. However, such reports on budgetary performance must not be looked at in isolation from a meaningful assessment of the achievement of programme results.</p>	<p>The meetings held with Division Directors which began in early 2002 will continue. The recommendation has informed the preparation of document 166 EX/4.</p>
<p>Paragraph 146: UNESCO’s Natural Sciences Sector should keep a database of the skills of its consultants and an assessment of the results of their work.</p>	<p>Agreed. Such a database was introduced in 1995 but was discontinued due to a lack of staff resources. The re-introduction is under active consideration.</p>	<p>Resource constraints make the compilation of a database of the skills of the consultants used by the Natural Sciences Sector difficult to achieve at present, but the proposal will be addressed as soon as possible. More generally, the facility already exists within SISTER to assess the results of the work of consultants alongside the results of other programme inputs.</p>

Recommendations of the External Auditor	Comments by the Director-General	Status of implementation
<p><i>Managing and governing for results in the International Hydrological Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission</i></p> <p>Paragraph 173: UNESCO should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>further spell out and get agreement and understanding among Member States on major respective roles of the General Conference and the IHP Council/IOC Assembly, in particular with respect to providing strategic direction and monitoring organizational performance; and</i> • consider having the IHP Council/Bureau and the IOC Assembly/Council play a role in setting expectations for and reviewing the performance of the executive secretary of their respective organizations. 	<p>It will be for the IHP Council, the IOC Assembly and the General Conference to consider these recommendations. However, the Director-General is probably best placed to judge the performance of the staff members acting as executive secretaries leaving the governing bodies to focus on the performance of the programme.</p>	<p>Agreement on the major respective roles of the General Conference and the IHP Council/IOC Assembly will be reached at the various meetings of these organs that take place in 2003. For example, the IOC Board of Officers considered this recommendation at their meeting in New Delhi in January 2003 and defined the process for obtaining a view from the IOC governing bodies. The IHP has worked on the roles of its various bodies over the past ten years in the process of initiating a reform of its governing mechanism. Further clarification of these roles would help in accelerating the reform process and is therefore a concern for the IHP Secretariat. Precisely for these reasons the Intergovernmental Council established a Governance Committee at its 14th session in 2000 to examine this issue and promote the appropriate changes.</p>
<p>Paragraph 180: UNESCO should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proceed with rationalizing the activities of IOC/IHP including, setting firmer priorities: greater discipline in planning and funding is needed by governing bodies and their secretariats. The requirement for consensus among and the interests of Member States needs to be recognized and fitted in the statements of expected results; and • put in place administrative means so that when extrabudgetary-funded projects are adopted, there are relatively easy ways of enhancing capacity to manage them. For larger extrabudgetary amounts, the capacity to manage the funds should be in place prior to accepting the funds. 	<p>Agreed. With IOC, rationalization of the programme is being achieved by implementing the recommendations of the IOC External Evaluation (1999, summarized in 161 EX/42). The IOC 31 C/5 document included for the first time detailed expected results following the introduction of SISTER. For the next biennium the IOC secretariat produced a draft IOC 32 C/5 which was endorsed by the 35th session of the IOC Executive Council in June 2002. This early production of the IOC draft input to document 32 C/5 is an innovation that seeks to align better the governance of the Commission with that of UNESCO, i.e. the input is endorsed by an IOC governing body and is no longer a product of the work of the secretariat alone. Similar initiatives are in progress for IHP.</p> <p>The implementation of FABS will facilitate the follow-up of extrabudgetary contributions. Within FABS the facility exists for each extrabudgetary project to have its own budget line.</p>	<p>For both IOC and IHP, draft document 32 C/5 presents a rationalized and more focused set of priorities. For IHP this was based on the work of the IHP-VI Theme Advisory Board which met in September 2002. The question of UNESCO's capacity to manage extra-budgetary funded projects is now always taken into account before the funds are accepted.</p>

Recommendations of the External Auditor	Comments by the Director-General	Status of implementation
<p>Paragraph 185: UNESCO should encourage IHP and IOC to plan and report results beyond a strict two-year biennium time frame to their governing bodies in their planning and reporting documents, while retaining the current two-year focus.</p>	<p>Agreed. The Director-General agrees that IHP and IOC should be encouraged to report on medium-term outcomes and results by main line of action. Moreover, IHP and IOC governing bodies might wish to consider revising reporting structures to include the achievement of medium-term goals. This would then align IHP/IOC reporting with the practice followed by UNESCO's governing bodies.</p>	<p>Both IOC and IHP now adopt a “results based approach” in their planning and reporting mechanisms and look beyond a strict two-year biennium time frame. An IOC Medium-Term Strategy was discussed by the IOC Executive Council in June 2002 and will be presented for approval at the IOC 22nd Assembly in June-July 2003. The IHP governing bodies (Council and Bureau) already receive regular reporting every other year as well as reporting against the six-year complete phase of a programme cycle.</p> <p>Starting from the 16th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (June 2004) a plan and reporting procedure in line with the External Auditor's recommendations, while retaining its existing two-year focus, will be progressively introduced.</p>
<p>Paragraph 189: IOC/IHP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure MLAs are reasonably stable and develop a strategic results framework around MLAs to use as the basis for their planning, managing and reporting. Support for this development work needs to come from the corporate level of UNESCO; • encourage work towards setting better outcome expectations – results expected – at the MLA level through the use of results chains with a multi-year perspective. Focus on results should be matched by the ability to adapt activities undertaken to best contribute to the agreed results expected. 	<p>Agreed. A strategic results framework is being implemented for the whole of UNESCO under the central guidance and support of BSP as SISTER is for the first time used to prepare the coming cycle of reports on the results achieved. This process will introduce a “results chain” approach which can be applied in a multi-year framework. This will help to bring more clarity to planning and reporting and help to define strategic results associated to particular main lines of action.</p>	<p>Training is being provided to enable the whole of UNESCO to use SISTER as the mechanism for reporting on the results achieved and in particular for each MLA.</p>

Recommendations of the External Auditor	Comments by the Director-General	Status of implementation
<p>Paragraph 198: UNESCO, IHP and IOC should tailor their performance information reports to their different governing bodies, reflecting the different roles of the General Conference versus the IHP Council and the IOC Assembly.</p> <p>Paragraph 199: UNESCO, IHP and IOC should continue to improve their performance reporting. In particular, they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • base reporting around the MLAs; • report summary results information from both regular and extrabudgetary activities to the governing bodies on the extent to which they are meeting their respective outcomes and objectives, with references to the detailed project-level reporting for those interested; • include summaries of relevant evaluations; • make use of referencing in reporting; for example, C/3 could make reference to more detailed reports on performance; • disclose the strengths and weaknesses of the data reported; • develop a multi-year performance story which is updated every two years; • provide summary information on options and costs; and • focus project activity reporting on the exceptions. 	<p>Agreed. For IOC, the obligation to report and the timing of reporting is established in the Statutes of IOC which have recently been approved. The contents of these reports could be modified to better reflect the different roles of the various governing bodies. The IOC Assembly has recognized significant improvements in performance reporting by IOC, especially on budget and financial matters, but there is still room for improvement on programmatic matters. Action to improve programmatic performance reporting is in hand, taking advantage of the relatively stable structure of IOC and the increasing use that can be made of SISTER. IHP is taking similar initiatives to strengthen performance reporting.</p>	<p>The IOC will use the SISTER structure to report on the activities in 2002 to its Assembly, to the General Conference and to the United Nations General Assembly Report on Issues relating to Oceans, and the Law of the Sea. These reports capture better the results-based framework of the IOC programme. Similar initiatives are in progress in IHE which will provide performance reporting to the forthcoming 35th session of the IHP Bureau taking account of the External Auditor's recommendations. The IHP Secretariat reports to the Intergovernmental Council held every two years on the status of implementation of projects whether extrabudgetary or regular programme ones and the Council has the opportunity to debate, seek clarification, suggest mid-course corrections and then approve.</p>
<p>Paragraph 203: UNESCO, IHP and IOC should consider convening country meetings to assist Member States in coordinating their involvement with IHP and IOC.</p>	<p>Agreed. The IOC Assembly will be invited to approve implementation of this recommendation drawing on the network of National Oceanographic Committees. The IHP Council has already advocated such meetings, making use of the IHP National Committees. However, the source for financing these meetings must be identified.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be included in the agenda of the coming IOC Assembly (June-July 2003). IHP has repeatedly encouraged such meetings through the IHP Council and the Governance Committee. However, the relevant financial resources are still a constraint.</p>

Recommendations of the External Auditor	Comments by the Director-General	Status of implementation
<p>Paragraph 210: UNESCO, IHP and IOC should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proceed with external evaluations of their organizations, developing procedures to ensure adequate objectivity and independence, and make sure the recommendations are implemented; • ensure recommendations in their recent evaluation are fully implemented; • increase the use of internal evaluations, improving their objectivity and focusing on results accomplished and the contribution made by IHP and IOC activities; • address in their evaluations, among other issues, the contributions their activities and programmes are making to their respective MLA and UNESCO outcomes and goals; and • introduce more regular project-level evaluation and seek self-evaluations from Member States on what results they are getting from IOC and IHP projects in their countries and regions. 	<p>Agreed. IOC is currently undertaking an Intergovernmental Evaluation of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), one of its main lines of action. It has also conducted external evaluations of the Commission's programme as a whole (1999), its Ocean Science for Living Resources Programme (2000-2001) and its whole Science Programme (2001-2002). These evaluations have been very useful and have enabled IOC to better define and focus its MLAs. IOC provides regular reports to its governing bodies on the progress it is making in implementing the recommendations in these evaluations. In practice many of the recommendations have already been implemented. Nevertheless, IOC will act on the constructive recommendations made by the External Auditor, and will consult with IOS on how best to strengthen evaluation of IOC activities. For IHP, a major external evaluation has been designed with IOS support and is about to commence.</p>	<p>An External Evaluation for IHP-V (1996-2001) was in progress in January 2003 with IOS support. The report will be available shortly to the UNESCO Secretariat and will then be presented to the 16th session of the Intergovernmental Council in June 2004 for consideration and adoption to help further strengthen the implementation of the IHP. IOS is also providing support to IOC to help strengthen evaluation of IOC activities.</p>

31 C/Resolution 22

Report by the Director-General on the measures taken to evaluate the impact of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights

1. In accordance with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, endorsed by the General Conference at its 30th session in 1999 (30 C/Resolution 23), UNESCO is undertaking an evaluation of the impact of the Declaration worldwide.
2. Five years after the adoption of the Declaration, unanimously and by acclamation on 11 November 1997, this evaluation is one of UNESCO's priority tasks for the current biennium. Indeed, a number of developments in the field of bioethics since the adoption of the Declaration notably within the United Nations system, give added importance to this evaluation. These include, *inter alia*, the ongoing work within the United Nations General Assembly concerning the elaboration of an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings and the initiative taken by UNESCO concerning the elaboration of an international declaration on human genetic data.
3. The Evaluation of the Universal Declaration of the Human Genome and Human Rights (hereafter referred to as the Evaluation) was officially launched in November 2002, when the Director-General addressed a circular letter (CL/3642) to the ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO of all Member States, together with a questionnaire on the evaluation addressed specifically to Member States.
4. As recognized in the Guidelines, the implementation of an international instrument, such as the Universal Declaration, is the result of collaboration between all actors at different levels, which while retaining their specific nature complement each other's role. For this reason, the evaluation is extended not only to governments but also to all the other actors concerned, at international and national level. In total, five different questionnaires were drafted and addressed to the following groups (particular attention was paid to ensure that all regions in the world were represented in these lists):
 - (a) Member States (Permanent Delegations and National Commissions);
 - (b) Intergovernmental organizations, including in the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations both at international and national level;
 - (c) National ethics committees;
 - (d) Universities (research, medical and law faculties), including the UNESCO Chairs in bioethics;
 - (e) Other institutions dealing with bioethics (academies of sciences, privacy commissioners, bioethics institutions, etc.);
 - (f) Jurists, scientists; experts and
 - (g) Private companies.
5. As of January 2003, some 2,500 questionnaires had been sent, and all documents related to the Evaluation are available on the Internet (www.unesco.org/ibc). Due to the short deadline, the Bioethics Section had received no fewer than 150 questionnaires. The deadline was thus extended to 28 February 2003 in order to allow Member States in particular to contribute to the Evaluation.

6. The information collected through the questionnaires will be presented at the tenth session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) (Paris, 12-14 May 2003) and to the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) (Paris, 23-24 June 2003). The Director-General will then submit a global report on the results of the evaluation, together with all relevant recommendations, to the General Conference at its 32nd session in October 2003.

164 EX/Decision 3.4.1

Follow-up to the Round Table of Ministers of Science and Bioethics

1. In 164 EX/Decision 3.4.1, the Executive Board invited the Director-General “to continue his consultations with Member States and the other organizations concerned with a view to implementation of the new initiatives contemplated in document 164 EX/15 ...”.

Regional bioethics clearing houses

2. In document 164 EX/15, the Director-General proposed that UNESCO should look into the possibility of disseminating from existing regional clearing houses all relevant information regarding bioethics, in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, build up local skills and stimulate the development of ethical debate and analysis nationally and regionally.

3. While it is true that the questions raised by bioethics perforce have an international dimension and concern all countries, it is also true that existing specialized national and regional institutions, and more generally the relevant scientific circles, often have insufficient means with which to meet the increasing demand for information. This is particularly true of the developing countries, where ethical debate is beginning to develop, and where existing structures cannot guarantee equitable access to information and documentation on the subject.

4. This need was highlighted, for example, at the International Conference on Bioethics in Central and Eastern European Countries (Vilnius, 11-12 November 2002), organized jointly by the Lithuanian authorities and UNESCO as part of the follow-up to the Round Table of Ministers of Science on Bioethics and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights. The final statement of the participants in the Conference stressed the urgent need for education in bioethics in the region and for disseminating information on bioethics throughout the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

5. The results of the Conference and the final statement will serve as the basis for the development of specific actions to build capacity and promote bioethics in the countries of the region. For this purpose, the Secretariat has established links with the relevant services of the European Union and with existing European reference centres in order to examine the possibility of jointly establishing and developing a clearing house for the region.

6. Specific action targeting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean has been taken by the Secretariat during the current biennium. For instance, following the recommendations of regional meetings held in Havana in 2000 and Mexico City in 2002 on the initiative of UNESCO, and in particular the Mexico City Office, the foundations were laid for the creation of a regional bioethics network based on existing national institutions, and universities and specialists in the region working in this field. The Sixth World Congress of Bioethics held in Brasilia, Brazil, from 30 October to 3 November 2002, provided an opportunity to hold a technical meeting for various actors interested in the network which drew up a programme of action. In addition, a number of international, regional and local partners demonstrated an interest in being involved in the network, in particular the United Nations University and several other universities and academic institutions.

National ethics committees

7. In accordance with the wish expressed by the participants in the Round Table of Ministers of Science on Bioethics (para. 7(vi) of the communiqué), the Director-General proposed holding consultations with Member States, existing national ethics committees and other relevant

organizations in order to consider how to encourage exchanges between national ethics committees, connect them through a network, and promote cooperation among them, taking care to involve those of developing countries more actively.

8. As already indicated, there have been initiatives along these lines both at the regional level: the European Conference of National Ethics Committees (COMETH) established by the Council of Europe, and at the international level: the four Global Summits of National Bioethics Commissions (San Francisco, 1997; Tokyo, 1998; London, 2000; and Brasilia, 2002). The existence of these initiatives attests to the need for such coordination, and at the same time highlights the difficulty of associating or federating national bodies which are so diverse in nature and which have characteristics, statutes and ways of operating which are often very different.

9. In order to avoid duplication and take such diversity into account, the Secretariat has undertaken a study of the various types of national bioethics committee. The study will provide information which should help to formulate guidelines on the most appropriate way to foster the coordination and promotion of joint bioethics activities.

165 EX/Decision 3.4.3

Report by the Director-General on the work done by the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) since its second session

1. The terms of 165 EX/Decision 3.4.3, document 165 EX/13 and the proposals made in that regard by the Executive Board at its 165th session were conveyed to the Bureau and to the members of COMEST at its meetings in October and December 2002. The Chairperson and the members of COMEST commended the Executive Board's support for their work, activities and initiatives, and for the pledge called for by the Executive Board of States, organizations and institutions to promote and strengthen reflection on the ethics of science and technology in order to enable humanity to benefit from scientific discoveries and technological progress in a harmonious way.
2. At the Executive Board's request, the cooperation with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) and with the International Council for Science (ICSU) was pursued in regard to the ethics of the environment and sustainable development. COMEST's meetings with ESA and the Group of Experts on the Ethics of Space Activities of UNCOPUOS, entrusted with reporting on the ethical dimensions of space activities by the General Assembly of the United Nations, were held in November and December 2002 and in February and March 2003 respectively. UNESCO will also participate in the session of UNCOPUOS in May 2003. COMEST included ICSU in the organization of its session on the ethics of a sustainable environment held on 3 December 2002, in which UNEP was represented. The Natural Sciences Sector also participated actively in that session. COMEST and ICSU have begun a study on the precautionary principle and have set up two working groups, one on training in scientific research and the other on the ethical implications of science and technology for a sustainable environment.
3. Steps were taken for the in-depth study of the report and the recommendations adopted by COMEST at its second session, as requested in paragraph 7 of 165 EX/Decision 3.4.3. An eminent professor of ethics and Director of the Centre for Research in Ethics of the University of Montreal was selected and agreed with his team to carry out the in-depth study, which will cover the ethical dimensions of freshwater, outer space and energy. A consultation on COMEST's recommendations has been initiated internally (SHS, including regional advisers, and other programme sectors) and externally (Permanent Delegations, United Nations specialized agencies and the IGOs and NGOs concerned). The outcome of the consultation will be incorporated in the study, which will take account of the evaluation report and be published by UNESCO.
4. At the Executive Board's request, the Director-General will report to the General Conference at its 32nd session on the work done by COMEST since its second session (Berlin, 17-19 December 2001) and submit proposals for evaluating the impact of COMEST.

164 EX/Decision 3.4.2

Follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

1. In 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2 taken as part of the follow-up to the Durban World Conference against Racism (31 August-8 September 2001), the Executive Board invited the Director-General “to develop ... an integrated strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in UNESCO’s fields of competence, to be submitted to the General Conference at its 32nd session ... (and) to report to it at its 166th session on the progress that has been made on the implementation of this decision”.

Study of developments in the phenomena of racism and discrimination

2. The Social and Human Sciences (SHS), in particular through the new Fight against Discrimination and Racism Section which was set up to coordinate the implementation of the recommendations made to UNESCO by the Durban Conference, launched a series of studies to improve understanding of developments regarding the phenomena of racism and discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in various societies. These studies, which form part of the Organization’s “upstream” action, aim to take a closer look at some particular aspects of these phenomena, compare action taken by the various actors to combat them and propose conceptual frameworks for framing anti-discrimination policies.

3. The studies, whose findings will also contribute to the development of the new UNESCO integrated strategy, cover the following issues:

- the revitalization of standard-setting texts adopted by UNESCO;
- the concept of xenophobia and its special character in comparison with other forms of discrimination;
- experience with *affirmative action* worldwide and new challenges;
- racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination;
- combating racism and discrimination in cyberspace;
- new forms of discrimination linked to globalization;
- new forms of discrimination (including discrimination against people with AIDS) linked to the progress of the new sciences (genetics, biology and information technologies).

4. UNESCO also organized a series of regional consultations to discuss the results of these studies and define the special characteristics of the different regions and the priorities that must be taken into consideration in its new strategy and in the implementation of the Durban Programme of Action. Three regional consultations were held by the Secretariat (Headquarters and field) in close collaboration with the National Commissions, in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and involving the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia.

5. The consultation on the Follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in the Asia-Pacific Region, held in Bangkok (2-3 December 2002), placed emphasis on raising awareness of the existence of racism and discrimination in the region and on the urgent need to build institutional capacities for research,

education and follow-up action. The second consultation “Facing racism, discrimination and xenophobia in Africa: Visions and strategies for an effective follow-up to the Durban World Conference”, held in Dakar (13-15 February 2003), stressed the need to tackle internal forms of discrimination inherited from the past, new forms of discrimination, in particular against carriers of the AIDS virus, and the rise of xenophobia on the continent. Lastly, the Meeting of European Experts to combat racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance in Europe, held in Moscow (20-21 March 2003), afforded an opportunity to discuss the region’s contribution to the development of the new UNESCO strategy on the subject.

Human rights education

6. In the field of education, UNESCO carried out the following activities which formed part of follow-up action on the recommendations of the Durban Conference. Educational materials were developed for use by teachers. A teaching kit on education for non-violence in French and English is being put together consisting of the following publications: *The Art of Living in Peace*; *Best Practices on Conflict Resolution at School*; and *Non-Violence in Education*. Designed for use by trainers and teachers, these publications aim to encourage the use of active educational methods (peer mediation, non-violent communication, etc.) to prevent or transform conflicts among young people, including conflicts of racist or xenophobic origin.

7. As to the revision of curricula and textbooks, a meeting of experts was held by UNESCO from 12 to 13 December 2002 at Headquarters on “Textbooks and Learning Materials: Components of Quality Education that can Foster Peace, Human Rights, Mutual Understanding and Dialogue”. The objective of that meeting, which brought together experts representing various regions of the world, was to help UNESCO to define a new strategy in this field. In addition, a training programme on school mediation in Central Europe to combat discrimination against Roma children is being drawn up in Hungary.

8. Under the Associated Schools Project (ASPnet), several activities to raise awareness and mobilize against racism were carried out in schools in various regions of the world. ASPnet continued its efforts to raise awareness of the tragedy of slavery and the slave trade, in particular through the intersectoral programme Breaking the Silence: the ASPnet Transatlantic Slave Trade Education project. This programme, which is part of the Slave Route project and has involved more than 100 schools on three continents, aims to develop and promote new educational approaches to provide a better understanding of the causes and consequences of the transatlantic slave trade. A kit of educational materials was produced and distributed for that purpose. An exhibition on “Breaking the Silence” was held at UNESCO during the 165th session of the Executive Board. As part of the Breaking the Silence programme, ASPnet also produced an educational publication, in French and English, entitled *Slave Voyages* for use in partner schools in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe.

Promotion of cultural exchanges: Pursuit of the “Slave Route” project

9. In cooperation with the University of York in Canada, a digital library on the African diaspora has been established in the Harriet Tubman Resource Centre to improve access to documentation on the slave trade. The studies carried out under the research programme on the oral tradition relating to the slave trade have resulted in the publication by UNESCO of a work entitled *Oral Tradition and the Archives on the Slave Trade*. On the basis of research conducted through the scientific networks of the Slave Route project, UNESCO published in 2002 two works on the historical and ideological links between slavery and racism, namely, *Dérailson, esclavage et droit : les fondements idéologiques et juridiques de l’esclavage et de la traite négrière* and *Montesquieu, Rousseau, Diderot : du genre humain au bois d’ébène. Les silences du droit naturel*.

10. As a contribution to the struggle against racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia through intercultural exchanges, UNESCO has launched a project of intercultural tourism based on sites connected with the memory of slavery and the slave trade. In cooperation with WTO, several feasibility studies have been carried out and are being published on the organization of tourist itineraries in 25 African countries and the establishment of museums on slavery in Benin, South Africa, Ghana, Gambia and Mozambique.

Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other United Nations institutions

11. In accordance with 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2, UNESCO has strengthened its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Commission on Human Rights. A fruitful partnership has been established with the new Anti-Discrimination Unit set up by the OHCHR to follow up the Durban Conference. In addition to its participation in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and more particularly those of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), UNESCO has contributed to two regional consultations organized by the Anti-Discrimination Unit on the follow-up to the Durban Conference, namely (i) a seminar of experts from Latin America and the Caribbean held in Mexico City from 1 to 3 July 2002, which focused on the alarming situation of “Afro-Latinos” and the indigenous peoples of the region and discussed appropriate ways and means of combating structural and institutional racism, and (ii) a seminar of experts from Africa, held in Nairobi from 16 to 18 September 2002, which provided an opportunity to collect some useful suggestions for the development of UNESCO’s strategy.

12. UNESCO’s cooperation with the OHCHR enabled the two organizations to harmonize their activities and strengthen their exchanges of experience. A workshop on “Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: Development of a publication to combat racism and foster tolerance” was organized jointly at UNESCO Headquarters from 19 to 20 February 2003. This meeting facilitated the definition of new guidelines for the development of teaching materials corresponding to the new international context.

13. UNESCO has also developed a close partnership with UNAIDS in the framework of the extrabudgetary project on promotion of human rights and reduction of HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization and discrimination in youth organizations. The following activities have been carried out or are in progress: (i) translation into English, French, Spanish and Russian and dissemination of the UNESCO/UNAIDS publication *HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: Young People in Action*. The Chinese, Arabic and Portuguese versions are in preparation; (ii) development of an Internet site for young people on the rights of the individual and HIV/AIDS and of a “guide to resources” for instructors in this field; (iii) organization of a series of regional workshops on HIV/AIDS and the rights of the individual for young people and youth organizations in cooperation with IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations); (iv) project financing (micro-project grant) in collaboration with UNAIDS to fund local or regional action plans drawn up by youth organizations during the regional workshops.

Development of new partnerships

14. As part of its efforts to find new partnerships, UNESCO has established cooperation relations with certain European municipalities engaged in the fight against racism and discrimination. UNESCO took part in the third Conference for the European Charter for Human Rights in the City, which took place in Venice on 9 and 10 December 2002. Signed by more than 70 major European cities, the Charter contains important provisions for the fight against discrimination in an urban

setting. Certain cities that signed the Charter, such as Nuremberg, have expressed an interest in establishing, under UNESCO auspices, an international coalition against racism and discrimination.

15. On 21 March 2003, UNESCO made a special effort to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by organizing various awareness-raising activities (meetings with the young members of UNESCO Clubs, debates on the processes and mechanisms of discrimination, projection of documentary films, live performances, plays, exhibition of posters against racism, and so forth).

16. In accordance with the terms of 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2 and on the basis of the results of ongoing activities, efforts will be pursued for the purpose of preparing the integrated strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in UNESCO's field of competence.

165 EX/Decision 3.4.1

Progress report by the Director-General on the elaboration of an overall strategy on human rights

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Executive Board, having discussed document 165 EX/10 “Elements for an overall UNESCO strategy on human rights”, invited the Director-General to continue preparation of the strategy in close consultation with Member States and all relevant partners and to inform the Board at its 166th session on the progress achieved (165 EX/Decision 3.4.1.).

II. CONSULTATIONS ON DOCUMENT 165 EX/10

Consultations with Member States and observers

2. Consultations with Member States and observers were launched by a circular letter of 17 October 2002. As at 11 March 2003, UNESCO has received 35 replies.¹ In general, Member States welcomed document 165 EX/10 as both timely and important and expressed their appreciation of the Organization’s efforts to develop a coherent strategy. They commended the initiative to mainstream human rights in all UNESCO programmes. States reiterated their conviction that UNESCO should focus on human rights education and research, particularly on the rights falling within its competence, including the right to education, the right to take part in cultural life, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to enjoy the benefits from scientific progress and its application. States stressed that attention should be paid to gender equality and the human rights of women. Some States advised that the gender perspective should be fully incorporated into the overall strategy. It was proposed to introduce a specific item on human rights and education for human rights in the agenda of the 32nd session of the General Conference in order to highlight the importance attached by UNESCO and its Member States to these issues.

3. With regard to human rights education, it was generally agreed that UNESCO should promote all human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Several States noted that the follow-up to the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All (2000) is the basis for the implementation of the right to education. UNESCO’s role in the promotion of the right to human rights education as a human right in itself and as an integral part of education, was considered by many States as both relevant and challenging. Many States insisted that UNESCO should focus on the implementation of existing human rights instruments and some indicated that several conventions could be revised. Many States noted that UNESCO’s activities related to human rights protection should be limited to the rights within its competence.

4. With regard to advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, it was stressed that duplication of work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and United Nations technical cooperation agencies and programmes should be avoided. Doubts were expressed as to the advisability of providing assistance to States in the preparation of their reports to the United Nations treaty monitoring bodies. All States underlined the

¹ Austria, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Jordan, Iceland, Indonesia, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Tunisia, Turkey, Holy See, Viet Nam, Serbia and Montenegro (formerly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia).

importance of strengthening partnership with the United Nations system, in particular with OHCHR and human rights treaty bodies to avoid duplication and to exchange knowledge and experience. The need for strengthened cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations, as well as with national human rights institutions, was also emphasized.

5. Many States expressed their concerns regarding UNESCO's financial constraints, which may hinder the implementation of the strategy and, in this regard, a number of States supported the launching of a fund-raising campaign.

Consultations with the United Nations system

6. UNESCO had consultations with representatives of OHCHR and International Labour Organization (ILO) to further explore possible areas of cooperation. Document 165 EX/10 was generally appreciated. It was noted that the experience of the United Nations system should be taken into account in mainstreaming human rights into all UNESCO's programmes. UNESCO was acknowledged as well placed for generating and sharing knowledge on human rights and in particular for research on cultural rights. The necessity to cooperate more closely on research in the fields of conflict prevention and management, promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination was underlined. A greater coordination and better division of labour in the field of human rights education was considered indispensable. It was proposed that UNESCO develop quality indicators for human rights education in schools and disseminate "good practices". It was also suggested to benefit from UNESCO networks in promoting human rights. The experience of ILO in promoting ratification of its instruments and in ensuring application of its reporting procedures was considered useful for UNESCO.

7. The meeting of the Director-General with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 5 February 2003 was an important step for further strengthening cooperation. The High Commissioner welcomed the elaboration of the strategy as pertinent and timely and supported its main directions. It was agreed that joint efforts should be made concerning issues such as bioethics and the fight against terrorism which are in the forefront of public opinion. It was also agreed that human rights education, the fight against discrimination, protection of human rights of women, consolidation of the rule of law, adoption of new human rights instruments and monitoring of the implementation of existing standards, promotion of cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations are priorities for further joint action. The strengthening of individual complaints procedures, including the possibility to intervene jointly in individual cases of violations of human rights, and the protection of intellectuals were acknowledged as prospective areas of close interaction. A Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and OHCHR was signed on the same day, defining modalities and concrete areas for further strengthening cooperation.

Consultations with UNESCO Chairs

8. Document 165 EX/10 was discussed with UNESCO Chairs in the field of social and human sciences, including the Chairs in human rights, at the World Forum of UNESCO Chairs in Paris, in November 2002. Expressing their general support, the Chairs commended the emphasis placed on multidisciplinary studies on obstacles and challenges to the implementation of human rights, such as extreme poverty, discrimination, international terrorism, organized crime, etc. They also welcomed research activities on cultural rights. They further expressed their interest in participating in the implementation of the strategy and in particular in raising awareness on human rights and in the development of new educational and information materials.

Consultations with experts on the human rights education strategy

9. To promote a holistic approach and understanding of human rights education, an experts' meeting "The Practice of Rights in Education: A Renewed Commitment to Human Rights Education" was organized in Paris on 30 and 31 January 2003. It was agreed that human rights education should constitute the basis for the democratization of education systems in the context of national education reforms. UNESCO was requested to review national legislation and practices regarding the introduction and implementation of international human rights education standard-setting instruments. To promote the integration of human rights education into national plans of action for Education for All, it was proposed that UNESCO design a general framework guiding Member States. The meeting stressed the need to enlarge the scope of quality education spelled out in the Dakar Framework and to elaborate a broader and more comprehensive definition underlining the centrality of human rights. UNESCO was also asked to develop and maintain an international network of different actors involved in human rights education, using information and communication technologies as much as possible. In view of the approaching end of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education in 2004, it was proposed that UNESCO and OHCHR organize an international conference to mark this event.

III. FURTHER WORK ON THE ELABORATION OF THE OVERALL UNESCO STRATEGY ON HUMAN RIGHTS

10. Dialogue with the United Nations system will be pursued. Regional intergovernmental organizations with extensive human rights programmes will be consulted and perspectives of an increased cooperation will be discussed. Meetings with non-governmental organizations, as well as with leading human rights research and training institutions, will be organized in spring 2003. The work on the draft strategy on human rights will continue on the basis of document 165 EX/10, with due account of the comments from Member States and observers, as well as opinions expressed by various UNESCO partners. The results of the discussion at the 166th session of the Executive Board will be duly taken into consideration in the further elaboration of the draft strategy.

164 EX/Decision 7.1.5

***International Fund for the Return of Cultural Property
to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation***

1. During the 30th session of the General Conference (1999), the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (“the Committee”) was presented in which there was a recommendation inviting the Director-General to establish the Fund. This was adopted by the General Conference by 30 C/Resolution 27, which:

“5. Invites the Director-General to establish a fund within UNESCO ...

(a) financed by voluntary contributions and administered on the model of the fund for the International Programme for Development of Communication (IPDC), a special account being established for this purpose in accordance with the Committee’s sixth recommendation;

(b) designed to finance specific projects submitted to the Committee;

6. Also invites the Director-General to make an appeal for funds for this purpose”.

2. The Director-General’s appeal was issued during the 11th session of the Committee in March 2001. The Secretariat is preparing an information kit promoting the Fund and providing basic information on the Committee. It will be presented at the next session of the Committee (Paris, 25-28 March 2003).

3. In a letter dated 19 December 2001, Mr Evangelos Venizelos, Minister of Culture of Greece, kindly informed the Director-General that Greece would provide 10,000,000 drachmas to the Fund, to serve “the excellent cause of preserving Afghani antiquities, which have illicitly left the country ...”. The Minister further offered Greece’s assistance to the preservation and conservation of Afghanistan’s cultural heritage by proposing to house temporarily Afghan antiquities in Greek museums. These generous and useful gestures on the part of Greece are highly appreciated.

4. On 29 May 2002, the Permanent Delegation of Greece to UNESCO issued a cheque in the amount of €29,342. A code has been created for the Fund, permitting the cheque to be deposited in a “Special Account”.

5. A preliminary draft document constituting General Guidelines for Application of the Fund is being prepared by the Secretariat to be presented to the Committee for its consideration and eventual approval at its next session. The document is based on the IPDC model and is being prepared in consultation with Legal Affairs and the Comptroller.

164 EX/Decision 3.5.2

Progress of work on the preliminary draft of an international convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage

1. By 164 EX/Decision 3.5.2, the Executive Board invited the Director-General “to convene one or more category II intergovernmental meetings of experts, the first of which could take place in September 2002, to define the scope of the preliminary draft and to take forward the work” on the text. An intergovernmental meeting of experts was accordingly convened from 23 to 27 September 2002. As the meeting did not finish its work, the Director-General decided to convene a second session, held from 24 February to 1 March 2003. Almost 270 experts took part, representing 114 Member States, five international organizations, six non-governmental organizations and three Observer States. Since that session represented the continuation of the proceedings of the group of experts that had met in September, the Chairperson, the four Vice-Chairpersons and the Rapporteur were de facto reappointed.
2. The experts were provided with two working documents, compiling all the contributions submitted by Member States and observers at the first session in September and in reply to circular letter CL/3629 dated 29 July 2002. The first document grouped together comments of a general character whereas the second dealt with proposed amendments to the text of the first preliminary draft of the convention.
3. The method of work consisted in discussing in plenary meetings the key articles on which the viability of the first preliminary draft convention depended, namely those dealing with the purposes of the convention (Article 1), the definitions (Article 2), the role of States in the identification and definition of the intangible cultural heritage (Article 3), national inventories (Article 11A) and registers or lists (Article 11B). A drafting committee, composed of 18 governmental experts (three experts per electoral group), was set up to propose a new draft of these articles to the plenary meeting, in the light of the plenary debates.
4. The plenary meeting agreed on the new wording of Articles 1, 2, 3, and 11A and on the title of Article 11B.
5. Article 1 stipulates that the purposes of the convention are: safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage; respect for the intangible cultural heritage of concerned communities, groups and individuals; awareness-raising at the local, national and international levels of the importance of intangible cultural heritage and promoting its mutual appreciation; and international cooperation and assistance.
6. Article 2 defines the intangible cultural heritage as the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated with them – that communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage and specifies that for the purposes of this Convention, only relevant is the intangible cultural heritage that is consistent with universally recognized human rights international instruments, as well as with the principles of justice and equity, sustainability, and mutual respect between communities, groups and individuals.
7. According to the definition provided in that same article, safeguarding means measures ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, transmission, particularly through education, and revitalization of the different aspects of such heritage.

8. On the other hand, the question of whether or not to add an annex and a terminological glossary to the convention was addressed, but no conclusion was reached. It will have to be examined later.

9. With regard to Article 3, consensus was reached on the fact that it is for each State Party to identify and define the various elements of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory, with the participation of communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organizations (or representatives of civil society).

10. As to the question of national inventories of the intangible cultural heritage, covered by Article 11A, their desirability was recognized, and they should be established by each State according to its means and as appropriate.

11. With regard to the title of Article 11B, the principle of drawing up a register or list of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding was accepted.

12. In spite of the intensive work sessions, the experts did not have enough time to finish examining the other articles of the first preliminary draft of the convention. The Director-General has therefore decided to convene a third session, from 2 to 14 June 2003. To facilitate the smooth conduct of the proceedings of the third session, the Director-General, at the suggestion of several Member States, has offered to set up an intersessional mechanism, consisting of an informal working group of 18 governmental experts (three designated by each electoral group), to propose a consolidated draft of the articles that have not yet been examined. The new draft, worded in the light of the amendments and comments contained in the compilations and those submitted at the second session, should be such as to ensure coherence with the articles that have already been examined by the plenary. This working group will meet at UNESCO Headquarters from 22 to 30 April 2003. The results of its work will constitute the working document that will be submitted to the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts for examination at its third session.

164 EX/Decision 7.1.3

Report by the Director-General on UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations

1. UNESCO has actively pursued the implementation of the United Nations Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, and the provisions of the Executive Board decisions on the subject, in particular “with a view to encouraging and facilitating dialogue among civilizations and formulating ways and means to promote dialogue among civilizations in the activities of the United Nations in various fields”, as envisaged by the United Nations General Assembly.
2. UNESCO has reinforced its contribution to the “dialogue among civilizations”, in its areas of competence, drawing on partnerships with other agencies of the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and their specialized agencies, research institutions, the academic world in general, civil society in general and parliamentarians. A genuine process of reviewing the concept of, and approaches to, dialogue among civilizations has been started with a view to broadening its scope and enhancing its relevance to current challenges in various regions and subregions, including the identification of new obstacles to dialogue and the analysis of emerging, new ignorances.
3. Action in favour of the dialogue among civilizations has been closely linked to the celebration of the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, among others through the wide dissemination of information and promotion material underlining UNESCO's integrated approach comprising dialogue between cultures, reconciliation based on the values of heritage in all its forms, and sustainable development. Action in favour of intercommunity reconciliation and common safeguarding of heritage threatened by conflict have taken place in several regions, and new initiatives and reinforcements are envisaged with the setting up of the international coordination committee for the safeguarding of the Afghan cultural heritage. Well-entrenched activities related to the dialogue among civilizations have also been pursued in the context of the General and Regional Histories Series, the Arabia Plan, the Mediterranean Programme, the Slave Route project, the Intercultural Dialogue in Central Asia Project, and the Programme on Interreligious Dialogue.
4. Special efforts have been made to link action in favour of the dialogue among civilizations systematically to the follow-up to and implementation of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. An important initiative in this regard has been the joint UNESCO-UNEP High-Level Round Table on “Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity for Sustainable Development”, held at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (26 August-4 September 2002). Moreover, by resolution 57/249, the United Nations General Assembly has welcomed the adoption of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and proclaimed 21 May as World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.
5. In order to broaden the basis of UNESCO's activities pertaining to the dialogue among civilizations and to involve a larger number of contributors from different regions and experiences, a global (electronic, Internet-based) network has been set up, involving competent international organizations and research institutions as well as individual researchers, philosophers and intellectuals. The network will serve the threefold purpose of: (i) identifying potential contributors to various UNESCO activities on the subject; (ii) gaining an overview of various activities and approaches in different countries and regions; and (iii) undertaking outreach and advocacy efforts about UNESCO's approaches and results of various endeavours.
6. Coherence and complementarity between different regional and subregional approaches to the dialogue among civilizations have also been pursued through publications, presentations at

international conferences and a dedicated website. Scientific and policy-relevant papers and speeches on the subject of dialogue among civilizations, presented in international conferences, organized or co-organized by the Organization, have been systematically published in UNESCO's "Dialogue Series":

- "The Round Table on the Eve of the United Nations Millennium Summit", United Nations Headquarters, 5 September 2000 (published 2001);
- "The International Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, 23-26 April 2001" (published 2002);
- "Civilizations in the Eye of the Other", Proceedings of the international conference, Paris, 13 and 14 December 2001 (published 2002 and available online in English (www.unesco.org/dialogue2001));
- "Dialogue of Civilizations", Kyoto, 3 August 2002. An international conference on the Political Aspects of the Dialogue of Civilizations (forthcoming April 2003).

7. Several presentations have been made at international conferences and meetings on UNESCO's involvement in the dialogue among civilizations, e.g. the international conference on "Western Policies Towards the Islamic World", Wilton Park, United Kingdom, 15 February 2002; the International Policy Dialogue "Development of Cultures – Cultures of Development", Berlin, Germany, 4-5 March 2002; the Joint Meeting of Euro-Arab Cooperation, organized by the Euro-Arab Task Force of UNESCO National Commissions, the Council of Europe and ALECSO, Strasbourg, 28-29 October 2002; the international conference "Dialogue between Civilizations: Women's Empowerment", Brussels, 3-5 March 2003. Substantial input has been frequently provided to addresses by the President of the General Conference. A dedicated website with latest news and contact information is constantly being updated (www.unesco.org/dialogue2001).

8. UNESCO has actively reinforced its involvement in co-organizing international conferences, meetings and events on the dialogue among civilizations. The second international symposium "Civilizations: how we see others, how others see us", was co-organized by UNESCO and the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes at Headquarters on 30 January 2003. The symposium, the proceeding of which will be published in June 2003, brought together academics and intellectuals from different continents to continue discussions begun in December 2001, at the first symposium organized within the framework of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. A third symposium of the series will be held in 2004 on the theme: "Les civilisations dans le regard de l'autre : le commun et le responsable".

9. UNESCO has provided support to the forthcoming symposium on the "Dialogue among Civilizations" to be held in Sana'a, Yemen, and is actively and substantially involved in the preparations for the Regional Forum on the Dialogue among Civilizations, co-organized by the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Director-General of UNESCO, to be held in Ohrid, on 29 and 30 August 2003. In a similar vein, support is being provided to the organization of an international conference "Dialogue among Civilizations – Quest for New Perspectives", envisaged for 9 and 10 July 2003 in New Delhi, India.

10. As a new initiative in the overall effort to intensify the dialogue among communities, cultures and civilizations, UNESCO is making steps to strengthen public-private partnerships in this domain, especially with a view to enhancing intercultural dialogue and exchange at the global level within the ASP network, promoting intercultural partnership and cooperation in the area of engineering and technology, and developing an authentic and diversified communication platform for the entire initiative on the Internet.

164 EX/Decision 7.1.6

Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (2001-2010)

1. By 164 EX/Decision 7.1.6, the Executive Board endorsed the efforts made to further focus on and reinforce UNESCO's action in favour of the LDCs, emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming their needs in all the Organization's programmes, in particular in the framework of the contribution to the Brussels Programme of Action. It requested the Director-General to ensure that UNESCO cooperates fully with the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and to submit to its 166th session a report and implementation of this decision.

I. MAINSTREAMING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRUSSELS PROGRAMME OF ACTION (PoA) FOR LDCs

2. In line with the provisions of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 (31 C/4, para. 32), a conscious and systematic effort has been made in the current Programme and Budget for 2002-2003 (31 C/5) to mainstream the needs of the LDCs throughout all of UNESCO's programmes. Responses to these needs have been built into the design, implementation and evaluation of all programmes as follows.

Education

3. UNESCO continued providing support to LDCs in the preparation of National EFA Plans through in-country technical assistance as well as training seminars provided to groups of countries. Direct support was given at the request of LDCs having serious technical and methodological difficulties in filling the various policy, capacity and data gaps in the preparation of action plans for EFA. Mobilization of extrabudgetary resources was reinforced to address the huge needs for technical support at the country level and to this end an EFA-focused Extrabudgetary Policy and Programme for "Technical services to countries implementing the Dakar Framework for Action" was developed. In the framework of a Norway-funded "Mobile Teams of Experts" project, 16 countries including LDCs were finally selected for participation. The project budget was almost entirely decentralized to field offices which provided technical support in the areas identified as priority by countries themselves.

4. The capacities of civil society organizations are being increased in sub-Saharan Africa following the launching of a capacity-building programme in support of EFA at regional level in mid-July 2002. The regional collective consultation of NGOs (Malawi, 30 September–2 October 2002) prepared civil society input to MINEDAF VIII, including the document "The challenge of achieving EFA in Africa: Civil society perspectives and positions".

5. Technical assistance is being provided for the development of national policies, strategies and programmes. UNESCO is also providing support to LDCs for reforming their primary education systems in order to achieve universal primary education. This included feasibility studies concerning a bilingual education system aimed at expanding and improving access to quality primary education for all children in Niger and Chad and concerning a basic education system appropriate to the multicultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multilingual society of the Sudan. Capacity-building of educational personnel in LDCs was facilitated primarily through workshops and seminars such as a regional workshop on Environmental Education organized jointly with ISESCO (Sana'a, Yemen, December 2002), and a training seminar for educational officers

(**Central African Republic**, September 2002). The technical and professional capacity of the personnel was enhanced through the provision of teaching/learning materials to cater for the influx of children and teachers in refugee camps in **Angola**. A Director has now been appointed to the **Malawi** Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa. The Centre's Board of Governors, consisting of African Ministers of Education, met in Dar es Salaam, **United Republic of Tanzania**, on 1 December 2002.

6. LDCs' capacities were strengthened to develop policy and programmes to respond flexibly and efficiently to the socio-economic and educational needs of nomadic children through an IIEP/IICBA pilot project in East Africa. The project focused on indigenous communities and girls, and on targeting scarce existing resources more effectively to improve the basic education and income-earning potential of the nomad population.

7. As regards the programme for the education of children in difficult circumstances, UNESCO promoted improving their access to basic education for children and ensuring that their basic needs are met as the prerequisite for learning. Five centres for children in difficult circumstances in Bamako (**Mali**) were supported as a follow-up to the "White Book of our Future" project, launched in this LDC in 2001. Under its Cooperative Programme with the World Food Programme, UNESCO started preparation of a regional school feeding strategy for West Africa in order to tackle hunger and extreme poverty as obstacles to EFA.

8. With a view to promoting institution-building and material development, especially using the new technologies, UNESCO analysed experiences in **Mali**, **Senegal** and **Uganda** on literate environments in selected cultural contexts with a view to identify characteristic features of a conducive learning environment.

Natural sciences

9. UNESCO provided assistance to African LDCs in formulating their national S&T policies. The aim was to achieve capacity-building of, and provide advice to decision-makers to improve the system of S&T indicators measures in those countries as well as to have access to international financing organisms. In this vein, a preliminary study on a new set of S&T indicators was launched.

10. Efforts were particularly made towards the development of human resources geared to promoting sustainable and renewable energies, in order to improve living conditions in rural and remote areas in LDCs, particularly for women. Within the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training (GREET) programme, the implemented activities aimed mainly at the improvement of use, maintenance and management of renewable energy projects and transfer of technological know-how.

11. Equitable and sustainable management of coastal and small-island resources was advanced through furthering the development of "wise practice agreements for the prevention and management of conflicts over coastal resources and values" at a workshop of the Asia-Pacific region. Advance actions have been taken on priority areas of **Small Island Developing Countries** and effective contribution made to implementation of Barbados+5 and other multilateral agreements and action plans. The sustainable development capacity of small islands was strengthened through the continuation of intersectoral field project activities in **Haiti**, **Papua New Guinea** and **Samoa**. This is in addition to the increase in local, regional and interregional Small Islands Voice activities. Knowledge and information sharing was improved through the finalization, publication (*CSI Info 13*) and distribution of an abridged version in Creole and French of Haiti's coastal environment and fisheries laws (www.unesco.org/csi/pub/info/haiti.htm), the finalization of a study on the

evolution of village-based resource management in Vanuatu between 1993 and 2001, the expansion of the small-islands weblines (www.unesco.org/csi/smis/smallislands.htm).

12. Focus was also centred on capacity-building activities in the biological sciences and biotechnologies. At least 45 teaching, reference and research facilities from the LDCs benefited from free journal subscriptions and digital teaching material in a collaboration with various partners, further enhancing the dissemination of up-to-date scientific information. The signature of a letter of understanding between UNESCO and the International Union for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) further facilitated international scientific collaboration with this partner in developing new capacity-building initiatives.

Social and human sciences

13. The participation and governance activities have been concentrated on the feasibility study of the POVNET project “Cities and Survival in Africa”, and on a related proposal for a workshop with the participation of representatives from **Benin, Burkina Faso** and **Mali**. The workshop will focus on the role of social and family links in peri-urban areas and rural communities to promote social cohesion and solidarity. Two new publications have been co-published by the MOST network, *City Words* in cooperation with “La Maison des Sciences de l’Homme de Paris” and seven other publications in cooperation with the network “Cities, Environment and Women”.

Culture

14. Under the rubric of activities relating to tourism policies, four studies were carried out concerning **Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali** and **Niger**, each involving a specific project for submission to cooperation agencies. In addition, UNESCO has developed models of cooperation among stakeholders in heritage management and the tourism industry in eight historic heritage towns in Asia-Pacific and has conducted a workshop in **Myanmar** on sustainable development on ecotourism.

Communication and information

15. Efforts to strengthen communication capacities in Member States were pursued through the decision of the 45th session of the Bureau of the **International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)**, Paris (December 2002), to provide about US \$1 million to fund 40 projects in developing and least developed countries. The Bureau also pre-selected 42 new projects for consideration by the 23rd session of the IPDC Council to be held in March 2003.

16. Furthermore, in the framework of the IPDC, a three-week training course on television production was organized by the Korean Broadcasting System and Korea International Cooperation Agency in Seoul, Republic of Korea (October 2002) for 18 television producers from **Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nepal** and the **United Republic of Tanzania**. These training courses were designed to strengthen capacities of media personnel in the different countries.

17. To improve **creativity in audiovisual production**, support was provided to **Kiribati** and **Samoa** in the Pacific for local production of programmes for public service radio and television stations. UNESCO, in collaboration with the ITU, UNCHR and two national counterpart organizations, initiated a project to establish a network of Community Multimedia Centres (MCTs) to support refugees and national development in the **United Republic of Tanzania**. In collaboration with SchoolNet Africa, the Organization is developing a community-based e-learning for ex-child-soldiers in Africa to facilitate their reinsertion into society. An International Telecentre

Resource website has been created on UNESCO/CI website Webworld to support the establishment of community telecentres in developing and least developed countries.

18. To improve quality of endogenous television production and broadcasting in developing countries, UNESCO launched (September 2002) the Programme for Creative Content which aims at stimulating innovation and creativity in local content production for television, radio and new media. The programme is implemented in coordination with the Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity initiative to ensure more holistic approaches to the issue of cultural diversity. UNESCO provided support for content production, training and distribution, including the production of television programmes in **Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Nigeria** and **Togo**.

19. Under the INFOYOUTH Programme, a survey of training needs of young people in **Malawi, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe** was carried out to help in developing an informatics and telematics module for non-formal training of young people in the use of electronic media.

20. With regard to increasing awareness and sensitization of the importance of a “culture of maintenance”, UNESCO supported the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) to organize a workshop on technical maintenance for broadcast technicians in the **Lao People’s Democratic Republic** (November 2002) with the participation of 20 broadcast technicians from provincial broadcasting stations.

Contribution of ICTs to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society

21. On research, education and training, national workshops to identify national capacities, needs and priorities and to establish national work programmes were held in six LDCs (**Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Mozambique, Niger** and **Senegal**). These workshops provided better knowledge and picture of the status of remote sensing applied to ecosystems and water resources at national and regional levels. Relevant stakeholders are now cooperating to implement the project at national and regional levels, and a regional programme and fund-raising strategy has been established.

22. A number of activities were undertaken aimed at developing and supporting LDCs policy initiatives, raising awareness and developing ICT-based tools and resources that promote multilingualism in cyberspace. In **Ethiopia**, work has started on developing national computer standards in support of local languages as part of the ICT capacity-building programme. A project has been initiated to develop catalogues and digitized content on Open Educational Resources (OERs) produced by institutions of higher learning in **Senegal**. The project, using the Greenstone Software, has been started at the Université Cheik Anta Diop in Senegal and will also involve other countries in West Africa.

Poverty eradication

23. Under the Technology and Poverty Eradication (TAPE) Programme, an “Expert Workshop on Engineering and Technology for Poverty Eradication” was held at UNESCO on 23 and 24 May 2002. The TAPE project was presented as a UNESCO initiative at a Forum on “Engineering and Technology Innovation for Sustainable Development” during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, on 28 August 2002. A meeting to discuss case studies and pilot activities in knowledge networking and a project on “Technology Knowledge Network for the Poor” was held in the United Kingdom on 19 and 20 November 2002 with the Intermediate

Technology Development Group in the United Kingdom and related partners from Africa, Europe and the United States.

II. COORDINATION ACTIVITIES AND COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR LDCs, LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDCs) AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

24. With a view to promoting specific action and ensuring coordination of activities relating to the LDCs, focal points have been designated in each programme sector as well as in LDC cluster and national field offices (information available on the Web: www.unesco.org/ldc). Close cooperation is being ensured with the Africa Department as well as with recent NEPAD initiatives. Participation was ensured in the Cotonou Ministerial Conference of LDCs held in **Benin** in August 2002.

25. A working relationship is being forged with the Office of the High Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The High Representative, Mr Anwarul Chowdhury, visited UNESCO at the invitation of the Director-General on 25 October 2002. He briefed Permanent Delegations on the responsibilities and planned activities of the Office, and sought their support in the effective implementation of the Brussels PoA. An intersectoral meeting was also organized with the High Representative, which allowed to learn about the functions of his Office and to present UNESCO's activities in context of the mainstreaming approach for LDCs.

26. Two cases studies (on **Niger** and **Haiti**) have been carried out with a view to strengthening UNESCO's action in those LDCs. In cooperation with the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa, a set of indicators on LDCs development issues has been developed, as well as a CD-ROM on regional and subregional initiatives in Africa, which have been disseminated.

27. Under the Participation Programme, a total amount of US \$5,254,600 was approved for the financing of 311 requests from 43 LDCs. Overall, UNESCO's efforts in response to the needs of LDCs are presented in a new brochure, now available in English and French, which is also accessible on the Web (www.unesco.org/ldc) .

164 EX/Decision 8.6

Follow-up to the International Seminar on Forward-Looking Approaches and Innovative Strategies to Promote the Development of Africa in the Twenty-First Century and in support of NEPAD

1. By 164 EX/Decision 8.6, the Executive Board invited the Director-General to:
 - (a) further reinforce the priority assigned to Africa's needs in UNESCO's current and future programmes, in particular when drawing up the Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 (32 C/5);
 - (b) disseminate widely to Member States and development partners in Africa, and in particular to civil society, information on priorities given to Africa in UNESCO's programmes and their linkages with the priorities identified in the NEPAD process and the Millennium Declaration;
 - (c) organize a joint NEPAD-UNESCO seminar to specify the ways and means of applying the NEPAD plan of action in the Organization's fields of competence, and obtain from the appropriate sources the requisite funds for the purpose.
2. The Board also invited the Director-General to report to it at its 166th session on the activities carried out during the 2002-2003 biennium by way of follow-up to the seminar and in support of NEPAD.
3. The recommendations of the seminar were taken into account when the work plans for the current biennium (2002-2003, document 31 C/5) were finalized, and in the framing of the regional strategy for the period of the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy (2002-2007). It should be noted that the strategy is the outcome of a long consultation process which began with the Addis Ababa meeting (8-12 December 2001) of directors and heads of office in Africa. It continued with the regional consultation of National Commissions in Dakar (1-4 July 2002). The Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 (32 C/5) also reflects this allowance for Africa's priorities.
4. In the framework of the regular intersectoral meetings intended to assess implementation of the priority assigned to Africa in programmes, the College of Assistant Directors-General held two working sessions on 23 October 2002 and 22 January 2003.
5. The seminar's recommendations have been widely circulated to African politicians and African civil society and to all development partners in Africa. They have likewise been made known on the occasion of regional and international meetings organized or attended by UNESCO.
6. The Secretariat has taken part in various international, regional and subregional meetings concerning the implementation of NEPAD. These included the annual regional consultation of United Nations system agencies working in Africa, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (24-26 October 2002). The purpose of the consultation was to define, identify and coordinate the action of agencies of the United Nations system in favour of NEPAD in the light of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on NEPAD and following the meeting of African Ministers of Planning and Finance (Johannesburg, 20-21 October 2002), which put out an emphatic political message to hasten the NEPAD implementation process. Five thematic clusters have been identified to meet more accurately the priority objectives of NEPAD: human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS;

environment, population and urbanization; infrastructure development (ICT, energy, transport); governance, peace and security; agriculture, trade and market access.

7. The Organization has further established a NEPAD Advisory Committee made up of nine eminent persons selected by the Director-General on account of their knowledge of Africa's problems and UNESCO's fields of competence, together with the programme Assistant Directors-General, the Assistant Director-General of the Africa Department and the Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning. The Committee is intended to make recommendations and advise the Director-General on the social and political development of Africa and on the backing UNESCO should provide in its fields of competence to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The inaugural meeting of the Committee took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 5 March 2003.

8. A seminar entitled "UNESCO and NEPAD: from vision to action" was held in Ouagadougou from 5 to 7 March 2003. Its main objectives were:

- to improve knowledge in the Secretariat and in field units of the process of operationalizing NEPAD priorities so that they are taken into account in the sectors' work plans;
- to raise the awareness of members of the NEPAD Secretariat of the importance the Organization attaches to the Partnership and its implementation in its fields of competence;
- to develop projects taking into account NEPAD priorities in UNESCO's fields of competence;
- to inform extrabudgetary funding sources about funding for the projects.

9. It should be noted in this respect that at its 165th session the Executive Board amended the Financial Regulations of the Priority Africa Special Account to permit the funding of NEPAD-related projects and activities.

10. The conclusions of the seminar, which was advocated by the Board, will be the subject of a later communication.

164 EX/Decision 7.2

Efforts to reinforce National Commissions' operational capacities

1. By 164 EX/Decision 7.2, the Executive Board invited the Director-General to “make necessary efforts to reinforce National Commissions’ operational capacities and to report to it at its 166th session on concrete measures taken and the results achieved in this respect”. While encouraging the Director-General to implement his relevant action plan for the 2002-2003 biennium (164 EX/39), the Executive Board recalled that strong and efficient National Commissions were a shared responsibility of both Member States and the UNESCO Secretariat.

2. As the capacity-building of National Commissions is a constantly evolving process, this report focuses on the progress made by the Secretariat over the last nine months and the measures envisaged for the near future. These activities were designed in line with the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 and in accordance with the priorities identified by National Commissions themselves as the most relevant areas for UNESCO’s action, such as: (i) advocacy; (ii) policy and research activities; (iii) training and support in regional strategies; (iv) communication capacities; and (v) forging partnerships. While certain measures brought immediate results, others would have their impact in the longer term.

Advocacy activities

3. The support of Member States is fundamental for the strengthening of National Commissions’ status and operational capacities. With this in mind and to follow up the Director-General’s circular letter to all ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO (CL/3599 of 29 August 2001), the Secretariat has continued its efforts on raising awareness on the role and needs of National Commissions through advocacy and the dissemination of relevant information. Whenever appropriate, the Director-General has discussed this matter in his meetings with government officials, particularly, during his official visits to underline the responsibilities of Member States to provide their National Commissions with adequate status and resources. Advice and expert information were provided to individual Member States on the establishment or restructuring of National Commissions. Moreover, in-house information sessions have been organized to remind staff members of UNESCO’s duties towards National Commissions and to discuss the optimal modalities of cooperation.

Policy documents

4. The Secretariat has continued to undertake research activities to produce key policy papers *on and for* National Commissions. The compendium of *Legal Texts on National Commissions for UNESCO* was published and widely distributed among Member States, Permanent Delegations and National Commissions. The publication on the *Architecture of National Commissions: selected information on their status, composition and resources* has been finalized. In response to 160 EX/Decision 9.6, the preparation of the *Collection of Best Practices: National Commissions in Action* was launched. In the light of the 165th session of the Executive Board, necessary steps have been taken for the preparation of *A Guide on the functional relations between National Commissions and UNESCO field offices*. These documents are essential to underpin and orient capacity-building efforts.

Training and support to regional strategies

5. Training of Secretaries-General and other officials of National Commissions has been intensified. The training programme was reviewed in order to focus it on the practical requirements of National Commissions and their outreach skills. Special training sessions on media relations were successfully held during two regional consultations of National Commissions on the

preparation of draft document 32 C/5 (Rabat, June 2002 and Dakar, July 2002). Some 60 Secretaries-General were briefed on the modalities of working with mass media in order to increase UNESCO's visibility at the national level.

6. The representatives of 14 National Commissions in the Pacific benefited from a three-day training during a special meeting of the Pacific Member States and the Associate Member for the Development of UNESCO's Subregional Cooperation and Training Programme for the Enhancement of the Capacities of National Commissions, organized by the UNESCO Pacific Office in Apia, Samoa, from 4 to 8 November 2002. Some 30 participants attended the Interregional Training Seminar for the Recently Appointed Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO, which took place in Paris from 19 to 29 November 2002.

7. In 2003, the training programme will be further developed in cooperation with Member States concerned and ISESCO. At least five training seminars are planned to be held in different regions, namely: in Bamako, Mali (March 2003); Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (April 2003); Santiago, Chile (March 2003); Bridgetown, Barbados (June 2003); and in Paris, at UNESCO Headquarters (November 2003). Moreover, to follow up on 165 EX/Decision 9.2, efforts will be made to hold special training sessions for National Commissions during cluster management consultations held by UNESCO field offices.

8. UNESCO has continued to provide its support to the reinforcement of office infrastructure of National Commissions. As of January 2003, \$1,162,300 have been granted to 62 National Commissions, through the Participation Programme for the 2002-2003 biennium, for the procurement of office equipment and facilities, the improvement of ICT capacities, establishment of documentation centres, translations and dissemination of publications, development of human resources, etc.

Communication capacities

9. Measures have been taken to offer enhanced information tools and services to National Commissions. Training on the use of ICT by National Commissions for better interface with the UNESCO Secretariat has become an integral part of the training programme. UNESCO's website on National Commissions and New Partnerships is being redesigned in order to improve and diversify its contents, including linkages with the Secretariat's relevant electronic databases. The UNESCO Community Sub-Portal was created as part of the Organization's Knowledge Portal where National Commissions can interact with a wide range of key partners while sharing information and experience. In particular, National Commissions can launch or participate in virtual discussions through Electronic Forum facilities. List Serves for mailing and discussion groups were established. Upon request, the Secretariat has assisted certain National Commissions in the establishment of their own websites and is now developing special software to provide a template for this purpose. This will be available to all National Commissions in the near future. As of January 2003, some 45 National Commissions set up their sites on the Internet. A new CD-ROM containing key documents on National Commissions and their key partners is being finalized.

Support in forging partnerships

10. The Secretariat has continued to support National Commissions in enhancing their outreach and mobilization skills. In the new training programme for National Commissions, special emphasis has been made on cooperation with civil society organizations (e.g. UNESCO Clubs, parliamentarians, private sector, etc.). Efforts were made to produce relevant documentation and electronic support materials, such as *A Guide to Relations with Parliamentarians, Frequently Asked Questions about UNESCO Clubs*, and accompanying PowerPoint presentations. The documents explain the main aspects of these alliances and suggest how National Commissions can strengthen outreach to these partners.

Hundred and sixty-sixth Session

166 EX/5
Part I Add.
PARIS, 2 April 2003
Original: English/French

Item 3.1.2 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

ADDENDUM

**RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THE JOINT NEPAD-UNESCO SEMINAR
“UNESCO AND NEPAD: FROM VISION TO ACTION”
(OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO, 5-8 MARCH 2003)**

SUMMARY

As part of the follow-up to 164 EX/Decision 8.6, this report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of the recommendations made at the joint NEPAD-UNESCO seminar entitled “UNESCO and NEPAD: From vision to action” held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 5 to 8 March 2003.

1. The joint NEPAD-UNESCO seminar entitled “UNESCO and NEPAD: From vision to action”, held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 5 to 8 March 2003, was attended by the members of the UNESCO Committee for NEPAD, high-level African politicians, African experts and representatives of regional institutions.
2. The seminar was organized in response to the Executive Board’s decision (164 EX/Decision 8.6), in which it invited the Director-General to organize a joint NEPAD-UNESCO seminar to specify the ways and means of applying the NEPAD plan of action in the Organization’s fields of competence, and obtain from the appropriate sources the requisite funds for the purpose. It also follows on from the international seminar on “Forward-looking approaches and

innovative strategies to promote the development of Africa in the twenty-first century”, held at UNESCO Headquarters in November 2001, and ties in with the framework of the regional strategy for Africa (2002-2007).

3. The general aim of the seminar was to set up an action strategy to specify the ways and means of applying the NEPAD plan of action in the Organization’s fields of competence. The UNESCO Committee for NEPAD, which was set up by the Director-General and brings together representative figures from the five (5) African subregions, will provide ongoing monitoring of the activities carried out to implement this plan of action.

4. Two Heads of State took part in the high-level session held in the framework of the seminar, in the presence of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura: His Excellency Mr Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, and His Excellency Mr John Kufuor, President of Ghana and current President of ECOWAS. The following figures took part in the proceedings: Professor Laya Sawadogo, Minister of Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research, President of the Burkina Faso National Commission for UNESCO; Mr Marcel Diouf, Representative of Mr Amara Essy, Acting President of the Commission of African Union; Mr Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa; Mr Hakim Ben-Hamouda, Regional Director for Central Africa, Office of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Mr Jean-Pierre Patat, Representative of Mr Camdessus (France G8 Sherpa for NEPAD); Mr Abderahmane Merouane, Human Resources Coordinator, NEPAD Secretariat; and representatives from the International Office for Migration (IOM); the International Organization of the Francophonie and the Arab Maghreb Union.

5. The Seminar was preceded by three round tables on the following topics:

Round table 1: Exchange of views on the future of rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in Africa. Rehabilitation and reconstruction processes in Africa involve many African countries in post-conflict situations. UNESCO must therefore make the reconstruction of education systems a priority. In order to do this the Organization must have a clear policy, drawn up with all partners involved, and an action strategy enabling it to harness the human and material resources required to implement specific programmes, particularly in the field of education.

Round table 2: Critical analysis of projects submitted by field offices. When projects submitted by field offices were examined in the light of guidelines laid down in UNESCO’s Medium-Term Strategy and the priorities established by NEPAD it emerged that most of them were national in scope and that the regional dimension, with which NEPAD is concerned, was less in evidence. It was also noted that culture had not been sufficiently acknowledged as a priority by NEPAD. It was therefore recommended that the projects be revised in order to incorporate the subregional dimension and issues of cultural development and that mechanisms for the management, coordination and implementation of these projects be established to this end.

Round table 3: The Forum of Subregional Organizations. This Forum suggested that greater coordination be achieved between the different partners and that UNESCO establish a framework of priorities for its modalities of action and partnership with the subregional organizations. It was also suggested that these organizations become key focal points for NEPAD.

6. The first two round tables brought together the heads and directors of field offices as well as representatives from the programme sectors. The third involved representatives of regional and subregional organizations, representatives of the NEPAD secretariat and UNESCO programme sectors.

7. Furthermore, a **Ougadougou Declaration** and **Action Plan** were adopted by representatives of African subregional organizations convened at the initiative of UNESCO's Africa Department. The aim of the Action Plan is to create a forum of African regional and subregional organizations to support cooperation between UNESCO and NEPAD (FOSRASUN). It recommends that a focal point for the forum be designated in each of the regional institutions. FOSRASUN will meet every two years in ordinary session. Pending the formalization of its structures, UNESCO's Africa Department will have responsibility for the functions of its secretariat.

8. During the seminar, work focused on the following three topics:

- (i) How can UNESCO help Member States to incorporate NEPAD's objectives in their national programmes?
- (ii) What ways and means does UNESCO have at its disposal to involve parliamentarians, the private sector, NGOs and civil society, especially women and children, in strategies to promote development and combat poverty in Member States?
- (iii) What contribution can UNESCO make to capacity-building and the setting-up of subregional projects?

9. Each of these topics was covered in the light of the priorities of UNESCO's programme in the following areas: Education for All, sustainable development (follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit) and access to information and knowledge.

10. At the end of the proceedings, recommendations were drawn up for the attention of Member States, regional, subregional and international organizations, donors, and the secretariats of the African Union, UNESCO and NEPAD.

11. In an intersectoral approach involving programme sectors and field units UNESCO – in association with African Member States and their National Commissions, the partners concerned and the UNESCO Committee for NEPAD – will take all the necessary measures to implement the recommendations appended to this document.

“UNESCO AND NEPAD: FROM VISION TO ACTION”

UNESCO-NEPAD SEMINAR

OUAGADOUGOU, 5-8 MARCH 2003

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. TO THE MEMBER STATES

1. Make the National Commissions for UNESCO into focal points within States for the implementation of UNESCO-NEPAD cooperation. In this regard, they should be provided with sufficient human and material resources. As such, their assigned objectives should be to make the NEPAD philosophy generally known, in particular in civil society and local communities, through the media and cultural and educational events, taking care to make it accessible by using national languages to ensure that it is taken up by communities.
2. Establish a national plan of action in which the participants will be parliamentarians, the private sector, NGOs and civil society, in particular women and young people; they will be given responsibility, in development and poverty reduction strategies, to monitor the implementation of NEPAD priorities. In that regard they must participate actively in defining, carrying out and evaluating NEPAD-related activities.
3. Strengthen institutional mechanisms by fostering women's participation in decision-making and by establishing partnerships and linkages among associations, the media, civil society, decentralized bodies and States in order to facilitate the joint implementation of NEPAD-related activities.
4. Place the issue of the free movement of citizens and goods on the agenda of the summit of African subregional organizations with a view to enabling genuine integration of States.
5. Demonstrate strong political will by creating an environment for change in the areas of democratic renewal, defence of human rights and transparency.
6. Ask UNESCO, NEPAD and the African Union to convene jointly an interdisciplinary meeting of experts to work out the general principles of civics education, which each subregion and each nation will then adapt to its context.
7. Co-organize each year a **National NEPAD Day**, which will lay emphasis on good governance, the culture of peace, acceptance of cultural diversity, and protection of biodiversity and the African environment. In view of the conflicts and tensions that beset the continent, the Director-General of UNESCO and the Head of the NEPAD Secretariat should give high priority to the organization of the Day.
8. As NEPAD is not only an economic programme, it is important that an inter-ministerial body be put in charge of NEPAD in each State and act as the interface between partners and each beneficiary country.
9. Support rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in areas of Africa in post-conflict situations. The Director-General is requested to take into account the recommendations made by the round table on the future of rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in Africa.
10. Guarantee and speed up access to education, in particular for girls, strengthen adult literacy in the context of the United Nations Literacy Decade and develop non-formal adult education with a view to education throughout life.
11. Promote training geared to employment and private entrepreneurship for young graduates and accelerate the mobilization and provision of funding for microprojects.

12. Support health education programmes (preventive education against HIV/AIDS, malaria, STDs and other endemic diseases).

13. Promote non-formal education, popularize the sciences and, in that regard, take note of and implement with UNESCO's support the resolutions and recommendations of the Workshop on Developing a Scientific and Technological Framework for NEPAD, which was held in Johannesburg from 17 to 19 February 2003.

14. Strengthen the private sector's capacity for involvement in the implementation of NEPAD programmes that are in UNESCO's fields of competence.

15. Strengthen the culture component of the education process so that education is not limited to instruction.

II. TO REGIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Build the capacities of regional and subregional organizations so as to improve their ability to accomplish tasks linked to the implementation of NEPAD in the fields of competence of UNESCO.

2. African States should provide the subregional economic communities to which they belong with greater resources to implement NEPAD programmes at the subregional and national levels and to promote the integration of migrant population groups and the protection of the rights of minorities.

3. Improve linkages between the electoral group divisions at UNESCO and the Pan-African structure of NEPAD.

4. Encourage the establishment of multilateral partnerships (regional and international organizations).

5. Strengthen the establishment of UNESCO Clubs, places for meeting, discovery and the practice of citizenship by young people, and consider the establishment of clubs and similar networks for women. Encourage these clubs and their federations to adopt NEPAD by making it one of the core themes of their activities during the period covered by the Medium-Term Strategy for Africa (2002-2007).

6. Strengthen and energize regional and subregional cooperation in the context of the forum of regional and subregional organizations in support of cooperation between UNESCO and NEPAD (FOSRASUN), which was set up in Ouagadougou on 5 March 2003.

7. Foster, with UNESCO's assistance and support, the implementation of practical regional integration projects to which priority is given in the fields of competence of UNESCO and NEPAD. To that end, the Seminar requests the Director-General to take into account the recommendations made by the round table on the critical analysis of projects submitted by the field offices.

III. TO DONORS

1. Respect the concept of partnership with NEPAD Member States and the control of projects by the governments concerned.

2. Generate synergy at field level through effective coordination and collaboration among donors, for the long-term benefit of the recipient countries.
3. Favour partnership and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, rather than bilateral relations, in accordance with the fundamental principles of NEPAD.

IV. TO THE AFRICAN UNION SECRETARIAT

1. The NEPAD Secretariat should be provided by the African States with sufficient financial and human resources to enable it to be administratively operational, taking gender-related issues into account.
2. Raise awareness of NEPAD by civil society, donor agencies and other stakeholders, in an appropriate manner.
3. Strengthen, with UNESCO's support, the harmonious and peaceful interaction of individuals and groups with multiple identities, the wealth and diversity of local cultures and the multifaceted contributions of cultural diversity to development, in a world tending towards uniformization through the globalization process.
4. Make NEPAD a multilingual programme (publications, reports, media support, etc.) to enhance grass-roots access and promotion. In order to achieve this goal, the Secretariat publications must take into account the official languages of the African Union.
5. The Heads of the African Union Member States should call on UNESCO and NEPAD to draft and submit for their approval a project for the revitalization of higher education and research.

V. TO UNESCO AND NEPAD

1. Implement a common UNESCO-NEPAD planning process to facilitate collaborative activities.
2. Ensure that internal structural reform is carried out across the board in order to obtain positive results and avoid systemic dysfunction.
3. Make better use of the enormous reservoir of African talent, present both inside and outside of Africa, by cooperating with other institutions, such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to set up databases and directories with a view to mobilizing human resources as and when required.
4. Ensure that increased contributions from the African diaspora become a vital component of technical assistance.
5. Set up a joint mechanism for follow-up, evaluation and reporting, and make quality and relevance the most important considerations in all projects.
6. Draw up a joint plan of action to tackle the water crisis foreseen on the continent and submit it for adoption by the NEPAD Implementation Committee.

7. Contribute to the revitalization of scientific and intellectual work in African universities. UNESCO in particular should seek to support and promote scientific studies, research and development, and to foster the introduction of inter-university networks. Access to knowledge and information should also be encouraged through universities and centres of excellence for research and training (UNESCO Chairs for instance). Accordingly, NEPAD and UNESCO should work together to accelerate implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Higher Education and of the ACP Least Developed Countries Ministerial Declaration, adopted in Cape Town.

8. In order to strengthen cooperation at the continental level in regard to capacity-building in science and technology, scientific networks and associations geared towards strengthening scientific centres of excellence should be reactivated or created as from the 2004-2005 biennium. One result of the higher priority given to scientific capacity-building and to the management of such capacity should be the regular holding of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Application of Science and Technology for Development in Africa (CASTAFRICA).

9. Identify ways and means of strengthening ties between UNESCO and the African Ministers of Planning and Finance, such that during periodic meetings the Director-General may further raise their awareness and bring to an understanding of the need to integrate UNESCO's priorities more fully, particularly in the field of education, and thus give the latter a more prominent place in budget priorities and national development plans.

10. UNESCO and NEPAD should contribute to a vigorous campaign on the importance of a fuller understanding of the links between the protection of biodiversity and the promotion of cultural diversity. They must raise awareness about Africa's very special role in this area, as a region and as a group of societies which have managed to respect and safeguard endogenous knowledge.

VI. TO UNESCO

A. General recommendations

1. Strengthen the human and financial resources of UNESCO's structures directly responsible for implementing UNESCO-NEPAD programmes, in particular the Africa Department and field offices.

2. In order to promote NEPAD's integration into the Member States' national programmes, each country should take account of those of NEPAD's aims and objectives that are relevant to UNESCO's fields of action and incorporate them into the design and implementation of their own programmes.

3. Encourage twinning between schools and between local communities or their groupings served by a given cluster office.

4. Foster, by means of practical activities, intercultural dialogue and the development of cultural policies and the emergence and development of cultural industries and semi-industrial cultural activities, whose headquarters should be located in an African country.

5. Promote State secularism through civics education, tolerance and the dissemination of the principles of a culture of peace, in order to bring individuals and communities closer together.

6. Support environmental education programmes.

7. Encourage legislative initiatives, through regional unions of parliamentarians and leagues of parliamentary friends of UNESCO, with a view to securing their more active participation in the harmonization of legislation within UNESCO's fields of competence.
8. Involve women in environmental management and the fight against poverty by developing income-generating activities and enhancing endogenous women's skills.
9. Promote the appropriation of NEPAD by local communities through existing UNESCO networks (National Commissions, Associated Schools Project, UNESCO Clubs, FAPED, regional and subregional EFA forums) and provide this new approach with all the necessary assistance.
10. Provide NEPAD Member States with technical support for devising and implementing priority regional projects dealing with HIV/AIDS, the eradication of poverty, etc.
11. Give priority to projects focusing on the development of ICT contents and not only on the supply of machinery and equipment.
12. Promote sustainable development based, among other things, on a quality-oriented relationship between biodiversity, a fact of nature, and cultural diversity, the fruit of human creativity.

B. Specific recommendations

1. Education for All (EFA)

UNESCO needs to step up its partnership activities with African Member States with a view to meeting EFA objectives, in particular concerning the quality of education, the culture of peace and, more generally speaking, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Physical education

Establish jointly with NEPAD an action plan for promoting physical education and sport as part of Education for All, in particular in order to set up as a priority a regional and subregional physical education curriculum in education systems.

3. Higher education and research

- (a) Although UNESCO is currently implementing an excellent higher education programme it should make further efforts in this field, for example by advocating that a greater role be played by higher education in strengthening EFA along with all other levels of the education system (training of trainers, management training ...).
- (b) UNESCO and NEPAD should facilitate access to higher and post-university education by girls and women, in order to foster their active presence in decision-making circles.
- (c) UNESCO should contribute to the design, production and dissemination of textbooks and new teaching aids, making use of scientific publications such as the General History of Africa, to widen and improve knowledge of Africa from the NEPAD viewpoint.

- (d) UNESCO should encourage the revitalization of intellectual and scientific activity in Africa through programmes aimed at improving training and research conditions in African universities.

4. Sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment

Strengthen the role of UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in finalizing and implementing NEPAD's plan of action for the environment, for example by facilitating the implementation of projects resulting from the African Process concerning the management of coastal areas, and by strengthening Member States' ability to take on board the objectives of that action framework.

5. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and distance teaching

- (a) UNESCO should reinforce its programme for the use of ICTs in teacher training and for improving higher education. In this regard, the International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) needs to have its own capacities strengthened so that it can pursue its software refinement and distance education activities.
- (b) So that learners in rural areas are not at a disadvantage compared with those in urban areas when it comes to being initiated in the use of computers, and ICTs in general, UNESCO and NEPAD should rapidly set about studying the ways and means of proposing to the appropriate decision-making bodies a plan of action for introducing renewable energy sources into school establishments and health centres in rural areas.
- (c) Promote and support the African Virtual University, based in Nairobi, whose action could help to offset the dearth of qualified teaching personnel and improve teacher quality.
- (d) UNESCO should set an example in the use of ICTs and telecommunications, to avoid lengthy and costly conferences.

6. Publication and distribution of new educational materials in NEPAD countries

UNESCO should help to design and produce new educational materials aimed at improving knowledge of Africa among pupils in the NEPAD framework.

7. Field offices and Africa Department

- (a) UNESCO should endeavour to optimize its presence in the Africa region and strengthen the region's ability to coordinate its NEPAD support programmes. It should also improve exchanges of information with its field offices.
- (b) UNESCO should effectively establish a regional office in Africa with responsibility for culture, in accordance with the resolution adopted at the World Conference on Cultural Policies (Mexico City, 1982) and in order to implement the Dakar Plan of Action adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in June 1992.

8. NGOs and civil society

In order to make them more operational UNESCO should strengthen the capacities of African NGOs, promote the integration of civil society groups and associations and help to create a synergy between existing mechanisms and activities under way that are compatible with its fields of competence and NEPAD priorities.

9. Culture of peace

UNESCO should step up its action in the field of peace consolidation, taking pains to raise awareness among the people in the region of the importance of integration and good governance. UNESCO Clubs and UNESCO Associated Schools should be the key elements in that campaign.

10. Parliamentarians

UNESCO should continue with its activities involving parliamentarians, so that they may become a key resource in the dissemination of information and the promotion of debates on NEPAD, in particular FAPED.

Hundred and sixty-sixth Session

166 EX/5
Part II
PARIS, 20 March 2003
Original: English/French

Item 3.1.2 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

PART II

SUMMARY

This report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of progress in the follow-up of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its previous sessions.

Part II focuses on administrative and financial matters.

161 EX/Decision 7.6

Report by the Director-General on the use of consultants by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. As an intergovernmental organization, UNESCO must benefit from stable and institutional memory of a group of core staff members who are responsible for the major activities of the Organization. Although it cannot replace the employment of core staff members, the use of consultants and fee contractors' services on a temporary bases may be required to meet the diversified expertise and flexibility to respond effectively and rapidly to evolving needs in UNESCO's various fields of competence.
2. Consultants are used for specific short assignments requiring expertise that is not available among staff members. While fee contracts are used to hire individual or legal entities with specialized skills, in order to obtain special goods or services in return for a lump sum and by a specific deadline. These services provided by contractors working mainly at the latter's usual place of residence or work. By these contracts the Organization does not purchase the contractor's time but a finished product delivered on a specific date.
3. Some examples of how consultants and/or fee contractors are most useful for solving specific well-defined tasks are: for activities that require a combination of expertise, such as in the preparation and implementation of extrabudgetary operational projects; preparation of training courses and conferences; editing major publications where interaction is needed with the Secretariat etc.

Source of data

4. In the light of the decentralization policy, the selection and hiring of consultant and fee contracts are the responsibility of Sectors, Bureaux and Field Offices. The Bureau of Human Resources Management provides advice and monitoring. The source of data has been extracted from the new Finance and Budget System (FABS); however bearing in mind the progressive introduction and implementation of the new FABS' system within the Organization, the Bureau of Human Resources Management were able to extract only data based on consultant and fee contracts managed at Headquarters. Data on field consultant and fee contracts have yet to be entered into the system as SAP will only be deployed this coming spring to the field offices. Thus, this present report reflects only contracts managed at Headquarters.

Use of consultants during 2002 at Headquarters

(A) Consultant contracts

5. In 2002, UNESCO employed **312** consultants under a total of **433** contracts against regular programme and extrabudgetary funds. In 2002, **34.9%** of consultant expenditure was financed under the regular programme and **65.1%** under extrabudgetary funds (against 25.8% and 74.2% respectively in 2001). The total number of consultants contracts has decreased by 9.2% in 2002 (433) compared to 477 in 2001 and by **18.9%** since 2000 (534 at that time). The total number of consultants (individuals) hired in 2002 has decreased by 12.4% compared to 2001 (312 against 356).
6. The table below shows the evolution of the number of consultants hired in 2001 and in 2002 along with the geographical group of origin.

The breakdown above shows some decrease in the number of consultants belonging to Group I (i.e. 55.8% in 2002 as opposed to 61.5% in 2001) even though there is a continuing trend in the majority of consultants belonging to Group I. Trends for improvement are observable for Groups III, IV and V (Arab), respectively: 7.4%, 11.9% and 7.7% as opposed to 4.5%, 9.0% and 5.1% in 2001. A slight reduction can be observed in Groups II and V (Afr), respectively: 4.5% and 12.8% compared to 5.6% and 14% in 2001.

Group	2001		2002	
	Number	%	Number	%
I	219	61.5	174	55.8
II	20	5.6	14	4.5
III	16	4.5	23	7.4
IV	32	9.0	37	11.9
V(Arab)	18	5.1	24	7.7
V(Afr)	50	14.0	40	12.8
not specified	1	0.3		
TOTAL	356	100	312	100

(B) Consultancy costs at Headquarters

7. The total expenditures (all sources of funding) for consultants administrated at Headquarters in 2002 amounted to \$5,371,599. Expenditures for consultant contracts administrated at Headquarters in 2002 have decreased by 9% compared to 2001 (\$5,881,883). There has been a 28.2% reduction since 1999 when expenditures totalled \$7,481,779,

8. Total Headquarters consultancy expenditures, if translated into standard staff cost figures, would be equivalent in 2002 to 41 person/years at P-5 level, of which 14 person/years are obligated under the regular programme (against respectively 45 and 17 person/years in 2001).

(C) Consultant contracts on one symbolic dollar

9. The number of the consultants for one symbolic dollar in 2002 is 20 as opposed to 21 contractors in 2001 and 60 in 2000.

10. While the one symbolic dollar consultants work without remuneration, they may be exceptionally requested to carry-out a mission which may involve travel. In such cases, the Organization bears the related cost (travel and daily substance allowance). In 2002, the total expenditures in this respect represented \$19,699 (as opposed to \$55,132 in 2001).

Fee contracts at Headquarters

11. In 2002, UNESCO established **1,358** individual fee contracts with a total cost (all sources of funding) of **\$5,671,726**. In comparison with 2001, these figures represent a significant decrease of **43%** and **47.2%** (the 2001 figures are: 2,381 contracts and \$10,741,552 costs).

12. The average cost per fee contract at Headquarters in 2002 is approximately **\$4,177** (as opposed to \$4,511 in 2001).

13. Given the nature of UNESCO's work, the use of consultant and fee contract services will continue to be one of the most effective means of responding to the short- and medium-term commitments of the Organization. UNESCO will continue to monitor the use of various contractual arrangements in order to assess current and future requirements against the definitions outlined in the UNESCO Manual.

162 EX/Decision 7.4 and 31 C/Resolution 50

Modernizing UNESCO's approach to recording expenditures

14. In 31 C/Resolution 50, the General Conference welcomed the Director-General's study with the object of modernizing UNESCO's approach to recording expenditures and requested him to review the modernization process and report thereon to the Executive Board at its 166th session as well as to the General Conference at its 32nd session, if so decided by the Executive Board. The Director-General's study had been made in the light of the External Auditor's comments on unliquidated obligations and their concerns about the risk that the structure of the Organization's appropriation can encourage managers to appropriate their budgets incorrectly in order to "break-even".

15. One of the objectives of the new Finance and Budget System (FABS) is to give greater visibility over the management of commitments (unliquidated obligations) and that together with the surplus carry-over mechanism should enable UNESCO management to address satisfactorily the concerns of the External Auditor. The Director-General considers, therefore, that it would be preferable to wait until the next session of the Board, by which time UNESCO will have had a further six months of experience with FABS, before presenting his conclusions to the Executive Board and making any recommendations that the Board might wish to propose to the General Conference.