

Statutes of the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme¹

Article I

An International Coordinating Council of the Programme on “Man and the Biosphere” (hereinafter called “Council”) is hereby set up within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter UNESCO).

Article II

1. The Council shall be composed of 34 Member States of UNESCO, elected by the General Conference at its ordinary sessions, taking due account of equitable geographical distribution, of the need to ensure appropriate rotation, of the representativity of these States from the viewpoint of ecology, biodiversity and cultural diversity in the regional groups of UNESCO, and contributions to sustainable development within the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (hereinafter the “MAB Programme”).

2. The term of office of the members of the Council shall begin at the close of the ordinary session of the General Conference at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Conference following it.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the term of office of one half of the members designated at the first election shall expire at the close of the first ordinary session of the General Conference following the session during which they were elected. The names of these members shall be drawn by lot after the first election by the President of the General Conference, it being understood that the outgoing members shall be replaced by members belonging to the same regional group.

4. Members of the Council are immediately eligible for re-election.

5. The Council may make recommendations concerning its own membership to the General Conference.

6. The persons appointed by Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be experts in the field covered by the MAB Programme and chosen from among those persons playing a major part in the implementation of the activities related to the MAB Programme in the said Member States.

Article III

1. The Council shall normally meet in plenary session once every 12-18 months, but no more than twice per biennium. Extraordinary sessions may be convened under conditions specified in the Rules of Procedure.

2. Each Council member shall have one vote but it may send as many experts or advisers as it deems necessary to sessions of the Council.

3. The Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

¹ Resolution adopted on the report of the SC Commission at the 16th plenary meeting, on 10 November 2011.

Article IV

1. The Council shall be responsible for guiding and supervising the planning and the implementation of the MAB Programme for studying proposals concerning development and modifications of this Programme, for recommending scientific and international cooperation projects of interest to all countries or to a group of countries, and assessing priorities among such projects for coordinating international cooperation of Member States in the framework of the Programme for assisting in the development of national and regional projects related to the Programme, and for taking any practical or scientific measures that may be required for the successful implementations of the MAB Programme. Such measures may include the submission of specific proposals to the General Conference on the implementation of the MAB Programme for consideration and approval by this body.
2. In carrying out its activities, the Council shall make full use of the facilities offered by the agreements or working arrangements between UNESCO and the other intergovernmental organizations mentioned in Article VII, subparagraph 1 (b).
3. The Council may consult with all appropriate international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with which UNESCO maintains official partnerships.
4. The Council shall, wherever necessary, attempt to coordinate the MAB Programme with other international programmes.

Article V

1. The Council may set up ad hoc committees for the study of specific problems. Membership of such ad hoc committees shall also be open to Member States of UNESCO, which are not represented in the Council.
2. Taking into account other relevant international activities, the Council may establish as required working groups of specialists to examine certain aspects of the MAB Programme. These working groups, whose members shall serve in a personal capacity, may include nationals of Member States of UNESCO which are not represented on the Council.

Article VI

1. At the beginning of its first session, the Council shall elect from among its Member States a Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These shall form the Council's Bureau.
2. The Bureau shall discharge such duties as the Council may lay upon it.
3. Meetings of the Bureau may be convened in between meetings of the Council, at the request of the Council itself, of the Director-General of UNESCO or by consensus of the members of the said Bureau.
4. The Council shall elect a new Bureau whenever its own membership is changed by the General Conference in accordance with Article II above. The members of the Bureau who are representatives of Member States of UNESCO shall remain in office until a new Bureau has been elected.

Article VII

1. Observers who could be invited (and encouraged) to attend the sessions of the Council, its Bureau, or its committees, without having the right to vote, include but are not limited to:

(a) representatives of the Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council.

(b) representatives of the United Nations, as well as other members of the United Nations system, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

(c) representatives of international non-governmental organizations which are invited by the Council and/or the Director-General of UNESCO.

2. The Council shall determine the conditions under which organizations other than those foreseen in subparagraphs 1 (b) and (c) above may be invited to attend its meetings, without the right to vote, whenever questions of common interest are discussed.

Article VIII

1. The secretariat of the Council shall be provided by the Director-General of UNESCO, who shall place at the Council's disposal the staff and other means required for its operation. Staff members of the other organizations mentioned in Article VII, subparagraph 1 (b) may be assigned to the secretariat by agreement with the said organizations.

2. The secretariat shall provide the necessary services for the sessions of the Council and meetings of its Bureau, committees and working groups. Arrangements may be made with other organizations mentioned in Article VII, subparagraph 1 (b), for providing specialized services to particular working groups of the Council without costs to UNESCO.

3. The secretariat shall take any day-to-day measures required in order to coordinate the execution of the international programmes recommended by the Council, it shall fix the date of the Council's sessions in accordance with the Bureau's instructions, and shall take all steps required to convene such sessions.

4. The secretariat shall assemble all proposals sent in by members of the Council, other Member States of UNESCO and the international organizations concerned with regard to the formulation of the international projects under the MAB Programme, and shall prepare them for examination by the Council; it shall maintain liaison with the national committees established by Member States for the execution of the MAB Programme in accordance with the invitation contained in 16 C/Resolution 2.3131 adopted by the General Conference at its sixteenth session, and inform them of the Council's recommendations.

5. In addition to the services to be rendered to the Council, the secretariat shall cooperate closely with the secretariats of other UNESCO intergovernmental programmes and of the international governmental and nongovernmental organizations mentioned in Article VII, subparagraphs 1 (b) and (c); it shall for this purpose take part in inter-secretariat coordination meetings as necessary.

Article IX

1. International programmes proposed by the Council to Member States for concerted action on their part shall be implemented by the participating Member States, according to the commitments which each State is willing to make. The Council may, however, make recommendations to UNESCO and to the other organizations mentioned in Article VII,

subparagraphs 1 (b) and (c), , concerning assistance to Member States for the development of environmental programmes. If the said organizations accept such recommendations, and if the Member States concerned signify their agreement, these organizations shall undertake to finance the related activities in accordance with the provisions of their respective constitutions and regulations.

2. Member States shall bear the expense of participation of their representatives in sessions of the Council and its committees. The running expenses of the Council and its subsidiary organs shall be financed from funds appropriated for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO as well as from such additional resources as may be made available by other organizations of the United Nations system. Nevertheless, the General Conference may be requested to bear the participation expenses of one representative from Council Member States with a per capita income less than \$10,000 or from LDCs.

3. The Council sessions shall take place in the premises of UNESCO Headquarters. However, upon invitation by a UNESCO Member State and the acceptance of that invitation by the Council of a majority of the Members, a session of the Council may take place in a Council Member State extending the invitation. In this case, the expenses of convening that session of the Council and its subsidiary organs shall be borne by the Member State that extended the invitation. Whenever modifications to the Statutes or the Rules of Procedure of the Council are on the agenda of a session of the Council, the session shall be held at UNESCO Headquarters.

4. Voluntary contributions may be accepted and established as trust funds, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, and administrated by the Director-General of UNESCO. The Council shall make recommendations to the Director-General on the allocation of such contributions for international projects under the MAB Programme.

Article X

The Council shall submit reports on its activities to the General Conference of UNESCO at each of its ordinary sessions. These reports shall be communicated for information to the other international organizations mentioned in Article VII, subparagraphs 1 (b) and (c), and to other interested parties, as deemed appropriate by the Council.