

Hundred and seventy-fourth session

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Item 49 of the provisional agenda

**UNESCO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI
IN THE AREA OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TO
STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION TO
COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT DISASTER,
AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO MEMBER STATES TO
PROVIDE, IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, APPROPRIATE
ASSISTANCE IN THAT REGARD**

SUMMARY

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 174th session of the Executive Board at the request of Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The document contains an explanatory note and a draft decision.

Decision proposed: paragraph 5.

Explanatory note

1. The critical situation caused by a severe drought affecting the entire region has led to a spiral of famine in Djibouti, which has been hard hit by this serious humanitarian crisis.
2. The severe drought, due to a lack of rain in recent months, has affected 150,000 persons and caused large-scale loss of livestock, giving rise to a food crisis that is causing rural populations to flee the affected areas en masse.
3. Given the scale of this natural disaster and despite Djibouti's efforts to combat the scourge, technical assistance, especially in the area of water resources management, has become indispensable.
4. Better water resources management requires substantial human and technical resources for the achievement of sustainable development. In that regard, UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and through its actions and programmes, can help control the natural phenomenon affecting Djibouti.
5. In the light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a draft decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling resolution 57/254 of the United Nations General Assembly on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), which designates UNESCO as the lead agency for the promotion of the Decade,
2. Having examined document 174 EX/45,
3. Requests the Director-General to provide technical assistance to the Republic of Djibouti in the area of water resources management to combat the effects of the drought;
4. Invites the Director-General to appeal to Member States to provide, in so far as possible, appropriate emergency assistance to Djibouti.