



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Hundred and eightieth session

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180 EX/Decisions

PARIS, 17 November 2008

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 180th SESSION

* Including the meetings of the subsidiary bodies before the plenary meetings.

DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2010-2011 (35 C/5)

21 Preliminary proposals by the Director-General concerning the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5) (180 EX/21 Part I (A), (B) and (C); Part II (A) and (B); 180 EX/INF.19 and Corr.; 180 EX/INF.20; 180 EX/INF.21 and Corr.; 180 EX/INF.27)

The Executive Board,

1. Having considered the preliminary proposals by the Director-General for priority fields of action for the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5) contained in documents 180 EX/21 Part II (A) and (B), the regional consultations with National Commissions and the summary of responses by Member States and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the questionnaire by the Director-General contained in documents 180 EX/21 Part I (A), (B) and (C),
 2. Taking into account its discussions at its 180th session on the preparations for the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5),
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3. Guided by and building on the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4), its global priorities, overarching and strategic programme priorities, and its intersectoral orientation,
 4. Mindful of the current global financial crisis and its potential impact and the resultant need to allocate resources to priority programme activities and to implement programmes with utmost efficiency and effectiveness,

5. Conscious of the mandate of UNESCO to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men and to build a culture of peace, as enshrined in its Constitution and elaborated in document 34 C/4,
6. Underscoring the paramount need for UNESCO to concentrate and focus its action on its programme priorities,
7. Reaffirming the importance for UNESCO to accord priority in all its programmes and activities to the two global priorities of document 34 C/4, Africa and gender equality, and to allocate adequate resources to this end,
8. Reiterating its commitment to action in favour of least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), the disadvantaged segments of society, including indigenous people, and countries in post-conflict and post-disaster situations, to be carried out in all major programmes,
9. Resolved to respond to the needs and expectations of youth through focused and effective action by all major programmes,
10. Acknowledging the fundamental importance of South-South cooperation and triangular North-South-South cooperation for the attainment of UNESCO's overarching and strategic programme objectives, which makes it imperative for them to be introduced and applied in all major programmes,
11. Concurring with the strengthening of intersectorality and interdisciplinarity as a key comparative advantage of UNESCO in the contemporary world through intersectoral platforms and other forms of multisectoral engagement, especially at the field level,
12. Underlining the importance of promoting and implementing UNESCO's normative and standard-setting instruments in all its domains;
13. Recognizing the crucial role of upstream policy advice, institutional and human capacity-building, and monitoring of global and regional trends in the Organization's fields of competence,
14. Stressing that UNESCO's global strategies in the various priority areas must be sufficiently flexible so as to be able to respond to specific regional situations and needs,
15. Committed to UNESCO's contributions to United Nations system-wide reform efforts in response to the needs of Member States at the country level,
16. Emphasizing that UNESCO's field structure must be appropriate and able to deliver on the Organization's priorities, as pursued through the UNESCO reform process,
17. Recalling the unique role of the National Commissions as constituent elements of UNESCO and contributors to programme implementation at the national level,
18. Recognizing that UNESCO needs to reinforce and extend its partnerships in order to attain its objectives,
19. Underlining the central role of the full and refined application of the results-based management (RBM) approach to all activities, on the basis of a reduced number of well-articulated, meaningful and, to the extent possible, measurable expected results, as against document 34 C/5, and of provisions for effective monitoring and evaluation of programme performance,
20. Determined to enhance the visibility of UNESCO's action at the global, regional and national levels, especially through the effective implementation of its programmes,

Major Programme II – Natural sciences

43. Recalling the important contribution of science, technology and innovation to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty,
44. Stressing the needs of Member States for assistance with the formulation and implementation of science, technology and innovation policies for sustainable development, and with the development of related capacities, including through support for the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), especially in Africa and small island developing States (SIDS),
45. Emphasizing the role of UNESCO's science programme in fostering dialogue, cooperation, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing,
46. Underlining UNESCO's commitment to action on climate change, in particular by helping Member States to build and maintain the requisite knowledge base, and to mitigate the causes of climate change,
47. Acknowledging the leading work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in improving governance and fostering intergovernmental cooperation through ocean sciences and services, as well as its central role in providing authoritative scientific and technical information for evidence-based policy recommendations,
48. Emphasizing UNESCO's role in assisting countries with preparedness for and mitigation of natural and human-induced disasters, including those of a technological nature, as well as desertification, through policy advice, knowledge sharing, and education,
49. Bearing in mind that access to safe drinking water is of vital importance for achieving Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7, and underlining in this context the valuable contribution being made by UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP),
50. Underlining the need to reinforce UNESCO's leading role in the scientific aspects of freshwater research, capacity-building and education, including the important roles of the International Hydrological Programme, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and the World Assessment Programme (WWAP),
51. Also underlining the role of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme in gaining and sharing knowledge on biodiversity and sustainability, as well as on eco-system management,
52. Mindful of UNESCO's contribution to earth observation systems, facilitating the monitoring of changes in land, water and oceans, and to research and capacity-building through the geosciences,
53. Emphasizing the paramount role of science and technology education for capacity-building in science, engineering and technology and recognizing the importance of curriculum-building, content and teaching,
54. Further emphasizing the significant contribution to be made by Major Programme II in support of education for sustainable development,
55. Underlining the importance of capacity-building and the sharing of best practices in the field of renewable and alternative energies in support of sustainable development,
56. Recommends that the Director-General, in drawing up document 35 C/5 for Major Programme II, take into account the programme priorities emphasized by the National Commissions during the regional consultations, by Member States in their replies to the Director-General's questionnaire on the preparation of document 35 C/5, and by

Major Programme V – Communication and information

74. Emphasizing UNESCO's role in helping Member States to build inclusive knowledge societies,
75. Committed to the follow-up to the relevant action lines of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action at the global, regional and country levels,
76. Reaffirming the importance of freedom of expression as a fundamental human right and as a prerequisite for the exercise and promotion of other rights, as well as the building of inclusive knowledge societies,
77. Stressing that press freedom and freedom of information as well as the development of independent and pluralistic media are essential elements of good governance, democracy and sustainable development,
78. Underscoring the need for UNESCO to support Member States in adopting policies and building capacities to foster access to information and the development of communication, which are essential for inclusive knowledge societies, in particular through support for the Information for All Programme (IFAP), including its Strategic Plan, and the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC),
79. Underlining the importance of the multiplier effect resulting from the use of media and ICTs for the development of education, media and information literacy, the dissemination of scientific information as well as for the promotion of mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue,
80. Recommends that the Director-General, in drawing up document 35 C/5 for Major Programme V, take into account the programme priorities emphasized by the National Commissions during the regional consultations, by Member States in their replies to the Director-General's questionnaire on the preparation of document 35 C/5, and by Member States at the 180th session of the Executive Board, and especially the following key priorities:
 - promote freedom of expression and press freedom, media independence and pluralism;
 - provide access to information and knowledge through media and ICTs, including through the Information for All Programme (IFAP);
 - development of communication, especially through a strengthened International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC);
 - promote the use of media and ICTs as multipliers for action by the entire Organization, in particular for teacher training;
 - follow up the relevant action lines of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action;

Intersectoral platforms

81. Recognizes that the 12 intersectoral platforms introduced in document 34 C/5 as a new modality for programme implementation are important tools for attaining the relevant expected results of the major programmes concerned, namely:
 - Priority Africa;
 - foresight and anticipation;
 - science education;
 - HIV and AIDS;

- education for sustainable development (ESD);
- implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for SIDS;
- fostering ICT-enhanced learning;
- strengthening national research systems;
- languages and multilingualism;
- contributing to the dialogue among civilizations and cultures and a culture of peace;
- support to countries in post-conflict and disaster situations;
- UNESCO action to address climate change.

82. Invites the Director-General, in the light of the experience gained in 2008, and taking into account the discussions by the Executive Board at its 180th session, to make specific proposals in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 on action to be pursued through intersectoral platforms and on the budgets and modalities proposed for their implementation, clearly identifying their administrative and financial impact;
83. Requests the Director-General to ensure that the strategies and expected results for these intersectoral platforms and the funds earmarked for this modality under the major programmes concerned add value to the attainment of the objectives and expected results of those major programmes as included in draft document 35 C/5;
84. Requests the Director-General to ensure that the Secretariat implement the programme in an intersectoral manner through other approaches and modalities, as appropriate, including for issues such as arts education;