



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

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

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Tuesday, 25 October 2011

e-journal

No. 1

Highlights

- The 36th session of the General Conference will be opened today in a formal ceremony by the Temporary President, H.E. Mr Davidson L. Hepburn, Permanent Delegate of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to UNESCO and President of the 35th session of the General Conference.
- The exhibition “Open UNESCO” will be inaugurated by the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova at 6.30 p.m. in the Hall Ségur. The exhibition aims to showcase a wide range of UNESCO’s programmes and activities, using a combination of documentaries, interviews, photographs, publications, interactive applications and social networks.
- Yesterday, the Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO was opened by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO. Mr Davidson L. Hepburn, President of the 35th General Conference, was also present during the afternoon discussion. Major topics discussed included: a review of the UNESCO Secretariat’s cooperation with NatComs, the consultation process on the C/4 and C/5, the reform of the field network and the management of the Participation Programme. More than 180 representatives from over 130 National Commissions attended the meeting.
- Representatives of 20 African and 25 Chinese universities met yesterday for the China-Africa University Leaders’ Meeting. The session was opened by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, and Mr Yuan Guiren, Minister of Education, P.R. China. Key issues discussed included how to innovatively address graduate employability taking into account opportunities and challenges of the labour market. The second session of the meeting will be held today from 2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. in Room XIII (Bonvin Building). High on the agenda will be the elaboration of an action plan for tripartite collaboration between UNESCO, China and Africa.

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WELCOME to the first edition of the *e-journal* of the 36th session of the General Conference! This Web-based journal gives you highlights of the day's schedule, including key official visits and special announcements. It also has information about the previous day's proceedings and for the following day.

Each morning, the Delegates' Information Bureau will also publish *in brief* – a one-page printed programme providing details of the day's agenda as well as the timing and venues of all special events. Copies of *in brief* can be obtained at the different entrances to UNESCO's buildings in Bonvin, Miollis and Fontenoy. Copies will also be available in front of Salle des Actes in the Hall of Ceremonies and at the entrance to Room 1.

Such details will also appear on the screens located in the main Halls of Fontenoy and Bonvin buildings. Unforeseen changes to the programme will be displayed on these screens.

We should also like to invite you to visit our website for more information, updates and changes.

You will find our office in Salle des Actes in the Hall of Ceremonies of the Fontenoy building, opposite Room I. You can also reach us by phone on the following extensions: 85277, 85268 or 85275.

We shall be pleased to guide you during the course of the session, including assisting you with any event that you plan to announce.

We wish you an enjoyable and rewarding session!

Delegates' Information Bureau



Tuesday, 25 October 2011

Special Announcement

The election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the Commissions and Committees will take place during the second Plenary meeting in Room I, at 3 p.m.

Programme of meetings

Today - Tuesday, 25 October

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
12 a.m.	Credentials Committee	VIII
	Nominations Committee	IV
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

Plenary Meeting

10 a.m.	First Meeting	I
	1.1 Opening of the session by the President of the 35th session of the General Conference	
	1.2 Establishment of the Credentials Committee	
	1.4 Adoption of the agenda	
	1.7 Admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those maintaining formal or operational relations with UNESCO, and recommendation of the Executive Board thereon	
	9.3 Request for the admission of Curaçao as an Associate Member of UNESCO	
	9.5 Request for the admission of Sint Maarten as an Associate Member of UNESCO	

Credentials Committee

12 a.m.	First Meeting	VIII
	1.2 Establishment of the Credentials Committee and report by the Committee to the General Conference	

Tuesday, 25 October 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Nominations Committee

12 a.m.	First Meeting	IV
1.5	Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the commissions and committees	

Afternoon

Plenary Meeting

3 p.m.	Second Meeting	I
1.5	Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the commissions and committees	
1.2	First report by the Credentials Committee	
2.1	Report of the Director-General on the activities of the organization in 2008-2009, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board	
2.2	Reports by the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation	

Provisional schedule of meetings

Wednesday, 26 octobre

Time	Organ	Room
8:30 a.m.	General Committee	X
10 a.m.	Leaders' Forum	I
	Administrative Commission	XI
	Legal Committee	VI
	[<i>Credentials Committee</i>]	[<i>VIII</i>]
3 p.m.	Leaders' Forum	I
	Administrative Commission	XI
	Legal Committee	VI
	[<i>Credentials Committee</i>]	[<i>VIII</i>]

Tomorrow

For more information on events and activities of the 36th session of the General Conference, please look on the screens and on:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference/>



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Wednesday, 26 October 2011

e-journal

No. 2

Highlights

Today

UNESCO holds its **Leaders' Forum** to debate how the Organization can contribute towards building a culture of peace and sustainable development.

The Leaders' Forum is a major opportunity for an innovative, open and provocative exploration of new ways of promoting peace and prosperity in a globalized world through UNESCO's fields of competence.

The three sessions of the Forum take place from Wednesday 26 October a.m. through Thursday 27 October a.m. 2011, in Room I, with the following keynote speakers and special addresses:

- H.E. Mr Pál SCHMITT, President of the Republic of Hungary
- H.E. Mr Ali BONGO ONDIMBA, President of the Republic of Gabon
- H.E. Mr Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E. Mr Tillman THOMAS, Prime Minister of Grenada
- H.E. Mr Pascal Irenée KOUPAKI, Prime Minister of the Republic of Benin
- H.E. Mrs Mehriban ALIYEVA, First Lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- H.E. Mr Raila ODINGA, Prime Minister of Kenya
- H.E. Mrs Margarita CEDEÑO DE FERNANDEZ, First Lady of the Dominican Republic
- H.E. Mr Boris TADIĆ, President of the Republic of Serbia
- H.E. Mr Johnson TORIBIONG, President of the Republic of Palau
- H.E. Mr Kris PEETERS, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Belgium

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Wednesday, 26 October 2011

Yesterday

The General Conference unanimously elected H. E. Ms Katalin Bogay, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Hungary to UNESCO, as its 36th President.

Curaçao and Sint Maarten were unanimously admitted as Associate Members of UNESCO.

Special Announcement

Global Migration Group Meeting on Migration and Climate Change

10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m., Room IX

As Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), UNESCO will host heads of 16 international organizations to develop a common approach to a wide range of international migration issues. The event also aims at informing participants about prominent ongoing activities on migration and global environmental change.

Programme of meetings

Today - Wednesday, 26 October

Time	Organ	Room
8:30 a.m.	General Committee	X
9:30 a.m.	Leaders' Forum	I
10:00 a.m.	Administrative Commission	XI
	Legal Committee	VI
3 p.m.	Leaders' Forum (cont.)	I
	IESALC Meeting	X
	Administrative Commission	XI
	Legal Committee	VI

For more information on events and activities of the 36th session of the General Conference, please look on the screens and on:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference/>

Wednesday, 26 October 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

General Committee

8:30 a.m.	First Meeting	X
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Leaders' Forum: How does UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and to sustainable development?

9:30 a.m.	Opening	I
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Administrative Commission

10 a.m.	First Meeting	XI
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- 1.3 Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution
- 4.4 Adoption of the provisional budget ceiling
- 6.1 Consideration of the decentralization strategy, including of the revised basic criteria for the rational implementation of decentralization
- 10.1 Implementation of the action plan for improved management of extrabudgetary funds – report by the Executive Board

Legal Committee

10 a.m.	First Meeting	VI
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Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and Rapporteur
Adoption of the timetable

- 4.2 Examination of communications of the admissibility of draft resolutions proposing the adoption of amendments to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013
- 8.3 Summary of the reports received from Member States on the measures taken for the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
- 8.6 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist

Wednesday, 26 October 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Afternoon

Leaders' Forum

3 p.m.	Continuation	I
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IESALC Meeting

3 p.m.	Election of Members of IESALC	X
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Administrative Commission

3 p.m.	Second Meeting	XI
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| 4.1 | Methods of preparing the budget, budget estimates for 2012-2013, and budgeting techniques |
| 4.2 | Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (Parts I, III, V) |

Legal Committee

3 p.m.	Second Meeting	VI
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| 8.4 | Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace |
| 8.5 | Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education |
| 8.7 | Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education |

Provisional schedule of meetings

Thursday, 27 October

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Leaders' Forum (cont. and closure)	I
	Administrative Commission	XI
	Legal Committee	VI
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	Administrative Commission	XI
	Legal Committee	VI

Tomorrow

Brief summary of meetings

Tuesday, 25 October

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
Plenary Meeting	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.7, 9.3, 9.5	
Credentials Committee	1.2	
Nominations Committee	1.5	
Plenary Meeting	1.5, 1.2, 2.2, 2.1	

Yesterday



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Thursday, 27 October 2011

e-journal

No. 3

Highlights

Today

- The UNESCO **Leaders' Forum** concludes its third and final session this morning in Room I. Keynote and special addresses include:
 - H.E. Mr Johnson TORIBIONG, President of the Republic of Palau
 - H.E. Mr Kris PEETERS, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Belgium
- The Conference on “Girls’ and Women’s Education: The Way Forward” will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Room IX. It aims to highlight the Director-General’s Global Partnership on Girls’ and Women’s Education, launched on 26 May 2011. The keynote address will be delivered by H. E. Ms Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, Former President of Iceland and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

Yesterday

- The President of the 36th session of the General Conference, the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Director-General of UNESCO opened the first session of the Leaders’ Forum. Four Heads of State, three Prime Ministers and two First Ladies addressed the Plenary, and more than thirty Ministers and Delegates participated in a rich and vivid debate, moderated by Ms Zeinab Badawi, on the importance of building a culture of peace and sustainable development and the contribution of UNESCO in that regard.
- Bolivia, Colombia and Jamaica were elected by acclamation to the three seats to be filled at the Governing Board of the International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC).

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Thursday, 27 October 2011

Special Announcements

Addressing Education Quality and Learning Effectiveness Challenge in the LAC Region

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Room VII

UNESCO hosts Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries in a meeting aimed at exploring the possible participation of the Latin American Countries in the Organisation's *General Education Quality Diagnostic/Analysis and Monitoring Framework*. The initiative, implemented in collaboration with China, Finland, Gabon, Norway, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates, supports Member States' efforts to strengthen quality and learning effectiveness in general education.

Ninth Coordination Meeting of the Heads of Delegation of ISESCO Member States to the 36th Session of UNESCO General Conference

3 p.m. – 5 p.m., Room X

ISESCO is organizing the Ninth Coordination Meeting with the Heads of Delegation of its Member States taking part in the 36th session of the General Conference. The meeting will discuss and report on the outcome and prospects of cooperation between ISESCO and UNESCO.

Improvements of Education in Africa through Early Childhood Education, Basic Education and Teachers Development: Bouba & Zaza

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Room IX

Launching the publication "Bouba and Zaza" series in the "Childhood Cultures" collection, the Director-General of UNESCO in the presence of the President of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF) will present a concrete output of the World Conference on Early Childhood and Education (September 2010) and the Dakar conference (November 2009).

Programme of meetings

Today - Thursday, 27 October

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Leaders' Forum (cont. and closure)	I
	Administrative Commission	XI
	Nominations Committee	IV
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	
	ADM Commission	XI
	PRX Commission	XII

Thursday, 27 October 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

Leaders' Forum (2nd day): How does UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and to sustainable development?

10 a.m.	Continuation and closure	I
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Administrative Commission

10 a.m.	Third Meeting	XI
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| 12.2 | Capital Master Plan for UNESCO Headquarters | |
| 12.1 | Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex | |
| 6.1 | Consideration of the decentralization strategy, including of the revised basic criteria for the rational implementation of decentralization (<i>cont'd</i>) | |

Nominations Committee

10 a.m.	Second Meeting	IV
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| 1.5 | Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the commissions and committees | |
| 13.1 | Election of Members of the Executive Board | |
| 13.2 | Election of the members of the Legal Committee for the 37th session of the General Conference | |
| 13.3 | Election of members of the Headquarters Committee | |
| 13.4 | Election of members of the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes that may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education | |
| 13.5 | Election of members of the Council of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) | |
| 13.6 | Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) | |
| 13.7 | Election of members of the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) | |
| 13.8 | Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) | |
| 13.9 | Election of members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP) | |
| 13.10 | Election of the members of the Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo | |

Thursday, 27 October 2011

Time	Item	Room
13.11	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)	
13.12	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme	
13.13	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)	
13.14	Election of the members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS)	
13.15	Election of members of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)	

Afternoon

Plenary Meeting

3 p.m.	Sixth Meeting	I
1.6	Organization of the work of the session General Policy Debate (National Statements)	

ADM Commission

3 p.m.	Fourth Meeting	XI
10.2	Financial report and audited financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO for the financial period ended 31 December 2009 and report by the External Auditor	
10.3	Financial report and audited consolidated financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO for the year ending 31 December 2010 and report by the External Auditor	
4.2	Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013	

PRX Commission

3 p.m.	First Meeting	XII
	Election of the Bureau of the Commission (upon recommendation of the Nominations Committee)	
	Organization and methods of work of the Commission, and adoption of the timetable	
6.2	Independent external evaluation of UNESCO	
6.3	United National General Assembly proposal to align planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	

Thursday, 27 October 2011

Provisional schedule of meetings

Friday, 28 October

Time	Organ	Room
9 a.m.	General Committee	X
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	Administrative Commission	XI
	PRX Commission	XII
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	Administrative Commission	XI
	PRX Commission	XII

Tomorrow

Brief summary of meetings

Wednesday, 26 October

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
Leaders' Forum		
ADM Commission	1.3, 4.4, 6.1 (<i>cont.</i>), 10.1, 4.1	
Legal Committee	4.2, 8.3, 8.6, 8.4, 8.5, 8.7	
IESALC Meeting		

Yesterday



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e-journal

No. 4



Highlights

Today

- Following accession by South Sudan to membership of the Organization on 27 October 2011, H.E. Dr. Cirino Hiteng Ofuho, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports will intervene at the General Policy Debate at 3 p.m. A Flag placing ceremony will take place to mark the occasion and welcome **South Sudan as the 194th Member State of UNESCO.**

Yesterday

- The second day of the **Leaders' Forum** was opened by the President of the General Conference Katalin Bogyay. The President of the Republic of Palau, H.E. Mr Johnson Toribiong, delivered the keynote address, followed by a special address from H.E. Mr Kris Peeters, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders (Belgium). Al Jazeera's Stephen Cole moderated the lively and interactive debate which attracted 22 interventions from ministers and heads of delegations. The Director-General Irina Bokova concluded with a recap of the discussions and recommendations arising from the Forum. The President of the General Conference closed the session. The proceedings and outcomes of the Leaders' Forum will be published as an Information document to be presented at the General Conference.

- The conference on **"Girls' and Women's Education: The Way Forward"** was marked by a robust debate in which participants underlined how girls' and women's education can advance human rights. They further noted that educating girls and women can enhance their autonomy, earning potential and ability to participate in decision-making. For their part, the panelists highlighted how various partnerships could support governments' efforts to expand public education, including how innovative new technologies, such as mobile telephony, could enhance teaching and learning.



Friday, 28 October 2011

- Ministers, Deputy Ministers and representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean countries met at a special meeting to map out a strategy for collaborating with UNESCO in improving the quality of education in the region. In addition to endorsing the principle of a Ministerial Forum to manage the implementation of the Latin-American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE), the participants agreed to seek multiple partnerships in piloting the initiative.
- The **Ninth Coordination Meeting of ISESCO** took place with the Heads of Delegation of ISESCO Member States. The meeting was addressed by the Directors-General of ISESCO and UNESCO. The participants discussed ways of further developing joint cooperation and strategic partnership between the two organizations.
- The Director-General of UNESCO launched “**Bouba and Zaza**”, a publication produced in partnership between UNESCO, the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (AEDA) and the Publisher Michel Lafon Education. The meeting stressed the importance of early childhood care and education programmes to achieve positive social changes and long term development goals.
- H.E. Mr Kris Peeters, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders (Belgium) opened the exhibition “**Satellites and World Heritage Sites, Partners to Understand Climate Change**”, a series of 25 panels showing satellite images of various sites revealing the threats posed to these sites.
- Denmark’s Minister for Children and Education, H.E. Christine Antorini, transferred ownership to UNESCO of **The Symbolic Globe**, a giant spherical sculpture designed by Erik Reitzel. The Symbolic Globe stands in the Piazza of UNESCO’s Headquarters.

For more information on events and activities of the 36th session of the General Conference, please look on the screens and on:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference/>

Friday, 28 October 2011

Special Announcements

The CapEFA (Capacity Development for Education for All) Programme's involvement in the 20 Priority Countries of the Education Sector

8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., Restaurant 7th floor

The Ministerial Breakfast Meeting will provide an informal platform for dialogue among donors and the priority countries currently benefiting from the CapEFA programme. It will showcase good practices, lessons learnt and explore areas where concerted action is still needed.

Information Meeting with African Ministers on the Operational Strategy of Priority Africa

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Room IX

The African Ministers present at the 36th Session of the General Conference will meet today to express their views on UNESCO's operational Strategy for Priority Africa.

IOC Sub-commission for Africa and the Adjacent Islands States

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Room IX

The President of the African Group will officially present the creation of an IOC Sub-Commission for African and Adjacent Island States, decided during the last IOC Assembly (June 2011).

“Open UNESCO” exhibition (Hall Ségur):

- Presentation of the Science Policy Information Network (SPIN)

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

- Sexual and Reproductive Health Education in Schools:
Training Teachers through the Use of ICT

1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Friday, 28 October 2011

Programme of meetings

Today - Friday, 28 October

Time	Organ	Room
9 a.m.	General Committee	X
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	Administrative Commission	XI
	PRX Commission	XII
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	Administrative Commission	XI
	PRX Commission	XII
	Legal Committee	VI

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

General Committee

9 a.m.	Second Meeting	X
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Plenary Meeting

10 a.m.	Seventh Meeting	I
	General Policy Debate (National Statements) – cont.	
	4.4 Adoption of the provisional budget ceiling	

Administrative Commission

10 a.m.	Fifth Meeting	XI
	11.1 Staff Regulations and Staff Rules - cont.	
	11.2 Staff salaries, allowances and benefits	
	11.6 Report by the Director-General on the state of the Medical Benefits Fund and appointment of Member States' representatives to the Board of Management for 2012-2013	

PRX Commission

10 a.m.	Second Meeting	XII
	5.7 Conclusions of the Youth Forum	
	4.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013. Part II.B. – Programme-Related Services, Chapter 5: External relations and public information	

Friday, 28 October 2011

Time	Item	Room
	5.1 Proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2012-2013 with which UNESCO could be associated	
	9.4 Definition of regions with a view to the execution by the Organization of regional activities	

Afternoon

Plenary Meeting

3 p.m.	Eighth Meeting	I
	Flag placing ceremony for South Sudan as 194th Member State of UNESCO	
	General Policy Debate (National Statements) – <i>cont.</i>	

Administrative Commission

3 p.m.	Sixth Meeting	XI
	10.4 Scale of assessments and currency of Member States' contributions	
	10.5 Collection of Member States' contributions	
	10.6 Implications of the application of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for the implementation of the incentive scheme for the prompt payment of contributions	
	10.7 Working Capital Fund: level and administration	
	1.3 Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution (to be resumed from the 1st Meeting of the ADM Commission with the presentation of the Working Group on Voting Rights	

PRX Commission

3 p.m.	Third Meeting	XII
	4.2 Part II.C. – Participation Programme and Fellowships; Chapter 1: Participation Programme, Chapter 2: Fellowships Programme	
	9.2 New Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations	

Legal Committee

3 p.m.	Third Meeting	VI
	Adoption of its Reports on items 4.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6 and 8.7	

Friday, 28 October 2011

Tomorrow

Provisional schedule of meetings

Saturday, 29 October

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	ADM Commission	XI
	PRX Commission	XII
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	PRX Commission	XII

Yesterday

Brief summary of meetings

Thursday, 27 October

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
Leaders' Forum		
ADM Commission	6.1, 12.2, 12.1, 4.2, 10.2, 10.3, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.1	
Nominations Committee	1.5, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6 13.7, 13.8, 13.9, 13.10, 13.11, 13.12, 13.13, 13.14, 13.15, 13.16	
Plenary Meeting	1.6	
PRX Commission	6.2, 6.3	36 C/28, 36 C/53

Friday, 28 October 2011

Women must be the reason for technological innovation, says Sanjit “Bunker” Roy

Women’s empowerment should be at the centre of any technological transfer, says Sanjit “Bunker” Roy, founder and director of the Barefoot College, after the extremely lively UNESCO conference on girls’ and women’s education, on 27 October 2011. Mr Roy outlined his vision of what he called ‘tele-women’ – an organic form of rural communication that involves women, particularly grandmothers. ‘They are mostly invisible, but they are there – in market places, on buses, and so on. They represent a non-institutional form of communication,’ he explained, adding that his organisation had installed solar power in over 20,000 households in rural India, Africa and other countries in the developing world.

He said the sustainable use of solar energy in villages needed to revolve around grandmothers, ‘most of whom’, he explained, ‘were the real solar engineers’. He argued that, while most entrepreneurial solar engineers were urban-based, most grandmothers would remain in their villages, forming a nucleus of skilled human power that could be relied upon in the maintenance of solar equipment.

He added that his organisation had trained over 300 grandmothers in African countries, who have since become reliable ‘engineers’ to maintain solar installations in the villages. Asked about how different such e-learning centres would be from community multimedia centres, he explained that the e-learning centres would be solar-powered, genuinely community-led, and dependent on local expertise. He added that the initiative would target the remotest parts which are ordinarily cut off from conventional means of communication.

Mr Roy further argued that the sustainability model of the initiative would centre on establishing enduring public-private-people partnerships that would bring together governments, private companies and the concerned rural communities. He said that the purpose of such partnerships would be to ensure that technological solutions revolved around tapping into the potential and ability of the community to solve their own problems.

Mr Roy also said that his organisation was developing a partnership with UNESCO and other organisations aimed at establishing e-learning centres – an amalgam of ‘workshops that would be equipped with television and solar power for the education of rural communities, especially women and girls’. He added that his was a ‘new perspective’ that was ‘not based on the entrepreneurship model’, but focused on ‘demystifying technology’ and delivering sustainable skills and jobs for the community members, especially rural women. He expressed hope that the e-learning centres would benefit from UNESCO’s multidisciplinary approach to sustainable development, incorporating organisation’s areas of competence such as education, sciences and communication.

Fackson Banda

Editor, Delegates’ Information Bureau, 36 GC UNESCO



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Saturday, 29 October 2011

e-journal

No. 5

Special Announcements

Today

Meeting of the Ministers of the Nine High-population Countries (E-9)

10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Room VIII

Ministers of the Nine High-population Countries (E-9) will meet as part of the UNESCO E-9 Initiative to discuss their experiences, exchange best practices and monitor progress in the field.

Celebration of the International Year for people of African descent and Promotion and Dissemination of the General History of Africa

10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Room IX

Organized by the Africa Department, the roundtable aims to take stock of the International Year of People of African Descent, promote the project on the General History of Africa as well as evaluate the contributions of people of African descent to the cultural and scientific heritage of humanity.

Yesterday

- **South Sudan** was admitted to the UNESCO family of nations as its **194th Member State** in a moving and colourful ceremony which saw H.E. Dr. Cirino Hiteng Ofuho, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, wave his country's flag before finally placing it among those of the other Member States.

- In his address to the General Conference, he stressed that his country required assistance to develop its own capacity for managing the challenges ahead, such as attaining education for all and protecting the new nation's cultural heritage.

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Saturday, 29 October 2011

- Good practices and lessons learnt through **UNESCO's Capacity Development for Education for All (CapEFA) Programme** were the focus of a two-hour **Ministerial Breakfast Meeting**, at which 18 Ministers, Heads of Delegation and representatives from UNESCO Education Sector's priority countries as well as from donor countries were in attendance. The 68 participants engaged in an informal dialogue on the achievements of the CapEFA Programme and reflected on its future orientations.
- More than one hundred Ministers and Secretaries General of National Commissions for UNESCO attended the **Information Meeting with African Ministers on the Operational Strategy of Priority Africa**. Ms Lalla Aïcha Ben Barka, Assistant Director-General for Africa, opened this event and informed the participants on UNESCO's action to make this priority a reality, reinforce its effectiveness and articulate the future operational strategy. Human, natural and cultural African resources, the need to pool them together through a global and coherent approach, the key-role of human development and of social and cultural capital for sustainable development, the importance of harmonized policies and strategies at the sub-and regional levels were inter alia highlighted.
- The official presentation of the **IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States** was preceded by introductory speeches from H.E. Mr Jean-Marie Adoua, President of the African Group, Lalla Aïcha Ben Barka, Assistant Director-General for Africa, and Prof. Adoté Blim Blivi, IOC Vice-Chair for the Group V. Other speakers were Wendy Watson-Wright, Assistant Director-General for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and Mitrasen Bhikajee, IOC Deputy Executive Secretary.

Programme of meetings

Today - Saturday, 29 October

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	PRX Commission	XII
	Nominations Committee	IV
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	PRX Commission	XII

Saturday, 29 October 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

Plenary Meeting

10 a.m.	Ninth Meeting	I
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General Policy Debate (national statements) – *cont.*

First report by the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee

Report by the ADM Commission on item 1.3 “Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution”

PRX Commission

10 a.m.	Fourth Meeting	XII
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9.2 New Directives concerning UNESCO’s partnership with non-governmental organizations - cont.

4.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013

Part II.A: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Part II.A: Field Office implementation of decentralized programmes

Part II.B: Programme-Related Services, Chapter 1: Coordination and monitoring of action to benefit Africa

Nominations Committee

10 a.m.	Third Meeting	IV
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13.1 Election of members of the Executive Board – ***debate cont.***
(the **elections** for the Executive Board will take place on **2nd November** and all other **elections** on **4th November**)

Saturday, 29 October 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Afternoon

Plenary Meeting

3 p.m.	Tenth Meeting General Policy Debate (national statements) – cont.	I
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PRX Commission

3 p.m.	Fifth Meeting 4.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 Part II.B: Programme-Related Services, Chapter 2: Coordination and monitoring of action to benefit gender equality Part II.B: Programme-Related Services, Chapter 4: Organization-wide knowledge management	XII
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For more information on events and activities of the 36th session of the General Conference, please look on the screens and on:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference/>

Saturday, 29 October 2011

Provisional schedule of meetings

Monday, 31 October

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting General Policy Debate (national statements) - cont. Item 9.1	I
	PRX Commission Nominations Committee	XII IV
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting General Policy Debate (national statements) - cont. Reply by the Director-General	I

After-tomorrow

Brief summary of meetings

Friday, 28 October

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
Plenary Meeting	4.4	
Administrative Commission	11.1, 11.2, 11.6, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 1.3	
PRX Commission	5.7, 4.2 (Part II.B), 5.1, 9.4, 4.2 (Part II.C), 9.2	36 C/DR.63
Legal Committee	Adoption of the Reports	

Yesterday



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Monday, 31 October 2011

e-journal

No. 6

Today

In the morning, after the General Policy Debate including national statements, item 9.1, Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO, will be examined in the Plenary.

Saturday, 29 October

Meeting of the Ministers of the Nine High-population Countries (E-9)

Ministers from the E-9 countries met to report on progress made in achieving Education for All (EFA) in their respective countries. They paid particular attention to the question of literacy, which has been their focus since the Abuja Ministerial Meeting in June 2010. They expressed their willingness to offer assistance to needy countries by, among other things, encouraging and supporting new partnerships or “twinning arrangements”.

Celebration of the International Year for people of African descent and Promotion and Dissemination of the General History of Africa

The roundtable on the celebration of the International Year for People of African Descent concluded with a call on Member States to support the promotion of the General History of Africa and its pedagogical use in Africa and globally. The participants underlined the need to follow up on activities aimed at eliminating racial discrimination against people of African descent, citing the examples of Zimbabwe and Brazil, where the General History of Africa had become a key part of teaching African and Afro-Brazilian history and culture.

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Monday, 31 October 2011

Special Announcements

We wish to remind the Delegates that the elections for the Commissions, Committees and other subsidiary organs of the General Conference will take place on Friday, 4 November 2011 at 10 a.m. in room IV. According to the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the **deadline for submission/ withdrawal of candidatures is set at 48 hours before the beginning of the ballot**. This means that **the list of candidates will close at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 2 November 2011**.

Launch of the Publication: UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers

6.30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Room X

The ICT Competency Framework for Teachers aims at helping countries to develop comprehensive national teacher ICT competency policies and standards. The current version of the ICT Competency Framework for Teachers is a 2011 update of the original version published in 2008, and is the result of the successful partnership between UNESCO, CISCO, INTEL, ISTE and Microsoft.

“Open UNESCO” exhibition (Hall Ségur):

- Festivals of the Gambia: Festivals as a tool for Unity and Cohesion in Society

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

- Fast Track Initiative Programme in CAR (Central African Republic) financed by Italy

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

- Education of the Girl-child and Women’s Literacy in Cameroon

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

- UNESCO and the Events in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Region

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Monday, 31 October 2011

Programme of meetings

Today - Monday, 31 October

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting General Policy Debate (National Statements) - <i>cont.</i> Item 9.1	I
	PRX Commission	XII
	Nominations Committee	IV
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting General Policy Debate Report of the Youth Forum Reports by the Legal Committee on items 4.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6 and 8.7 Reply by the Director-General to the General Policy Debate	I

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

Plenary Meeting

10 a.m.	Eleventh Meeting General Policy Debate (National Statements) – <i>cont.</i> 9.1 Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO	I
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PRX Commission

10 a.m.	Sixth Meeting 4.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 Part II.B: Programme-Related Services, Chapter 3: Strategic planning, programme monitoring and budget preparation 5.9 Establishment of category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO Part XVIII: Proposal for the establishment at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey (United States of America) of an international institute for peace 3.1 Consideration by the General Conference of future procedures for elaborating Draft Medium-Term Strategies (C/4)	XII
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Monday, 31 October 2011

Nominations Committee

10 a.m.

Fourth Meeting

IV

- 1.5 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the commissions and committees
- 13.1 Election of Members of the Executive Board
- 13.2 Election of the members of the Legal Committee for the 37th session of the General Conference
- 13.3 Election of members of the Headquarters Committee
- 13.4 Election of members of the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes that may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education
- 13.5 Election of members of the Council of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)
- 13.6 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP)
- 13.7 Election of members of the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)
- 13.8 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
- 13.9 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP)
- 13.10 Election of the members of the Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo
- 13.11 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)
- 13.12 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme
- 13.13 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)
- 13.14 Election of the members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS)
- 13.15 Election of members of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)
- 13.16 Appointment of an External Auditor

Monday, 31 October 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Afternoon

Plenary Meeting

3 p.m.	Twelfth Meeting	I
	General Policy Debate – <i>cont.</i>	
	Report of the Youth Forum	
	Reports by the Legal Committee on items 4.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6 and 8.7	
	Reply by the Director-General to the General Policy Debate	

Provisional schedule of meetings

Tuesday, 1 November

Time	Organ	Room
9 a.m.	General Committee	X
10 a.m.	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII
	Nominations Committee	IV
3 p.m.	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII

Tomorrow

Brief summary of meetings

Saturday, 29 October

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
Plenary Meeting	Report by the ADM Commission on item 1.3 “Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution”	
PRX Commission	9.2, 4.2 Part II.A, Part II.B (Chapters 1, 2, 4)	36 C/DR.11
Nominations Committee	13.1	

Saturday

Monday, 31 October 2011

Putting history back into African societies

“History does not belong to historians, but societies”, says Prof. Elikia M’Bokolo, chairperson of the Scientific Committee set up to provide intellectual and scientific responsibility for the UNESCO *General History of Africa* project.

Giving an introductory outline of the project during the celebration of the International Year for People of African Descent last Saturday, Prof. M’Bokolo said the initiative represented a “monumental venture” by more than 350 eminent historians and world experts, two-thirds of whom were African, to respond to the urgent need for a general history of Africa grounded in the anti-colonial aspirations of people of African descent.

He argued that the initiative’s “scientific grounding” gave it “legitimacy”, despite the divergent views that African, Latin-American and other historians might have about the inheritance of the slave trade. He called for civic mobilisation as a way of encouraging greater ownership of the *General History of Africa* project, along with the UNESCO *Slave Route* initiative.

Speaking earlier, Mr. Davidson L. Hepburn, President of the 35th session of the General Conference, called for greater clarity about what it meant to be a person of African descent, urging the participants to strive for an inclusive notion that emphasised “interdependence”. Citing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as foundational to such an inclusive concept, he challenged the meeting to examine their motivations for celebrating the International Day of People of African Descent.

Several speakers who took the floor called for innovative ways of appropriating the *General History of Africa* in the daily lives of citizens, especially young people. One speaker said the use of social media, such as Facebook and Google, should be explored as part of popularising African history and culture among young people. Another speaker urged UNESCO to translate the publication into Spanish as a way of unlocking possibilities for its use among the Spanish-speaking African Diaspora.

Several other speakers called upon the UNESCO General Conference to adopt a resolution on the implementation of the project, particularly taking into account the need for national domestication and resourcing.

The meeting warmly welcomed the robust implementation of the project in Brazil and Zimbabwe. In Brazil, for example, a National Act had been passed to compel schools to teach African and Afro-Brazilian history and culture, setting the stage for what many interlocutors saw as a key plank of identity formation and citizenship.

Fackson Banda

Editor, Delegates’ Information Bureau, 36 GC UNESCO



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Tuesday, 1 November 2011

e-journal

No. 7



Today

Oceans at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Building Ocean and Coastal Sustainability and Greening the Blue Economy

1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Room IX

UNESCO and other UN agencies will highlight the role of oceans in Sustainable Development in a jointly organized event aimed at previewing some of the key proposals that Member States could agree on at the 2012 Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. The gathering will also serve to launch the UN Paper “Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability” prepared by UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Yesterday

The 36th session of the General Conference admitted Palestine into the UNESCO family of Member States in a vote by roll-call. In welcoming Palestine, the UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, underscored the call for a two-state solution consistently made by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon.

While heralding the symbolic importance of this decision for the Palestinian people, she expressed her concern at the possible financial repercussions.

She said: “The admission of a new Member State is a mark of respect and confidence. This must be an opportunity to strengthen the Organization and not weaken it, a chance for all to commit once again to the values we share and not to be divided.





Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Let me be frank. As Director-General, it is my responsibility to say that I am concerned by the potential challenges that may arise to the universality and financial stability of the Organization.”

She concluded with a call for all Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the values of the Organisation by ensuring that UNESCO does not suffer unduly as a result, adding that “We are committed to taking our vital mandate forward. I appeal to you all to upkeep UNESCO’s ability to act.”

The Director-General’s speech was followed by extended applause in a show of solidarity and understanding.

Results of the vote:

194 Member States

185 with voting rights at the 36th session

173 Present since 12 Member States were not in the room at the time of voting

Majority required: **81**

121 Present and voting: **107** yes; **14** no

52 abstentions

Launch of the Publication: UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers

The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, launched the second version of the publication “UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers”, cautioning the gathering that “nothing can substitute for a good teacher”. She argued that technological solutions in teaching required the collaboration of learners.

Other speakers during the launch included representatives of CISCO, INTEL, ISTE, Microsoft, the US government and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), all of whom hailed the collaboration between UNESCO and the private sector.

Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Special Announcements

Launch of the UNESCO Open Educational Resources (OER) Platform and UNESCO - Commonwealth of Learning OER Policy Guidelines

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Room X

The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, will launch the Organization's Open Educational Resources (OER) Platform and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) OER Policy guidelines tomorrow. Hon. Stanley Mutumba Simataa, Namibia's Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology, and Sir John Daniel, COL's President and Chief Executive Officer, will be on hand to witness both launches.

“Open UNESCO” exhibition (Hall Ségur):

- Introducing UNESCO's Category 2 Centre: Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- “Education and Post-conflict Programmes in Afghanistan” followed by: “An Intersectoral Approach to Crisis Preparedness & Response in Vietnam”

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- H2Oooo Initiative – Presentation of a series of animated cartoons devoted to water issues and solutions

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

- UNESCO Country Programming Documents (Nepal)

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

- Multimedia Opera: “The Earth: Our Home”

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Programme of meetings

Today - Tuesday, 1 November

Time	Organ	Room
9 a.m.	General Committee	X
10 a.m.	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII
10:30 a.m.	Nominations Committee	IV
3 p.m.	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

General Committee

9 a.m.	Third Meeting	X
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ED Commission

10 a.m.	First Meeting	II
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Election of Chair, four Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur

Organization and methods of work of the Commission and adoption of the timetable of work

Opening remarks of the Chairperson

5.7 Conclusions of the Youth Forum

4.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013

Major Programme I – Education

Education for All beyond 2015 and the Conclusions of the Youth Forum relating to Education

CI Commission

10 a.m.	First Meeting	XI
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Opening remarks of the President

Election of the Bureau of the Commission (Four Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee)

Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
	Organization of the work of the Commission and adoption of timetable	
	General introduction by the representative of the Director-General	
	Presentation by the Presidents of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information For All Programme (IFAP)	
4.2	Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 Major Programme V – Communication and Information	
5.7	Conclusions of the Youth Forum	

SC Commission

10 a.m.	First Meeting	XII
	Election of Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur	
	Organization and methods of work of the Commission and adoption of the timetable	
	Statement on behalf of the Chairpersons of the six intergovernmental and international scientific programmes (IBSP, IGCP, IHP, IOC, MAB, MOST)	
4.2	Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 Major Programme II – Natural Sciences	
5.7	Conclusions of the Youth Forum	

Nominations Committee

The election for members of the Executive Board will take place on Wednesday 2 November 2011 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Room X. A simulation of the voting procedure will be demonstrated today during the Nomination Committee meeting this morning in Room IV, from 10.30 a.m. onwards.

10:30 a.m.	Fifth Meeting	IV
1.5	Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the commissions and committees	
13.1	Election of Members of the Executive Board	
13.2	Election of the members of the Legal Committee for the 37th session of the General Conference	
13.3	Election of members of the Headquarters Committee	

Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
13.4	Election of members of the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes that may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education	
13.5	Election of members of the Council of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)	
13.6	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP)	
13.7	Election of members of the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)	
13.8	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)	
13.9	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP)	
13.10	Election of the members of the Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo	
13.11	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)	
13.12	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme	
13.13	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)	
13.14	Election of the members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS)	
13.15	Election of members of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)	
13.16	Appointment of an External Auditor	

Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Afternoon

ED Commission

3 p.m.	Second Meeting	II
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| 4.2 | Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013
Major Programme I – Education – <i>cont.</i> |
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CI Commission

3 p.m.	Second Meeting	XI
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| 4.2 | Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013
Major Programme V – Communication and Information – <i>cont.</i> |
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Examination of draft resolutions submitted by Member States concerning the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (Major Programme V)

- | | |
|------|---|
| 5.9 | Establishment of category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO |
| 5.11 | Report by the Director-General on UNESCO's activities for the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes and future measures for reaching its 2015 goals |

SC Commission

3 p.m.	Second Meeting	XII
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Continuation and conclusion (see first meeting)

Provisional schedule of meetings

Wednesday, 2 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII

Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Brief summary of meetings

Monday, 31 October

<u>Organ</u>	<u>Items considered</u>	<u>DRs examined</u>
Plenary Meeting	National Statements (cont. and conclusion) 9.1 - Request for the admission of Palestine to UNESCO Report of the Youth Forum Report of the Chair of the IOC Commission Reply by the Director-General to the General Policy Debate Reports by the Legal Committee on items 4.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6 and 8.7 Second report by the Credentials Committee	
PRX Commission	4.2, 5.9, 3.1	36 C/COM PRX/DR.1
Nominations Committee	1.5, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.7, 13.8, 13.9, 13.10, 13.11, 13.12, 13.13, 13.14, 13.15, 13.16	

Yesterday



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Wednesday, 2 November 2011

e-journal

No. 8

Highlights

Today

Tenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

UNESCO organizes a special plenary session of the 36th General Conference to mark the tenth Anniversary of the adoption of UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001-2011). The session will gather eminent personalities to reflect on the challenges and opportunities of cultural diversity for social cohesion and peace in today's globalized world, with the participation of :

- H. E. Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia
- H. E. Mr. Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria
- H. E. Dr. Nassif Hitti, Representative of the Secretary-General of the Arab League
- H. E. Mr. Henri Lopes, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo to France
- H.E. Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Argentina

The anniversary of the "2001 Declaration" will also be celebrated in the evening with a show featuring artists performing cultural diversity across the globe.

Yesterday

- The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, launched the inter-agency report *Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability*, prepared by the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The report contributes towards

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Wednesday, 2 November 2011

the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which is scheduled for June 2012 in Brazil.

Several delegates from Brazil, Australia, Monaco, India, France, Grenada and Korea delivered statements, outlining their national priorities for Rio+20. They stressed the social and economic benefits of oceans, highlighting the need to provide political weight to the protection of oceans within the existing and future sustainable development agenda. The meeting was also addressed by H.E. Milan Mehtarbhan, Co-chair of the UN Informal Process on Oceans and Ms Lorna Inniss, Co-ordinator of the UN Group of Experts on the Regular Process for Reporting and Assessing the State of the Marine Environment.

- The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, graced the launch of the Organization's Open Educational Resources (OER) Platform, the UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning (COL) OER Policy Guidelines, the Global Open Access Portal and the Open Training Platform. Also in attendance were the Hon. Stanley Mutumba Simataa, Namibia's Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Sir John Daniel, COL's President and Chief Executive Officer, and Ambassador David Killion, Permanent Delegate of the United States to UNESCO. In her remarks, the Director-General recalled how UNESCO coined the term "OERs" in 2002 and then helped to develop and disseminate it. She lauded the OER Policy Guidelines and called on Governments, higher education providers, teaching staff, quality assurance as well as accreditation and recognition bodies to incorporate them into teaching and learning.

In launching the Policy Guidelines, Hon. Simataa hailed the OERs as a way of making quality education open to all, particularly by taking advantage of new technologies to adapt them to suit local contexts.

The proceedings could be remotely followed through the live Internet-stream, Twitter and the UNESCO Facebook account.

Special Announcements

- The election of **Members of the Executive Board** takes place today **from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Room X.**

In the afternoon, as soon as the votes for the election of Members of the Executive Board have been counted, a Plenary meeting will be convened in **Room I** for the declaration of the results.

Wednesday, 2 November 2011

Groundwater Governance Project: Launch of Regional Consultation Workshops

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Room VII

In January 2011, the UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP) – together with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Food and Agriculture organization (FAO), the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) and the World Bank – initiated a new project on “Groundwater Governance: A Global Framework for Country Action”.

As part of its objective of increasing the awareness of the paramount importance of sound management of groundwater resources in preventing and reversing the global water crisis, the Programme will launch regional consultation workshops ultimately aimed at developing a global “Framework of Action”.

“Open UNESCO” exhibition (Hall Ségur):

- UNESCO Country Programming Documents (Iraq)
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
- Secondary Education: The Next Challenge
1 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.
- Monitoring Progress in Education in Sub-Saharan Africa
1:25 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
- Financing of Education in Sub-Saharan Africa
1:50 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
- International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Programme of meetings

Today - Wednesday, 2 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII
	Nominations Committee	X
3 p.m.	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII
p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I

Wednesday, 2 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

Plenary Meeting

10 a.m.	Thirteenth Meeting	I
5.10	Marking of the Tenth Anniversary of the UNESCO Universal Declaration of Cultural Diversity	

ED Commission

10 a.m.	Third Meeting	II
4.2	Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, Major Programme I – Education – cont.	
5.3	Implementation of 35 C/Resolution 75 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories	
5.4	Strategy to make the International Bureau of Education (IBE) UNESCO's centre of excellence for curricula	

SC Commission

10 a.m.	Third Meeting	XII
4.2	Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, Major Programme II – Natural Sciences – cont.	
5.7	Conclusions of the Youth Forum	
5.9	Establishment of category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO	
5.23	UNESCO Engineering Initiative	

CI Commission

10 a.m.	Third Meeting	XI
4.2	Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, Major Programme V – Communication and Information – cont.	
5.9	Establishment of category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO	
5.11	Report by the Director-General on UNESCO's activities for the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes and future measures for reaching its 2015 goals	
5.12	Reflection and analysis by UNESCO on the Internet	

Nominations Committee

10 a.m.		X
13.1	Election of Members of the Executive Board	

Wednesday, 2 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Afternoon

ED Commission

3 p.m.	Fourth Meeting	II
	Presentations by the Chairpersons of UNESCO's education institutes: International Bureau of Education (IBE) UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) UNESCO Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) Presentation on PRELAC	

SC Commission

3 p.m.	Fourth Meeting	XII
	5.25 Cooperation between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network	
	5.28 Statutes of the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)	

CI Commission

3 p.m.	Fourth Meeting	XI
	8.4 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace	
	5.14 UNESCO and documentary heritage	
	5.15 Digital Library Manifesto of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)	
	5.24 Code of ethics for the information society, proposed by the Intergovernmental Council of the Information for All Programme (IFAP)	

Plenary Meeting

p.m.	Fourteenth Meeting	I
	Result of the election of Members of the Executive Board	

Wednesday, 2 November 2011

Provisional schedule of meetings

Thursday, 3 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII
3 p.m.	ADM Commission	IV
	CLT Commission	II
	SHS Commission	XI

Tomorrow

Brief summary of meetings

Tuesday, 1 November

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
ED Commission	5.7, 4.2	
CI Commission	4.2, 5.7	36 C/DR.10, 36 C/DR.17 36 C/DR.18 Rev., 36 C/DR.19 36 C/DR.26, 36 C/DR.39 36 C/DR.41, 36 C/DR.43 36 C/DR.48
SC Commission	4.2, 5.7	36 C/DR.14, 36 C/DR.60 36 C/DR.61, 36 C/DR.59 36 C/DR.62, 36 C/DR.13 36 C/DR.58, 36 C/DR.57 36 C/DR.36, 36 C/DR.32 36 C/DR.52, 36 C/DR.53
Nominations Committee	13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.7, 13.8, 13.9, 13.10, 13.11, 13.12, 13.13, 13.14, 13.15, 13.16	

Yesterday

Wednesday, 2 November 2011

Namibian minister and Commonwealth of Learning call for “quality” open educational resources

Africa needs “quality education for all” as it harnesses technological innovations to realise its development potential, argued Hon. Stanley M. Simataa, deputy minister in Namibia’s Ministry of Information and Technology. Speaking in an interview yesterday, he said Namibia looked to UNESCO for help in refining the country’s policies to realign them better with the possibilities that new technologies have spawned for open educational resources (OERs).

The minister was quick to highlight the need for OER capacity-building as a way of better exploiting new technologies to enhance access, reduce costs and improve the quality of education for all.

Speaking during the same interview, Sir John Daniel, President and CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), said his organisation was unveiling OER policy guidelines as a way of further popularising the OER concept among educational institutions, teachers, learners and governments, among other potential users. He argued that such guidelines would help OER implementers address such issues as cost-cutting and intellectual trading. He further noted that the launch of the guidelines would feed into the UNESCO international congress on OERs scheduled for June in 2012.

Explained Sir John: “While there has been a large growth in OERs, and while a community of practice has emerged, the idea of OERs is itself not yet part of the consciousness of many governments and institutions. What we’re doing is partly to address that.”

Agreeing with Sir John, Hon. Simataa added that the COL OER policies would help Namibia to better implement its own ICT policy framework, especially in reducing the cost of developing learning materials, ensuring ready availability of OERs, and encouraging greater collaboration in producing such materials.

“However”, cautioned the Namibian minister, “there is a challenge: we need to address the pressing issue of broadband connectivity among our institutions of higher education”. He disclosed that his country was contemplating free broadband for higher education, concluding “this is about quality education for all”.

Taking up the thread of the argument, Sir John pointed out that COL was working with six African countries, including Namibia, to develop text-books on a range of subjects, including mathematics, geography and business studies – all of which would be shared among the six countries, and potentially between them and other countries in the developing South.

Encouraging such efforts at local knowledge production, added Sir John, was one way of countering what some critics of the OER movement may perceive as “educational imperialism” emanating from the developed North.

Fackson Banda

Editor, Delegates’ Information Bureau, 36 GC UNESCO



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Thursday, 3 November 2011

e-journal

No. 9

Highlights

Today

Celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Man and Biosphere programme (MAB)

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Room XII

On the occasion of the 40th birthday of the MAB, many events are planned all over the world, including an art exhibition, a film projection and a special session on “Messages for the Sustainable Futures”.

The flagship product of the MAB Programme has been the constitution of a vast network of 580 biosphere reserves in 114 countries. Forty years on, the initial focus on scientific research has broadened to include experimentation in sustainable development, with the growing participation of the private sector.

The Programme addresses such problems as climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, deforestation and land degradation.

A live webcast of the event will be accessible at the links below:

- Floor - mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_12_floor.wmv
- English - mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_12_en.wmv
- French - mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_12_fr.wmv
- Spanish - mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_12_es.wmv

Launch of the documentary: “Biosphere, Tomorrow is Now”

2 p.m. – 2:50 p.m., Room XII

BIOSPHERE TELEVISION, in association with UNESCO, launches the documentary “Biosphere, Tomorrow is Now”. The 48-minute film will go on sale next spring in Cannes and will then be available to television stations around the world.

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Thursday, 3 November 2011

Yesterday

- Elections for Members of the Executive Board took place yesterday morning. The results, announced by the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, Mr David Hamadziripi, are now accessible at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference/elections/results/>.
- A special plenary session celebrated the 10th anniversary adoption of **UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity**. Speeches testifying to the importance of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its achievements were delivered by the President of the General Conference, the Chair of the Executive Board, the Director-General, with keynote interventions from H. E. Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia; H. E. Mr. Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria; H. E. Dr. Nassif Hitti, Representative of the Secretary-General of the Arab League. H. E. Mr. Henri Lopes, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo to France; H.E. Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Argentina to UNESCO; and the Secretary-General of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, Mr Abdou Diouf. The session concluded with the adoption of resolution 36C/51, reaffirming Member States' commitment to the principles of the Declaration.
- The UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP) launched a series of regional consultation workshops as part of the **Groundwater Governance: A Global Framework for Country Action** project. In her address, Ms. Alice Aureli, chief of the Groundwater Resources Systems Section at UNESCO, explained that the project would contribute towards creating synergies between governments and groundwater experts in a shared vision of sustainable groundwater governance. Other speakers included Prof. Soontak Lee, Chairman of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, Mr. Abdin Salih, Director of UNESCO's Division of Water Sciences, and Mr Jorge Grandi, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean. All the speakers agreed that the project would draw political attention to the need for the governance of groundwater resources. The meeting was also addressed by H. E. Ms Mary M. Khimulu, Kenya's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, and Ms María Simón, Uruguay's Vice Minister of Education and Culture, both of whom confirmed their governments' commitment to the initiative.

Thursday, 3 November 2011

Special Announcements

“Open UNESCO” exhibition (Hall Ségur):

Presentation of the Prototype of the African Biosphere Reserves
Interactive Web Mapping Kit

12 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Exhibition: “Infinite Diversity, One Nature”

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

UNESCO Country Programming Documents
(United Republic of Tanzania)

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The Findings of the World Social Science Report 2010

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Mini-Conference: The UNESCO Silk Road Platform for Dialogue,
Diversity and Development

2 p.m. – 14:15 p.m.

Programme of meetings

Today - Thursday, 3 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
	SC Commission	XII
3 p.m.	ADM Commission	IV
	SHS Commission	XI
	CLT Commission	II

Thursday, 3 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

ED Commission

10 a.m.	Fifth Meeting	II
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| 5.30 | Request for authorization to be provided to the UNESCO Executive Board, at its 189th session, for approval of the proposed South Asian Centre for Teacher Development as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, to be set up in Sri Lanka | |
| 5.31 | Revision of the 1981 Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States | |

SC Commission

10 a.m.	Fifth Meeting	XII
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| 5.22 | 40th anniversary of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, mid-term evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan, and endorsement of the Dresden Declaration | |
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CI Commission

10 a.m.	Sixth Meeting	XI
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| 5.24 | Code of ethics for the information society, proposed by the Intergovernmental Council of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) | |
| 5.17 | Universal declaration on archives | |
| 5.27 | Proclamation of a World Radio Day | |
| 5.26 | Revised draft strategy on UNESCO's contribution to the promotion of open access to scientific information and research | |

Thursday, 3 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Afternoon

ADM Commission

3 p.m.	Seventh Meeting Adoption of the Report of the Commission	IV
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SHS Commission

3 p.m.	First Meeting Election of the Bureau of the Commission: four Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur Organization and methods of work of the Commission, and adoption of the timetable Presentation of the Joint Statement of the Chairs of the five intergovernmental science programmes and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)	XI
5.7	Conclusions of the Youth Forum	
4.2	Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 – Part II. A: Major Programme III – Social and Human Sciences Programme, Committee and Commission reports under Major Programme III: MOST, CIGEPS, IBC and IGBC, COMEST	

CLT Commission

3 p.m.	First Meeting Election of the Bureau of the Commission: 4 Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur (on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee) Organization of the work of the Commission and adoption of the timetable	II
4.2	Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 Part II.A – Major Programme IV – Culture	
5.7	Conclusions of the Youth Forum	
5.13	Implementation of the “Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education”, outcome document of the Second World Conference on Arts Education	

Thursday, 3 November 2011

Tomorrow

Provisional schedule of meetings

Friday, 4 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	SHS Commission	XI
	CLT Commission	II
	Elections of other Subsidiary Organs	IV
3 p.m.	SHS Commission	XI
	CLT Commission	II

Yesterday

Brief summary of meetings

Wednesday, 2 November

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
ED Commission	4.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 8.5, 8.7	
CI Commission	4.2, 5.12, 8.4, 5.14	36 C/DR.10, 36 C/DR.18 Rev
	5.15, 5.24, 5.17,	36 C/DR.26, 36 C/DR.48
	5.27, 5.26,	36 C/COM.CI/DR.2
		36 C/COM.CI/DR.3
SC Commission	4.2, 5.7, 5.9, 5.23,	36 C/DR.7, 36 C/DR.12
	5.25, 5.28	36 C/DR.15, 36 C/DR.16
		36 C/DR.31, 36 C/DR.33
		36 C/DR.37, 36 C/DR.56
		36 C/DR.58, 36 C/DR.59,
		36 C/DR.62, 36 C/COM.SC/DR.2
	36 C/COM.SC/DR.3	
Plenary Session	Report on the third meeting of the General Committee	
	Results of the Election of Members of the Executive Board	



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Friday, 4 November 2011

e-journal

No. 10

Highlights

Today

The elections concerning the Subsidiary Organs of the General Conference and the appointment of an External Auditor will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room IV. The ballots will be distributed in one batch to all delegates as from 10 a.m. Delegates will have 20 minutes to fill their ballots and then cast their votes. Delegates have until 1 p.m. to vote. The results of the elections will be announced in the afternoon.

Yesterday

- The celebration of the 40th anniversary of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme was marked by a unanimity of purpose: to link biodiversity with every-day economic and social issues. Speaking at the beginning of the occasion, UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, hailed UNESCO's holistic, comprehensive and cross-disciplinary approach to protecting biosphere reserves, arguing that the organisation was a pace-setter in linking biodiversity to the complex issues of science, education, culture and communication. For an extended analysis of the event, read today's *e-journal* online.

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Friday, 4 November 2011

Special Announcements

“Open UNESCO” exhibition (Hall Ségur):

Contribution of Niger to the 36th session
of the General Conference of UNESCO:
Presentation of a Documentary (13 min)

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

UNESCO Country Programming Documents (Brazil)

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

How Social Media Can Work for You at UNESCO

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

“Crisis Responses and Preparedness Initiatives in Santiago”
followed by: “UNESCO’s Intersectoral Response
to the Pakistan Floods”

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Programme of meetings

Today - Friday, 4 November

Time	Organ	Room
9 a.m.	General Committee	X
10 a.m.	SHS Commission	XI
	CLT Commission	II
	Nominations Committee	IV
3 p.m.	SHS Commission	XI
	CLT Commission	II

Friday, 4 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

General Committee

9 a.m.	Fourth Meeting	X
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SHS Commission

10 a.m.	Second Meeting	XI
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- 5.7 Conclusions of the Youth Forum – *cont.*
- 4.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 – Part II. A: Major Programme III – Social and Human Sciences – *cont.*

CLT Commission

10 a.m.	Second Meeting	II
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- 4.2 Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 Part II.A – Major Programme IV – Culture – *cont.*
- 5.13 Implementation of the “Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education”, outcome document of the Second World Conference on Arts Education

Nominations Committee

10 a.m.		IV
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Elections to the Subsidiary Organs of the General Conference and Appointment of an External Auditor

Afternoon

SHS Commission

3 p.m.	Third Meeting	XI
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- 5.7 Conclusions of the Youth Forum – *cont.*
- 4.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 – Part II. A: Major Programme III – Social and Human Sciences – *cont.*

Friday, 4 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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CLT Commission

3 p.m.	Third Meeting	II
4.2	Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 Part II.A – Major Programme IV – Culture – <i>cont.</i>	
5.9	Establishment of Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the Auspices of UNESCO	
5.29	Proclamation of International Jazz Day	
5.19	Proclamation of an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures (2013-2022)	
5.20	Universal Forum of Cultures – Napoli 2013	

Provisional schedule of meetings

Saturday, 5 November

Tomorrow

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	SHS Commission	XI
	CLT Commission	II
	PRX Commission	XII
3 p.m.	SHS Commission	XI
	CLT Commission	II

Brief summary of meetings

Thursday, 3 November

Yesterday

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
ED Commission	5.30, 5.31	
CI Commission	5.24, 5.17, 5.27, 5.26	36/C/COM.CI/DR.3 36 C/COM.CI/DR.1 36 C/COM.CI/DR.4
SC Commission	5.22	36 C/COM.SC/DR.1
ADM Commission	Adoption of the Report	
SHS Commission	4.2, 5.7	
CLT Commission	4.2, 5.7	

Friday, 4 November 2011

Coming of age: the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme at 40

Yesterday's celebration of the 40th anniversary of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme was marked by a unanimity of purpose: to link biodiversity with every-day economic and social issues.

Speaking at the beginning of the occasion, UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, hailed UNESCO's holistic, comprehensive and cross-disciplinary approach to protecting biosphere reserves, arguing that the organisation was a pace-setter in linking biodiversity to the complex issues of science, education, culture and communication.

Reinforcing her message, H.E. José Endundo Bononge, Minister of Environment and Chair of the MAB National Committee of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said that he was elated at how the programme had drawn attention to Congo's biosphere reserves "as sites for learning and experimentation". He called for greater investment in African biosphere reserves, saying he was disappointed that many of the biosphere reserves in Africa were "under-equipped and under-financed", often run by "poorly paid managers".

Mr Bononge urged political leaders, scientists, managers and other stakeholders to better publicise Africa's biosphere reserves as a way of drawing greater international and community support for preservation efforts.

His position was echoed by other speakers, including Ambassador Martina Nibbeling-Wriebnig, Germany's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. Expressing her "deep pride" in the programme, she highlighted how its 40-year history had become intertwined with notions of "local ownership, responsibility, and solidarity".

She boasted: "The programme has become a model for everything else in the UN system, including Rio + 20", adding that it had an inbuilt multidisciplinary focus that was ahead of its time.

Created in 1971, the MAB programme deploys a multidisciplinary approach to the improvement of the relationships between people and their environment globally and locally.

In a related incident earlier in the day, Mr. Natarajan Ishwaran, Director of UNESCO's Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, launched the film *Biosphere, Tomorrow is Now*. Produced by Biosphere Television, in association with UNESCO, the documentary provides a vivid picture of seven biosphere reserves around the world, emphasizing their role in reconciling biodiversity with economic and social development as well as illustrating how ordinary people can make a difference in improving their communities' well-being through environmental care and respect.

Examples of such biosphere reserves include the Pendjari, Benin; the Mare aux Hippopotames, Burkina Faso; and the Manicouagan –Uapishka, Canada.

Fackson Banda

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Saturday, 5 November 2011

e-journal

No. 11

Highlights

Today

During her official visit to UNESCO, H.E. Ms Dilma ROUSSEFF, President of the Republic of Brazil, will be received by the President of the General Conference, the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Director-General of UNESCO.

Yesterday

The elections of the Subsidiary Organs of the General Conference and the appointment of an External Auditor took place in the morning. The results, announced by the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, Mr David Hamadziripi, are now accessible at:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference/elections/>

Programme of meetings

Today - Saturday, 5 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	SHS Commission	XI
	CLT Commission	II
	PRX Commission	XII
3 p.m.	CLT Commission	II

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Saturday, 5 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

SHS Commission

10 a.m.	Fourth Meeting	XI
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- 5.6 Revision of the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS)
- 5.8 Consideration of the desirability of preparing a draft universal declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change

CLT Commission

10 a.m.	Fourth Meeting	II
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- 5.19 Proclamation of an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures (2013-2022)
- 5.20 Universal Forum of Cultures – Naples 2013
- 8.1 Proposals concerning the desirability of a standard-setting instrument on historic urban landscapes
- 8.2 Preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of a possible international standard-setting instrument for the protection of indigenous and endangered languages, including a study of the outcomes of the programmes implemented by UNESCO relating to this issue

PRX Commission

10 a.m.	Seventh Meeting	XII
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- 9.4 Definition of regions with a view to the execution by the Organization of regional activities
- Adoption of the report of PRX Commission

Afternoon

CLT Commission

3 p.m.	Fifth Meeting	II
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- 5.16 Protection and promotion of museum heritage and collections
- 5.21 Promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, their protection, and the combat of Internet piracy

Saturday, 5 November 2011

Report of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on its activities (2010-2011)

Report of the Intergovernmental Committee for promoting the return of cultural property to its countries of origin of its restitution in case of illicit appropriation on its activities

Report of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on its activities

Report on the amendments to the Statutes of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFPC)

Provisional schedule of meetings

Monday, 7 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	CI Commission	XI
	ED Commission	II
3 p.m.	SC Commission	XI

After-tomorrow

Brief summary of meetings

Friday, 4 November

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
SHS Commission	5.7, 4.2	36 C/DR.45, 36 C/DR.24
		36 C/DR.25, 36 C/DR.38
		36 C/DR.23, 36 C/DR.27
		36 C/DR.8
CLT Commission	4.2, 5.13, 5.9, 5.29	36 C/DR.9, 36 C/DR.20
		36 C/DR.28, 36 C/DR.29
		36 C/DR.30, 36 C/DR.34
		36 C/DR.40, 36 C/DR.47
		36 C/DR.49, 36 C/DR.54
Nomination Committee	Elections of the Subsidiary Organs of the GC and appointment of an External Auditor	

Yesterday



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Monday, 7 November 2011

e-journal

No. 12

Special Announcements

UNESCO holds its **18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention** which will take place from Monday, 7 November through Wednesday, 9 November 2011. The Director-General of UNESCO will open the Assembly at **10 a.m. in Room XII**.

The G-77 and China celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention by hosting a photo exhibition which highlights the natural and cultural wealth of the different sites inscribed on the World Heritage List at **1 p.m. in the hall in front of Room X**. The exhibition – from 7 to 10 November – offers an insight into the diversity of the different sub-regions which constitutes a priceless heritage for humanity.

Extra-ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme

2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in Room IV

During this extra-ordinary session, the last 2 books on the research-policy theoretical reflection will be launched: “Mapping out the Research-Policy Matrix: Highlights from the First International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus”, and “Social Science and Policy Challenges: Democracy, values and capacities”.

36 GC

Monday, 7 November 2011

“Open UNESCO” exhibition (Hall Ségur):

Are Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogues a Reality among
French Youth Today?

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Conflict and Disaster Risk Reduction in Educational Planning:
Examples from Burkina Faso and Chad

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

How social media can work for you at UNESCO

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Programme of meetings

Today - Monday, 7 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	ED Commission	II
	CI Commission	XI
3 p.m.	SC Commission	XI

Monday, 7 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

ED Commission

10 a.m.	Sixth Meeting	II
	Examination and adoption of the Report of the ED Commission	

CI Commission

10 a.m.	Seventh Meeting	XI
	Examination and adoption of the Report of the CI Commission	

Afternoon

SC Commission

3 p.m.	Sixth Meeting	XI
	Examination and adoption of the Report of the SC Commission	

Provisional schedule of meetings

Tuesday, 8 November

Time	Organ	Room
9 a.m.	General Committee	X
10 a.m.	Joint Meeting of Commissions	II
3 p.m.	Joint Meeting of Commissions	II

Tomorrow

Brief summary of meetings

Saturday, 5 November

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
SHS Commission	5.6, 5.8	
CLT Commission	5.19, 5.20, 8.1, 8.2, 5.16, 5.21	36 C/COM.CLT/DR.1 36 C/COM.CLT/DR.2 36 C/COM.CLT/DR.3 36 C/COM.CLT/DR.4 36 C/COM.CLT-CI/DR.1
PRX Commission	9.4, Adoption of the report of PRX Commission	

Saturday



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Tuesday, 8 November 2011

e-journal

No. 13

Today

Second day of the **18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention** in Room XII.

Yesterday

The **18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention** got underway yesterday with an opening speech by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, in which she expressed concern that World Heritage Sites had been hit hard by natural disasters in Pakistan, Thailand and Cambodia, in addition to the “seismic popular movements of the Arab Spring” which had “left World Heritage heavily exposed”.

Heartened at how societies in Egypt and Tunisia had mobilized themselves “to protect their heritage”, she urged the participants to be “equally committed to ensuring the sustainable management of each site once it has been inscribed”. She emphasised the need for vigilance, “because we know that archeological sites are vulnerable to pillaging and theft, to the illicit trafficking of cultural goods”.

She stressed that local communities were best placed to understand the significance of heritage as a source of identity, dignity, social recognition, but also of employment, tourism, commerce and sustainable development.

In launching the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, dedicated to “World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities”, Ms Bokova finally called for innovative models in financing the management of heritage sites, adding that such models needed to take into account partnerships among the public and private sectors as well as local communities.

GC
GC
36

Tuesday, 8 November 2011

UNESCO launched two books at the **extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme**. The two publications – “Mapping out the Research-Policy Matrix: Highlights from the First International Forum on Social Science-Policy Nexus” and “Social Science and Policy Challenges: Democracy, Values and Capacities”– highlight the problems and prospects of linking social-science research to policy formulation.

Set up over 16 years ago, the MOST programme is the only UNESCO intergovernmental programme aimed at fostering and promoting the social sciences globally.

Addressing the session in the presence of the representative of the Director-General, Ms Pilar Alvarez-Laso, Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences Sector, Dr Alicia Kirchner, President of the Bureau of the IGC, said that social research was intricately bound up with social policy. She urged the participants not “only to analyse social transformations but also to implement them”.

The meeting re-elected Dr Kirchner as president. Also elected by acclamation were the following regional Vice-Presidents: Norway; Lithuania; Guatemala; Iran; Kenya and the United Arab Emirates. The Philippines retained their position as Rapporteur.

“Open UNESCO” exhibition (Hall Ségur):

Presentation and Book Launches of “L’Eau et des hommes”
and “Water History for our Times”
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Cross-cutting Themes in Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster
Situations (PCPD): the Promotion of Gender Equality
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Presentation of Key Findings of UNESCO Science Report 2010
(followed by quiz)
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Tuesday, 8 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

General Committee

9 a.m.	Fifth Meeting	X
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Joint Meeting of Commissions

10 a.m.	First Meeting	II
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- 6.2 Independent external evaluation of UNESCO
- 4.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 – Part II A: Intersectoral Platforms
- 5.18 Climate Change: mitigation and adaptation policy development and implementation in the Caribbean region

Afternoon

Joint Meeting of Commissions

3 p.m.	Second Meeting	II
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- 3.2 Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4)
- 3.3 Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget (37 C/5)

Provisional schedule of meetings

Wednesday, 9 November

Tomorrow

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	SHS Commission	XI
	CLT Commission	II
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	Joint Meeting of Commissions	II

Brief summary of meetings

Monday, 7 November

Yesterday

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
ED Commission	Examination and adoption of the draft report	
CI Commission	Examination and adoption of the draft report	
SC Commission	Examination and adoption of the draft report	

Tuesday, 8 November 2011

Unveiling the link between social research and policy

Yesterday, UNESCO launched two books which highlight the problems and prospects of linking social-science research to policy formulation. The publications – based on three years of analytical work by UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme – are partly a strategic and practical response to the Member States’ need for evidence-based social policies.

Addressing an extraordinary session of the programme’s Intergovernmental Council (IGC), Dr Alicia Kirchner, President of the Bureau of the Council, said that social research was intricately bound up with social policy. She urged the participants not “only to analyse social transformations but also to implement them”.

“What is missing is dynamism. We need a greater sense of commitment and conviction in consolidating the programme within UNESCO and in our regions”, argued Dr Kirchner, who was re-elected to the Presidency of the Bureau during the same session.

Launching the first book entitled “Mapping out the Research-Policy Matrix: Highlights from the First International Forum on Social Science-Policy Nexus”, Mr Nicolas Baya-Laffite, co-editor, pointed out that the publication was concerned with highlighting the analytical and methodological aspects of social research. Giving a synopsis of the publication, he argued that there was no single nexus of social science and policy formulation.

“There are multiple nexuses, all of which are politically charged”, he observed.

Giving a rundown of the second book, entitled “Social Science and Policy Challenges: Democracy, Values and Capacities”, Dr Georgios Papanagnou, a Greek political scientist who edited the publication, said that the “social sciences are in the ascendance”.

However, he was quick to highlight the “divides” that were inherent in the social sciences, including those relating to capacities as well as finances and management. He also pointed to the “overall anxiety over the relevance of the social sciences”, saying that such anxiety was manifest in the shift towards “evidence-based policy” which revolved around more interdisciplinary work, developing capacities, and quantitative analyses.

The role of the social sciences in policy formulation, he argued, must include understanding the extent to which “multiple perspectives” could “deepen democracy and increase participation”.

As the MOST programme looks ahead, it is set to become increasingly focused on the dual issue of social inclusion and the social aspect of climate change.

Fackson Banda

Editor, Delegates’ Information Bureau, 36 UNESCO GC



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Wednesday, 9 November 2011

e-journal

No. 14

Today

Launch of the UNESCO-USGS Publication:
“A Satellite Image Atlas of World Heritage Sites
on the ‘In Danger’ list”

10:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., La Salle Ségur

The UNESCO-USGS (US Geological Survey) publication, which presents satellite images of 31 sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, will be launched by the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, and the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United States of America to UNESCO, Mr David Killion.

- **Extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee takes place from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Room X** to elect a Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau as well as the Rapporteur.

- Third day of the **18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention** from **3 p.m. in Room XII** to discuss the future of the World Heritage Convention, including its 40th anniversary.

UNESCO and Convention on Biological Diversity
High-Profile Event celebrating the United Nations
Decade on Biodiversity

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Room IV

The event is an occasion to celebrate the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011-2020) in support of the effective implementation of the UN system-wide Strategic Plan on Biodiversity.

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Wednesday, 9 November 2011

Yesterday

“The second meeting of the **18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention** discussed the examination of the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund, the determination of the amount of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund, the report on the activities of the World Heritage related category 2 centres and the audit plan for the World Heritage Centre presented by UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service (IOS). The meeting also discussed the External Auditors evaluation of the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List and of the World Heritage Partnerships Initiative (PACT), as well as the future of the World Heritage Convention. In the wake of the launch of the 40th anniversary of the Convention, the States Parties highlighted the universal value of preserving our natural and cultural heritage for future generations, stressing the need to strengthen and adapt the Convention to the present realities. A Strategic Action Plan and a Vision Statement were adopted.”

“Open UNESCO” exhibition (Hall Ségur):

Teachers and Planning in Post-Conflict Post-Disaster Situations

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Videos for Water - Water Centres from Latin America
and the Caribbean

discuss communication and outreach

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m

Programme of meetings

Today - Wednesday, 9 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	CLT Commission	II
	SHS Commission	XI
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	Joint Meeting of Commissions	II

Wednesday, 9 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

CLT Commission

10 a.m.	Sixth Meeting	II
	5.2 Jerusalem and the implementation of 35 C/Resolution 49	
	5.3 Implementation of 35 C/Resolution 75 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories	
	Examination and adoption of the Report of the CLT Commission	

SHS Commission

10 a.m.	Fifth Meeting	XI
	Examination and adoption of the Report of the SHS Commission	

Afternoon

Plenary Meeting

3 p.m.	Fifteenth Meeting	I
	Report of the ADM Commission	
	Report of the Nominations Committee	
	Report of the PRX Commission	
	Item 14.1 – Venue of the 37th session of the General Conference	

Joint Meeting of Commissions

3 p.m.	Third Meeting	II
	3.2 Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4) - <i>cont.</i>	
	3.3 Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget (37 C/5)	

Wednesday, 9 November 2011

Tomorrow

Provisional schedule of meetings

Thursday, 10 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	Joint Meeting of Commissions	II
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I

Yesterday

Brief summary of meetings

Tuesday, 8 November

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
Joint Meeting of Commissions	6.2, 4.2, 5.18, 3.2	36 C/Joint Meeting/DR.1 Rev. 36 C/Joint Meeting/DR.4



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Thursday, 10 November 2011

e-journal

No. 15

Today

On the occasion of celebrating the World Science Day for Peace and Development 2011, three events are organized:

Knowledge Systems, Knowledge Diversity, Knowledge Societies: Towards a UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Room IX

As part of formulating a UNESCO policy on engaging with Indigenous Peoples, UNESCO will hold a side event featuring indigenous spokespersons at the highest-level from the three foremost UN institutions dealing with the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The event, to be hosted by Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, is organized in the framework of the 10th Anniversary of the UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity and to mark the Celebration of World Science Day 2011 for Peace and Development.

Launch of the Publication LHC (Large Hadron Collider)

1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Room IV

The publication LHC (Large Hadron Collider), co-published by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Lammerhuber and UNESCO Publishing, richly illustrates the inner workings of CERN's Large Hadron Collider, showing the human dimension of this great scientific enterprise which aims to help us understand the origins of the Universe.

Demonstration of Microscience Kits and the Chemistry Global Experiment by Students

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Open UNESCO (Hall Ségur)

36 GC

Thursday, 10 November 2011

Yesterday

• Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO and Mr Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity hosted a high-profile side event as a joint effort to celebrate the **UN Decade on Biodiversity** (2011-2020). In launching the Organisation's intersectoral Biodiversity Initiative, Ms Bokova underlined that the initiative would facilitate UNESCO's cooperation with other parts of the UN system.

Other speakers included the Representative of the Presidency of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr Tsutomu Koizumi, Minister and Deputy Permanent Delegate of Japan to UNESCO, and Mr Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The event also relayed messages from Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Ms Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing.

• The **18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention** finished its work and adopted a Resolution regarding the recommendations of the External Evaluation of the Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Equitable World Heritage List and of the Partnerships Initiative. The Extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee elected Malaysia as Vice-Chair of the Bureau and Mexico as Rapporteur, represented by Ms. Béatrice Hernandez.

Programme of meetings

Today - Thursday, 10 November

Time	Organ	Room
10 a.m.	Plenary Meeting	I
	Joint Meeting of Commissions	II
3 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I

Thursday, 10 November 2011

Time	Item	Room
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Morning

Plenary meeting

10 a.m.	Sixteenth Meeting	I
	Report of ED Commission	
	Report of CI Commission	
	Report of SC Commission	
	Report of SHS Commission	

Joint Meeting of Commissions

10 a.m.	Fourth Meeting	II
3.2	Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4) – <i>cont.</i>	
3.3	Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget (37 C/5)	
4.2	Examination of 36 C/6 Add. (including recommendations of the PRX Commission on paragraph 6 – Participation Programme)	
	Examination of 36 C/DR.46	
	Examination of Member States' draft resolutions transmitted from SHS, CLT and CI Commissions	
4.3	Adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013 (preparation)	

Afternoon

Plenary Meeting

3 p.m.	Seventeenth Meeting	I
	Report of CLT Commission	
	Report of ADM Commission	
	Report of Joint Meeting of Commissions	
	Adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2012-2013	

Thursday, 10 November 2011

Brief summary of meetings

Wednesday, 9 November

Organ	Items considered	DRs examined
Plenary Meeting	Report of the Nominations Committee	
	Report of the PRX Commission	
	14.1 – Venue of the 37th session of the GC	
	Introduction to Item 10.7 “Working Capital Fund: Level and administration”	
Joint Meeting of Commissions	3.2	36 C/Joint meeting/DR.4 36 C/Joint meeting/DR.6
CLT Commission	5.2, 5.3 Adoption of the Report	
SHS Commission	Adoption of the Report	

Yesterday

The Delegates' Information Bureau
looks forward to seeing you at the
**37th session of the General Conference
of UNESCO**

For more information on events and activities of the 36th session of the General Conference, please look on the screens and on:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference/>

Thursday, 10 November 2011

“Stop war against nature”, charges head of secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity

As UNESCO prepared to launch its Biodiversity Initiative yesterday, the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Dr Ahmed Djoghlaif, called for more and new partnerships to stem what he called “the war against nature”. He lauded UNESCO’s initiative, saying that it was “special” in that it drew upon its programmes to mount a multidisciplinary response to preserving biodiversity.

He argued: “Biodiversity is as much an educational issue as it is cultural. As a cultural issue, it speaks to the very core and heart of biodiversity. A richer biodiversity can lead to a stronger sense of identity”.

He recalled UNESCO’s mandate of “building peace in the minds of men and women” as a cornerstone in the struggle to preserve biodiversity. “We need to cultivate a love of nature, and this can be done through education and science with a human face... The new peace is sustainable development”, he observed.

Lamenting the fact that a majority of children in urban areas lived in “virtual societies”, he called for a rethink in the way children were taught, saying that his organisation was keen on addressing this “nature-deficit gap”. He said there was an initiative underway to help children plant trees, adding that 3500 schools in 40 countries had embraced the initiative.

On the nexus between Rio+20 and biodiversity, Dr Djoghlaif observed that the conference had a narrow focus on the green economy and environmental governance. He explained that there was no agreement on what defined the “green economy”, adding that the issue of environmental governance was not settled. Rather, he argued, it would have been more productive to “take stock of what had been achieved since Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”.

On creating more and new partnerships, Dr Djoghlaif singled the business community as key to stemming the tide against biodiversity, saying that companies were becoming increasingly aware of the link between biodiversity and economic growth. “With multiple challenges facing us,” he noted, “we need to unite and forge new partnerships”.

Asked about the extent to which countries had met the targets set by the Biological Convention on Diversity, he reported that “no single government has fulfilled the targets”. He added, however, that efforts were underway to hold regional and sub-regional workshops aimed at helping countries to revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Convention.

“What is important”, he concluded, “is for countries to incorporate the Nagoya Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets, into their national strategies and action plans, as national priorities”.

Fackson Banda

Editor, Delegates’ Information Bureau, 36 UNESCO GC

Thursday, 10 November 2011

Let's not lose the opportunity to act, advocates UN Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The issue of Indigenous Peoples is a basic human rights consideration, says James Anaya, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Speaking on the eve of a side event titled "Knowledge Systems, Knowledge Diversity, Knowledge Societies: Towards a UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples", Mr Anaya called on UNESCO to help "close the implementation gap" in programmes benefiting Indigenous Peoples. He noted that the issue was no longer about persuading governments and people to "understand" the importance of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"What is at stake is a human rights consideration shared by everybody", he argued, adding that the UNESCO policy would help guide "appropriate action in a way that makes for coherence and harmony".

Mr Anaya, who is also Regents' Professor and James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona in the USA, said "without a coherent policy, there was a real danger that the opportunity to act may be lost". He observed: "Developing such a policy should be relatively easy because many of the issues that appear difficult have been resolved, such as the right to self-determination and the right to culture".

He pointed to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, saying that they had undergirded some of the key judicial and policy decisions made in favour of Indigenous Peoples in America and other countries.

He further highlighted the example set by the Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic in ratifying the ILO Convention and enacting appropriate national laws to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples in those countries.

But even amidst such positive signs, there were countries, Mr Anaya contended, which were still "ambivalent about the usefulness of the issue, perhaps because such an attitude gives them policy latitude in terms of their vested economic, political and other interests". He was quick to point out, however, that things had improved tremendously, adding that even those countries which had initially opposed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples had rescinded their decisions.

He emphasised that the trend was thus "in favour of greater recognition of the issues", adding that there was now need for countries to domesticate existing international conventions and declarations at the national level. For this reason, he explained, it was an opportune moment for UNESCO to marshal its competencies and experiences on the ground to have greater impact on Indigenous Peoples.

Fackson Banda

Editor, Delegates' Information Bureau, 36 UNESCO GC