

**Hundred and seventy-second session**

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**DRAFT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE  
UNIVERSAL FORUM OF CULTURES – 2007 IN MONTERREY, MEXICO**

**SUMMARY**

At its 171st session (171 EX/Decision 58), the Executive Board, having decided to recommend that the General Conference grant approval for UNESCO to be the main partner of the Universal Forum of Cultures – Monterrey 2007, invited the Director-General to draw up, in cooperation with the Forum's organizers, a draft framework agreement on the modalities of the partnership, together with a plan of action, for submission to the Board at its 172nd session. This document covers those two texts, which are the subject of Annexes I and II respectively.

Decision proposed: paragraph 6.

1. By 171 EX/Decision 58, the Executive Board decided to recommend that the General Conference, at its 33rd session, grant approval for UNESCO to be the main partner of the Universal Forum of Cultures – Monterrey 2007, throughout the various phases of the project and invited the Director-General to draw up, in cooperation with the Forum's organizers, a draft framework agreement on the modalities of the partnership, together with a plan of action, for submission to the Executive Board at its 172nd session, and to report to it at that time on the implementation of the above-mentioned decision.

2. The Monterrey Foundation 2007, which is responsible for the preparation and staging of the Forum, was officially established at a ceremony in Monterrey, presided over by Mr Vicente Fox, President of Mexico, on 31 May 2005, in the presence of the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO. The ceremony was followed by a concert by Plácido Domingo, José Carreras and Luciano Pavarotti, which took place on 4 June in Monterrey.

3. Under the honorary chairmanship of the President of Mexico, the Foundation is presided over by the Governor of the Province of Nuevo León and its vice-presidency is held by the Minister of Culture (National Council for Culture and Arts) and the Mayor of Monterrey. The Federal Government is represented by the following ministries: foreign affairs, education, tourism and science and technology. Other members of the Foundation are UNESCO and the Universal Forum of Cultures Foundation, established in Barcelona to ensure the continuity of the Universal Forum of Cultures, held for the first time, in partnership with UNESCO, in Barcelona in 2004. The Board of the Monterrey Foundation 2007 is composed of representatives of the principal academic, scientific and economic institutions and organizations of the Province and the city. A technical board will be responsible for the preparation and management of the Forum.

4. The Forum will be held from 20 September to 20 December 2007, in the Parque Fundidora, a popular cultural centre situated in the vast grounds of a former steelworks. The Forum will be linked to the city centre by a two-kilometre long navigable canal on whose banks will be located a new open-air leisure area and shopping mall. The project also includes plans for a Steel Museum and a glass pavilion for conferences and exhibitions. The works will be financed by the Government of Nuevo León and the private sector. The Forum budget, which amounts to US \$220 million, will be financed over a period of three years by the Federal Government (\$90 million), the Government of Nuevo León (\$90 million) and the private sector. To that must be added an estimated \$275 million for urban development. Entrance to the Forum will be free but there will be a charge for special events. The languages of the Forum will be Spanish, English and French. One million visitors are expected.

5. In accordance with 171 EX/Decision 58, the Director-General is submitting to the Executive Board a draft framework agreement between UNESCO and the Monterrey Foundation 2007 (Annex I) and the plan of action of the Forum (Annex II).

### **Proposed draft decision**

6. In the light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 172 EX/9,
2. Recalling 171 EX/Decision 58,
3. Reaffirming that, since the objectives of the Universal Forum of Cultures – Monterrey 2007 (Mexico) come very close to those of UNESCO, it is fitting for the Organization to be involved in their implementation, to which it may make a substantial contribution within the scope of its fields of competence,
4. Approves the framework agreement proposed in Annex I of this document and the plan of action of the Forum contained in Annex II of this document;
5. Decides to recommend that the General Conference, at its 33rd session, grant approval for UNESCO to be the main partner of the event throughout the various phases of the project;
6. Authorizes the Director-General, subject to the agreement of the General Conference at its 33rd session, to sign the framework agreement and to take the necessary steps to ensure that UNESCO contributes fully to the success of the Forum.

**ANNEX I**

**DRAFT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE  
UNIVERSAL FORUM OF CULTURES – MONTERREY 2007**

BETWEEN

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

AND

The Monterrey Foundation 2007, established on 31 May 2005, governed by the articles of the Civil Code of the State of Nuevo León, Mexico, and composed of: (a) the Federal Government of Mexico represented by the following ministries: foreign affairs, education, tourism and science and technology; (b) the State of Nuevo León (Mexico) and (c) the Municipality of Monterrey.

Noting that the Universal Forum of Cultures – Monterrey 2007, an initiative of the City of Monterrey, the Government of Nuevo León (Mexico) and the Government of Mexico, seeks to facilitate dialogue among peoples, cultures and civilizations and to promote the values of tolerance and peace,

Considering that the project could make a significant contribution to building a culture of peace, a major objective of UNESCO and one endorsed by the international community,

Noting that the planning, organization and staging of the Forum will be under the direction of the Monterrey Foundation 2007, composed of the City of Monterrey, the Government of Nuevo León and the Government of Mexico,

Recalling 33 C/Resolution ... of the 33rd session of the General Conference,

Believing that UNESCO can make a decisive contribution to the success of the Forum through its missions, activities and links with institutions and professional circles throughout the world,

**HAVE THEREFORE AGREED UPON THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:**

1. The present framework agreement is intended to establish a framework for cooperation between UNESCO and the Monterrey Foundation 2007 (hereinafter referred to as “the Foundation”) for the preparation and holding of and follow-up to the Universal Forum of Cultures – Monterrey 2007; it sets out the modalities of UNESCO’s association with the Forum, within the framework of the Organization’s competence and the priorities for its activities determined by its Member States; it covers the period of the preparation and staging of and follow-up to the Forum.

2. UNESCO and the Foundation shall keep each other informed of all activities of common interest that either may undertake; each will propose that the other be represented in such activities in accordance with procedures to be laid down by the joint committee referred to in paragraph 8; they shall consult each other as necessary on the preparation and implementation of activities that they consider should be conducted jointly.

3. In order to add to the Forum's impact, UNESCO shall endeavour to ensure the broad dissemination of information on the objectives and activities of the Forum and to give them the greatest possible multiplier effect internationally.
4. The parties shall ensure that all activities undertaken in connection with the Forum are given a character distinct from that of an international exhibition, bearing in mind the 1928 Convention regarding International Exhibitions.
5. The parties may, where necessary, conclude particular agreements between themselves or with other partners to implement specific activities involved in preparing for the Forum.
6. UNESCO shall provide such technical services as may facilitate the achievement of the Forum's objectives, in particular by mobilizing the expertise at its disposal, by providing the organizers with appropriate information, by facilitating contact between the latter and the professional circles which are its partners, and by facilitating the participation of interested international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
7. The Foundation may be given written authorization by the Director-General of UNESCO to use the name, logo and seal of UNESCO under conditions and procedures to be proposed by the joint committee referred to in paragraph 8.
8. When the present framework agreement enters into force, UNESCO and the Foundation shall set up a joint cooperation committee in order effectively to coordinate their cooperation under the present agreement [and Resolution ... adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 33rd session]; the parties shall each designate one of their representatives on the joint committee as focal point.
9. The costs of the Forum shall be fully covered by the organizers and UNESCO's cooperation shall have no budgetary implications for the Organization.
10. Each of the parties shall make available to the other appropriate facilities for the implementation of the present agreement.
11. The Director-General of UNESCO shall regularly inform the Executive Board of activities carried out under the present agreement; the Foundation shall likewise regularly report to its participating institutions; both parties shall exchange the information necessary to those ends.
12. This agreement shall become operative once it has been signed by both parties; it may thereafter be amended by their common consent. One year after the close of the Forum, the parties shall agree upon a date for expiry of the framework agreement.

## ANNEX II

### UNIVERSAL FORUM OF CULTURES – MONTERREY 2007

#### PLAN OF ACTION

##### **The vision**

The first Universal Forum of Cultures, which took place in Barcelona in 2004, gave prominence to a series of experiences, reflections and concerns providing a multi-faceted vision with which to confront the challenges raised today by a world in constant change. The Forum has thus become a compass guiding our collective efforts to envision and construct a future of cultural, intellectual and socio-economic development for all.

Monterrey 2007 will be a forum for analysis and dialogue at which proposals for attaining the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations for 2015 will be formulated, and where cultural diversity will be celebrated. To that end, the Forum will collect and combine contributions from science, technology and philosophy so as to identify the means enabling all of us to live together in genuine harmony on the basis of real commitments. From now on, knowledge and cultures must be regarded as an indissociable duo in terms of their dynamism and permanency. The Forum must, therefore, become a channel for UNESCO's action relating to globalization and sustainable development, in which citizens can find an echo and the inspiration to work together at the local and international level.

Taking account of what young people are thinking and involving them in contemporary exchanges of experience and ideas will also be one of the essential features of the Forum.

Monterrey 2007 is endowed with an institutional mechanism of broad political scope – the Monterrey 2007 Foundation, already in place – made up of the State of Nuevo León, the Municipality of Monterrey and the Federal Government of Mexico and including the contribution of eminent specialists. The partnership with UNESCO will bring to the Forum all the authority and prestige which the Organization enjoys in the international arena.

The city of Monterrey can also boast of recognized experience in the organization of key international events (the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002), an extremely dynamic private sector, and modern and efficient cultural facilities.

##### **Mission**

Monterrey 2007 takes its inspiration from the ideals of UNESCO, endorses the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and puts into practice the ten principles and values underlying the Universal Forum of Cultures – Barcelona 2004:

- Respect for democratic values and institutions;
- Promotion of the conditions necessary for peace;
- Respect for all ethnic groups and cultural identities;
- Respect for religions and the promotion of interreligious dialogue;
- Recognition of the blending of cultures as a source of diversity and a global phenomenon;

- Recognition of and respect for all languages, understood as a part of our universal heritage;
- Promotion of creativity, education and the democratization of knowledge;
- Defence of biodiversity and the conservation and rational use of natural resources;
- Critical perspective on the social impact of technologies in the creation of new cultural links;
- Recognition of the need for an economic, social and institutional fabric that is socially responsible and committed to equitable and sustainable economic development.

Following on from Barcelona 2004, Monterrey 2007 is intended to help build a culture of peace and a universal ethic through study, reflection and multidisciplinary innovation and to transmit to the broadest possible public, in novel forms and in several languages, the values and principles set forth above, with a view to disseminating UNESCO's ideals.

Monterrey 2007 will seek to facilitate the inclusion of vulnerable groups and strive to ensure their participation in preparatory activities throughout the Forum.

### **The Forum**

The Universal Forum of Cultures – Monterrey 2007 will be inaugurated on 20 September and will close on 20 December.

In addition to pursuing the work begun at Barcelona 2004 in the fields of cultural diversity, sustainable development and conditions for peace, the Forum will be concerned with the recognition and construction of identities and the maintenance of cultural diversity in an era dominated by globalization and the development of new technologies.

The fact is that processes such as migration, tourism and the redistribution of work are generating a constantly changing cultural dynamic while cultural phenomena linked to territory and tradition are reinforcing stability. In that context, the “clash” of “visions” arising from globalization forces us to reassess our relation with space and time. It also leads to reflection on cities as multicultural centres as well as on diasporas, migrations and contemporary examples of the blending of cultures, going beyond the differences between the local and the universal.

The relationship between culture and technology, linguistic diversity from an educational perspective, the dynamism of technology and its impact on the different forms of living together, the social and environmental responsibility of businesses, the relationship with nature and the implications of science for ethics and forecasting will also be subjects of study and debate at Monterrey 2007.

### **Planned activities**

Conferences, exhibitions and cultural activities will be held throughout the three months of the Forum. All the events will be considered in terms of their relevance to the aforementioned themes (for example, the message of an exhibition should be reinforced by dialogue; an artistic activity should have an impact supportive of the established paradigms).

The Forum's themes will be considered by congresses, conferences, seminars and workshops and by the thematic summits, referred to as **Dialogues**, a generic name already used at Barcelona

2004. Monterrey 2007 will provide the occasion for reconvening *inter alia* the World Youth Forum, the Parliament of the World's Religions, the East-West Dialogue and the Washington Consensus.

Monterrey will be holding a World Television Forum as well as new Dialogues on subjects such as “art and science”, “economic development and the construction of knowledge societies”, “knowledge cities”, “ethics, science and human dignity”, “biodiversity and technology”, “best practices in the modernization of the public service”, “water as a right and a survival factor” and “music as a source of identity”.

**Thematic exhibitions** will serve to further the cause of cultural diversity. Among the subjects under study are: “civilization, culture and knowledge”, “archaeology and industrial forecasting”, “best practices in urban planning”, “communication and multimedia”, “water culture” and “indigenous peoples and the encounter on the American continent”.

**Artistic and cultural activities** (concerts, ballets, soloists, major events, plastic arts, photography, etc.) will combine the local with the universal, reflecting the city of Monterrey itself, whose Mexican “personality” is a blend of many cultures.

### **Forum actors**

Civil society will be the main protagonist of the Universal Forum of Cultures – Monterrey 2007. The participation of young people and the education system will be encouraged, as will that of cultural institutions, associations, NGOs and businesses.

In addition to its main partner, UNESCO, the Forum will seek to ally itself with other partners sharing its universal aspirations, such as United Nations system organizations, regional organizations and any other entity endorsing the Forum's objectives.

### **Timetable**

The provisional timetable is as follows:

September 2004: at the closing session of Barcelona 2004, designation of Monterrey as the site of the next Universal Forum of Cultures. The Governor of Nuevo León pays a visit to the Director-General of UNESCO to request the Organization's sponsorship.

October-March 2005: holding of inter-agency negotiations with a view to setting up a mechanism responsible for the preparation, organization and staging of Monterrey 2007.

April 2005: presentation of Monterrey 2007 to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 171st session.

May 2005: formal establishment of the Monterrey Foundation 2007 at an official ceremony presided over by H.E. Mr Vicente Fox, President of Mexico, followed by a concert in Monterrey given by Plácido Domingo, José Carreras and Luciano Pavarotti.

June-September 2005: definition of the objectives and public presentation of the major contents of the Forum.

September 2005: presentation of the plan of action to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 172nd session.

October 2005: granting of the sponsorship of UNESCO by the General Conference at its 33rd session and signature of the cooperation agreement with the Organization.

October-December 2005: public debate and definition of the contents of the Forum.

January-May 2006: identification of the projects and financing plan and drawing up of the timetable with a view to their approval by the Monterrey Foundation 2007, already endowed with a technical assessment committee, composed of eminent figures of great professional, scientific and cultural repute.

April 2006-September 2007: implementation of the Forum projects, launching of international promotional campaigns and search for support for participants from the least developed countries.

2007: Universal Forum of Cultures – Monterrey 2007 (20 September-20 December).

2008: Follow-up to the Forum, recapitulation and worldwide diffusion of the proposals formulated at Monterrey 2007.