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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART I

REPORT ON THE FULL COST OF CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 35 C/Resolution 103 and 191 EX/Decision 14 (I) and 190 EX/Decision 18 (I), this document provides information on the progress that has been achieved in implementing the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (35 C/22 and Corr.) and the recommendations of the Internal Oversight Service's (IOS) joint audit and evaluation of the management framework for category 2 institutes and centres (2011 Annual Report, document 189 EX/16) aimed at reducing the financial and administrative impact on the Organization's limited resources.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 17.

Background

1. At its 191st session, the Executive Board noted the Director-General's preliminary findings concerning the overall estimated costs – US \$1,621,099 – to the Organization in 2012-2013 of maintaining and coordinating the category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO. Furthermore, the Executive Board invited the Director-General to complete the analysis, by including a report on all non-operational category 2 centres and on category 2 centres with agreements which entered into force before 2005, and to provide information on the renewal/non-renewal of such category 2 centres and institutes.

2. The General Conference has to date approved 82 institutes/centres. The Executive Board has recommended that the General Conference approve the establishment of nine new institutes and centres in the current biennium. Moreover, the Executive Board is invited, at this session, to adopt a positive recommendation on the establishment of another seven institutes and centres, thus raising the total number of such institutions to 98 (ED – 10, SC – 49, SHS – 7, CLT – 26, CI - 5 and BSP – 1).

Information on the resources involved

3. Although the Member States involved in the establishment of 14 of the 16 new institutes and centres have borne all costs relating to the feasibility study, the cost of staff time has been estimated at \$166,000, which is an average of \$18,500 per institution.

4. Furthermore, the Executive Board renewed the status of five institutes and centres in the decision taken at its 191st session and is invited at the current session to adopt a decision on the renewal of three institutes and centres. Although there are no direct financial implications for any of the evaluations of those eight institutes and centres, staff-time costs have been estimated at \$60,000 or an average of \$7,500 per institution.

5. For various reasons that are primarily internal to the 10 institutes and centres concerned, they are not considered to be operational by UNESCO's programme sectors (ED – 2, SC – 4 and SHS – 4). The total cost of maintaining and coordinating those institutions, including staff-time costs in the current biennium, has been estimated at \$100,000 or an average of \$10,000 per institution. Conversely, in view of the importance ascribed by the Member States concerned and the programme sectors to these bodies' potential capacities for action, it is recommended that their status remain unchanged and that an in-depth evaluation be conducted with a view to their renewal and alignment of their agreements with the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres (35 C/22 et Corr.), the revised version of which will be submitted to the General Conference for adoption in November 2013, in accordance with 190 EX/Decision 18 (I).

6. There are 12 institutes and centres with an agreement which entered into force before 2005 (ED – 2, SC – 6, CLT – 3, CI – 1) and they are all considered to be operational by the programme sectors, with the estimated cost of maintaining and coordinating them, including staff-time costs, amounting to some \$228,000 or an average of \$19,000 per institution for the current biennium. The agreements with these institutes and centres could therefore be renewed and aligned with the integrated comprehensive strategy, as stated above.

7. In the light of the above, the total amount of the cost of maintaining and coordinating the category 2 institutes and centres has been estimated for the 2012-2013 biennium, on the basis of standard staff costs, at \$2,009,099.

Progress achieved

8. Substantial progress was made in response to the recommendations of the Internal Oversight Service's (IOS) joint audit and evaluation of the management framework for category 2 institutes/centres, which had concluded that "the current framework sets clear principles for the establishment, programmatic engagement, communications, renewal and termination". Four of

nine audit recommendations are considered by IOS as “closed” and five others are categorized as “ongoing” with a reasonable progress rating.

9. UNESCO’s statutory reports (EX/4 and C/3 documents) include the contribution of category 2 institutes/centres towards expected results of UNESCO, a significant step forward in aligning activities to UNESCO priorities and reporting the results achieved. UNESCO has established a review committee and all programme sectors have developed specific sectoral strategies for institutes/centres under their responsibility. Collection of information has been improved through the creation of an internal shared workspace: sectoral and global database and dedicated web-pages and specific reporting line within UNESCO’s System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results (SISTER).

10. Category 2 institutes and centres were also included as an integral part of the Policy Framework for Strategic Partnerships with specific targets and expected results covered by the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy, as presented in document 192 EX/5 Part III.

11. During current biennium, UNESCO ensured that all establishments of new institutes/centres and renewals of existing entities were, with minor exceptions, at no direct cost for the Organization, missions for feasibility studies and review assessments being financed by the respective Member-States. More broadly, UNESCO has already cut all expenditures to the minimum required in order to satisfy the obligation of maintaining and coordinating of the whole group of category 2 institutes/centres.

12. Category 2 institutes and centres should be further encouraged to enhance their capacities, individually and collectively, so that in the longer term the cost-benefit ratios for UNESCO could be improved. For this purpose UNESCO conducts regular annual global meetings of the institutes/centres active in their respective domains (Education Sector, Division of Water Sciences, World Heritage Centre and the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section). It is hoped that through such exchanges of good practices in programming and governance, the centres themselves can develop the ability to contribute effectively to the delivery of UNESCO’s strategic objectives and expected results with the minimum investment of UNESCO staff time and resources. These meetings also provide the opportunity for institutes/centres to be informed of recent decisions and directives from the UNESCO governing bodies; be updated of sectoral strategic and programmatic developments; interact with other category 2 and more broadly with other UNESCO entities and networks; partner and implement on joint activities; showcase their own achievements.

13. Being aware of implementing measures which reduce costs relating to maintenance and coordination of institutes/centres UNESCO programme sectors adopt different approaches of interaction: Education Sector has put in place a process of rotating responsibility of category 2 centres’ biennial focal point to coordinate the smooth communication and sharing of information among the centres themselves and with the Sector. Respective institute/centre acting in such capacity is also responsible of producing periodic e-newsletters highlighting all and each centres’ activities and pertinent information.

14. The Division of Water Sciences, with the largest number of category 2 institutes/centres, has proceeded to the large-scale re-assignment of institutes/centres’ focal points which allows more efficient strategic coordination and management by engaging young professionals, and by the same token the reduction of the staff time cost for working on institutes/centres. Specific measures has been taken in regard to the re-assignment of focal point functions for regional category 2 water-related institutes/centres to programme officers working in the field, which allows to improve the interaction with regional institutes/centres and their partners and to enhance the efficiency of programme delivery on the ground.

15. In the long term, these actions also promises to provide the greatest responsiveness to the special needs of developing countries, many of institutes/centres being located in and are specialized in issues of UNESCO competence of major pertinence for developing societies as means to catalyze further sustainable development within the national, subregional, regional and

global scope, particularly in Africa, Least Developed Countries and Small Islands Developing States. Engaging institutes/centres in developing countries in the formulation and implementation of extrabudgetary projects within the approved programmatic priorities would provide them with access to international donor resources and enhance their experience and capacity in supporting policy- and decision-making in different region(s).

16. In light of the above, further improvements will be made in following the Executive Board's recommendation, contained in its decision 190 EX/Decision 18 (I), to "amend the current integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres so as to further strengthen category 2 status renewal procedures, improve alignment of category 2 institutes/centres' operations with UNESCO's results-based management approach and sectoral strategies, strengthen the monitoring and reporting requirements of the network, and reduce the cost to UNESCO of maintaining this network in terms of human and financial resources".

Proposed decision

17. In view of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 190 EX/ Decision 18 (I) and 191 EX/Decision 14 (I),
2. Having examined document 191 EX/15 Part I,
3. Takes note of its content.



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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART II

ESTABLISHMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

SUMMARY

Within the framework of establishing a Regional Centre for Quality and Excellence in Education (RCQE) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and pursuant to 190 EX/Decision 18 Part II, the Director-General presents a summary of the UNESCO mission in February 2013 carried out in close collaboration with the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this regard.

In accordance with the model agreement contained in document 35 C/22 and Corr., the draft agreement on this Centre has been drawn up between Saudi Arabia and UNESCO, and may be consulted on the website of the Education Sector.

This item has no financial or administrative implications.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 14.

I. BACKGROUND

1. In May 2011, a request was received from the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Quality and Excellence (RCQE) in Saudi Arabia, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. According to the project document, the overall objective of the proposed Centre is to develop the capacities of Arab countries to formulate policies, develop plans and implement programs for the effective enhancement of schools' performance in support of student learning improvement.

2. As per the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (35 C/Resolution 103), a feasibility study was undertaken between January and February 2012 which recommended UNESCO's endorsement of the principle of establishing the proposed Centre. Having reviewed the proposal, the Executive Board at its 190th session, welcomed it and further requested the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to continue to work closely with UNESCO "to ensure a technically-sound establishment of the proposed Centre, as well as to elaborate on its financial commitment and the programme scope, orientation and modes of operation of the proposed Centre" (190 EX/Decision 18 Part II).

3. Pursuant to the Executive Board's decision, this document summarizes findings of a UNESCO Team that visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in February 2013 to ascertain whether the proposed Centre has an enabling policy and institutional environment, and verify if the scope, focus and orientation of the proposed Centre assures its technically-sound establishment.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM UNESCO TEAM'S MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA

4. Based on discussions with a wide range and level of stakeholders, as well as visits to a range of institutions, UNESCO concluded that the proposed Centre has a conducive environment for its successful and technically-sound establishment. Overall, it has a dynamic national and institutional environment that promotes openness, change and innovation, which strategically places quality at the centre of its educational programmes. It is also backed by the strong political commitment required to establish and sustain respect, credibility and excellence. The vision to move the economy from primary natural resource dependency to a knowledge-intensive natural resource-based modern and open economy appears to drive the changes in the education sector and the emphasis on quality and relevance in education. There is a sense of urgency to develop the human resource capacity to support the modernization, diversification and transition of the economy.

5. The integration of the two ministries responsible for basic education (one for girls' education and the other for boys) into one ministry will also undoubtedly harmonize and synergize the various efforts to improve education quality. Furthermore, increased cooperation between the Ministries of Higher and of Basic Education is developing, which is important to address the education quality challenges in a more holistic manner.

6. The Centre was originally conceived to cover education levels from kindergarten to 12. However, the Saudi Arabian authorities acknowledged the research evidence which demonstrates that the years before children start kindergarten are critically important for the level and equity of education quality and of effective learning. As such, the authorities accepted the suggestion that the Centre should have responsibility for enhancing their contribution to the early learning of children aged from 0 to 3.

7. Considering the complex inter-linkages of education quality at various levels of the education system, it was also agreed that the Centre should adopt a holistic approach to improving education quality. It was therefore agreed to drop the K-12 from the Centre's name and to rename it: **Regional Centre for Quality and Excellence in Education (RCQE)**.

8. At the same time, the Centre would not be set up to be self-contained, but rather utilize other existing national and regional institutional capacities to deliver on its mandate. To attain and sustain the integrity of a systemic and holistic approach, the Centre aims to have a very strong coordination and oversight role over the contributions of other institutions.

9. It was agreed that the Centre will not tie itself to any particular methodology, but will rather be flexible to allow for the application of contextually-relevant approaches based on best practices and the best evidence at the time. The Centre would be recognized by its objectives and goals rather than by a particular methodology, in order to accommodate the application of different methodologies and approaches.

10. The governance structure of the Centre will include an Advisory Committee foreseen to be established before the end of 2013. To ensure regional ownership, the Governing Board is envisaged to comprise members from other Arab States, with some representation of international bodies and/or experts. Design of the Centre's organizational and staffing structure, as well as preparations for starting the Centre's operations is also at an advanced stage.

11. The authorities reaffirmed their readiness to fully finance the Centre, and a budget of 50 million Saudi riyals (approximately US \$13 million) has been allocated for the start-up operations of the Centre.

12. The authorities are also committed to ensure equal, unrestricted and unfettered access to the Centre's activities for both males and females, in conformity with UNESCO's principles of gender equality and in compliance with relevant United Nations conventions, particularly CEDAW¹.

13. The draft agreement between UNESCO and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whose articles all conform to the model agreement contained in document 35 C/22 and Corr., has been prepared and can be consulted on the website of the Education Sector.

PROPOSED DECISION:

14. In light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 190 EX/Decision 18 Part II,
2. Having examined document 192 EX/15 Part II,
3. Expresses appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UNESCO for their continued collaboration towards the technically-sound establishment of the proposed centre, and takes note with satisfaction of the UNESCO team's report on progress achieved;
4. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 37th session, approve the establishment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of a Regional Centre for Quality and Excellence in Education under the auspices of UNESCO, and that it authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

¹ Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.



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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART III

ESTABLISHMENT IN SIRSI EL-LAYYAN, EGYPT, OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR LITERACY AND ADULT EDUCATION

SUMMARY

Following a proposal by the Arab Republic of Egypt to establish a Regional Centre for Adult Education (ASFEC) in Sirsi El-Layyan, Egypt as a UNESCO category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, a technical mission was undertaken in June 2013 to assess its feasibility. The evaluation of the proposal to establish a Centre was carried out in conformity with the criteria outlined in 35 C/Resolution 103 concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, and the guidance note for applying the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres contained in the Annex of document 190 EX/18 Part I.

This document has been prepared pursuant to the mission. It reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the Centre, and provides the rationale for Egypt's proposal. In accordance with the model agreement contained in document 35 C/22 and Corr., the draft agreement on this Centre has been drawn up between Egypt and UNESCO, and may be consulted on the website of the Education Sector.

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraph 13.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 16.

BACKGROUND

1. Literacy is the foundation for further learning and is a critical building block in the educational and developmental architecture of any nation. A basic human right, it has the potential to transform individual lives and create a more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world. Yet, about 16% of the world's population lacks basic literacy skills. As per the latest data, 774 million youth and adults in the world today cannot read and write. Impressive efforts made by countries and development partners over the last thirteen years after the EFA goals were set in 2000 at Dakar have resulted in increase in literacy levels. For example in the Arab States, adult literacy rates increased from 55% in 1990 to 67% in 2000 and 77% in 2011, and women's literacy rates also rose from 42% in 1990 to 56% in 2000 and to 68% in 2011. However, there are still 47.6 million illiterate youth and adults in the Arab States region and the projections for 2015 indicate that at least six countries in the region are at serious risk of not achieving the EFA Goal 4 by 2015.

2. Against this background, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt is proposing to establish its Regional Centre for Adult Education at Sirs El-Layyan as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, with the aim of enhancing the capacities of countries in the region to achieve significant progress on the literacy agenda.

3. UNESCO's ties with the Government of Egypt in relation to this Centre date back to November 1951, with the decision of the 28th session of the Executive Board to accept Egypt's offer of establishing the second UNESCO international fundamental education centre (ref. 28 EX/Decision 7.2.2). On 25 April 1952, an agreement was signed between UNESCO and the Government of Egypt to establish an international centre for basic education in Sirs El-Layyan. UNESCO maintained official ties and organized joint activities with the Centre until the end of 1982, when the Centre changed status and became a national entity under the management of the Egyptian Government.

4. The current proposal aims to strengthen the Centre's current activities and transform it into a regional hub of expertise in literacy and lifelong learning to empower local communities in Egypt and the Arab States region.

5. In compliance with 35 C/Resolution 103 concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, and the guidance note for applying the integrated comprehensive strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (ref: 190 EX/18 Part I Annex), a study visit to prepare the feasibility study for establishment of this Centre was conducted from 22 to 26 June 2013. It comprised visits to various centres and meetings with various experts and specialists connected with literacy and adult education in Egypt.

6. This document outlines and analyses the background, scope, feasibility and foreseeable implications of the creation of the proposed Centre, especially with regard to benefits to Member States in the Arab region and the Centre's relevance to UNESCO's programmes.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL

7. Objectives: The Centre aims to develop the capacities of Arab States to formulate policies, prepare plans, and design and implement literacy and adult education programmes within a lifelong learning framework. It also aims to catalyze actions in the Arab region to scale up literacy action and increase the literacy rates to reach the EFA goals and create a more inclusive, sustainable literate society.

8. Functions: The Centre will achieve these objectives through generating a structured body of knowledge in key areas of literacy and adult education and will organize its activities under five major categories: (i) research and development; (ii) training and capacity development; (iii) systems and quality assurance approaches; (iv) recognition of performance and excellence

among educators and learners and (v) the creation, management and dissemination of knowledge on effective and innovative approaches to improving literacy and adult education.

9. Legal status and structure: The Egyptian Government has agreed to take all necessary measures, including revising the current laws and regulations governing the Regional Centre for Adult Education, that may be required for the latter's transformation into a Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The Centre will enjoy the personality and legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions as a public institution established under national legislation. Under the authority of the Ministry of Education, the centre will have autonomy to create and implement its own programmes and activities. The Centre shall function under the auspices of UNESCO but will be independent of it. In addition, UNESCO will not be legally responsible for the Centre, nor bear any responsibilities or liabilities of any kind, be they managerial, financial or otherwise.

Its structure will involve:

- (i) **Governing Board:** a body in charge of guiding, supervising and monitoring the Centre's financial and thematic activities as well as matters of policy, direction and priorities. The activities of the Centre will be planned and supervised by the Governing Board. It will be a body with adequate representation of all key stakeholders, including the member-states served by the Centre.
- (ii) **Executive committee:** an expert body to be set up by the Governing Board.
- (iii) **Secretariat:** a body in charge of running the operations of the Centre.

10. Financial matters: The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt will cover the costs of the facilities of the Centre, including equipment, utilities, communications, secretariat staff and maintenance of infrastructure, mission costs arising from UNESCO membership on the Governing Board of the Centre, and costs for evaluations related to the process of renewal of agreements.

11. Areas of cooperation with UNESCO: The Centre will support UNESCO in its effort to accelerate progress in literacy and adult education in Arab countries, and provide assistance to Arab ministries of education in developing comprehensive literacy and adult education policies and programmes. The Centre will serve as a regional hub for enhancing expertise on literacy and adult education in the Arab States and contribute to UNESCO's work in advancing the global literacy agenda. UNESCO will provide technical support required for the enhanced capacity and sustainability of the Centre in view of its new mandate to function as a regional hub of literacy and adult education, and will assist the Centre by establishing linkages with other institutions and agencies and include the Centre in various literacy, adult education and lifelong learning initiatives of the Organization.

REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL IMPACT OF THE CENTRE

12. For 30 years since inception in 1952, the Centre was one of the two regional Centres set up by UNESCO. Originally called the Arab States Fundamental Education Center (ASFEC), it has gained a wide experience in literacy and adult education and can build on this experience to play an important role in catalyzing literacy action in the Arab States. The Centre will strive for regional impact by assisting countries of the Arab region in their literacy efforts by designing relevant programmes, by creating platforms for mutual learning, providing impetus to innovative ideas and transfer of experience, knowledge and promising practices in literacy and adult education.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

13. In accordance with 35 C/Resolution 103, UNESCO shall not provide financial support for administrative or programmatic costs. Future foreseen administrative costs for UNESCO linked to

the operation of the Centre, if established as a category 2 centre, will be related to liaising with the Centre to provide technical assistance, as needed, and enabling coordination between networks of related institutions and agencies.

CONCLUSION

14. Supporting Member States in the Arab States region in their development of literacy and adult education policies, and in the implementation of literacy and adult education programmes is critical for attaining the education for all goals, as well as achieving UNESCO's vision of moving towards a more literate world. The proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for literacy and adult education in Egypt as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO satisfactorily meets the principles as outlined in 35 C/Resolution 103.

15. A draft agreement, prepared through consultations between UNESCO and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, provides more specific details about the legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed Centre.

PROPOSED DECISION

16. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to take the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103, and taking note of the important contributions of category 2 institutes and centres to UNESCO's programme priorities and their potential international or regional impact,
2. Recognizing the importance of literacy as a developmental imperative,
3. Having examined document 192 EX/15 Part III containing the proposal for the establishment in Egypt of a Regional Centre for Literacy and Adult Education as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt;
5. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study;
6. Deems the considerations and proposals contained in document 192 EX/15 Part III to be such as to meet the requirements needed for UNESCO to grant its auspices to the regional centre;
7. Recommends that the General Conference at its 37th session, approve the establishment in Sirs El-Layyan, Egypt of the Regional Centre for Literacy and Adult Education, and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding draft agreement.



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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART IV

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN CASTELLET I LA GORNAL (SPAIN) OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ON MEDITERRANEAN BIOSPHERE RESERVES, TWO COASTLINES UNITED BY THEIR CULTURE AND NATURE

SUMMARY

Following a proposal by the Kingdom of Spain to establish an International Centre on Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, Two Coastlines United by their Culture and Nature under the auspices of UNESCO in Castellet I la Gornal, Spain, a UNESCO mission was undertaken in February 2013 as a part of the evaluation of the feasibility of establishing the proposed Centre, which would specialize in and provide support to international cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development within the context of Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves.

This document contains the main findings of the feasibility study for the proposed Centre. A draft agreement has been drawn up in compliance with the standard model agreement contained in document 35 C/22 and is available on the Natural Sciences website. The evaluation of the Centre was done in conformity with the comprehensive integrated strategy document of 35 C/22 and Corr. approved by the 35th session of the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103. Financial and administrative implications are dealt with in paragraphs 6, 9 and 10.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Decision proposed in paragraph 16.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Kingdom of Spain has proposed the establishment of an International Centre on Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, Two Coastlines United by their Culture and Nature in Castellet I Gornal, Spain, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. In August 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and its Autonomous Organism for National Parks (OAPN), formally requested the Director-General through the Permanent Delegation of Spain that UNESCO carry out a feasibility study for the creation of a category 2 centre at the Castellet Castle of the Abertis Foundation, where this future Centre would be located. The institute's main objective will be to serve as a model for cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean and, thus, provide an excellent platform for cooperation on all issues related to biosphere reserves for all countries concerned. The institute will serve as a platform for training and transferring advanced knowledge on environmental and societal issues between developed and developing countries and facilitate partnerships between these sites.

2. The Mediterranean is, without a doubt, one of the most unique regions on the planet in terms of being home to and supporting an extraordinary range of cultural and natural environments, as well as sharing a history spanning several thousands of years with its bordering countries. This historical evolution is in turn one of the most vital factors in the blossoming of these different cultures, of the biodiversity of which the region, as well as of the conservation of its natural systems, making it a source of keys for its management. The UNESCO/MAB Biosphere reserves are areas in which conservation and sustainable management practices for natural resources and cultural heritage can be tested out, while at the same time they are integrating the participation of the local population. Their common philosophy and the diversity of individual situations support the active exchange of experiences within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

3. However, the countries bordering the Mediterranean belong to different regional networks within the context of the geographic regions defined by UNESCO. Thus, the biosphere reserves along the Northern Mediterranean coastline from Spain to Turkey and including Israel are part of the EuroMAB Network, while Arab countries are grouped into the ArabMAB Network and the Maghreb region is associated with other African countries in the AfriMAB Network. Furthermore, Spain is part of the IberoMAB Network (the regional MAB Network for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Iberian Peninsula) and REDBIOS (Biosphere Reserve Network for the East-Atlantic) Biosphere Reserve Network.

4. Based on the work of the Spanish MAB National Committee and Spain's 45 biosphere Reserves (July 2013) and the Abertis Foundation, it was proposed in August 2012 to establish an International Centre for Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, Two Coastlines United by their Culture and Nature under the auspices of UNESCO. The Spanish MAB National Committee, the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and its Autonomous Organism for National Parks (OAPN) and the Programme Specialist of the Ecological Sciences and Biodiversity Section of Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO, conducted a mission to Spain in February 2013 to assess the feasibility of this Centre.

CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

Overview of the proposal

5. The Centre will cooperate with UNESCO's Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences in developing activities in the area of biosphere reserves within the framework of the MAB Programme, and in contributing to UNESCO's actions related biosphere reserves in the Mediterranean. It would serve as a high-level centre for dialogue among the Mediterranean cultures, fully in accordance with UNESCO's priorities for promoting scientific knowledge and exchange, education and public awareness. The main emphasis of the centre's work would be to conduct training programmes in cooperation with all networks mentioned in paragraph 3 and in the

Mediterranean realm as a whole. Moreover, the Centre should promote regional cooperation and exchange of experience in topics related to the MAB Programme.

6. **Structure and legal status:** The Centre shall be established in accordance with laws and regulations of Spain. The Centre shall enjoy on the territory of Spain the legal status and legal capacity necessary for exercising its functions, in particular the following legal capacity: to contract, to institute legal proceedings and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

7. **Financial matters:** The Government of Spain will provide all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre through the Abertis Foundation under the Protocol of Collaboration signed between OAPN and the Abertis Foundation on 11 July 2011 (Ref. 1018-110851-00). For this, the Abertis Foundation has agreed, in accordance with the Government of Spain, to provide approximately €210,000 per year for facilities and salary costs, including equipment, utilities, communications, maintenance of infrastructure and salaries for secretariat staff. The Centre's activities, such as the session of the Governing Board and scientific research projects, shall be funded from these sources. The Government of Spain, the Abertis Foundation, and the Centre will cooperate in order to mobilize additional extrabudgetary resources for the activities of the Centre. UNESCO will not provide financial support for administrative or institutional purposes, activities or projects.

8. **Objectives and functions:** The overall aim of UNESCO category 2 centre El Castellet i la Gornal is to establish a place for the dissemination and creation of knowledge about sustainable development and biosphere reserves to be at the service of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB).

(a) Objectives

- (i) To promote actions carried out up to now within the above-mentioned networks as a source of knowledge and experience in the Mediterranean area.
- (ii) To collect, structure, synthesize and disseminate the experience acquired by biosphere reserves in the Mediterranean area, especially the Spanish ones, but also from other reserves in coastal countries and in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Also, when appropriate, from other networks of protected areas at both national and international levels.
- (iii) To strengthen knowledge and technology transfer within the Mediterranean context for the sustainable development and the management of natural resources and environments.
- (iv) To manage knowledge from such experiences in order to build a solid documentary database at the service of biosphere reserves that holds the following data: data from management practice, scientific and academic fields that collaborate with biosphere reserves management and from social players in such biosphere reserves.
- (v) To stimulate exchanges between Mediterranean biosphere reserves and facilitate their relationship with other networks. And to create tools for exchanging previously acquired knowledge through dissemination, informative and training activities and demonstrations, following in the footsteps of the work of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- (vi) To help in the training of managers, scientific teams and researchers interested in biosphere reserve management.
- (v) To encourage the introduction of models for sustainable resource use and the conservation of cultural models that will make them viable.

- (vi) To establish and promote knowledge and experiences flow among Mediterranean biosphere reserves, taking into account the institutions that support them as well.
 - (vii) To promote knowledge-sharing, and to create a bridge between the scientific communities, decision makers and the general public in the field of biodiversity protection integrated with sustainable development.
 - (viii) To make available to the World Network the services of the UNESCO category 2 centre El Castellet i la Gornal and to increase the visibility of the MAB Programme and its presence in policy decisions related to sustainable development.
 - (ix) To increase the MAB Programme's presence in global policies, especially in the Mediterranean area, and to reinforce its positive role in North-South relations.
- b) Functions:
- (i) To determine and apply procedures to collect the most significant knowledge on biosphere reserves and other relevant networks of protected areas at both national and international levels.
 - (ii) To process collected knowledge so that it can be presented in different ways and can be used to elaborate different communication material.
 - (iii) To produce and disseminate appropriate material for different beneficiaries and for the media used.
 - (iv) To celebrate meetings and events which consider: the exchange of experiences, the systematization of knowledge, supporting the decision-making related to biosphere reserves, the establishment of agreements in order to develop cooperation projects, mainly in the Mediterranean realm.
 - (v) Reinforce, through intellectual creation, a global dimension of the MAB Programme and of biosphere reserves, highlighting their links to the Rio+20 Conference resolutions, "The future we want", and to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals

9. **Areas of cooperation with UNESCO:** The Centre will support the implementation of relevant regional and international activities foreseen in UNESCO's programmes and budget documents and facilitate the linkage to relevant regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UNESCO Member States. In particular, the Centre will search cooperation with UNESCO MAB regional and subregional networks, such as the EuroMAB, IberoMAB, REDBIOS and the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves.

10. The Centre will be housed within the Headquarters of the Abertis Foundation in the Castillo de Castellet, Plaza del Castillo s/n, 08729 Castellet i la Gornal, Spain. It has very good facilities, sufficient personnel and is well connected to the scientific community through a direct relation to the University of Barcelona, Spain. Full financial support for its functioning is provided by the Abertis Foundation, and it will operate in direct cooperation with the MAB National Committee of Spain located at the Autonomous Organism for National Parks (OAPN), which is part of the National Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Environment.

11. With regard to all legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed Centre, the Draft Agreement addresses these issues. This Draft Agreement on the proposed International Centre on Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, Two Coastlines United by their Culture and Nature, under the auspices of UNESCO has been elaborated through a process of consultation between the authorities of the Spanish Government and the UNESCO Secretariat.

Relationship between the activities of the Centre and UNESCO's objectives and programmes

12. UNESCO's MAB Programme started in 1971 and has a long-standing involvement in programmes for nature conservation and sustainable development. Particularly, through the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), the MAB Programme has made a substantial contribution to improve the living conditions in its Member States. This long-term commitment of UNESCO generated global participation in the Programme by establishing 621 biosphere reserves in 117 countries (July 2013), 12 of them transboundary sites including two sites in Spain. Spain has a long tradition in supporting the MAB Programme. Particularly through hosting the second World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Seville in 1995, which gave birth to the Seville Strategy and the World Framework of Biosphere reserves, and the hosting of the third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, which elaborated the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves 2008-2013, Spain gave an unconditional support to the MAB Programme. Moreover, Spain has established up to now 45 biosphere reserves and is the main sponsor of the IberoMAB and the REDBIOS Networks. Joining forces with the Abertis Foundation for the establishment of this Centre, the MAB National Committee of Spain is associating the private sector to a governmental institution and an United Nations agency. The establishment of this Centre will highlight the relationship between biosphere reserves throughout the Mediterranean region, which is an innovative interregional approach within the MAB Programme.

13. The functions and the vision of the proposed Centre fall directly within the Strategic Objective 3 of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) for 2008-2013, to "Leverage scientific knowledge for sustainable development and management of natural resources". The proposed Centre will enable the MAB Programme of UNESCO in cooperation with MAB Spain to foster training and exchange of information within the scientific and managerial community that handles with biosphere reserves within the Mediterranean realm. All the information and training that will be implemented by the Centre will be published in electronic and printed media that address specifically decision-makers, biosphere reserve managers, technical personnel of biosphere reserves and their scientific community. All information generated will provide basic input to the broad management of natural resources linked with sustainable development.

14. The activities implemented by the proposed Centre will be linked with other UNESCO Intergovernmental Programmes, such as the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Geosciences Programme (IGCP), as well other United Nations agencies, such as FAO, UNU and UNEP. Focusing on the relationships between people and their environment in the Mediterranean, the Centre's mission will substantially coordinate all activities related to biosphere reserves in the Mediterranean region and disseminate respective information about the importance of the cross-roads of culture and nature on the two borders of the Mediterranean.

15. Results expected from UNESCO's contribution:

- (a) Role of the Centre in the implementation of the Organization's programmes: The Centre fits perfectly well with UNESCO's objectives in general and with those of the MAB programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves in particular. The MAB National Committee of Spain as a privileged partner of this Centre has demonstrated throughout the last two decades strong commitment in the implementation of the programme's activities both in national and in the international level. This Centre will reinforce these initiatives by providing financial and logistic support to the MAB Programme on both side of the Mediterranean.
- (b) Potential impact of UNESCO's contribution on the Centre's activities: The assistance of UNESCO will provide long-standing expertise to the centre and support in the beginning the establishment and stimulate the first operations of the Centre. Afterwards, the Centre will operate totally in cooperation with the MAB national

Committee of Spain as main partner. In addition, UNESCO will connect the Centre's activities in the beginning with all biosphere reserves networks, such as IberoMAB, EuroMAB, ArabMAB, REDBIOS and the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves. UNESCO will also establish links to other international organizations and relevant scientific institutions that will guarantee an essential part for the success of the Centre.

16. **Risk:** The risks that UNESCO would incur in the establishment of the Centre would be very low, due in the first place to the unconditional support of the MAB National Committee of Spain and in the second place due to the full financial and logistic support from the Abertis Foundation in providing the necessary infrastructure, facilities and specialized personnel.

Proposed draft decision

17. In the light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 190 EX/18 Part VI,
2. Welcomes the proposal of Spain to establish the Centre for Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, Two Coastlines United by their Culture and Nature, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the Comprehensive Integrated Strategy approved by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103;
3. Recommends that the General Conference at its 37th session approve the establishment of the Centre for Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, Two Coastlines United by their Culture and Nature in Castellet i la Gornal, Spain, as a category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO, and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement.



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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART V

ESTABLISHMENT, IN DEHRADUN, INDIA, OF A CENTRE FOR WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

SUMMARY

The present document contains a report by the Director-General assessing the feasibility of establishing at the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun (India) a Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia-Pacific region as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

It is accompanied by an annex containing the provisions of the proposed draft agreement between the Government of India and UNESCO, which deviate from the model agreement (see documents 35 C/22 and Corr.).

Financial and administrative implications: see Section II, paragraph 12.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 19.

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 26 September 2012, the Government of India submitted to the Director-General of UNESCO a "Request for Action" towards the establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Natural World Heritage for the Asia-Pacific region at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Dehradun, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. Immediately after, a workshop was organized in Delhi by the Indian Ministries of Environment and Forests (MOEF) and of Culture, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, to present the proposal to representatives of some States Parties of the South Asia subregion, as well as other partners. The participants in the workshop welcomed the initiative and made a number of useful suggestions regarding possible future activities and scope.

2. In December 2012, a feasibility study was undertaken by a UNESCO expert, including a mission to India, to assess the proposal in the light of the requirements for category 2 centres as set out in the integrated comprehensive strategy (35 C/22 and Corr.).

3. On 18 July 2013, the Ambassador of India to UNESCO submitted a finalized version of the draft agreement between the Government of India and UNESCO regarding the establishment, of the proposed Centre.

4. The proposed Centre is intended to improve the implementation of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (hereafter the 1972 Convention) in the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on natural heritage conservation, in accordance to the Article 5 (e) of the 1972 Convention, which emphasizes the importance for Member States "to encourage the establishment or development of national and regional centres for training in the protection, conservation, and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage".

5. Natural heritage conservation in the Asia-Pacific region has been facing many challenges in recent years as a result of (i) extreme pressure on natural ecosystems due to the high density of the population; (ii) threats of catastrophic disasters; (iii) constant economic growth and persistent poverty. As shown by the outcome of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting (2012) on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific, capacity-building for World Heritage conservation and management remains a key concern in the region. In particular, very few countries are equipped with proper natural heritage training facilities.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

6. In this context, the overall objective of the proposed Centre is to strengthen the implementation of the 1972 Convention in the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on natural heritage conservation issues. In particular, the Centre would aim to:

- contribute to the strengthening of capacities in the management of natural World Heritage in the region;
- contribute to achieving a more balanced representation of properties from Asia and the Pacific on the World Heritage List;
- raise awareness among the general public and the youth in particular of the importance of natural World Heritage and the need to protect it; and
- foster international cooperation on natural World Heritage initiatives.

7. To achieve the above objectives, the Centre will perform the following functions:
 - conduct short- and long-term capacity-building activities, including workshops, courses and international conferences;
 - undertake research on identified priority issues related to natural World Heritage protection and management, with particular focus on models of community participation;
 - develop and maintain a documentation centre accessible to the public on natural World Heritage issues relevant to the region;
 - implement programmes for the exchange of experts with other regional resource centres and facilitate the development of a World Heritage site managers' regional network; and coordinate its activities with the States Parties to the 1972 Convention, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies of the 1972 Convention and the network of existing category 2 centres related to World Heritage.
8. In terms of its legal status, the Centre would be established, under Indian law, as an integral part of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), which is an autonomous institution of the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), and through which it would have the legal capacity to contract, institute legal proceedings and acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property. The Centre will not have its own Constitutive Act, but the Constitutive Act of the Wildlife Institute of India, which will be modified to include provisions describing a governing structure for the Centre allowing UNESCO representation within its governing body.
9. The Agreement submitted by the Government of India specifies that the Governing Council for the Centre will be composed of:
 - the Chairperson and all the members of the Governing Body of the Wildlife Institute of India. The Chairperson and Member Secretary of the Governing Body of the Wildlife Institute of India will also act as such in the Governing Council;
 - a representative of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, as an *ex-officio* member;
 - a representative of a State Party to the 1972 Convention from the Asia-Pacific region;
 - the Director-General of UNESCO or his/her representative; and
 - the Dean/Director of the Centre, as an *ex-officio* member;
 - Representatives of other State Parties, of international governmental organizations and of international non-governmental organizations active in the field of natural World Heritage may be invited, if needed, as observers to the meetings of the Governing Council.
10. The Governing Council shall:
 - approve the initial development strategy and working methods of the Centre;
 - approve the long- and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
 - approve the annual work plan and budget of the Centre, including the staffing table, infrastructure requirements and operating costs;
 - approve the annual reports submitted by the Dean/Director of the Centre;

- adopt the rules and regulations and determining the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;
- appoint committees or sub-committees for the conduct of any business of the Centre or for tendering advice in any matter pertaining to the Centre;
- delegate any of its powers to the Dean/Director of the Centre as agreed upon by consensus;
- take action as may be necessary, incidental or conducive to achieving the objectives of the Centre; and
- examine the annual reports of the Centre, including the biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives.

11. As regards the personnel of the Centre, the proposal submitted by the Government of India provides for a Secretariat, consisting of: a Dean/Director, appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Body in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO; and the staff necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.

12. The Centre, which would operate within the premises of the WII, would be primarily financed by the MOEF, which would provide the financial resources for its operating costs and activities and also make available the necessary staff, office space, equipment and facilities. No financial assistance is sought from UNESCO.

13. The request for action submitted by the Indian Government provides a list of activities that would be implemented in an initial phase of operations of the Centre (2013-2016), including training programmes, research, conferences, the establishment of an information repository, collaboration with other States Parties to the 1972 Convention, the setting up of a fellowship scheme and the dissemination of information. No specific details are provided as to the associated financial and human resources.

III. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED

14. Drawing on the existing capacities and infrastructure of the WWI, an internationally renowned centre of excellence in wildlife science and training, and through the financial support provided by the Government of India, the proposed Centre would significantly contribute to the purpose and strategic objectives of the 1972 Convention, as outlined in the "Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention 2012-2022", adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention in resolution 18 GA 11 (Paris, 2011). It would do so by addressing the specific needs identified within the region through the second cycle of Periodic Reporting (2012). The Centre would be also in line with the "World Heritage Strategy for Capacity-Building", adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its thirty-fifth session by its Decision 35 COM 9B (Paris, 2011).

15. In this respect, the feasibility study confirmed the great potential for the establishment of the proposed Centre, which would fill a gap in the region and would benefit from the extraordinary facilities and long experience of the WII, including at the international level. The study also noted that a more comprehensive medium-term plan for the operations of the Centre, including details on the financial and human resources, the timeframe for implementation and potential regional partners, will be further elaborated.

16. In terms of cooperation with UNESCO, the proposed Centre would join the network of the eight existing category 2 centres on World Heritage, complementing their areas of expertise (none of them focuses on natural world heritage at present). It would assist the World Heritage Centre in

implementing its programmes in the region, notably the action plans developed by the relevant States Parties as a result of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting.

17. Concerning the legal status and governance, the proposal submitted by the Government of India is not fully in conformity with the requirements as specified in the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres (document 35 C/22 and Corr.), notably with regard to the legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions. This is because, according to the proposal submitted by the Government of India, the Centre will neither have its own legal personality nor its own Constitutive Act. The Centre will form an integral part of the WII. Moreover, not all Member States of UNESCO that have sent notification to the Centre of their intent to participate in the activities of the Centre will be able to serve on the Governing Council. Membership of the Governing Council will be limited, with respect to Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO, to “one representative of a State Party to the World Heritage Convention from the Asia-Pacific region”. Representatives of other Member States may be invited as observers.

18. In conclusion, the Director-General welcomes the proposal for the establishment of a Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia-Pacific region in Dehradun, India, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. Establishing the proposed Centre at the WII could be of great benefit to UNESCO, to Member States in the region, and to the international community. The Director-General also considers that the above-mentioned divergences between the suggested legal set up of the proposed Centre and the relevant policies established for this type of institutions as approved by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103 and correspondent integrated comprehensive strategy (35 C/22 and Corr.), would not prevent the Centre from contributing to UNESCO’s objectives in line with the spirit of the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres (35 C/22 and Corr.). Therefore, the high degree of commitment made by the Government of India to provide the necessary resources and direction to ensure the functioning of the Centre is to be welcomed.

IV. ACTION EXPECTED OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

19. In the light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the proposal submitted by the Government of India for the establishment of a Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia-Pacific region in Dehradun (India) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and welcoming the results of the consultations held so far between the Secretariat and the Indian authorities,
2. Noting that Article 5 (e) of the 1972 World Heritage Convention “encourages the establishment of national and regional centres for training in the protection, conservation, and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage”,
3. Aware of the importance of international co-operation for strengthening the capacity of States Parties to promote and implement the World Heritage Convention in the Asia-Pacific region,
4. Having examined the feasibility study prepared by the Secretariat in document 192 EX/15 Part V in the light of the Guidelines and Criteria for Category 2 Institutes and Centres approved in 35 C/Resolution 103 (35 C/22 and Corr.),
5. Takes note of the divergences between, on the one hand, the standard “Model Agreement between UNESCO and a Member State concerned regarding an institute or centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2)”, approved by the General

Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103 and annexed to document 35 C/22 and Corr., and, on the other hand, the proposed Draft Agreement contained in the Annex of the present document;

6. Considers that these divergences would not prevent the proposed centre from contributing to UNESCO's objectives in line with the spirit of the comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres (document 35 C/22 and Corr.) adopted by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103;
7. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 37th session, approve the establishment in India of a Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

ANNEX

PROVISIONS DEVIATING FROM THE MODEL AGREEMENT

Article 4 –Legal status

...

4.2 The Centre shall be part of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), which is an autonomous institution of the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests, through which it will have the legal capacity:

- to contract;
- to institute legal proceedings;
- to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

Article 5 – Constitutive Act

The Centre will not have its own Constitutive Act, but the Constitutive Act of the Wildlife Institute of India that will be modified to include provisions describing precisely a governing structure for the Centre allowing UNESCO representation within its Governing Body.

Article 7– Governing Council

1. There shall be a Governing Council for the Centre, with composition as follows:

- The Chairperson and all the members of the Governing Body of the Wildlife Institute of India. The Chairperson and Member Secretary of the Governing Body of the Wildlife Institute of India will also act as such in the Governing Council;
- A representative of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, as an *ex-officio* member;
- A representative of a State Party to the World Heritage Convention from the Asia Pacific region;
- The Director-General of UNESCO or his/her representative;
- The Dean/Director of the Centre, as an *ex-officio* member.

Representatives of other State Parties, of International Governmental Organisations and of International Non-governmental organization working in the field of natural heritage may be invited, if needed, as observers to the meetings of the Governing Council.

2. The Governing Council shall:

- approve the initial development strategy and working methods of the Centre;
- approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
- approve the annual work plan and budget of the Centre, including the staffing table, infrastructure requirements and operating costs;
- approve the annual reports submitted by the Dean/Director of the Centre;
- adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;

- appoint committees or sub-committees for the conduct of any business of the Centre or for tendering advice in any matter pertaining to the Centre;
 - delegate any of its powers to the Dean/Director of the Centre as agreed upon by consensus; and
 - take action as may be necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objectives of the Centre;
 - examine the annual reports of the Centre, including the biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives.
3. The Governing Council shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year. It shall meet in extraordinary session if summoned by the Chairperson, either at his/her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO, or at the request of a majority of its members.
4. The Governing Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For its first meeting, the procedure shall be established by the Government of India and UNESCO.

(...)

(...) Articles 1, 2, 3 and 8-18 are standard Agreement articles....



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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART VI

**ESTABLISHMENT IN ALGIERS, ALGERIA, OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR
SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFRICA**

SUMMARY

Following the proposal by the Government of Algeria to establish a regional centre for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Africa, under UNESCO's auspices, a UNESCO mission visited Algeria in May 2013 to assess the feasibility of establishing the proposed Centre.

A draft agreement has been drawn up between UNESCO and the Government of Algeria in accordance with the model agreement contained in document 35 C/22 and Corr. and may be consulted on the [website](#) of the Culture Sector. The feasibility study was carried out in conformity with the integrated comprehensive strategy set out in document 35 C/22 and Corr. and approved by the General Conference at its 35th session in 35 C/Resolution 103.

The financial and administrative implications for UNESCO are presented in paragraph 12.

Action to be taken by the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 12.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. At the 33rd session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the Government of Algeria proposed the establishment of a regional centre for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Africa as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. This document presents the background and an overview of the proposal and its feasibility, and the foreseeable implications of the establishment of the proposed Centre, in particular its advantages for Member States in the region, and its relevance to UNESCO programmes.
2. Algeria, the first country to ratify the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter “the Convention”), contributed actively to the reflection that led to the drawing-up and the drafting itself of the Convention. Further, it began to implement the Convention in 1998, creating legislation, institutions, a safeguarding system and a national database for the intangible cultural heritage on its territory. The 48 local departments of the Ministry of Culture contribute to the implementation of the Convention at the national level. The holders of many practices and traditions have formed associations, in accordance with the Law on Associations (Law 12-06 of 12 January 2012). Arabic and Amazigh (the latter since 2002) are recognized by the Constitution as official languages of Algeria.
3. Algeria has already ensured that a number of African countries intend to join the centre. The centre will be able to rely on the cooperation of the National Centre for Prehistoric, Anthropological and Historical Research, and other Algerian academic and research institutions.
4. The centre will assist the Secretariat with its capacity-building efforts in Africa, by supporting training and support activities, mobilizing and coordinating different institutions and organizations, and encouraging the sharing of experiences and expertise in the whole of Africa.
5. Paragraph 88 of the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention encourages States Parties “to participate in activities pertaining to regional cooperation, including those of category 2 centres for intangible cultural heritage that are or will be established under the auspices of UNESCO”. In order to assist the establishment of category 2 centres in the field of the intangible cultural heritage, and to promote cooperation between them, the Secretariat of the Convention has established annual meetings which bring together all the centres concerned, so that their programmes may be planned in line with the Organization’s strategy and priorities, and that they may benefit from each other’s experiences and strengthen synergies between their activities. To date, six category 2 centres for intangible cultural heritage have been established, in Bulgaria, China, Japan, Peru, Republic of Korea and Iran (Islamic Republic of). A seventh centre, which covers intangible heritage among other things, has also been established in Brazil. Africa is not yet covered. The centre could fill this gap and facilitate South-South cooperation in Africa in the field of the intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding.

OVERVIEW AND STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

Objectives and functions of the centre

6. The centre’s main objective is to contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives and expected results of UNESCO’s programme in relation to the lines of action in the field of the intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in Africa. To this end, the centre will strive to strengthen national capacities for the identification and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in the region’s countries that express the desire to take part in the centre’s activities. The centre will also be tasked with strengthening cooperation between the countries in the region in the field of the intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding.
7. The range of the centre’s functions may be summarized as follows:
 - (a) to encourage States in the region to adopt policy measures and legislative and administrative measures as provided for in Article 13 of the Convention;

- (b) to organize activities to (i) strengthen national capacities of countries in the region in the fields of identification, documentation, developing inventories and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present on their territory, in accordance with the Convention and its Operational Directives, and (ii) assist these countries in conserving and digitizing multimedia data concerning this heritage;
- (c) to stimulate and organize cooperation in the exchange of experiences, expertise and information between countries in the region, particularly in regard to the intangible cultural heritage found in two or more of these countries;
- (d) to facilitate networking among practitioners, communities, experts, officials, centres of expertise, research institutes, museums, archives, and other organizations and institutions active in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage at the regional, subregional and national levels;
- (e) to contribute to a better understanding of the intangible cultural heritage at the local, national, subregional and regional levels, and to raise awareness among the general public, especially the younger generation, of the importance of the intangible cultural heritage, including by means of publications.

8. The activities necessary to achieve these objectives and functions will be planned and implemented in consultation with UNESCO.

9. The centre will be established by executive decree, in accordance with Law 88-04 of 12 January 1988, as an independent legal entity belonging to the category of industrial and commercial public entities (EPIC), which provides for a considerable degree of financial autonomy. The centre will enjoy, on the territory of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the status and legal capacity needed to exercise its functions.

10. The centre's structure is defined by the draft agreement and will include a governing board, whose membership is defined in Article 7 of the draft agreement, and a Secretariat. The governing board may delegate to an executive committee such authority as it considers necessary.

11. The Government, through the Algerian Ministry of Culture, will take the necessary measures to ensure that the centre receives the financial resources needed to work – for the first six years the Government guarantees an annual sum of 550 million Algerian dinars (equivalent to approximately US \$7 million as at July 2013). It is planned that States in the region that are involved in the centre will contribute according to their means. UNESCO will not be called on to provide financial support for administrative or institutional purposes.

12. There are no foreseeable regular financial or administrative implications for UNESCO, but the Organization may offer ad hoc technical or administrative assistance in the establishment of the centre. It is also foreseen that UNESCO may involve the centre in the execution of activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in the region. In no case may a contribution by UNESCO or cooperation with the Organization take place without provision having been made in the Programme and Budget of UNESCO. In the case of temporary exchanges of staff between UNESCO and the centre, the staff members concerned shall remain on the payroll of their original organization. Article 12 of the draft agreement provides that the costs of the periodic evaluation of the centre prior to its renewal every six years will be covered by the Government.

Feasibility

13. An evaluation of the proposal presented by the Government shows that the centre is feasible:

- (a) The establishment of the centre conforms to the objectives and programmes of UNESCO and the centre would contribute to the implementation of the Convention.

Further, UNESCO's institutional support is useful in encouraging its development on the international level.

- (b) The unwavering support shown by the Algerian Government for the establishment of the centre is a favourable condition, as is the fact that it has undertaken to assume the running and staff costs of the centre, while conferring on it the legal status needed to function.
- (c) The institutional structure proposed for the centre is in keeping with the guidelines set out in document 35 C/22 and Corr.
- (d) As provided in Article 8 (e) of the draft proposal, the governing board of the centre will send to UNESCO's governing bodies every two years a report on the centre's contribution to the achievement of the Organization's objectives. Furthermore, every six years, the centre will be evaluated prior to its possible renewal.

For the above-mentioned reasons, the risks to which UNESCO will be exposed with the establishment of the Centre are low.

14. The Director-General welcomes the Algerian authorities' proposal to establish such a centre. She takes note of the fact that Algeria may make the appropriate expertise available to the centre, and that the Algerian Ministry of Culture affirms its ability to provide the infrastructure required for its working, and that its objectives and functions will have the aim of contributing to the Organization's strategic objectives and serving the interests of African countries in the field of the intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding.

15. A draft agreement whose articles all conform to the model agreement contained in document 35 C/22 and Corr. has been drafted by UNESCO and the Government of Algeria; it may be consulted on the website of the Culture Sector.

Proposed draft decision

16. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to consider a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 35 C/Resolution 103 and paragraph 88 of the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
2. Having examined document 192 EX/15 Part VI,
3. Welcomes with satisfaction the Government of Algeria's proposal to establish a regional centre for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Africa under the auspices of UNESCO, in accordance with the integrated comprehensive strategy and the guidelines for the establishment of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), annexed to document 35 C/22 and Corr. and approved by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103;
4. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 37th session, approve the establishment in Algeria of a regional centre for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Africa under the auspices of UNESCO, and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.



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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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PARIS, 10 September 2013
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Item 15 of the provisional agenda

CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART VI

**ESTABLISHMENT IN ALGIERS, ALGERIA, OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR
SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFRICA**

CORRIGENDUM

The last sentence of paragraph 2 of document 192 EX/15 Part VI should read as follows:

Arabic and Amazigh (the latter since 2002) are recognized by the Constitution as national languages of Algeria.



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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART VIII

**ESTABLISHMENT IN OREGON, USA, OF AN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND CONFLICT-SENSITIVE REPORTING (IIDCSR)**

SUMMARY

This document presents the conclusions and recommendations of the feasibility study undertaken by the Director-General at the request of the Government of the United States of America concerning the creation of the Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict-Sensitive Reporting at the University of Oregon as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2). The annexes to the present document include the draft agreement to be signed between the Government of the United States of America and UNESCO, as well as a Joint Statement of Intent to be signed by UNESCO and the University of Oregon as they deviate from the model agreement (see documents 35 C/22 and Corr.).

Financial and administrative implications: see paragraphs 9 and 17.

Action expected of the Executive Board: decision proposed in paragraph 30.

BACKGROUND

1. On 28 June 2013, the Government of the United States of America proposed to the Director-General the designation of the Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict-Sensitive Reporting (IIDCSR) at the University of Oregon as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO. The present document outlines the background and basis for the proposal, the objectives and programmes of IIDCSR, its relevance to UNESCO's programmes, and the pertinent results of the feasibility study commissioned by the Director-General.

2. IIDCSR brings to UNESCO a unique focus and expertise in bringing to bear on conflict prevention and resolution the kind of knowledge and skills associated with journalism – a key plank of UNESCO's capacity-building work. As such, the Institute embodies the spirit of the language set forth by UNESCO's Constitution penned almost seven decades ago: "to develop and increase the means of communication between peoples and to employ these means for the purposes of mutual understanding and a truer more perfect knowledge of each other's lives".

3. To this end, the Director-General received a detailed proposal for the establishment of IIDCSR as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO. Based thereon, she requested the Communication and Information Sector seeks to undertake the required feasibility study to corroborate the information provided and assess the proposed Institute's specific programmatic scope, objectives, strategies and networking with other institutions from UNESCO's vantage point. The feasibility study also examined the available or promised human, material and financial resources for the Institute's operations, accessibility and sustainability; and it sought to ascertain the commitments of both the United States Government and the University of Oregon. The results and conclusions of this study are presented by the Director-General in the present document.

CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

4. The feasibility study has been conducted in line with General Conference 35 C/Resolution 103, which approved a new integrated, comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres. This resolution endorsed in particular document 35 C/22 and Corr., which contains the guidelines and criteria for the creation of such centres and a draft model agreement to be concluded between UNESCO and a government proposing the establishment of such an institute. Moreover, the General Conference stipulated that in applying the model agreement, which shall govern the establishment of such institutes and centres, enough flexibility should be allowed in order to take into account the legal constraints of Member States in proposing the establishment of such institutes and centres.

Objectives, purpose and scope of IIDCSR

5. The mission of IIDCSR is to contribute to a culture of peace by fostering a dynamic and original collaboration between the fields of journalism and intercultural dialogue. The Institute has already identified a number of areas of intervention based on initial research. The creation of the Institute stems from the conviction that intercultural understanding is essential to responsible reporting, especially where conflict is concerned. Conflict-sensitive reporting highlights the responsibilities that journalists have when reporting on conflicts, since news stories have a direct impact on the outcome of these conflicts. A lack of sensitivity to cultural differences and nuances can lead journalists to report on conflict in ways that prolong or even exacerbate an unfolding situation. Intercultural studies, meanwhile, often tend to focus on historical or theoretical examples rather than on current, real-world situations involving violent conflict. IIDCSR was founded to bridge the gap between intercultural dialogue and conflict-sensitive reporting and thus to enrich the study and practice of both fields.

6. More specifically, then, the objectives of IIDCSR are to:

- Inform journalistic practice with the realities of an intercultural world through innovative research, teaching, training, and public programmes;
- Provide a forum for scholars and practitioners around the world to collaborate and participate in pioneering research and fieldwork;
- Promote principles of freedom of expression, including safety of journalists, in traditional media, the internet, and international fora;
- Apply the UNESCO-designed conflict-sensitive reporting and other relevant curricula to further the Institute's teaching of conflict-sensitive reporting, holding of international academic conferences regarding conflict-sensitive reporting, and supporting research and practice of conflict sensitive-reporting;
- Contribute to peace-building by promoting intercultural dialogue, pluralism, and cultural diversity, drawing on the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

7. Overall, IIDCSR aims to combine cutting-edge research into intercultural dialogue and journalism education with innovative approaches to conflict-sensitive reporting, working with diverse communities of practice to support efforts at building tolerant and democratic communities.

Strategic alliances and networking with other institutes and institutions

8. Successful work of IIDCSR requires collaboration and synergy on a broad scale. For this reason, the Institute has adopted an outreach strategy to work with partners from other centres and institutes, educational institutions, and grassroots organizations. IIDCSR works at several levels to strengthen its mission and its objectives. This means working:

- in close collaboration and synergy with relevant faculty, departments, centres and institutes at the University of Oregon;
- with academic institutes focusing on similar issues, including the Centre for Conflict Sensitive Reporting in Rhodes University (South Africa), the University of Ghana in Accra, and the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs (New York, United States of America);
- with the UNITWIN Network, consisting of 22 UNESCO chairs worldwide, coordinated by UNESCO Chair Professor Shankman;
- with universities, governments, practitioners and experts participating in World Press Freedom Day;
- through strategic partnerships with think tanks, NGOs, local and national governments, religious communities and civic organizations.

Legal status

9. As stipulated in the comprehensive overall strategy for category 2 institutes and centres contained in document 35 C/22 and Corr. and approved by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103, the designation as a category 2 institute and centre may be granted to an existing entity or to an institution in the process of being created. In the case of IIDCSR, the institute legally already exists. Moreover, as stipulated by the General Conference, while category 2 institutes and centres are associated with UNESCO, they are legally outside the

Organization. They enjoy legal and functional autonomy. Hence, UNESCO is not legally responsible for them and it shall bear neither responsibility nor liabilities of any kind, be it managerial, financial or otherwise.

10. In March 2013, IIDCSR was established within the University of Oregon, a publicly-funded state University in Eugene, Oregon, United States of America. The University of Oregon is an entity of the State of Oregon. The University of Oregon is the state's flagship university. Founded in 1876, the University of Oregon is committed to transforming its students through knowledge and helping them to become informed and responsible citizens of an increasingly global, intercultural world. Enrolled at the University of Oregon are more than 22,000 students from all 50 states and from the District of Columbia, three United States territories and 85 countries. IIDCSR is housed in the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication Turnbull Centre, located in the landmark White Stag Building in Portland, Oregon, United States of America.

11. IIDCSR was approved and endorsed by University President Michael R. Gottfredson and Provost and Chief Academic Officer of the University James Bean in March 2013 as part of the University's continuing global outreach, which is overseen, in part, by Vice Provost for International Affairs Dennis Galvan.

12. IIDCSR is an entity in the territory of the United States of America with the legal status and capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions in accordance with United States laws.

13. The Government of the United States of America and UNESCO will enter into an agreement defining the terms and conditions, rights and obligations, and other pertinent issues regarding IIDCSR (Annex I). Annex II contains a Joint Statement of Intent between UNESCO and the University of Oregon delineating their respective responsibilities and undertakings. This arrangement deviates from the usual UNESCO strategy and the model agreement. However, it should be recalled that the General Conference allowed for flexibility in this regard to meet the constraints of governments related to the establishment of such a category 2 institute (see paragraph 27 (f) below).

Location, premises and staff

14. The main campus of the University of Oregon is located in the city of Eugene. The University, however, has facilities in other parts of the state, including Bend and Portland, which is the largest city in the state of Oregon. The primary office of IIDCSR is located in Portland, in the historic White Stag Building on Portland's sought-after waterfront. The Institute also has use of office space (in Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, Geling Hall and Allen Hall), classrooms and facilities at the University of Oregon campus in Eugene.

15. IIDCSR has two co-directors, whose salaries will be paid by the University of Oregon and who will receive a stipend from the University for their work as co-directors of the Institute. Currently, over 25 faculties from the School of Journalism and Communications, the College of Arts and Sciences, and Department of International Studies are involved in the work of IIDCSR. The Institute is preparing to hire additional support staff in Portland, using seed money provided by the President and Provost of the University of Oregon.

16. The environment in which IIDCSR is located attests to its strong academic base and diverse and international character. The use of all premises is provided by the University of Oregon.

Financial matters and sustainability

17. The University has committed US \$160,000 in cash as seed money for the first three years of IIDCSR's operations. In addition to this amount, the University has made substantial in-kind contributions for real estate, staff-support salaries, and academic salaries. These initial contributions will be leveraged through ongoing fundraising efforts by the University.

18. IIDCSR's co-directors are working closely with development officers in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), the School of Journalism and Communication (SOJC), and the Office of International Affairs (OIA) to raise funds that will enhance those already raised to date. A fundraising goal of \$1 million has been set for the end of 2015.

Governance

19. IIDCSR will be overseen by an international Advisory Board, which will include co-founders Professors Steven Shankman and Peter Laufer, other representatives from the University of Oregon, a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, and representatives from some Member States of UNESCO, as specified in Article 4 of the draft Joint Statement of Intent between UNESCO and the University of Oregon (Annex II).

20. The Governing Board will undertake the following responsibilities:

- draft its Rules of Procedure, in cooperation with UNESCO and the United States Government;
- approve its own Rules of Procedure;
- approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Institute;
- approve the annual work plan and staffing table of the Institute;
- adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures of the Institute;
- decide on the participation of other organizations and entities, in particular the other Member States; and
- examine the annual reports submitted by the co-directors of the Institute, including a biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives and its regular reporting to the Organization.

Areas of cooperation with UNESCO

21. IIDCSR's programmatic orientations and objectives, as well as its scope of activities correspond strongly to the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, approved by UNESCO's General Conference at its 34th session (34 C/4), especially as one of the overarching objectives of this strategy is "Fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace" and one of its strategic programme objectives is "demonstrating the importance of exchange and dialogue among cultures to social cohesion and reconciliation in order to develop a culture of peace". Furthermore, the Institute's objectives correspond with UNESCO's Major Programme V (MP V) of the 36 C/5 framework presented by the Director-General, particularly with regard to its focus on the use of communication and information for the enhancement of democracy, development and dialogue, placing particular emphasis on freedom of expression and information. The Institute's objectives accord more specifically with main lines of action (MLA) 1 and 2 which focus on enhancing the participation of citizens in communication and information processes, as well as with main line of action 3 which is concerned with empowering women and men by furthering their access to information and knowledge.

22. Upon adoption of documents 37 C/4 and 37 C/5 by the General Conference, at its upcoming 37th session, the programmatic activities of the Institute will be further adapted to the approved strategic objectives and expected results. IIDCSR is to complement programmatic objectives and action lines proposed in the draft programme and budget for 2014-2017 (37 C/5), particularly the objectives set forth in Major Programme V to: (1) "promote freedom of expression and access to

information” through “the adoption of professional and ethical standards in the media”; (2) “support the development of an environment that encourages free and independent media, particularly in countries in transition and post-conflict situations” through “the promotion of journalism education”; and (3) “reinforce capacities of journalists, journalism educators and their institutions” through the promotion of UNESCO model curricula. In turn, this reinforces UNESCO’s projected actions as expressed in the draft 2014-2021 Medium-Term Strategy (draft 37 C/4) with its dual focus on “Contributing to lasting peace” and “sustainable development and the eradication of poverty”. More specifically, IIDCSR will contribute towards the attainment of strategic objective 6 (“promoting intercultural dialogue and rapprochement of cultures”) and strategic objective 9 (“promoting freedom of expression through media development”). The 37 C/4 stresses the connection between these two objectives when it notes that, “In post-conflict areas media can counter hatred messages and foster trust and inclusiveness, facilitate dialogue, promote tolerance, reflect diversity and challenge misconceptions about the ‘other’ which are one of the root causes of violent conflict.” The interdisciplinary approach will also lead IIDCSR to operate in the field of the International Programme of Action for Culture of Peace.

23. IIDCSR builds on the University of Oregon’s research depth and academic excellence in global studies and civic engagement, understood as themes to be interrogated at the intersection of the humanities, social sciences, the natural sciences and many professional domains. As the Office of International Affairs launches a new Global Studies Institute later this year (2013), the Institute is set to forge closer partnership with the University in advancing international engagement, global citizenship and conflict alleviation as core themes of the University’s curriculum, research and community outreach. As such, IIDCSR is committed to:

- (a) contributing to the implementation of UNESCO’s actions in the areas of journalism education, including its Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education; freedom of expression, including safety of journalists; and media and information literacy, including gender-sensitive indicators for media;
- (b) sharing expertise and knowledge with UNESCO, including the results of its seminars, research, and projects on intercultural dialogue and conflict-sensitive reporting; and
- (c) fostering cooperation with other relevant UNESCO programmes, especially in the field.

24. As IIDCSR develops further its methodology and programmes, synergies and collaborative partnerships will also evolve. For its part, UNESCO can exercise a catalytic function for the Institute’s activities by lending its technical and organizational expertise, as well as providing access to its large network (UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN, ASPnet, field offices, category 1 and 2 institutes and centres, etc.). UNESCO can also bring to bear its role as a bridge to other countries, international organizations and relevant NGOs working on intercultural dialogue and conflict-sensitive reporting issues. IIDCSR thus fits well with UNESCO’s objectives in general.

Expected impact and relevance of the Centre for UNESCO

25. IIDCSR will contribute to and collaborate across many of UNESCO’s sectors and programmes and will directly support the strategic priorities of the Communication and Information Sector, as well as the Culture Sector and UNESCO’s Intersectoral Platform for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. Examples include the continuing work at the School of Journalism and Communication led by James Wallace Chair Laufer at UNESCO World Press Freedom Day events, such as the production of documentary films highlighting the winners of the UNESCO-Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. The Institute will continue work advancing principles of freedom of expression in traditional media, the internet, and other international fora. The Institute’s conflict-sensitive reporting studies, trainings, and initiatives support UNESCO’s goals in promoting press freedom and the safety of journalists, and would thus serve as a vehicle to implement the United Nations Action Plan on Safety and the Issue of Impunity. Using the UNESCO-designed conflict-sensitive reporting curriculum as well as the original UNESCO’s Model

Curricula for Journalism Education, the Institute will continue its work by teaching conflict-sensitive reporting, holding international academic conferences regarding conflict-sensitive reporting, and supporting research and practice of conflict sensitive-reporting. In this regard, the Institute will act as an organizational framework within which UNESCO's actions in the area of journalism education will be enhanced and further internationalized, taking into account UNESCO's *Model Curricula for Journalism Education: A Compendium of New Syllabi*.

26. The Institute also furthers the ongoing work of the UNESCO Chair in promoting intercultural dialogue, pluralism, and cultural diversity, while integrating the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Of specific interest to the Institute will be the opportunity afforded by UNESCO to engage UNESCO's gender-sensitive indicators for media and information literacy.

27. The actual and potential global, regional, subregional or interregional relevance and impact of IIDCSR is significant and given its intention to form strategic alliances and networking arrangements, the complementarities between its activities and those of other existing institutes or centres with similar focus are evident. It is well-positioned to contribute to policy advice, capacity-building and South-South cooperation. There are also prospects for strong complementarities of its activities with other category 2 entities or with other similar institutions.

Conclusions

28. The attached draft Joint Statement of Intent (Annex II) addresses the legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed IIDCSR, taking into account the draft model agreement contained in document 35 C/22 and Corr. and applicable United States law and regulations. Given the institutional set-up in which the category 2 institute would be established, the proposed draft agreement differs in some respects from the model agreement. The following deviations are proposed in light of paragraph A.1.7 of the integrated comprehensive strategy with respect to the agreement, "enough flexibility should be allowed in order to take into account the legal constraints of Member States in proposing the establishment of such institutes and centres":

- (a) According to document 35 C/22 and Corr., category 2 institutes must have the autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings and to acquire and dispose of moveable and immovable property. The proposed agreement, in Article 4, indicates that IIDCSR is an entity within the University of Oregon, which itself is an instrumentality of the State of Oregon. As such, IIDCSR has the legal status and capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions in accordance with United States laws, regulations, and policies, and, in particular, the capacities to contract and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property through the University of Oregon. This arrangement does not provide the degree of autonomy required in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (namely its own legal personality). However it provides the necessary operational capabilities within the existing legal and institutional setup of the host organization.
- (b) Furthermore, according to the integrated comprehensive strategy, a governing body must be foreseen in the proposed draft agreement. In the case of IIDCSR, the establishment of an Advisory Board is proposed, which will include co-founders Professors Steven Shankman and Peter Laufer, other representatives from the University of Oregon, a representative of the Director General of UNESCO, and representatives from some Member States of UNESCO. This Board would have the mandate to guide and oversee IIDCSR and otherwise fulfil all necessary functions called for in the integrated comprehensive strategy, namely approving the medium-term and long-term programmes of IIDCSR; approving the annual work plan (including the staffing table and the allocation of budgetary resources); adopting the rules and regulations; and determining the financial, administrative and personnel management

procedures for IIDCSR in accordance with the laws of the United States of America, Oregon and the policies and procedures of the University of Oregon.

- (c) The standard model agreement envisages that the Government shall provide all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Institute/Centre. In the case of IIDCSR, the University of Oregon undertakes to provide all such assistance, as provided for in the draft Statement of Intent between UNESCO and the University of Oregon. On the other hand, while the United States Government makes no firm funding commitments, it shall endeavour to monitor that the necessary resources, either financially or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of IIDCSR have been secured by IIDCSR.
- (d) Although the United States Government will provide its assistance for the establishment of the IIDCSR as a category 2 institute, the responsibility for the establishment of the Institute belongs to the University of Oregon. To this end, the Advisory Board proposed for the Institute will not comprise a representative of the Government.
- (e) The standard model agreement specifies the frequency of ordinary sessions as well as the possibility of convening extraordinary sessions of the Governing Board. In the case of IIDCSR, the determination of such meetings, including the frequency with which they will be held, will be left at the discretion of the proposed Advisory Board.
- (f) The model agreement envisaged the inclusion of an arbitration clause in case of dispute. The draft agreements in Annexes I and II omit such provision for arbitration, following the precedent created in the agreement concluded earlier for another category 2 centre in the United States.

29. Therefore, it is the Director-General's conviction that, notwithstanding the deviations explained in the preceding paragraph, IIDCSR will contribute in a meaningful way to the future activities of UNESCO's actions in the area of intercultural dialogue and conflict-sensitive reporting, and many other relevant themes and the targeted actions envisaged through education, culture, the sciences, and communication and information, as is expected from category 2 institutes and centres.

Action expected by the Executive Board

30. In the light of the above, the Executive Board is requested to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (35 C/22 and Corr.) approved by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103, and the guidelines for the establishment of institutes and centres (191 EX/18 Part I),
2. Having examined document 192 EX/15 Part VIII,
3. Welcomes the proposal of the United States of America to establish in Oregon an International Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict-Sensitive Reporting, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study in document 192 EX/15 Part VIII;

5. Further takes note of the proposed Institute's deviations from the criteria and guidelines set out in documents 35 C/22 and Corr. and 191 EX/18 Part I,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 37th session, approve the designation of the International Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict-Sensitive Reporting at the University of Oregon, United States of America, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement with the Government and the Joint Statement of Intent with the University of Oregon.
7. Invites all other relevant national, regional or international centres focusing on a culture of peace as well as all relevant UNESCO Chairs in Communication to collaborate with the Centre.

ANNEX I

DRAFT

**Agreement between the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization
and the United States of America
regarding the designation of the Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and
Conflict-Sensitive Reporting at the University of Oregon, a state University
in Eugene, Oregon under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2)**

Whereas, the United States of America fully supports the designation by UNESCO of the Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict-Sensitive Reporting (“IIDCSR”) as a category 2 Institute under its auspices,

Having regard to the resolution of the UNESCO General Conference seeking to promote international cooperation also through the designation of IIDCSR as a category 2 Institute under the auspices of UNESCO,

Considering that the Director-General of UNESCO has been authorized by the General Conference to conclude with the United States an agreement in conformity with the draft that was submitted to the General Conference,

Desirous of defining the terms and conditions governing the framework for cooperation with UNESCO regarding IIDCSR in this Agreement,

UNESCO and the United States (hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”) have agreed as follows:

Article 1 – Definitions

1. In this Agreement, “UNESCO” refers to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
2. “U.S.” means the “United States of America”.
3. “IIDCSR” means the “Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict-Sensitive Reporting”, a centre established within the University of Oregon, a state University of Oregon (Eugene, Oregon) (“Oregon”)

Article 2 – Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing collaboration between UNESCO and the U.S. regarding the designation of IIDCSR as a category 2 Institute under the auspices of UNESCO and also the rights and obligations stemming therefrom for the Parties.

Article 3 – Establishment

To the extent consistent with its laws, regulations, and policies, the U.S. shall assist, as appropriate, Oregon and IIDCSR in taking measures to establish and operate IIDCSR as a category 2 Institute under the auspices of UNESCO as such term is used in the integrated comprehensive strategy (35 C/22 and Corr.) approved by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103 and as provided for under this Agreement.

Article 4 – Legal status

1. The Parties understand that IIDCSR is not to be a legal entity of UNESCO and that the State of Oregon is independent of UNESCO.
2. The Parties acknowledge that IIDCSR, as part of Oregon, is an entity in the territory of the United States of America, and as such, IIDCSR's legal status and capacities are governed by U.S. laws, regulations, and policies.

Article 5 – Governing Board

The Parties shall collaborate to facilitate the establishment by IIDCSR of its Governing Board consistent with the provisions of Article [4] Joint Statement of Intent between the UNESCO and the University of Oregon regarding the designation of IIDCSR as a category 2 Institute under the auspices of UNESCO, signed on [date].

Article 6 – UNESCO's contribution

UNESCO may provide assistance, as needed, in the form of technical assistance for the programme activities of IIDCSR, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO. Such assistance may be by way of:

- (a) providing the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of IIDCSR; (and/or)
- (b) engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations; (and/or)
- (c) seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a strategic programme priority area.

Article 7 – U.S. Contribution

The U.S. shall endeavour to monitor that the necessary resources, either financially or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of IIDCSR have been secured by IIDCSR.

Article 8 – Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force, following its signature by the Parties, when they have informed each other in writing that all the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of the United States of America and by UNESCO's internal regulations have been completed. The date of the last notification shall be deemed to be the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 9 – Duration

This Agreement shall remain in force for six years, unless expressly denounced by either Party as provided for in Article 10.

Article 10 – Denunciation

1. Each of the Parties shall be entitled to denounce this Agreement unilaterally.
2. The denunciation shall take effect [x] days following receipt of the notification sent by one of the contracting parties to the other.

Article 11 – Revision

This Agreement may be revised by the written agreement of the Parties.

Article 12 – Settlement of disputes

Any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement may be settled by negotiation or other appropriate method mutually agreed by the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Agreement,

DONE at [...], this [...] day of [...], 2013, in two originals, in the English [and French] language[s]
[each text being equally authentic].

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION:

FOR THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA:

.....

.....

ANNEX II

Joint Statement of Intent between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the University of Oregon regarding the designation of the international Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict-Sensitive Reporting as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO

Whereas, the University of Oregon fully supports the designation of the international Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict-Sensitive Reporting (“IIDCSR”) at the Bend and Portland and Eugene campuses of the University of Oregon, a state University of Oregon, (“University of Oregon”), as a “category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO”,

Whereas, the UNESCO General Conference has adopted a resolution pursuant to which it seeks to favour international cooperation in respect of the designation of IIDCSR with the endorsement of UNESCO, and

Whereas, the Director-General of UNESCO has been authorized by the General Conference of UNESCO to enter into an agreement with the University of Oregon in conformity with the draft that was submitted to the General Conference, and

Therefore, in consideration of the mutual agreements hereinafter set forth, and intending to be legally bound hereby, UNESCO and the University of Oregon (hereinafter referred to each as a “Party” and together as the “Parties”) agree to the following measures to establish IIDCSR as category 2 Institute under the auspices of UNESCO:

Article 1 – Establishment of IIDCSR as a category 2 Institute

The University of Oregon shall agree to take, in the course of the year 2014, any measures that may be required for the transformation of an existing institution into a category 2 Institute under the auspices of UNESCO, as provided for under this Joint Statement, hereinafter referred to as “IIDCSR”.

Article 2 – Legal Status

The Parties understand that IIDCSR, as an integral part of the University of Oregon, which itself is an entity of the State of Oregon, has the legal status and capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions in accordance with United States laws, regulations, and policies, and, in particular, the capacities to contract and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property through the University of Oregon.

Article 3 – IIDCSR Constitution

IIDCSR will develop bylaws or other governance documents (the “Governing Documents”) which include provisions confirming:

- (a) IIDCSR will maintain the legal status and capacity within the United States of America necessary for it to exercise its functions and to receive funds (including as contributions and as payment for services rendered) and acquire all means necessary for its functioning, through its relationship with the University of Oregon; and
- (b) IIDCSR will maintain a governing structure which allows for UNESCO representation.

Article 4 – Objectives and functions of IIDCSR

The specific objectives and functions of IIDCSR are to:

- Inform journalistic practice with the realities of an intercultural world through innovative research, teaching, training, and public programmes;
- Provide a forum for scholars and practitioners around the world to collaborate and participate in pioneering research and fieldwork;
- Promote principles of freedom of expression, including safety of journalists, in traditional media, the internet, and other international fora;
- Apply the UNESCO-designed conflict-sensitive reporting and other relevant curricula to further the Institute's teaching of conflict-sensitive reporting, holding of international academic conferences regarding conflict-sensitive reporting, and supporting research and practice of conflict sensitive-reporting;
- Contribute towards peace-building through promoting intercultural dialogue, pluralism, and cultural diversity, while integrating the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 5 – Advisory Board

- (a) IIDCSR will create an Advisory Board that will guide and oversee IIDCSR, within the University of Oregon;
- (b) The Advisory Board will be composed of the following members, on a rotation basis:
 - the two Co-founders and Co-directors of IIDCSR;
 - three representatives of the University of Oregon, a State University of Oregon;
 - a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO; and
 - up to eight representatives of Member States of UNESCO, which have notified IIDCSR of their interest in participating in IIDCSR's activities, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 5, below, and have expressed interest in being represented on the Advisory Board;
- (c) The Advisory Board will offer the co-directors and the governing authorities of the University of Oregon technical and other forms of advice to ensure sound strategic and programmatic management of IIDCSR as a category 2 Institute under the auspices of UNESCO. Such advice will include giving guidance on aspects relating to:
 - Long-term and medium-term programmes of the Institute;
 - Annual work plan and staffing table of the Institute;
 - Financial, administrative and personnel management procedures of the Institute;
 - Participation of other organizations and entities; and
 - Annual reports submitted by the co-directors of the Institute, including a biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives.

Article 6 – Contribution by the University of Oregon

The University of Oregon undertakes to commit \$160,000 in cash as seed money for the first three years of IIDCSR's operations. In addition to this amount, the University of Oregon undertakes to make in-kind contributions for real estate, staff-support salaries, and academic salaries. These initial contributions will be leveraged through ongoing fundraising efforts by the University.

Article 7 – UNESCO's contribution

UNESCO may provide assistance, as needed, in the form of technical assistance for the programme activities of IIDCSR, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO. Such assistance may be by way of:

- (a) providing the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of IIDCSR; (and/or)
- (b) engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations; (and/or)
- (c) seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a strategic programme priority area.

Article 8 – Participation

- (a) IIDCSR encourages the participation of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which, by their common interest in the objectives of IIDCSR, desire to cooperate with IIDCSR as Advisory Board members, consistent with Article 4, and possibly in other capacities.
- (b) Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO wishing to participate in IIDCSR's activities may send notification to IIDCSR to this effect at [insert address, website or email]. IIDCSR is expected to inform UNESCO of the receipt of such notifications within a reasonable time of receipt.

Article 9 – Responsibility

As the Institute is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for the acts or omissions of the institute/centre, and shall also not be subject to any legal process, and/or bear no liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly laid down in this Joint Statement.

Article 10 – Evaluation

- (a) UNESCO may, at any time, make a reasonable request to IIDCSR for documentation or other evidence of the activities of IIDCSR in order to evaluate:
 - (1) whether IIDCSR makes a significant contribution to the strategic goals of UNESCO; and
 - (2) whether the activities effectively pursued by IIDCSR are in conformity with those set out in this Joint Statement of Intent.
- (b) UNESCO undertakes to submit to the Government of the United States of America and the University of Oregon, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation conducted.

Article 11 – Use of UNESCO and the University of Oregon names and logos

- (a) IIDCSR may mention its affiliation with UNESCO. It may therefore use after its title the mention “under the auspices of UNESCO”.
- (b) IIDCSR is authorized to use the UNESCO logo or a version thereof on its letterheaded paper and documents including electronic documents and web pages in accordance with the conditions established by the governing bodies of UNESCO.
- (c) UNESCO agrees not to use the University of Oregon’s name or any trademark, service mark, trade name or symbol of the University of Oregon in any manner, including without limitation in any sales, promotional, advertising or other publication, without the prior written consent of the University of Oregon.

Article 12 – Duration

This Joint Statement shall remain in force for six years, in line with the Agreement between the US Government and UNESCO, unless expressly denounced by either Party as provided for in Article 13 (b) of this Joint Statement.

Article 13 – Miscellaneous

Any notice or communication by any Party to any other Party shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if hand delivered, electronically mailed with receive notification requested, or mailed by United States certified mail, return receipt requested.

The following addresses shall be used to provide notice under this agreement:

ON BEHALF OF UNESCO:

[•]

ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON:

[•]

With copies to:

[•]

- (a) Any Party may terminate this Joint Statement of Intent for any reason by issuing written notice to the other Parties ninety (90) days prior to the proposed date of termination, provided that if termination is being sought because of a breach of this Joint Statement of Intent, the Party alleged to have caused such breach shall have thirty (30) days in which to cure such breach and prevent termination of the Joint Statement of Intent.
- (b) This Joint Statement of Intent constitutes the complete understanding of the Parties and supersedes all other oral or written agreements between the Parties, if any. No modification or waiver of any provision hereof will be valid unless it is submitted in writing and signed by both Parties. Should any portion of this Joint Statement of Intent be found invalid by a court of law, the remaining portions of this Joint Statement of Intent will continue to bind the Parties.

- (c) This Joint Statement of Intent may be amended at any time by mutual written agreement of the Parties. To be binding, changes must be in writing and signed by duly authorized representatives/agents of each Party.
- (d) In case of dispute the Parties will undertake all efforts to settle by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the Parties.
- (e) The Parties may execute this Joint Statement of Intent in multiple counterparts, each of which constitutes an original, and all of which, collectively, constitute only one Joint Statement of Intent. The signatures of all of the Parties need not appear on the same counterpart, and delivery of an executed counterpart signature page by facsimile is as effective as executing and delivering this Joint Statement of Intent in the presence of the other Parties. This Joint Statement of Intent is effective upon delivery of one executed counterpart from each Party to the other Parties. In proving this Joint Statement of Intent, a Party must produce or account only for the executed counterpart of the Party to be charged.
- (f) This Joint Statement enters into force following delivery of the executed counterparts specified in Article 13 (e) above AND once the Agreement with the Government has entered into force.

[signature pages follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Joint Statement of Intent on this _____ day of [insert month], [insert year].

UNESCO

By:

Name:

Title:

THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, A STATE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

By:

Name:

Title:



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-second session

192 EX/15 Part IX

PARIS, 1 October 2013
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Item 15 of the provisional agenda

CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART IX

ESTABLISHMENT IN TEHRAN, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF), WITHIN THE IRANIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE (INIOAS), OF A REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON OCEANOGRAPHY FOR WESTERN ASIA

SUMMARY

This document consists of a report by the Director-General assessing the feasibility of the proposal submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the establishment, within the premises of the Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS), of a Regional Educational and Research Centre for Oceanography for Western Asia.

The present document reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the Centre, and provides the scientific and institutional rationale behind the proposal.

The feasibility study was conducted in accordance with the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO approved by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103.

The draft agreement between UNESCO and the Islamic Republic of Iran has been drawn up in compliance with the standard model agreement contained in document 35 C/22 and Corr. and is available on the IOC website at www.ioc-unesco.org/CatII-iran.

Financial and administrative implications of this proposal are covered in paragraphs 15 to 16.

Action expected of the Executive Board: decision in paragraph 27.

INTRODUCTION

1. UNESCO and IOC have undertaken many efforts through national institutions dealing with marine and coastal matters. However, the ocean ecosystem continues to experience the effects of increased human activities. There is a strong need for urgent action and innovative approaches to improve and enhance our ability to understand the physical, chemical, geological and biological processes in the seas and coastal areas.
2. The Western Asia region, washed by the waters of the Indian Ocean with its immense potential and capabilities, needs a comprehensive regional ocean policy to be implemented through an integrated and coordinated mechanism that will ensure greater participation and collaboration.
3. The proposed Centre will focus on research and education aimed towards implementing integrated innovative approaches in research, monitoring and protection of the marine and coastal environment, facilitating capacity development in the countries of the region and regional cooperation.
4. It aims to provide a response to the increasing demand for regional research and education, and to make valuable contributions to the UNESCO strategic objectives and the IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 in such areas as mitigation of impacts and adaptation to climate change and variability, safeguarding of the health of marine ecosystems, development of management procedures and policies leading to the sustainability of the marine and coastal environment and resources, and contributions to the mitigation of impacts of marine natural hazards. It is expected to make a valuable contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to address several of the ocean and coasts-related outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development.
5. The centre is planned as a problem-solving transparent mechanism at the regional level, where formulation of the research and education programmes, planning and implementation of joint projects and information sharing will be carried out in accordance with UNESCO's and IOC's objectives, and coherent regional marine policy will be developed.
6. It is in this context that the Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed the creation of the centre based on the distinguished track record of the Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS). The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission has undertaken the feasibility study and the IOC Assembly endorsed the proposal by adopting decision IOC-XXVII/Dec.5.1.2.1 at its 27th session (Paris, 26 June-5 July 2013). The full text of this decision can be found at www.ioc-unesco.org/CatII-iran.

CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

7. A feasibility study has endeavored to address the requirements specified in the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference at its 35th session (35 C/22 and Corr.) pursuant to 35 C/Resolution 103. It has also taken into account other aspects that are deemed useful for assessing the viability of the proposed centre. The field visit was undertaken from 15 to 21 September 2012. Meetings were held with the Director and senior staff of INIOAS, the Iranian National Committee for Oceanography, the Iranian National Centre for Ocean Hazards, the Iranian National Centre for Ocean Data and officials from the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, as well as with the Director of the UNESCO Tehran Office.

Objectives and modalities of the proposed Centre

8. The mission of the Centre will be to assist Member States of the region in establishing a coherent regional ocean policy that will create the basis for the best scientific understanding of the processes taking place in the regional marine and coastal environment.
9. The functions/objectives of the Centre shall be the following:
 - (a) ensure harmonious and mutually reinforcing involvement of the members of the region in ocean studies by organizing joint projects, conferences and training/educational courses;
 - (b) define regional problems the solution of which requires regional and international cooperation, assist in the identification of training, education, and mutual assistance needs, particularly those related to the Centre's programmes;
 - (c) assist in identification and meeting national and regional priorities by sharing knowledge and experience through organizing training courses and symposiums;
 - (d) engage academic and research community, experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations, industry, and decision-makers from the region and from abroad in finding ways to solve challenging economic and social problems facing the region by organizing exchange visits, consultations, etc. This objective will be achieved through the organization of regional forum/network to address the challenges, to explore scientific understanding of the impacts and to discuss policies on the use and protection of the sea and coasts in supporting economic development of each country of the region, and the region as the whole;
 - (e) supervise and coordinate implementation of joint projects in consultation with national and international institutions of the Member States concerned in order to avoid duplication and overlap of efforts by organizing regular meetings with regional partners;
 - (f) promote standardization of data collection and data analysis methods based on existing protocols and agreements. Advocate open access and free exchange of oceanographic data along the guidelines specified in the IOC/IODE data exchange policy to facilitate scientific progress and improve education and training results. Reanimate IOC/IODE ODIN type programme for the region;
 - (g) advise on the application of new knowledge on science and technology to various priority areas at local/national/regional levels by organizing workshops and briefings;
 - (h) provide general guidance and recommendations to, and serve as a mechanism for Member States to formulate, evaluate, and follow up on proposals for projects aimed at strengthening national and regional capabilities in marine scientific research, education and establishment of common services and facilities;
 - (i) make operations of the Centre open and transparent by producing regular newsletters/bulletins to describe the progress of the Centre's operations; developing the Centre's website and increasing communication flow/exchange of information on activities, in order to discuss common issues and explore opportunities for further collaboration;
 - (j) promote activities of the Centre, of UNESCO and its IOC role in marine and coastal matters; raise public awareness concerning the need for sustainable management of the sea and coastal areas; introduce the benefits of national and regional cooperation approach and of the importance of the sea's and coasts' protection by supporting establishment of marine protected areas, through active participation in World Ocean Day and other awareness-raising efforts;

- (k) collect information on state-of-the-art technology required for the implementation of the maritime programme activities, develop an inventory of regional institutions and experts working on marine related issues as well as catalogues of regional oceanographic data and make this information available to decision-makers and regional/international partners;
- (l) organize assistance in mobilizing human, financial, and material resources to respond to the needs of the coastal countries of the region in dealing with emergency situations triggered by marine natural disasters;
- (m) make recommendations to the governing bodies of the region on policy matters and submit proposals on the budgetary and other forms of support required for the successful work of the Centre.

Legal status

10. It is proposed that the Centre be established as a category 2 centre within the premises of the Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS). Under the authority of the Ministry for Science, Research and Technology, the Centre will have the autonomy to create and implement its own programmes and activities. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall ensure that the Centre enjoys within its territory the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property. The Centre shall function under the auspices of UNESCO, but will be independent of UNESCO. UNESCO will not be legally responsible for the Centre, nor bear responsibilities or liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise.

Governance

11. The Centre shall be guided and overseen by a Governing Board renewed every six years and include:

- (a) a representative of the government concerned or his/her appointed representative;
- (b) representatives of Member States, which have sent to the Centre notification for membership and have expressed interest in being represented on the Board;
- (c) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO.

12. The Governing Board shall:

- (a) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
- (b) approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table;
- (c) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
- (d) adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;
- (e) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre.

13. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his or

her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of a majority of its members.

14. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

Financial matters

15. The operating costs of the Centre shall be primarily supplied by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with contributions/donations from Member States of the region, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other institutions and partners.

Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO

16. UNESCO will not be required to offer funds for the operation of the Centre, nor provide financial support for its establishment and management.

Areas of cooperation with UNESCO

17. The cooperation expected from UNESCO once the proposed Centre is established is as follows:

18. UNESCO may provide assistance, as needed, in the form of technical assistance for the programme activities of the Centre, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO by:

- (a) providing the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre; (and/or)
- (b) engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations; (and/or)
- (c) seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a strategic programme priority area.

19. In all the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO's programme and budget, and UNESCO will provide Member States with accounts relating to the use of its staff and associated costs.

Relationship to UNESCO's objectives and programmes

20. The proposed Centre would contribute to the UNESCO Strategic Objectives related to promoting the interface between science, policy and society; education and ethical and inclusive policies for sustainable development and strengthening international science cooperation for peace, sustainability and social inclusion.

21. At the same time, it will also contribute to IOC's aspirations reflected in its Medium-Term Strategy to help its Member States to collectively achieve the following high-level objectives (HLOs), with particular attention to ensuring that all Member States have the capacity to meet them:

1. Healthy ocean ecosystems and sustained ecosystem services;
2. Effective early warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards;

3. Increased resiliency to climate change and variability and enhanced safety, efficiency and effectiveness of all ocean-based activities through scientifically-founded services, adaptation and mitigation strategies;
4. Enhanced knowledge of emerging ocean science issues.

Regional and international impact of the Centre

22. Geographically the activities of the proposed Centre would be related to the countries of Western Asia, as well as the North East Indian Ocean and African countries bordering the Red Sea.

23. Not only UNESCO and IOC but also other relevant international and regional organizations would be linked with the Centre, such as FAO, IMO, UNEP (ROPME) and IOI (International Ocean Institute) through its network of operational centres in 25 countries, Association of State Universities and Institutes of the Western Asian region with 51 members.

24. INIOAS already has agreements on cooperation with some of them or contributes to their objectives. With the establishment of the Centre, such links of cooperation would be strengthened and extended.

25. Through implementation of global IOC programmes, though joint activities with the Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (18 countries, Vice-President of the Network is from Iran), the centre would be able to have a strong regional and international impact.

Risks

26. The risks that UNESCO would incur in the establishment of the Centre would be low in view of the official support the Centre will be receiving from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the direct linkage between the Centre's activities and UNESCO's and IOC's goals.

Decision proposed

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

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO approved by the General Conference at its 35th session (35 C/22 and Corr.) in 35 C/Resolution 103,
2. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish in its territory a Regional Educational and Research Centre on Oceanography for Western Asia, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
3. Deeming the considerations and proposals contained in document 192 EX/15 Part IX to be such as to meet the requirements needed for UNESCO to grant its auspices to the regional centre,
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study;
5. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 37th session, approve the establishment of the Regional Educational and Research Centre on Oceanography for Western Asia in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.



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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

PART X

EVALUATION AND RENEWAL OF CATEGORY 2 CENTRES

SUMMARY

Pursuant to the agreements signed with the governments establishing category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO, evaluations of the following centres were carried out:

- International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,
- International Centre for South-South Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (ISTIC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The evaluations specifically reviewed whether the centres make important contributions to the strategic goals of UNESCO and whether the activities pursued in each of these centres are in conformity with their respective agreements. The key results of the evaluations are contained in the present document.

In accordance with the principles and guidelines regarding the establishment and operation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) as approved by 35 C/Resolution 103, continuation of each of these centres as category 2 centres is proposed.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 18.

I. EVALUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN AFRICA (CIEFFA), OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

1. The International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA) was established in 1999 and an official request for partnership was then submitted to UNESCO. An expert group, established in 2000, analysed and reviewed the statutes and objectives of CIEFFA with a view to obtaining accreditation as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. In July 2004, the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) was held in Addis Ababa. At this meeting a decision was adopted that "recognizes the need for the African Union to endow itself with structures such as CIEFFA to attain the objectives and keep with the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union" and "approves the principle of making CIEFFA an institution for the entire continent under the aegis of the African Union". In September 2004 Burkina Faso hosted a meeting on CIEFFA attended by African ministers of education from several countries.¹ At the end of the meeting, it was recommended that the Government of Burkina Faso transmit to the Chairperson of the African Union the draft statutes and rules of procedure adopted by the ministers. Similarly, it was recommended that UNESCO continue to lend its support to the Government in the process of establishing CIEFFA as a category 2 institute.

2. CIEFFA was then designated as a UNESCO category 2 centre at the 33rd session of the General Conference in 2005 (33 C/Resolution 20).

3. Pursuant to 35 C/Resolution 103 regarding the integrated comprehensive strategy for cooperation with category 2 institutes and centres (35 C/22 and Corr.) and in accordance with the guidance note on the renewal assessment procedures of category 2 institutes and centres (190 EX/INF.16), UNESCO conducted an evaluation of the activities of CIEFFA (hereinafter called "the evaluation") for the renewal of the abovementioned agreement.

4. The main objective of CIEFFA, in accordance with its Statutes, is to promote girls' and women's education with a view to their full participation in the eradication of poverty and in bringing about a peaceful world for sustainable human development. Its mandate and mission is to (1) coordinate action to promote the education of girls and women; (2) to promote the integration of gender issues in development policies and programmes; (3) to reinforce the operational capacities of the different countries in the field of girls' and women's education; (4) to set up an information and exchange network on girls' and women's education; (5) to develop advocacy and productive multiple partnerships to promote the education of girls and women; (6) to support research on education and training of girls and women; (7) to conduct monitoring activities on the state of education and training of girls and women in Africa.

5. The evaluation was managed by the UNESCO Office in Dakar and Regional Bureau for Education in Africa (BREDA), in Senegal, in cooperation with the UNESCO cluster office in Bamako, Mali and in consultation with the relevant sectors and divisions at Headquarters. The evaluation was also carried out in consultation with a team of experts specialized in educational planning and girls' education. Information was collected through questionnaires administered by various UNESCO offices in Africa and the National Commissions of Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo; the document review was made available by CIEFFA, the Office in Bamako and the African Union; direct consultation with CIEFFA and its partners; and meetings with the African Union. Partners such as the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) were also consulted during this exercise.

6. The evaluation draws several conclusions. It first highlights that as a whole, the partnership with CIEFFA is complementary with the Organization's priorities, particularly in the context of

¹ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania and Togo.

implementation of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, which reiterated the priority given to gender and equality, more specifically for marginalized groups and vulnerable populations – in this case, children and women in Africa. The action of CIEFFA in advocacy, capacity-building – particularly the training of education personnel – production of tools and guidelines, partnerships and networking helps to strengthen the action of UNESCO in girls' and women's education.

7. The evaluation then shows that although CIEFFA has 45 Member States that have designated focal points, it needs to extend its partnerships and presence. Its involvement and strong presence in French-speaking West Africa are largely established and sustainable. It is recommended that CIEFFA adopt a broader and more diversified regional approach towards the other subregions of Africa and include the diversity of linguistic groups, through the establishment of subregional offices in order to provide specialized support for all subregions.

8. As regards the human resources, technical capacities and financial resources of CIEFFA, the evaluation noted that the Centre has operated with relatively limited technical resources. The governing body is entirely national (100% of its members are nationals of the host country). The executive seems to have been appointed on an interim/transitional basis, pending adoption, integration and recruitment of the structures by the African Union. As to financial resources, the financial reports show that almost 70% stem from the direct support of the African Union.

9. The conclusions of the evaluation highlight the need to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of CIEFFA so that it can fulfil its mission as a regional centre for capacity-building for girls' education in Africa. The capacities of CIEFFA could be improved by the following main lines of action:

- (a) strengthening the technical skills of existing staff, including through a partnership with institutions, universities, NGOs and civil society;
- (b) broadening geographical coverage and extending it throughout the continent;
- (c) mobilizing more financial resources.

10. In light of the above, given the importance that UNESCO attaches to women's and girls' education and to Africa and pending the effective implementation of the new structure adopted by the African Union in 2013, the Director-General recommends renewing the status of CIEFFA as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. A draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Burkina Faso has been prepared in line with the model agreement (document 35 C/22 and Corr.). Since the draft agreement does not deviate from the model agreement, the Director-General will proceed with the signature of the agreement. Once signed, the agreement will be available on the UNESCO Education Sector's website.

II. REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (ISTIC), KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

11. The Executive Board at its 176th session recommended in 176 EX/Decision 16, that the General Conference, at its 34th session, approve the establishment of the Centre and authorized the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement (34 C/Resolution 29).

12. On the basis of an agreement signed between UNESCO and the Government of Malaysia on 21 January 2008, the overall goal of ISTIC is to build capacity in the management of science, technology and innovation throughout developing countries by:

- (a) providing scientists, managers of research centres/institutions and policy makers with short and medium-term training in specified areas, in particular to trainees from developing countries with the aim of improving their capacity in managing science and

technology innovation systems. This would include fellowships, training courses and workshops incorporating both specialized and project-oriented training;

- (b) fostering cooperation among governments, academia and industry in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge between the public and private sectors, and the development of well-planned and relevant knowledge-based programmes and institutions in participating countries;
- (c) searching and making available knowledge on potential new technologies such as information technology (IT), biotechnology (BT), Nanotechnology (NT), etc. to address specific problems faced by developing countries;
- (d) developing networks and collaborative research and development (R&D) and training programmes at regional and international levels including linking of designated nodal centres in participating countries;
- (e) facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information.

13. Pursuant to the clauses of the current agreement, an evaluation of the Centre's performance for the period 2008-2012 was carried out by two international experts appointed by UNESCO. The evaluation was managed by UNESCO's Division for Science Policy and Capacity-Building (SC/PCB) of the Natural Sciences Sector in close consultation with the Centre. SC/PCB also consulted with UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) for technical guidance during the evaluation process. The cost of the evaluation was borne fully by the Centre. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess whether the Centre has been actively engaged in the field of science, technology and innovation policy in cooperation with UNESCO and contributing to the strategic objectives of Organization.

14. The evaluation team conducted a field mission to Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 22 February 2013. The methodology adopted combined both the narrative as well as the qualitative systems of rating which provided the metric scores for each assessment criteria in line with the information provided by ISTIC and those gathered through interaction with its institutional and individual partners. The following activities formed the core aspects of the review exercise:

- (a) A framework of review (Term of Reference) was prepared to provide a guideline for the external experts towards exercising their duties according to the review and covers all the planned review processes focusing particularly on the methodology adopted including the assessment criteria.
- (b) A desktop review of existing documents that comprised of the following: (i) founding Agreement between UNESCO and ISTIC and any subsequent modifications; (ii) annual reports of projects and project outcomes; (iii) minutes of the Governing Board; (iv) annual financial report and (v) publications.
- (c) Direct interviews with institutional and individual stakeholders. During the field visit, 25 people were interviewed.
- (d) Survey of ISTIC's partners' and beneficiaries' programmes and activities across the South-South countries that have consistently engaged with ISTIC.

15. The evaluation concluded that ISTIC has worked to promote South-South cooperation and has successfully etched issues of science, technology and innovation (STI) into international development discourse at the highest levels of policy-making. The evaluation exercise also concluded that ISTIC has significantly contributed to UNESCO's programme activities and their implementation, particularly by mobilizing South-South cooperation for STI policy. In this regard, the Centre has well established programme activities, including: (i) organizing the Annual training workshop on science, technology and innovation policy for middle managers from developing

countries; (ii) organizing in cooperation with the Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), the annual training workshop on R&D management programme for high-level policy makers; (iii) organizing the Annual training workshop on technopreneurship for South countries; (iv) the International Forum on Women in Science and Technology; (v) the training workshop on the maintenance of infrastructure; and (vi) the Asian-Pacific regional workshop on the popularization of science. During the last five years, the Centre has trained more than 1,500 individuals. In addition, the Centre has also been very active in the propagation of inquiry-based science education and providing technical assistance in STI policy review. To support the Centre's activities, the Malaysian Government has provided ISTIC with project funds of approximately US \$600,000 per year, which is an impressive amount.

16. The review team strongly recommends that UNESCO renew the agreement with Malaysia concerning the continuation of ISTIC as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and encourages UNESCO to provide greater support to ISTIC in relation to developing, presenting and delivering innovative training programmes and workshops. The team recommended that such support could be achieved by providing appropriate staff development to key individuals in ISTIC.

17. In light of the satisfactory evaluation, the Director-General decided to renew the granting of the status of ISTIC as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. A draft agreement was drawn up between UNESCO and the Government of Malaysia, in accordance with 35 C/Resolution 103. As the draft agreement does not deviate from the model agreement annexed in document 35 C/22, the Director-General will proceed with the signature of the agreement. Immediately after its signature, the agreement will be available on the Natural Sciences Sector website.

PROPOSED DECISION

18. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 33 C/Resolution 20, 33 C/Resolution 30, 34 C/Resolution 29 and 35 C/Resolution 103,
2. Taking into account documents 190 EX/18 Part I and 190 EX/INF.16,
3. Having examined document 192 EX 15 Part X,
4. Confirms that all the centres mentioned in document 192 EX/15 Part X and listed hereafter, have performed satisfactorily as category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO:
 - International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso;
 - International Centre for South-South Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (ISTIC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
5. Notes the Director-General's decision to renew the granting of the status of category 2 centres to CIEFFA and ISTIC and to proceed with the signing of the corresponding agreements with the governments of their host countries.