



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

PARIS, 19 October 2015  
Original: English/French

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) met on Friday 9 October 2015. The morning meeting of Friday 9 October 2015 was chaired by the Chair of the Committee, Ms Marie Chatardová, representative of the Czech Republic. Pursuant to Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations elected Ms Eliana Zugaib, representative of Brazil, as Temporary Chair; in the absence of the Committee's Chair, she acted as Temporary Chair at the afternoon meeting on Friday 9 October 2015. The Committee met on Monday 19 October 2015 to adopt the present report.

2. The Committee on Conventions and Recommendations examined the following items on the agenda of the Executive Board:

**Item 20 Implementation of standard-setting instruments – General monitoring  
(197 EX/20 Part I)**

3. Introducing the item, the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs drew attention to document 197 EX/20 Part I containing a comprehensive report on the UNESCO conventions and recommendations that the CR Committee was required to monitor and an analysis of specific measures adopted by the Secretariat in monitoring the implementation of standard-setting instruments and the difficulties encountered for each of the instruments.

4. The Members of the CR Committee expressed their satisfaction and congratulated the Secretariat for the quality of document submitted since it takes into consideration the previous recommendations that were made by the CR Committee. The main enquiries from Members of the Committee focused on how to provide concrete assistance to Member States regarding the ratification of UNESCO's conventions, notably the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education. It was also highlighted that even though main difficulties were identified, there are no additional recent ratifications. The importance of using regional groups was highlighted and the issue regarding implementing an effective cooperation between relevant stakeholders and its operationalization at local level was raised. Regarding cooperation with stakeholders, the cooperation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education was highlighted as a must as well as his participation in discussions related to UNESCO's standard setting instruments. In addition, in terms of ratification, the crucial role of Field offices was pointed out.

5. The Chief of the Section of Education Policy was invited to take the floor to respond to queries and issues raised by the delegates. In his interventions, he responded to the series of questions by recalling the importance of involving all stakeholders and the steps taken by UNESCO to reinforce this participation in policy dialogue. He pointed out that the Special Rapporteur's contributes to the work of the Education Sector. For instance, in Incheon, the Special Rapporteur was present throughout the conference and took a very important role during the Forum. In addition, the Secretariat very often takes into consideration his reports and a mutual support, on a regular basis, is frequent. Furthermore, regarding the issue of ratifications, the Chief

of the Section of Education Policy indicated that the Secretariat had recently launched a new ratification campaign. As a follow-up to this new campaign, a message was sent by the Assistant Director-General for Education to Regional and Field offices requesting them to fully involve their offices in this process by encouraging National Authorities to take all the necessary measures for acceding to the 1960 Convention and sharing with them extensive materials and practical documents developed by Headquarters for this purpose in order to support them in this endeavour. More generally, Headquarters always supports field offices in their activities and programmes regarding the promotion as well as monitoring of the right to education. However, he recalled that the final decision regarding the ratifications belongs to the States. He also stressed that these were concerns that will be answered to by the Strategy that is also under discussion by the Board at the present session.

6. At the end of the discussions, the members of the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 15 C/Resolution 12.2, 23 C/Resolution 29.1, 165 EX/Decision 6.2, 32 C/Resolution 77, 170 EX/Decision 6.2, 171 EX/Decision 27, 174 EX/Decision 21, 175 EX/Decision 28, 176 EX/Decision 33, 177 EX/Decision 35 (I) and (II), 34 C/Resolution 87, 180 EX/Decision 31, 181 EX/Decision 27, 182 EX/Decision 31, 184 EX/Decision 20, 185 EX/Decision 23 (I), 186 EX/Decision 19 (I), 187 EX/Decision 20 (I), 189 EX/Decision 13 (I), 190 EX/Decision 24 (I), 191 EX/Decision 20 (I), 192 EX/Decision 20 (I), 194 EX/Decision 21, 195 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 19 relating to the first aspect of the terms of reference of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), which concerns the implementation of standard-setting instruments,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part I and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (197 EX/49),
3. Urges Member States once again to fulfil their legal obligations under Article VIII of the Constitution of UNESCO regarding periodic reports on the action taken upon conventions and recommendations;
4. Requests the Director-General to continue providing Member States with assistance for enforcement of standard-setting instruments in order to increase the number of ratifications;
5. Requests the Director-General to ensure the implementation of the legal framework for the enforcement of standard-setting instruments, adopted at its 177th session, by the programme sectors and the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), which have responsibility for the conventions and recommendations monitored by the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations;
6. Decides to continue consideration of the matter at its 199th session.

**Application of the 1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (CEART) and the 1997 Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel (197 EX/20 Part II)**

7. The Chief of the Section of Education Policy, representative of the Director-General, presented the document 197 EX/20 Part II and its main elements. He highlighted that the Joint ILO-UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART) during its 11th session in Geneva, October 2012, had received two new allegations by: the Tokyo-to Gakko Union from Japan and the Cambodian Independent

Teachers' Association (CITA). He also indicated the needed information and developments related to three prior ongoing allegations examined by the Joint Committee: the Dansk Magisterforening (DM) of Denmark; the All Japan's Teachers' and Staff Union (Zenkyo); the National Teachers' Federation (FENPROF) of Portugal. The representative of the Director-General also remarked how the Joint Committee found that no further information had been received as requested regarding these cases prompting the Committee once again to invite concerned parties to provide needed information for the Joint Committee's consideration at its 12th session in Paris in April 2015.

8. This was followed by a discussion, in which three Members of the Committee took part. Two Committee Members expressed concern with the delayed timing of the reporting considering that it is referring to the CEART's 11th session in 2012 while the most recent session of this Committee had already taken place six months ago in April 2015. The interim report is thus not considering the latest findings and recommendations of the most recent CEART session. One Member of the Committee also noted the importance of having the interim report as a hard copy and not only as a file accessible online. Another Committee Member, while also noting the importance of having a more updated interim reporting, highlighted the value of this effort when considering the allegations at stake; based on this, this country asked for further information on the mandate of the Executive Board to discuss these matters.

9. The representative of the Director-General took note of the remarks made and provided clarifications. He noted that the Secretariat's step to provide to the CR Committee the interim report as an online document and not as a hard copy was due to financial constraints of the Secretariat. In relation to the reporting delay of the interim report vis-à-vis the most recent CEART session he suggested the possibility of reexamining this issue internally to see how in the next biennium another calendar could be proposed and submitted for consideration to the CR.

10. In reply to a question, the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs recalled that the CR Committee examined for many years the reports of the Joint Committee. The current terms of reference of the CR Committee, as adopted by the Executive Board at its 193rd session in November 2013 (193 EX/Decision 7 (II)), also laid down the consideration the CEART report for the current biennium.

11. At the end of the debates, the members of the Committee decided to recommend to the Executive Board the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 154 EX/Decision 4.4 and 157 EX/Decision 6.3,
2. Having examined 197 EX/20 Part II and the Report of the Committee on Convention and Recommendations (CR) thereon,
3. Takes note of the CEART's interim report relating to allegations on the non-observance of certain provisions of the ILO-UNESCO 1966 Recommendation in Japan; non-respect of principles in the 1966 ILO-UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Teachers in Cambodia; and the update of the developments regarding three cases previously examined by the Joint Committee in Denmark, Japan and Portugal.

### **Application of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist (197 EX/20 Part III)**

12. In his introduction, the Assistant Director-General for Culture, representative of the Director-General, recalled that document 197 EX/20 Part III provided a consolidated report of the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist based on the replies of the 60 Member States that had responded to the survey, and that the full analytic report is available on line. The survey focused on four key areas of digital technologies and the Internet,

transnational mobility of artists, social protection, and freedom of artistic expression. He discussed the positive developments the survey responses revealed, as well as the remaining challenges that artists face. Noting that the Recommendation is not included in the Major Programme IV of the 37 C/5 and there is no budget allocated to follow it, he noted that in pursuing the important synergies between the Recommendation and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the Secretariat is taking action to promote and monitor the Recommendation.

13. Five Committee Members and one Observer took the floor. In welcoming the report, they stressed the importance of the four key issues that the survey focused on. They also particularly supported the actions of the Secretariat to pursue the synergies between the Recommendation and the 2005 Convention. A Committee Member said this approach to monitoring can be considered a UNESCO best practice.

14. Two Committee Members stressed freedom of artistic expression, highlighting that all 60 survey responses from Member States said there are limits on artistic freedom, while responses from NGOs suggested a worrisome trend of self-censorship, and referred to recent national laws on artistic freedom.

15. Three Committee Members stressed the importance of the Recommendation to promote cultural industries and the role digital technologies will play in the future for these industries as well as for the status of artists.

16. Two Committee Members discussed transnational mobility of artists and provided an example of specific visa regulations for artists adopted by MERCOSUR countries to facilitate this mobility.

17. Lastly, an Observer asked about the synergies of the Recommendation with the 2005 Convention, the differences that could be seen between Member States and civil society responses to the survey, and if best practices were revealed by the survey.

18. The representative of the Director-General responded that the key elements of the Recommendation are embedded in the principles and Articles of the 2005 Convention and that pursuing synergies between them is the best mechanism for the Secretariat to continue monitoring both instruments, particularly as the Convention governing bodies have decided to include this in their future actions. Regarding survey responses, Member States reported on legislative and other initiatives while NGOs gave a civil society perspective of the challenges artists face, as, for example, with freedom of artistic expression. Best practices were also provided by the survey responses as well as by the Committee Members participating in the debate.

19. At the end of the discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 36 C/Resolution 103, 177 EX/Decision 35 (I), 195 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 20,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part III and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (197 EX/49),
3. Notes that 60 Member States submitted reports in response to the survey sent out by the Secretariat;
4. Recalls that the submission by Member States of periodic reports on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the General Conference is an obligation under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of

Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution;

5. Further recalls that the periodic consultation of Member States on the implementation of the Recommendation is intended to enable the Organization to assess both the extent to which Member States are implementing that instrument and the obstacles that they encounter;
6. Reaffirms the importance of the Recommendation, in particular with regard to emerging trends in digital technologies, freedom of expression, the transnational mobility of artists, as well as its implementation by Member States;
7. Recommends that the General Conference invite those Member States which have not taken measures to implement the Recommendation to do so, in consultation with artists and their associations, and to provide the required reports on their implementation of the Recommendation;
8. Further recommends that the Secretariat pursue synergies in the monitoring of the Recommendation's implementation with other UNESCO standard setting instruments, in particular the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
9. Invites the Director-General to transmit to the General Conference at its 38th session the report on the implementation of this Recommendation, together with the Executive Board's observations, and any observations or comments that the Director-General may wish to make.

#### **Application of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions (197 EX/20 Part IV)**

20. In his introduction, the Assistant Director-General for Culture, representative of the Director-General, specified that this report, contained in document 197 EX/20 Part IV, was based on the outcomes and recommendations of the different activities implemented by UNESCO and its partners since the adoption of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions. He explained that the report was structured in a way to reflect the work carried out by the World Heritage Centre in view of having the approach of the 2011 Recommendation supporting the implementation of the World Heritage Convention for the conservation of historic urban ensembles, beyond the World Heritage List. He also underlined the fact that although the application of the historic urban landscape approach focuses on three priority regions (Africa, the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean), interesting work was carried out in Asia, with the support of the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (category 2 centre), as well as in Europe with the UNITOWN network (network of universities located in cities that have part of their urban space inscribed on the World Heritage List). He further mentioned the development of promotion materials to better explain the principles of the historic urban landscape approach and finally stressed the key role of the 2011 Recommendation in the elaboration of the report on the role of Culture and Heritage in Sustainable Urban Development prepared by UNESCO in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to be presented at Habitat III conference in October 2016. To conclude his presentation, the representative of the Director-General stressed the fact that the Recommendation not being included in the Major Programme IV of the 37 C/5, no budget is allocated to follow it.

21. Four Committee Members and two Observers took the floor. They all welcomed the report and stressed the relevance of this normative instrument, as well as the interest in having it widely used for the conservation of urban ensembles, be there inscribed on the World Heritage List or not. Three Committee Members acknowledged the need to link this Recommendation with the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development and one of them suggested to reflect that in the draft decision on this item.

22. Two Committee Members welcomed the close cooperation between UNESCO and the category 2 centres in the application of the Recommendation and called for further efforts in that direction.

23. Two Committee Members and the two Observers requested more information on the reason why no report was submitted by Member States. They also expressed their wish to see a calendar for the submission of such reports presented.

24. The representative of the Director-General responded that the application of the Recommendation required further scientific consultations after its adoption due to the complexity of the subject and the need to have all urban heritage stakeholders adhering to it. He explained that the expert meetings held in 2013 in Rio de Janeiro and Paris confirmed the need to clarify the key concepts carried by the Recommendation hence the focus of the World Heritage Centre and its partners on this important aspect of the application of the normative instrument. In terms of reinforcement of the application of the Recommendation with the objective to receive reports from the Member States, the representative of the Director-General explained that the ongoing work carried out by UNESCO with the Report on the role of Culture and Heritage in Sustainable Urban Development is providing a very high visibility to the normative instrument used, the 2011 Recommendation being a major one.

25. In reply to a question from an observer, the Legal Adviser indicated that following the modifications approved by the Executive Board at its 196th session to the *Specific multi-stage procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO conventions and recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided*, the Secretariat will submit to the 199th session of the Board the 2016-2017 timetable for submission of Member States' reports on measures taken to implement the conventions and recommendations for the period under consideration, as provided in the second paragraph of the first stage of this Specific multi-stage procedure.

26. At the end of the discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 177 EX/Decision 35 (I), 195 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 20,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part IV presenting the report on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning Historic Urban Landscapes and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) thereon (197 EX/49),
3. Recalls that the submission by Member States of periodic reports on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the General Conference is an obligation under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution;
4. Encourages Member States to submit their reports on the application of this Recommendation;
5. Recalls that the periodic consultation of Member States on the implementation of the Recommendation is intended to enable the Organization to assess both the extent to which Member States are implementing that instrument and the obstacles that they encounter;

6. Reaffirms the importance of the Recommendation and its implementation by Member States, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
7. Invites those Member States, particularly those from the three priority regions (Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab States), to support the Secretariat's efforts to implement the Recommendation, notably by hosting technical meetings, workshops and conferences on the implementation of the approach borne by the standard-setting instrument;
8. Recommends that the General Conference invite those Member States which have not taken measures to implement the Recommendation to do so, and to provide the required reports;
9. Invites the Director-General to transmit to the General Conference at its 38th session the consolidated report on the measures taken by Member States to implement this Recommendation, together with its observations, and any observations or comments that the Director-General may wish to make.

**Consideration of the draft guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the application of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education (197 EX/20 Part V)**

27. The Chief of the Section of Education Policy, representative of the Director-General, presented the document 197 EX/20 Part V and highlighted its main elements. He explained that at its last session, the Executive Board has adopted revised framework guidelines for the preparation of reports on the implementation of conventions and that these specific draft guidelines presented in the document for the purpose of the 9th consultation of Member States (2015-2017) were prepared on the basis of this Framework Guidelines and present a revised version of the guidelines approved by the Executive Board prior to the 8th consultation (2011-2013). He indicated that the guidelines were simplified as much as possible, while respecting the full provisions of the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education. It was mentioned that once the revised draft guidelines are approved and adopted by the Executive Board, the Secretariat will officially launch the 9th consultation.

28. This was followed by a rich discussion, in which four Member States took part. The debate demonstrated the high interest of the Committee Members in the draft guidelines. The main issue raised by the Members of the Committee related to whether or not to adopt the proposed guidelines as they stood. The Secretariat was highly congratulated on the quality of the draft guidelines submitted. Some Member States pointed out that the current guidelines, though should be adopted at this session, could be a basis for a working document to be further developed for the next consultation of Member States, by, for instance, a working group composed of few members. A Member of the Committee reminded that since the Guidelines are not binding, and as the consultation had already been postponed, it would be preferable to adopt the Guidelines as they are presented by the Secretariat. A Member of the Committee disagreed and pointed out a methodology issue. Also, it was argued that, on the one hand, there was not sufficient time to go through the entire document point by point to adopt all the guidelines. On the other hand, adopting them without doing so could be rushing an important process. It was also suggested that consulting Member States on the question would be the best way to ensure the effectivity of the guidelines. Amendments to the Guidelines (notably strengthening the issue of education of refugees or challenges encountered by Member States) would aim at a more effective monitoring as well as presenting more thematic topics about the implementation of policies. Another issue appointed was the methodology of work, since the current questionnaire seems to lead the Member States to often provide positive answers about their national context. A Member of the Committee added that the use of the global database on the right to education and other material and sources should be optimized in order to make the reporting more effective.

29. Taking note of these remarks, the representative of the Director-General recalled that the document contains only guidelines. Thus it should be used as a “helping tool” and not seen as a formal requirement. It has no normative value and is not binding. The main goal is to support Member States to report on the development of the right to education and the 1960 Convention. Regarding the work methodology, the Secretariat indicated that it was prepared following the working methods proposed by the CR Committee.

30. At the end of the discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind Member States’ obligations under Article VIII of UNESCO’s Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution,
2. Further recalling Part I and Part II of 177 EX/Decision 35 adopting respectively (a) a specific multi-stage procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO conventions and recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided and (b) a framework guidelines,
3. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 89, 195 EX/Dec.15 and 196 EX/Dec.20,
4. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part V,
5. Bearing in mind the importance of the Convention against Discrimination in Education as a cornerstone of the Education 2030 agenda,
6. Approves the guidelines drawn up for the preparation of reports by Member States on the application of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education, as annexed to document 197 EX/20 Part V, on condition that consultations with Member States take place, with a view to further improving these guidelines before 15 December 2015;
7. Requests the Director-General to invite Member States to submit to UNESCO reports on the implementation of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation;
8. Further requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 202nd session a summary of the reports on the measures taken in regard to the implementation of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education, with a view to transmitting that summary, together with the Executive Board’s comments thereon, to the General Conference at its 39th session.

### **Application of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education (197 EX/20 Part VI)**

31. In introduction, the Chief of the Section of Education Policy, representative of the Director-General, presented the document 197 EX/20 Part VI and its main elements.

32. This was followed by a rich discussion, in which several Member States took part. They started by congratulating the Education Sector for its good work, stressing their position in favour of the recognition of qualifications in higher education. It was indicated that a Regional High-Level ministerial Meeting on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education was taking place in Brasília (8-9 October, 2015) and that this kind of initiative is a way forward. Two Committee Members mentioned its participation in this event, while stressing the importance to recall that higher education is a universal human right and a public good. Some Committee Members stated



their full support for a possible global convention on the recognition of qualifications in higher education. Such a global convention should be flexible and interconnect with regional conventions and would help students' mobility by creating a global world. It was also added that bearing in mind the diversity of the regions, the global convention needs to be based on the regional conventions. A Committee Member wanted also to know if there were metrics for the linkage between the regional conventions, arguing that if the linkages between those instruments were known, it would be easier for Member States to ratify them. Another Member of the Committee mentioned that they chaired the meeting for setting up an Informal Working Group on the implementation of the Addis Convention held at UNESCO Headquarters in July 2015. However, they wanted to know when the Arab States are likely to proceed to the revision of their regional convention. Lastly, an Observer expressed its concern that the development of the global convention may possibly hinder ratification of regional conventions.

33. In reply to these queries and issues, the representative of the Director-General indicated that three regions have revised their conventions and Africa is the most recent example. He also indicated that a preliminary report on the Global Convention has been carried out and is available online (document 197 EX/8). However, no metrics have been used to compare the regional conventions. Regarding the Arab region, despite a few steps taken, there is yet no concrete move from Member States towards the revision of the regional convention. He also expressed his appreciation for the interest shown to the global convention

34. After examining this item, the Committee Members decided to recommend the following draft decision contained in paragraph 25 of document 197 EX/20 Part VI without any amendments:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part VI,
2. Invites the Director-General to transmit document 197 EX/20 Part VI to the 38th session of the General Conference together with the comments of the Executive Board's observations, and any observations or comments that the Director-General may wish to make;
3. Recommends that the General Conference adopt the following draft resolution:

The General Conference,

1. Recalling that at its 27th session (Paris, 1993) it adopted the Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and qualifications in Higher Education,
2. Recalling that at its 34th session (Paris, 2007) it identified the Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education as a priority to be monitored by the UNESCO Secretariat (34 C/Resolution 87),
3. Also recalling 36 C/Resolution 12,
4. Further recalling 177 EX/Decision 35 (I), 195 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 20,
5. Takes note of the consolidated report on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education;
6. Welcomes the progress made in the revision of the regional conventions on recognition in higher education;

7. Invites all Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure the full and comprehensive implementation of the 1993 Recommendation;
8. Invites the Director-General to:
  - (a) continue to promote the development of successful infrastructure for implementation of the 1993 Recommendation through the six conventions on recognition in higher education;
  - (b) provide technical support to Member States to facilitate recognition across all regions; and
  - (c) continue monitoring as a priority the 1993 Recommendation, particularly in the context of the revisions to the regional conventions on recognition in higher education,
9. Invites the Director-General to transmit to it at its 40th session, the next consolidated report on the implementation of this recommendation and decides to inscribe this item in the agenda of its 40th session.

#### **Application of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (197 EX/20 Part VII)**

35. The Chief of the Section for Universal Access and Preservation, representative of the Director-General, presented an overview of document 197 EX/20 Part VII containing the third consolidated report on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, adopted by the General Conference in 2003. He also stressed that only 21 Member States submitted their reports and recalled in this regard that the submission by Member States of periodic reports on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the General Conference is an obligation under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution. Then, he introduced the recent publication of the Communication and Information Sector entitled "*A decade of promoting multilingualism in cyberspace*" which was prepared by the Secretariat and made available in English, French and Spanish in order to highlight a diversity of conceptual issues that influence the promotion of a multilingual Internet and provide some concrete examples of prominent UNESCO activities in this field.

36. During the debate, one Committee Member thanked the Secretariat for the prepared quality report and provided a general remark to the CR Committee inviting all Members States to raise a greater visibility on the importance of the normative instrument at national levels. The reference has also been made by the Member States to the international Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism which was organized in June 2015 which clearly demonstrated relevance of the Recommendation to the current societal realities.

37. After examining this item, the Committee Members decided to recommend the following draft decision contained in paragraph 31 of document 197 EX/20 Part VII without any amendments.

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 33 C/Resolution 54, 34 C/Resolution 49 and 36 C/Resolution 58,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part VII and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon,
3. Takes note that only 21 Member States submitted reports for this third consultation, which represents a decrease in the responsiveness by Member States;

4. Recalls that the submission by Member States of periodic reports concerning the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the General Conference is an obligation under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution;
5. Reaffirms the importance of this Recommendation and its implementation by Member States;
6. Recommends that the General Conference urge those Member States which have not taken measures to implement the Recommendation to do so;
7. Invites the Director-General to transmit to the General Conference at its 38th session the third consolidated report on the measures taken by Member States to implement this Recommendation, together with its observations and any observations or comments that the Director-General may wish to make.

### **Strategy to improve visibility, ratification, implementation, monitoring and cooperation of education-related standard-setting instruments (197 EX/20 Part VIII)**

38. The Chief of Section of Education Policy, representing the Director-General, presented the Secretariat's proposal for a Strategy on standard-setting instruments in the field of education explaining that the document 197 EX/20 Part VIII is an abstract of the full Strategy which is available online in three languages. He indicated that the document introduces UNESCO's normative action in the field of education in light of the Education 2030 agenda and recalled that the main fields covered by UNESCO's standard-setting instruments constitute the various key dimensions of the right to education, which is at the very heart of UNESCO's mission. He also indicated that the document highlights that UNESCO's normative work across the education sector should be intensified, supported and further showcased, particularly in the context of the Education 2030 agenda and the sustainable development agenda as a whole. In order do to so, five key areas of work are presented.

39. This was followed by a discussion in which several Member States took part. The observations and questions raised demonstrated the high interest of the Members of the Committee in the Strategy and its main objectives. The Committee Members expressed their satisfaction and congratulated the Secretariat for the quality of the document presented and the clarity of the summary. Their enquiries were generally focused on the concrete implementation of the Strategy, especially regarding the involvement of various stakeholders as well as the database being upgraded to an Observatory. Some Committee Members asked for more details as to how to make the strategy effective at various levels: personnel, financial and procedural. Member States showed support and made suggestions to implement the Strategy. In addition, it was suggested that the Secretariat prepares a document presenting further the measures to be taken with regard to the Strategy and a provisional timetable for the implementation of these measures. A Member of the Committee raised issue about the funding of the Strategy and the possible financial limitations.

40. The representative of the Director-General was invited to respond to queries and issues raised by the Committee Members. In his interventions, he responded that the Strategy aims at enhancing the five objectives regarding to visibility, ratification, implementation, monitoring and cooperation. Regarding the Observatory, it has three main development goals: information-sharing and dissemination of information at upper echelons; analysis and prospective and provide forum for technical support and assistance and offer real time information and globally. In order to make the observatory effective, the Secretariat wishes to involve as many stakeholders as possible. He also stressed that core elements of the Strategy could be developed with available resources but wider and more ambitious objectives would need additional human and financial resources. He explained that it would be difficult to provide more details and more precise information about the amount of resources needed or the concrete actions taken to implement it as it depends on further

discussions which will be held after the adoption of the Strategy as a whole. In addition, he indicated that an information document containing the Strategy's road map and provisional timetable requested by the Committee Members could be prepared for the 199th session of the Executive Board.

41. At the end of the discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 195 EX/Decision 15,
2. Further recalling the conclusions of working group on the working methods of the CR Committee (196 EX/36),
3. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part VIII,
4. Recognizing the importance of UNESCO standard-setting instruments in the field of education notably in the context of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda,
5. Appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General to develop a Strategy in view of improving the visibility, ratification, implementation, monitoring and cooperation of education-related standard-setting instruments;
6. Requests the Director-General to inform the Executive board, at its 199th session, of the roadmap and a provisional timetable to guarantee the implementation of this Strategy;
7. Requests also the Director-General to keep the Executive Board informed of the implementation of this strategy and to present detailed information on the financial, personnel and procedural aspects of the proposed Observatory on the right to education in the framework of the general monitoring on the implementation of standard-setting instruments.

**Item 21 Protocol instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes which may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education: nominations and report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (197 EX/21)**

42. One Committee member said that if only one nomination had been received, that was mainly due to the fact that the Commission had never been called upon to use its good offices or undertake conciliation. Nevertheless, despite the single reply to the call for nominations made by the Director-General to States Parties to the 1962 Protocol, the Committee member encouraged members of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations that were also States Parties to this Protocol to submit nominations to the Commission.

43. Another member of the Committee that was a State Party to the 1962 Protocol then submitted the nomination of one of its nationals, Professor Eibe Riedel (Germany).

44. At the end of the discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the provisions of Article 3 of the Protocol instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes which

may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education,

2. Also recalling the provisions of Article 7 of the Protocol whereby, subject to the provisions of Article 6, members of the Commission shall remain in office until their successors take up their duties,
3. Having taken note of the list of persons nominated by the States Parties to the Protocol with a view to the election of eight members of the Commission, transmitted to it by the Director-General in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2, of the Protocol (197 EX/21),
4. Transmits this list to the General Conference at its 38th session;
5. Requests the Director-General to invite once again the States Parties to the Protocol to submit nominations, and to transmit to the General Conference any nominations that she may receive before the opening of the vote that is to take place at its 38th session.