

Hundred and sixty-first Session

161 EX/6
PARIS, 30 May 2001
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**DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED
BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

1. The Special Committee held four meetings on 22 and 23 May 2001 with Mr K. Mokhele (South Africa) in the Chair.

2. The Committee examined the following agenda items:

Item	Title
3.1.3	Report of the Director-General on the execution of the programme and budget during the previous biennium (1998-1999) (31 C/3)
9.1	Comments by the Director-General on the external evaluation reports concerning the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP); the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme; the Framework Agreement between UNESCO and the International Council for Science (ICSU); the Linguapax Project – promoting linguistic diversity; crafts promotion; and the International Literacy Institute (161 EX/42)
3.6.3	Evaluation report on the implementation, structure and results of the fellowships programme at UNESCO (161 EX/19)

Item 3.1.3 Report of the Director-General on the execution of the programme and budget during the previous biennium (1998-1999) (31 C/3)

3. After having considered this item the Special Committee recommended to the Executive Board that it adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 31 C/3,
2. Noting with satisfaction the significant improvements made in the report, in comparison with previous reports, and in particular the new format for results-based reporting on programme execution,

3. Regrets that this report is submitted to the Executive Board, in its final version, so long after the period to which it relates, which diminishes its value for timely decision-making;
4. Considers that further improvements could be made to strengthen this important tool for corporate governance, namely:
 - (a) show clearly the linkage between this report, results-based budgeting, and the proposed Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the Programme and Budget (C/5);
 - (b) show the linkage with the work of the External Auditor and also audits undertaken by the Internal Oversight Service;
 - (c) reflect the evaluation of programme execution stemming from National Commissions;
 - (d) increase reporting and external evaluation of the extrabudgetary activities;
 - (e) further develop objective-setting and performance criteria;
 - (f) reflect developments in assessing the performance and capacity of staff in the section of the report on human resources management;
 - (g) provide a systematic validation of the integrity of the data and analysis in document C/3;
 - (h) report on the development of the results-based budgeting system;
5. Requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 162nd session proposals for strengthening the report having regard to, *inter alia*, the issues identified above, and to take the appropriate measures to ensure that this report is submitted within six months of the end of a biennium so that it can be used as input for future planning cycles.

Item 9.1 **Comments by the Director-General on the external evaluation reports concerning the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP); the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme; the Framework Agreement between UNESCO and the International Council for Science (ICSU); the Linguapax Project – promoting linguistic diversity; crafts promotion; and the International Literacy Institute (161 EX/42)**

4. After considering this item, the Special Committee recommended to the Executive Board that it adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 161 EX/42 and the Director-General's comments and observations thereon,
2. Being appreciative of the high professional standing of the external evaluators,

3. Noting that in the vast majority of cases, the evaluators were chosen from among those proposed or approved by National Commissions for UNESCO, as well as from NGOs with official status with UNESCO,
4. Expressing its general appreciation of the evaluation work carried out, especially with regard to the pertinence of their findings and recommendations based essentially on the expertise of the external evaluators in their respective fields of specialization and their international experience,
5. Regretting, that largely due to lack of time and resources, the evaluators were not able to include more detailed analysis of the effectiveness and substantive impact of the activities reviewed,
6. Taking note of the recommendations made by the evaluators as well as of the observations of the Director-General thereon,
7. Requests the Director-General to:
 - (a) pursue the work on the introduction of results-based programme management tools and processes that would facilitate future programme evaluations;
 - (b) ensure a more geographic and gender-balanced composition of external evaluation teams;
 - (c) as appropriate, complement external evaluations by audits, including risk management reviews;
 - (d) ensure that resources provided for individual evaluations are adequate for their completion;
 - (e) publish the terms of reference of evaluation on the UNESCO website;
 - (f) make available to the Executive Board the reports of evaluations when they are completed;
 - (g) examine the general lessons for UNESCO as a whole to be learned from individual evaluations or groups of evaluations;
 - (h) encourage the undertaking of evaluations related to systems of operations as well as programmes;
 - (i) ensure that data collection systems are adequate for cost-effectiveness analysis;
 - (j) include assessment of inputs in all future evaluations and undertake follow-up impact studies for recent evaluations in which impact has not been covered;
8. Invites the Director-General to implement measures envisaged by him as a follow-up to the recommendations made by the evaluators;
9. Also invites the Director-General to report to it on progress made in the follow-up to the evaluations.

Item 3.6.3 Evaluation report on the implementation, structure and results of the fellowships programme at UNESCO (161 EX/19)

5. After considering this item, the Special Committee recommended to the Executive Board that it adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 156 EX/Decision 9.6.2,
2. Having examined document 161 EX/19,
3. Underscoring the importance of this evaluation in monitoring and improving the fellowships programmes at UNESCO,
4. Supporting the finding that fellowships are an effective and positive tool in enhancing national capacity-building in the Organization's fields of competence,
5. Suggests that fellowship awards should reflect expected UNESCO's strategic objectives and programme priorities;
6. Invites the Director-General to enact the proposals for action made in his observations on the conclusions and recommendations formulated by the external evaluators;
7. Further invites the Director-General to continue to develop and reinforce the fellowships programmes at UNESCO, including their management, and to seek cooperation with other fellowship-awarding organizations;
8. Also invites the Director-General to take the necessary measures to increase the opportunities for training under the Co-sponsored Fellowships Scheme.