

Hundred and sixtieth Session

160 EX/16
PARIS, 14 August 2000
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Item 3.5.3 of the provisional agenda

**DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE
PROCLAMATION BY UNESCO OF “MASTERPIECES OF THE ORAL
AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY”**

SUMMARY

At its 155th session, the Executive Board adopted 155 EX/Decision 3.5.5 on the Regulations relating to the proclamation by UNESCO of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity. The Director-General hereby submits to the Executive Board a proposal for the amendment of Article 4(a) of the said Regulations.

Decision required: paragraph 7.

1. Pursuant to 29 C/Resolution 23, the Director-General proposed to the Executive Board at its 154th session the creation of an international distinction entitled *masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity*.
2. In 154 EX/Decision 3.5.1, the Executive Board approved the principles governing the creation of that distinction, and invited the Director-General to establish, in consultation with all the regions, precise criteria for choosing cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression and to define a detailed selection procedure and funding methods, with a view to their proclamation as *masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity*.
3. At its 155th session, the Executive Board approved the Regulations relating to the proclamation by UNESCO of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity (155 EX/Decision 3.5.5).

4. At the 157th session, the Director-General submitted an interim report on the implementation of the project, and announced the composition of the international jury, on an experimental basis, pursuant to the Regulations (157 EX/Decision 3.4.1).

5. With a view to reflecting more fully the great interest in this distinction among Member States, the Director-General decided in November 1999 to attach particular priority to the safeguarding of the oral and intangible heritage within UNESCO's programmes. Taking into account the opinions voiced by a number of Members of the Executive Board at the 159th session, the Director-General also decided to hold two meetings with representatives of Member States. The first was held on 5 May 2000 for the purpose of informing the Permanent Delegations about implementation of the project. On 15 June 2000, the Director-General held an extraordinary meeting of the international jury, which was followed by a presentation and a dialogue with representatives of all regions.

6. Having taken note of the wish of numerous representatives of Member States for the international jury to be expanded, the Director-General hereby submits to the Executive Board a proposal to amend Article 4 (a) of the Regulations, raising the number of members of the jury from 9 to 18.

<i>Present text of the approved Regulations</i>	<i>Proposed text with the amendment (in bold)</i>
<p>4. Evaluation procedure</p> <p>(a) The task of choosing the example of oral and intangible heritage to be proclaimed a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity will be entrusted to a Jury of nine members designated by the Director-General of UNESCO, in consultation with Member States, ensuring a balance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • between creative workers and experts; • in geographical distribution; • in the representation of women and young people; • between the disciplines represented, such as music, oral literature, the performing arts, rites, languages and the skills involved in crafts and traditional architecture. 	<p>4. Evaluation procedure</p> <p>(a) The task of choosing the example of oral and intangible heritage to be proclaimed a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity will be entrusted to a Jury of eighteen members designated by the Director-General of UNESCO, in consultation with Member States, ensuring a balance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • between creative workers and experts; • in geographical distribution; • in the representation of women and young people; • between the disciplines represented, such as music, oral literature, the performing arts, rites, languages and the skills involved in crafts and traditional architecture.

7. The Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 160 EX/16,
2. Approves the amendment to Article 4 (a) of the Regulations relating to the proclamation by UNESCO of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity.