



General Conference

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organisation
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pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

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

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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联合国教育、
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36 C/7

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PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET (37 C/5)

SUMMARY

Source: 29 C/Resolution 87, paragraph 1, Rec. 23 (ii).

Background: In accordance with the provisions of 29 C/Resolution 87, the General Conference is invited to deliberate on the various aspects of the preparation of the subsequent Draft Programme (37 C/5).

Purpose: The Director-General submits the present document containing some preliminary indications of major issues that could be considered by the different Programme Commissions when addressing the item of the provisional agenda. There are neither budgetary nor financial implications related to this document as it is deliberative in preparation of a future Programme document.

Decision required: No decision is required on this document.

1. In accordance with the provisions of 29 C/Resolution 87 of the General Conference dealing with the structure and function of the General Conference (para. 1, Rec. 23 (ii)), the General Conference is invited to deliberate on the main lines of emphasis of the ensuing Programme and various other aspects of the preparation of the subsequent Draft Programme (C/5).

2. Thus, while the Commissions will focus on the discussions concerning the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (draft 36 C/5 and Add.), they are also invited to provide preliminary indications concerning the preparation of the subsequent Draft Programme document 37 C/5, in particular as regards its programme orientations and priorities, which shall coincide with the first phase of the next Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4).

3. In this context, it is appropriate to recall that in the follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of UNESCO and in line with the General Assembly resolution 63/232, the Executive Board recommended by 187 EX/Decision 1 that the General Conference at its 36th session:

- extend the C/5 programme cycle from two to four years, starting with document 37 C/5 from 2014, with an appropriate mechanism for adjustments every two years;
- maintain the biennial cycle for the budget of the C/5 document.

4. Should the General Conference adopt this recommendation, the 37 C/5 document would therefore cover UNESCO's Programme for 2014-2017, coinciding with the first half of the new C/4 document for the period between 2014 and 2021. The discussions on the preparation of these two documents are closely interlinked. Therefore, the present document has to be read and discussed in conjunction with document 36 C/11.

5. The General Conference at its 36th session will have at its disposal a report on the activities of the Organization in 2008-2009 (36 C/3) and for the first 18 months of the present biennium 2010-2011, containing a brief assessment of results already achieved through actions undertaken by UNESCO.

6. On the assumption that document 37 C/4 will follow in its structure document 34 C/4, document 37 C/5 shall be designed to respond to the overarching and strategic programme objectives and expected outcomes as well as global priorities and cross-cutting themes, as appropriate, defined for the Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4). It would therefore be desirable for the General Conference to deliberate on the major foci and programme priorities and lines of action addressing issues like:

- (a) should the structure of the C/5 document be maintained, i.e. Major Programmes with a limited number of biennial sectoral priorities (BSPs) and main lines of action (MLAs);
- (b) the linkages between document 37 C/5 and the strategic objectives of document 37 C/4 for the five major programmes (education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information) and of cross-cutting themes and intersectoral platforms as may be defined in document 37 C/4;
- (c) the ways and means by which UNESCO can further improve its contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals due by 2015 and the post-2015 development agenda, linked to a new set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which may be emerging from the major forthcoming conferences, such as Rio+20;
- (d) suggestions for selecting, defining and adapting biennial sectoral priorities and MLAs for each major programme for 2014-2017 building on: (i) document 35 C/5 and draft document 36 C/5 and Add. to provide programmatic continuity; (ii) the strong desire expressed by Member States to better focus and concentrate; (iii) the results and recommendations obtained from programme evaluations and statutory assessments by management (EX/4 and C/3 documents);
- (e) the importance to be attached to intersectorality, interdisciplinarity and issue-based approaches in the design of document 37 C/5, including programme areas where intersectoral activities should likely be initiated or strengthened, the desirable scope of intersectoral/interdisciplinary projects/platforms, and the need and modalities for dedicated funding and administrative support by thematic teams;
- (f) programme focus and concentration of a critical mass of resources on principal and other priorities to ensure that available resources are used in the most efficient and results-oriented manner and have an impact;

- (g) the maintenance or expansion of the global priorities of document 34 C/4 – Africa and gender equality, as well as the other priority groups identified in document 34 C/4 – the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), youth and the most marginalized segments of society, including indigenous peoples, and the allocation of sufficient resources for their pursuit;
- (h) the identification and selection of UNESCO's activities and programmes that have yielded strong positive results and have contributed to the credibility and visibility of the Organization;
- (i) the adequate allocation of staff and programme resources to field offices and the identification of the right mix between normative-operational and global-regional-national activities at the country level;
- (j) the identification of the ways and means by which UNESCO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations system, can further enhance its contribution to the joint United Nations action at the country level in support of national development priorities, taking into account the expected positive impact of the four-year Programme C/5 aligned with the United Nations Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of operational activities of the United Nations development system;
- (k) the need to pursue UNESCO's engagement in the system-wide efforts to improve coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations at the global, regional and country levels and including the harmonization of business practices, as also defined by the Rome, Paris, Accra and Busan Conferences on Aid Effectiveness;
- (l) the need for the alignment of the extrabudgetary resources with the regular programme of the Organization so as to improve the impact on programme priorities contained in the C/5 document and the Organization's outreach, especially at the country level;
- (m) the need for a continued application and refinement of the established results-based programming approach, including the use of quantitative and qualitative expected results, performance indicators and benchmark indicators, where feasible, for regular and extrabudgetary programmes and to introduce results-based budgeting;
- (n) the need to pursue and, building on their comparative advantages, further define the modalities of cooperation with the different categories of UNESCO's partners, including IGOs, NGOs, civil society, expert communities, the private sector, the parliamentarians, the media and other partners so as to optimize the impact of UNESCO's programmes to attract specialized expertise and to mobilize resources;
- (o) the importance of enhancing continually the visibility of the Organization so as to put in evidence UNESCO's results-orientation and focus, relevance, impact and its partnership potential.

7. The above list of issues is indicative, and neither exhaustive nor is it presented in any order of priority. The General Conference Commissions in their joint meeting may wish to address these issues in addressing the item of the agenda in a comprehensive manner.