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REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ON SPACE TECHNOLOGIES FOR CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE IN BEIJING, CHINA, AS A CATEGORY 2 CENTRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

SUMMARY

The Government of the People's Republic of China proposed to UNESCO to establish on its territory an international centre on the use of space technologies to assist UNESCO in its endeavours in areas of natural and cultural heritage, biosphere reserves, climate change, natural disasters and use of satellite images to support education for sustainable development.

The Government suggests to locate the offices of the proposed centre inside the premises of an existing institution, benefiting therefore of all facilities, expertise and technical assistance of such institution.

The document contains the feasibility study for the proposed centre and the proposed draft agreement between them.

The evaluation of the centre was done in conformity with the principles and guidelines for the establishment and functioning of UNESCO institutes and centres (category 1) and institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), contained in document 33 C/19, and with 33 C/Resolution 90.

Decision proposed: paragraph 44.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Government of the People's Republic of China, through the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), hereinafter referred to as "the Government" has proposed the establishment of an international centre on space technologies for cultural and natural heritage, hereinafter referred to as "the Centre", as a category 2 centre placed under the auspices of UNESCO.

2. This document outlines the background and the nature of the proposal and the foreseeable consequences of the creation of the Centre, especially with regard to the benefits that the Centre will bring to Member States and the Centre's relevance to UNESCO's programmes. It is important to clarify that in this document the concept of natural and cultural heritage is considered in a wide sense not restricted exclusively to inscribed World Heritage properties. The document includes in such a nomination all cultural monuments that have an important value at national level (not necessarily with an international level recognition), also, for example the support to intangible heritage where derivation from satellite images of basic cartography can be used by Member States for elaboration of maps corresponding to areas speaking a certain language, having a specific tradition, etc. Natural heritage includes World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves and any other natural protected area of national interest where satellite images might have an additional support role. The concept of natural disasters is considered as the support that earth observation from space can provide, for example, to measure and understand the areas affected by a disaster.

3. The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has been working in partnership with UNESCO for more than four years. The partnership has been on the use of space technologies for the monitoring, documentation and conservation of natural and cultural heritage sites, earth observation for climate change, natural disaster monitoring and education. This wide range of activities fits completely within the intersectorial activities of UNESCO encouraged by the 34th session of the General Conference.

4. UNESCO is the only United Nations entity within the United Nations system that inscribes sites for its protection (World Heritage) and sustainable use (biosphere reserves). This unique natural and cultural heritage requires a well-established methodology for their sustainable use, conservation, documentation and preservation. In general, cultural and natural heritage sites are increasingly threatened, not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing socio-economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction. Also, land use and land cover changes, and associated climate change consequences could have an impact on UNESCO-inscribed sites. In certain cases, mainly in developing countries, the sustainable use and/or protection of this natural and cultural heritage at the national level often remains incomplete, because of the scale of the resources required and of the insufficient economic, scientific and technological resources of the country where the property is situated.

5. Earth observation from space is being successfully used to monitor and evaluate the land cover changes over large areas of the planet. UNESCO, in partnership with space agencies, including CAS, is assisting developing Member States by applying space technologies to assess the state of conservation of UNESCO-inscribed sites. Recent developments in earth observation, including improved resolution, and a combination of satellite data with airborne and ground data, are enabling new applications for the assessment of cultural heritage sites.

6. Not all UNESCO Member States have the capacity to use and interpret satellite data in monitoring the state of conservation of their UNESCO-inscribed sites. Therefore, to make use of satellite imagery that is increasingly accessible, some Member States need to improve their capacity in understanding and interpreting the images for monitoring their heritage.

7. For this reason, in 2001 the European Space Agency and UNESCO launched the "Open Initiative on the Use of Space Technologies to Monitor UNESCO Sites: From Space to Place". This

“Open Initiative” is a call to all national and international space agencies, space research institutions, and universities, to assist UNESCO by bringing the benefits of space technologies to developing Member States. Capacity-building is the main goal of the “Open Initiative”.

8. Earth observation from space is also a key tool to assess the effects of anthropogenic activities to our planet (e.g. deforestation, urban growth, etc.). Space technologies can provide clear measurements to support the process of sustainable development. Changes in the surface of our planet might also drive to climate change. Therefore it is suggested, through the role of the proposed Centre, to assist UNESCO Member States in their associated activities with natural and cultural heritage, education, sustainable development and climate change. All the activities will, when applicable, be implemented having as main focus areas in and around UNESCO-inscribed sites.

9. In October 2004, CAS (the Joint Laboratory of Remote Sensing for Archaeology) wrote to UNESCO indicating their strong desire to become a member of the UNESCO “Open Initiative”. By letter dated 30 April 2005, UNESCO signed the cooperation agreement with the CAS. Since then a strong joint collaborative partnership between UNESCO and CAS was established.

10. UNESCO and CAS have organized a series of international capacity-building events including the First International Workshop on Remote Sensing for Archaeology (Beijing, China), in partnership with the Chinese authorities and UNESCO; the International Workshop on the Use of Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (Campeche, Mexico), in partnership with the Mexican authorities, the European Space Agency and UNESCO; and From Space to Place, Second International Workshop on Remote Sensing for Archaeology (Rome, Italy), in partnership with the Italian authorities, the National Research Centre of Italy, and UNESCO. In addition, CAS has been assisting UNESCO through various applied remote-sensing studies, including their valuable work in mapping and documenting the Great Wall of China, and providing technical assistance to the UNESCO-ITC remote-sensing facility in Mongolia.

11. In 2006, CAS established the “Digital Earth” initiative and invited UNESCO to work jointly for the benefit of developing Member States. “Digital Earth” makes use of all derived information from satellite data in order to facilitate access of easy-to-use information for decision-makers and the general public. The concept of “Digital Earth” has been beneficial for UNESCO, as CAS has assisted in compiling digital satellite data of land use and land cover changes over the last 30 years for selected UNESCO-inscribed sites. All this information has been extremely valuable to identify joint projects and to target the associated capacity-building and educational activities.

12. CAS has been integrating existing space-related departments into a single unique and coherent centre: the Centre for Earth Observation and Digital Earth (CEODE). In CEODE CAS has the acquisition of airborne and spaceborne data and associated applications, as well as the “Digital Earth” initiative. CAS offers to bring to UNESCO a stronger and wider range of joint collaboration between CAS and UNESCO for the Asian region and worldwide by offering that the new proposed Centre works in close collaboration with CEODE. CAS indicates that the proposed Centre will have its offices within the premises of CEODE providing to the new Centre therefore access to a large number of earth observation activities, and to a wide variety of remote-sensing satellites and associated expertise. The Centre offers an enormous added value to the benefit of UNESCO’s programme for UNESCO Member States desiring to have access to it and/or desiring to use derived information.

13. Therefore, senior staff of UNESCO have been working closely with senior staff of CAS to identify joint objectives towards the establishment of a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO under the name: International Centre on Space Technologies for Cultural and Natural Heritage. Taking advantage of UNESCO’s 176th Executive Board meeting, Prof. Lu Yongxiang, President of CAS, came to UNESCO to propose and to discuss with UNESCO’s Deputy Director-General the establishment of a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. Following the success of the meeting, by letter dated 18 May 2007, Prof. Lu Yongxiang wrote, on behalf of the

People's Republic of China, to the Director-General of UNESCO offering to establish a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. By letter 20 July 2007, the Director-General of UNESCO responded positively to the request of the Government, and instructed the Secretariat to undertake a feasibility study and to prepare all documents for presentation to the 179th meeting of the UNESCO Executive Board.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

14. The feasibility study was undertaken by senior staff of UNESCO responsible for the partnerships with space agencies, by former employees of the Brazilian Space Agency, a Canadian expert formerly from the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing and a remote-sensing expert from the Netherlands working at the prestigious ITC institute. The feasibility study focused on the fact that CAS has assured that the proposed centre will have access to all data, expertise and facilities of CEODE. Therefore the feasibility study put particular attention to assess how all this proposed existing potential can be used to assist UNESCO's programme through the proposed centre.

15. The proposed centre will assist UNESCO by:

- assisting developing Member States (mainly focusing on, but not limited to, Asia) desiring to work jointly, to use earth observation from space to strengthen their capacity for the conservation, documentation and sustainability efforts for UNESCO cultural and natural sites (World Heritage sites and biosphere reserves). This will include deriving maps to support the accurate definition of the protected borders and buffer zones, assessing land use and land changes inside the site, as well as in the surroundings, and improving the documentation and presentation of cultural and natural sites, by deriving, from satellite images, three-dimensional models, virtual tours, etc;
- assisting developing Member States desiring to receive assistance with earth observation to help decision-makers to better understand the impact of man-made developments on the environment and the potential association with climate change effects, focusing mainly, but not limited to, the surroundings of UNESCO inscribed sites. Climate change is affecting some of the UNESCO-inscribed sites. The proposed Centre will assist UNESCO with associated activities in the region supporting Member States that request for it;
- using the extremely visible capabilities of satellite images and all the material derived from satellite data as public educational material to create awareness for conservation and sustainability around UNESCO's sites and to further promote and support education in Asia and worldwide within the UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Assisting UNESCO in making use of remote sensing (satellite imagery) to sensitize the general public and decision-makers about climate change and the associated challenges for decision-makers and everyone for human well-being and of the planet in general;
- organizing, with UNESCO, international seminars and capacity-building events to create awareness about the use of space technologies for a series of interdisciplinary activities including World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves, natural disasters, education, sustainable development and awareness raising.

Overview of the proposal

16. The proposal made by the Government addresses various intersectoral aspects of UNESCO: it provides regional scientific support through applied space science and technology (through the participation of the UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector) to the Culture Sector (World Heritage sites and other cultural properties) and the Education Sector (education for sustainable development).

Support to aspects related to natural disasters and climate change are also incorporated into the entire range of proposed activities.

(a) Objective:

17. The overall objective of the Centre is to assist the Asia region, by bringing the benefit of space technologies to UNESCO Member States desiring to use earth observation from space in order to strengthen their UNESCO related activities in the areas of management, conservation, presentation, documentation and sustainability, as applied to their cultural and natural sites; reinforcing the current capacity of Member States to make use of all data derived from satellite images to support the decision-making process for sustainable development and as data-support to assess climate change; making all the results available as new educational material to support the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

(b) Specific long-term objectives are to:

18. Participate in the development of an operational methodology for collection and processing of satellite data and in deriving information for conservation authorities, decision-makers, and teachers in the areas surrounding UNESCO inscribed sites. Increase public awareness about the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the UNESCO sites and on the use of satellite imagery to better understand the sites in their overall context, not as individual elements, but as members of an entire ecosystem and of a whole cultural landscape;

19. Promote and encourage the sharing of expertise, information and methodology with UNESCO Member States and other UNESCO space partners to create a shared knowledge of information on the use of space technologies to support UNESCO activities;

20. Provide overall support for UNESCO in strengthening the national and regional capacity for conservation and sustainable use and promoting applied results as educational material for teachers and students as support for the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development;

21. Assist Member States, desiring to receive such assistance, by acquiring earth observation data in the event of natural disasters using the “Disaster Monitoring Constellation” series of Chinese satellites.

(c) Functions:

22. The functions of the Centre emphasize the applied use of space technologies for UNESCO’s activities in the region, through the implementation of joint collaborative projects, awareness-raising at all levels, networking of scientists at international and national level, and the transfer of information and knowledge. The Centre will contribute to the execution of UNESCO’s programme by strengthening the capacity of UNESCO Member States in the area of applied space technologies. It will also contribute to facilitating and increasing technical cooperation among developing countries. The Centre will pursue these objectives and functions in close coordination with UNESCO. To avoid unnecessary duplication of work, and to ensure that UNESCO priorities are addressed, all the initiatives of the Centre will be coordinated with the UNESCO Secretariat. Close contact will be established with the other category 2 and category 1 centres that might have a focus on complementary activities.

23. The Centre will have access to a large variety of spatial remote-sensing data – satellites, airborne and ground data capture. It will benefit from more than 20 years experience of CAS in acquiring, processing and archiving satellite and airborne remote sensing data. This enormous capacity includes data collected from more than 20 satellites, including satellites from space agencies of: Brazil, Canada, China, Europe (ESA), India, Japan and USA (NASA). In the near future, CAS will also have access to satellite coverage of about 70% of the Asia region through the

Miyun receiving station in Beijing, Kashi receiving station in Xinjiang autonomous region, and Sanya receiving station in Hainan province. CAS offers the additional possibility to use two remote sensing aircrafts equipped with remote sensors for mapping.

24. The Centre will have access to large capacity-building facilities, well equipped with meeting rooms, computers and all educational material. In particular, the Centre, if desired, will also benefit from the capacity-building activities that CAS and the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing implement continuously in China and elsewhere in the world. The Centre, if desired can also benefit from the expertise of the “Joint Centre for Spatial Information Research” which is a CAS facility created jointly by CAS and Australia. Finally the Centre will have access to all satellite data and exchange of experts that are the result of CAS continuous research visitors from the space agencies: European Space Agency, France, India, Japan and NASA. In particular the Centre will have immediate access to the satellite data of the Chinese – Brazil satellite (CBERS). In summary the Centre will have a potential to assist UNESCO with a wide range of satellite data and processing capabilities. The training at the Centre of students from UNESCO Member States willing to send their students for a short-term stay is also possible dependent upon the identification of financial resources for travel and accommodation.

25. The Centre will be established as a regional/international support centre for the use of space technologies for natural and cultural heritage. To carry out its activities, the Centre will cooperate internationally with universities, research centres, international institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations. Particular effort will be made by UNESCO to enable the Centre to fully cooperate with the existing network of UNESCO space partners (UNESCO’s “Open Initiative”).

26. All activities implemented in the region and/or worldwide will be implemented in full partnership with UNESCO. The Centre may also involve in its activities UNESCO Member States wishing to become a member of the Centre in accordance with the procedure specified in the Agreement to be concluded between the Government of China and UNESCO.

27. The Centre shall ensure the protection and accessibility of data collected for UNESCO. This data shall be safeguarded and guaranteed. Access to special data related to particular UNESCO activities in a Member State that has agreed to work in partnership, shall be protected and/or restricted to a specific group of users if requested by the concerned UNESCO Member State.

(d) Structure and legal status:

28. The Centre shall be established by CAS in accordance with laws and regulations of China. The Centre will enjoy the personality and legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions, and will also enjoy the independence and autonomy with its own administration, budget and staff.

29. The Centre shall have its own Governing Board and a Secretariat as described in the draft Agreement.

(i) Governing Board (see draft agreement Article VIII).

(ii) Secretariat: The Centre’s Secretariat shall consist of a Director, who shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Board in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO, and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.

(a) The tasks and duties of the Centre’s Secretariat will be determined by the Director of the Centre.

(b) The members of the Secretariat other than the Director may comprise:

- members of UNESCO’s staff who are temporarily seconded and made available to the Centre, as provided for by UNESCO’s regulations and by the decisions of its governing bodies;

- any person of recognized qualifications appointed by the Director in consultation with the Governing Board;
- any person appointed by the Director, in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Governing Board.

(e) Financial matters:

30. The costs of operation of the Centre will be completely independent of UNESCO's budget and UNESCO's financial resources. UNESCO will not provide financial support for administrative or institutional purposes of the Centre.

31. CAS will ensure the provision of the core funding, financial and in kind, needed for the administration and functioning of the Centre. Additional financial resources may be raised through contributions from donors and international organizations, assisted by UNESCO. CAS will provide adequate facilities, equipment, utilities, communications, secretariat staff, maintenance of infrastructure, etc. CAS informs UNESCO that the offices of the Centre will be located within the premises of CEODE at Kedian Building (No. 9 Beiyitiao Road) in Beijing, China.

32. UNESCO may eventually contribute financially with extrabudgetary resources, exclusively to carry out selected activities/projects of the Centre, only if these are deemed in line with UNESCO's programme priorities, and have been approved by its governing bodies. The Centre may work jointly with UNESCO in elaborating project proposals for donors.

(f) Areas of cooperation with UNESCO:

33. The Centre shall assist UNESCO in various intersectoral aspects of the overall UNESCO programme using applied space science and technology for the Natural Sciences Sector, the Culture Sector and the Education Sector. On joint activities, particular attention will be paid to ensure that when applicable, issues related with natural disasters and climate change are also addressed. The Centre's mission has been described in this document as assisting Member States in the use of applied space technologies for UNESCO's activities related with natural and cultural heritage, sustainable development, education, climate change and natural disasters. Strengthening national capacities in Asia is a major objective.

34. Based on the directions of the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the Centre shall also assist with an interdisciplinary approach on the important and emerging theme of climate change by assisting Member States that so request, by deriving information from space-based data in order for the Member States to better understand the effects of land use change and its eventual consequences on climate change and impact on natural and cultural heritage sites. All these results will be used to support decision-makers and as input for education and awareness programmes.

35. The main objectives of the Centre include broadening the geographical distribution of training and research institutions and activities and fostering international collaboration by implementing cooperative projects with UNESCO and other national and international bodies.

36. The Centre will be encouraged to work in close cooperation with UNESCO and its network of space agencies, space research institutions and universities that are already assisting UNESCO in its endeavours. Such cooperation will be stronger with space agencies in the Asia region that are, together with the CAS, partners of UNESCO. These include: the Japanese Space Agency (JAXA), The Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), and the National Remote Sensing Agency of India (NRSA). The joint cooperation will be extended to other space-related institutions as it becomes appropriate.

37. The Centre will work following the strategic lines of the overall programme of UNESCO and in close contact and coordination with UNESCO's Beijing Office.

38. The Centre offers to annually organize at least one international capacity-building event for UNESCO. All premises, as well as trainers, are offered to UNESCO at no charge.

(g) Cooperation between the Centre and UNESCO:

39. Given the principles and guidelines governing category 2 centres, UNESCO may contribute financially only to carry out activities/projects if these are deemed in line with UNESCO's programme priorities. UNESCO will not, however, provide any ongoing financial support for administrative or institutional purposes.

40. UNESCO will be the main adviser to the Centre in order to ensure that all joint activities of the Centre are within UNESCO's programmes.

41. There are a number of other ways that UNESCO will be able to support the proposed centre, including, for example, provision of advice, advocacy and promotion. Such support could take the form of participation in cooperative activities, including facilitating scientific exchange at the regional level, provision of seed support for activities, facilitation of access to training opportunities, including provision of fellowships for those who qualify, and participation in screening and selecting trainees.

42. The Centre will also seek to cooperate actively with other UNESCO centres and offices already established to improve UNESCO's activities in China and the Asia region, including the UNESCO Beijing Office and the UNESCO Bangkok Office. The Centre will also seek to actively cooperate with international bodies with which UNESCO has established a privileged relationship and UNESCO's partners in the region including UNESCO category 1 and category 2 centres. The Centre will also take steps to facilitate cooperation of UNESCO with other United Nations organizations in particular UNEP and FAO, from the Asia Branch Office in Bangkok.

(h) Complementarity of the institute with other existing institutes and centres:

43. The proposed centre carries out its primary activities in a completely new area for UNESCO: the use of applied space technologies to support UNESCO's programme. Therefore, the Centre brings a completely new approach with an additional tool that is, *per se*, complementary to other existing UNESCO centres in the region. The Centre brings a new additional tool for the benefit of Member States through the use of space technologies. Particular cooperation will be undertaken with selected UNESCO centres that organize capacity-building activities. The proposed centre can suggest to include the theme of space technologies to support UNESCO activities in such capacity-building events.

Proposed draft decision

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

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 179 EX/7 and its annex,
2. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of the People's Republic of China to establish the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage in Beijing, China, under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the existing principles and guidelines for institutes and centres, as outlined in document 33 C/19, approved by the General Conference in 33 C/Resolution 90;

3. Encourages the Director-General to further strengthen the partnership between UNESCO and CAS through the continuation of implementation of joint activities, while waiting for the establishment of the Centre as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO;
4. Recommends to the General Conference at its 35th session to approve the establishment of the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage in Beijing, China, under the auspices of UNESCO, and to authorize the Director-General to sign the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the People's Republic of China contained in the annex to document 179 EX/7.

ANNEX
DRAFT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND THE
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)
REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT IN CHINA OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
ON SPACE TECHNOLOGIES FOR NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE,
IN BEIJING, CHINA, AS A CATEGORY 2 CENTRE UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF UNESCO

Preamble

The Government of the People's Republic of China, represented by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, hereinafter referred to as "CAS" and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO",

Considering that earth observation from space is a valuable tool to understand the cause and effect relationship of human activities, to assist in sustainable development planning and to improve the monitoring, conservation and sustainable use of UNESCO inscribed sites,

Bearing in mind that not all Member States of UNESCO have the capacity to access and process satellite data, and that assistance and capacity-building will significantly increase cooperation and exchange among UNESCO Member States in the areas of natural and cultural heritage, natural disasters and education,

Considering that UNESCO and CAS already have been working jointly in the area of space technologies for the benefit of developing countries,

Bearing in mind that CAS has offered its support to further collaborate with UNESCO, and CAS has already taken effective steps to provide the necessary infrastructure and facilities for a collaborative centre,

Desiring to set forth the conditions and modalities of the cooperation regarding both the establishment and the activities of the Centre,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I
Interpretation

In this Agreement, unless the context requires a different meaning,

"UNESCO" refers to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

"Government" means the Government of the People's Republic of China

"CAS" means the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

ARTICLE II Establishment

The Government agrees to undertake, in the course of the year 2008, any measures that may be required for the establishment, as provided for under this Agreement, of the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage, hereinafter referred to as “the Centre”.

ARTICLE III Participation

1. The Centre shall be an autonomous institution at the service of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which, by their common interest in the objectives of the Centre, desire to cooperate with it.

2. UNESCO Member States wishing to participate in the Centre’s activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send the Director-General of UNESCO notification to this effect. The Director-General shall inform the Centre and the Member States mentioned above of the receipt of such notifications.

ARTICLE IV Purpose of the agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing collaboration between UNESCO and the Government and also the rights and obligations of the parties stemming therefore.

ARTICLE V Juridical personality

The Centre shall be established by CAS. It shall enjoy on the territory of the People’s Republic of China the personality and legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions, in particular the capacity:

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

ARTICLE VI Constitution

The Constitution of the Centre must include the following provisions:

- (a) legal status granting to the Centre, under national legislation, the autonomous legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions and to receive subventions, obtain payments for services rendered, and carry out acquisitions of all means required;
- (b) the establishment of a governing structure for the Centre allowing UNESCO representation within its governing bodies.

ARTICLE VII Functions/objectives

The Centre’s mission is to assist UNESCO’s programme and Member States that desire to receive such assistance on the use of applied space technologies for UNESCO’s activities related to

natural and cultural heritage, sustainable development, education, climate change and natural disasters. The Centre will contribute to the execution of UNESCO's programmes by strengthening the capacity of UNESCO Member States. It will also contribute to facilitating and increasing technical cooperation among developing countries.

All activities shall be implemented in full partnership with UNESCO. Activities involving any Member State shall only be implemented if there is full agreement of the associated Member State(s) to work in partnership with the Centre and UNESCO on such an activity. (Further explanation of the functions is provided in document 179 EX/7.)

ARTICLE VIII Governing Board

1. The Centre shall be guided and supervised by a Governing Board, whose members will be renewed every six years, and composed of:

- a representative of CAS, who shall be the *ex officio* chairperson of the Governing Board;
- a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;
- up to three (3) representatives from the Government (e.g. State Administration of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Construction, joint laboratory of remote sensing for archaeology, affiliated to CAS, Chinese Ministry of Education or State Administration of Cultural Heritage);
- representatives of a limited number of Member States being internationally known experts from the region, which shall send official notification to the Director-General of UNESCO, in accordance with the stipulations of Article III, paragraph 2 above, in order to ensure, as far as possible, equitable geographical representation.

The Governing Board shall:

- (a) approve the initial development strategy and all the necessary working methods of the Centre required in the early phases of work, to coordinate its efforts with UNESCO and in line with the needs and requirements of Member States of the Asian region;
- (b) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
- (c) approve the annual work plan and budget of the Centre, including staffing provisions, infrastructure requirements and operating costs;
- (d) review and approve the Annual Report submitted by the Centre;
- (e) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental and international organizations in the work of the Centre;
- (f) convene special consultative sessions to which it shall invite, in addition to its own members, representatives of other interested countries and international organizations in order to expand the Centre's fund-raising strategy and strengthen its capacity, to review draft proposals aimed at broadening the scope of the services provided by the Centre, and to carry out its projects and activities.

2. 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 at his/her own initiative, or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO, or at the request of at least half of its members.

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

ARTICLE IX

Secretariat

- (a) The Centre's Secretariat shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.
- (b) The Director shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Board in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO.
- (c) The tasks and duties of the Centre's Secretariat will be determined by the Director of the Centre.
- (d) The other members of the Secretariat may comprise:
 - members of UNESCO's staff who are temporarily seconded and made available to the Centre, as provided for by UNESCO's regulations and by the decisions of its governing bodies;
 - any person of recognized qualifications appointed by the Director in consultation with the Governing Board;
 - any person appointed by the Director, in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Governing Board.

ARTICLE X

Duties of the Director

The Director shall discharge the following duties:

- (a) direct the work of the Centre in conformity with the programmes and directives established by the Governing Board;
- (b) propose the draft work plan and budget of the Centre to be submitted to the Governing Board for approval;
- (c) prepare reports on the activities of the Centre to be submitted to the Governing Board;
- (d) submit to the Governing Board any proposals that he/she may deem useful for the administration of the Centre;
- (e) represent the Centre in law and in all civil acts.

ARTICLE XI

Financial arrangements

1. The operation of the Centre shall be fully covered by CAS who shall provide financial resources for the implementation of the programme and the activities of the Centre. CAS shall entirely assume the maintenance of the premises and make available the administrative and technical staff necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Additional funds for selected activities might be derived from funds allotted by the Government of China, and from such other contributions it may receive from UNESCO Member

States, intergovernmental organizations or international non-governmental organizations, and from payments for services rendered.

3. The Centre may receive gifts and legacies, with the approval of the Governing Board.
4. The Centre may establish a fund under conditions to be determined by its Governing Board, to receive donations, gifts and bequests that will be used for the financing of all activities of the Centre in relation to supporting UNESCO's Member States and UNESCO's programmes through the use of space technologies.

ARTICLE XII Contribution of UNESCO

UNESCO shall provide assistance in the form of a technical contribution for the activities of the Centre in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO.

UNESCO undertakes to:

- provide the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre;
- temporarily detach members of its staff. Such detachment may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a priority area as approved by UNESCO's governing bodies;
- include the Centre in various programmes which it implements and in which the participation of the latter seems necessary to them.

In all the cases listed above, such contribution shall be provided for in UNESCO's Programme and Budget (C/5).

ARTICLE XIII Contribution of the Government

The Government agrees to provide or secure all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the full operation, administration and proper functioning of the Centre. The Government undertakes to:

- make available to the Centre appropriate office space, equipment and facilities;
- assume all communication, utilities and maintenance costs for the Centre, plus all the expenses of holding the sessions of the Governing Board and special consultative sessions;
- contribute to the Centre's programme activities, such as for capacity-building activities, research programmes and publications;
- make available to the Centre the staff required for the effective performance of its functions.

ARTICLE XIV Responsibility

As the Centre is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for it and shall bear no liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly laid down in this Agreement.

ARTICLE XV Evaluation

1. UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of the Centre in order to determine:
 - whether the Centre makes a significant contribution to the strategic goals of UNESCO;
 - whether the activities carried out by the Centre are in conformity with the overall objectives set out in this Agreement.
2. UNESCO agrees to submit to the Government, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation conducted.
3. Each of the contracting parties shall have the option to terminate this Agreement, or of requesting to amend its contents, following the results of an evaluation.

ARTICLE XVI Use of UNESCO Name and Logo

1. The Centre may mention its affiliation with UNESCO, inserting after its title, the mention of “under the auspices of UNESCO”.
2. The Centre is authorized to use the UNESCO logo, or a version thereof, on its letterhead paper and documents in accordance with the “Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO” approved by the governing bodies of UNESCO.

ARTICLE XVII Entry into force

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

ARTICLE XVIII Duration

This Agreement will take effect for a period of six years as from its entry into force upon its signature by the two parties, and may be renewed through an exchange of letters between the parties.

ARTICLE XIX Denunciation

1. Each of the contracting parties shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement unilaterally.
2. Termination shall take effect six months following receipt of the notification sent by one of the contracting parties to the other.

ARTICLE XX Revision

The present Agreement may be revised by consent of the Government and UNESCO.

ARTICLE XXI
Settlement of disputes

1. Any dispute between UNESCO and the Government concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if it is not settled by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the parties, shall be submitted for final decision to an arbitration tribunal composed of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by a representative of the Government, another by the Director-General of UNESCO, and the third, who shall preside over the tribunal, shall be chosen by the first two. If the two arbitrators cannot agree on the choice of a third, the appointment shall be made by the President of the International Court of Justice.

2. The tribunal's decision shall be final.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Agreement.

Done in three copies in English, on [...]

For the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	For the Government of the People's Republic of China
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