



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Two hundredth session

200 EX/36

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**DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE
PROGRAMME AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (PX)**



1. The Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) held six (6) meetings; from Tuesday 11 October 2016 in the morning to Thursday 13 October 2016 in the afternoon and one (1) evening meeting on Friday 14 October 2016, with Mr Komlavi Francisco Seddoh (Togo) as Chairperson and Ms Denise Houphouët-Boigny (Côte d'Ivoire), as Temporary Chairperson, to examine the items listed below which had been referred to it by the Executive Board at its plenary meeting on 7 October 2016.

Item	Title and documents
5	<p>Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions</p> <p>Part I. Programme issues (200 EX/5 Part I; 200 EX/5.INF)</p> <p>A. <i>Report on preliminary progress by UNESCO Institute for Statistics on disaggregated level of data for development indicators related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS)</i></p> <p>B. <i>Progress report on the implementation of the MAB Strategy for 2015-2025 and the associated Lima Action Plan for UNESCO'S Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2016-2025</i></p> <p>D. <i>Progress report on the promotion of the Revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, and on the monitoring of its implementation</i></p> <p>E. <i>Cultural and educational institutions in Iraq</i></p> <p>G. <i>Proposed strategy and action plan to protect and strengthen brand recognition of biosphere reserves, world heritage sites, and UNESCO Global Geoparks</i></p> <p>H. <i>Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)</i></p>
6	United Nations University: Report by the Council of the University and the Director-General's comments thereon (200 EX/6)
7	Global coordination and support for the implementation of SDG-4-Education 2030 (200 EX/7 and Corr.)
8	Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) (2016-2021) (200 EX/8)
9	UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent violent extremism (200 EX/9)
25	Occupied Palestine (200 EX/25)
26	Implementation of 38 C/Resolution 72 and 199 EX/Decision 20 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories (200 EX/26)
27	Proposal for the proclamation of an International Day of Light (200 EX/27)

- 29 **From COP 21 to COP 22: UNESCO's contribution and perspective in the fight against climate change** (200 EX/29 Rev.)
- 30 **Contribution of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to the preparation of and follow-up to the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** (200 EX/30)
- 32 **UNESCO's role in the promotion of linkages between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education qualifications** (200 EX/32)

Item 5 Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Part I – Programme issues (200 EX/5 Part I; 200 EX/5.INF)

- A. *Report on preliminary progress by UNESCO Institute for Statistics on disaggregated level of data for development indicators related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*

2. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 5 (I, D),
2. Having examined documents 200 EX/5 Part I (A) and 200 EX/5.INF,
3. Further recalling the special status conferred by the Organization upon Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as a priority target group in its Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4),
4. Expresses appreciation for the UNESCO Institute for Statistics' report on the current situation of SIDS and their vulnerabilities, problems and needs in relation to the rest of the world in education and literacy, science and innovation, and culture, and takes note of its content;
5. Invites the Director-General to request the assistance of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in defining and agreeing on a comprehensive and multi-dimensional measure of vulnerability in SIDS;
6. Requests the Director-General to assign the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) responsibility for cooperation with DESA on the work of paragraph 5 above;
7. Further requests that the UIS continue and reinforce their current capacity-building efforts, including, where possible, work at the field level;
8. Requests the Director-General to redouble fund-raising efforts for the UIS as part of the comprehensive resource mobilization strategy;
9. Encourages Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the work of the UIS and to further enhance coordination of bilateral technical cooperation;

10. Also requests the Director-General to submit a full progress report to it at its 202nd session.

B. Progress report on the implementation of the MAB Strategy for 2015-2025 and the associated Lima Action Plan for UNESCO'S Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2016-2025

3. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 38 C/Resolution 19,
2. Having examined document 200 EX/5 Part I (B),
3. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for the report on progress made in the implementation of MAB Strategy;
4. Also expresses its appreciation to Peru for hosting the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserve and the 28th MAB ICC;
5. Notes with satisfaction the adoption of the Lima Declaration on MAB and the WNBR by the Lima Congress and the 28th MAB ICC;
6. Also notes with satisfaction the adoption of the Lima Action Plan by the 28th MAB ICC as previously endorsed by the Lima Congress;
7. Affirms the importance of the Lima Action Plan and the MAB Strategy in contributing to sustainable development;
8. Takes note of the project to establish a transboundary biosphere reserve between Haiti and the Dominican Republic following the usual MAB Programme nomination procedures;
9. Endorses the Lima Action Plan;
10. Encourages Member States, in close cooperation with the MAB Secretariat, to undertake and promote actions contained in the Lima Action Plan for the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy, through their MAB National Committees, biosphere reserves, regional and thematic MAB networks and relevant public and private stakeholders;
11. Requests the Director-General to present a progress report on the implementation of the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan to the General Conference at its 39th session.

D. Progress report on the promotion of the Revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, and on the monitoring of its implementation

4. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 200 EX/5 Part I (D),
2. Recalling 38 C/Resolution 43 by which the General Conference approved the Revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport,
3. Takes note of the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to promote the Charter;
4. Further takes note that the implementation of the Charter will be monitored within a framework to be submitted for approval to the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI);
5. Requests Member States, civil society organizations and educational institutions to promote the Charter as widely as possible so that its principles can become a reality for all human beings;
6. Further requests the Director-General to raise awareness of UNESCO Member States on the objectives of MINEPS VI;
7. Invites the Director-General to consider UNESCO's contribution to the follow-up of MINEPS VI in preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5);
8. Invites the Director-General to submit to the General Conference at its 39th session a progress report on the promotion of the Charter and on the outcomes of MINEPS VI.

E. Cultural and educational institutions in Iraq

5. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 5 (I, B),
2. Having examined document 200 EX/5 Part I (E),
3. Acknowledges with appreciation the results achieved in the implementation of programmes in UNESCO's fields of competence, in particular through capacity-building activities and by addressing the most urgent humanitarian needs of the affected population;
4. Expresses its gratitude to all donors and multilateral and private sector partners for their substantial contribution to UNESCO's action in favour of the Iraqi people, and appeals to them to continue assisting UNESCO in its efforts, in particular to foster reconstruction, dialogue and the safeguarding of cultural heritage in Iraq;
5. Invites the Director-General to present a progress report to it at its 202nd session.

G. Proposed strategy and action plan to protect and strengthen brand recognition of biosphere reserves, world heritage sites, and UNESCO Global Geoparks

6. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 36 C/Resolution 31 on cooperation between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), 190 EX/Decision 5 (I) and 191 EX/Decision 5 (III), 195 EX/Decision 5 (I) A, 196 EX/Dec.5 (II, A),
2. Having examined document 200 EX/5 Part I (G),
3. Requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 202nd session an information document containing a strategy and action plan to strengthen recognition of the UNESCO brand and of brands relating to biosphere reserves, world heritage sites and Global Geoparks.

H. Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)

7. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 200 EX/5 Part I (H),
2. Takes note of the information provided therein;
3. Invites the Director-General to report thereon at the 201st session of the Executive Board.

Item 6 United Nations University: Report by the Council of the University and the Director-General's comments thereon (200 EX/6)

8. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 200 EX/6,
2. Recognizing the key role of the United Nations University (UNU) as a bridge between the international academic community and the United Nations,
3. Further recognizing the fruitful relationship that has been developed between UNU and UNESCO over the years,
4. Expresses its satisfaction at the development of the programme and activities of UNU;
5. Expresses its appreciation for the continued participation of UNU in the programmes and activities of UNESCO, particularly the UNESCO-UNU Chairs and Networks;
6. Invites the Director-General to continue to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation with UNU in fields of mutual interest and priority, including in the use of UNU's think-tank function and research to inform UNESCO's programmes, whenever relevant;
7. Further invites the Director-General to communicate to the Chair of the Council of the UNU the terms of its decision.

Item 7 Global coordination and support for the implementation of SDG-4-Education 2030 (200 EX/7 and Corr.)

9. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined 200 EX/7 and Corr.,
2. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 6 concerning the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030, and further recalling 197 EX/Decision 14 related to preventing and addressing school-related gender-based violence, and with reference to the World Education Forum Incheon Declaration, 38 C/Resolution 11, the Education 2030 Framework for Action, and 196 EX/Decision 8,
3. Thanks the Director-General for her efforts in launching the coordination of and support for the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 and encourages her to increase mobilization to strengthen UNESCO's coordination role in the implementation of this agenda at the national and international levels;
4. Thanks the Director-General for her work aimed at guiding Member States to prevent and address school-related gender-based violence and invites her to continue her work, especially by promoting the adoption of global guidelines in this area;
5. Appreciates the Director-General for her work for literacy and lifelong learning for all and requests to continue and further enhance the work in this area;
6. Welcomes the judicious organization of cooperation designed to ensure a comprehensive approach as well as the development of close partnerships with relevant actors and stakeholders;
7. Welcomes the cycle of regional consultations initiated by UNESCO together with other partners and highlights the importance of the organization of a consultation meeting for Africa, building up on the subregional consultation meetings;
8. Welcomes UNESCO's support in the development of the thematic indicators developed to assist Member States with the implementation of the global indicators for SDG4-Education 2030, and reporting against the thematic indicators will be on a voluntary basis;
9. Emphasizes the importance of human rights education and training, particularly Target 4.7, for the fulfilment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;
10. Encourages Member States and relevant partners to support UNESCO activities on the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030, including through extrabudgetary resources;
11. Requests the Director-General to ask the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) to provide as required support to Member States that will develop and strengthen their statistical capabilities, including data collection, analysis and reporting, and contribute to Member States capability to report on the implementation of the broader range of SDGs and targets;
12. Requests the Director-General to report to it at its 202nd session on the work carried out with a view to adopting global guidelines on combating school-related gender-based violence;

13. Further requests the Director-General to report to it at its 202nd session on UNESCO's contribution to global coordination and support for the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030.

Item 8 Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) (2016-2021) (200 EX/8)

10. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 199 EX/Decision 6 which approved the Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) (2016-2021) contained in document 199 EX/6,
2. Having examined document 200 EX/8,
3. Approves the proposed action plan contained in document 200 EX/8, and invites the Director-General to implement the Strategy for TVET (2016-2021) accordingly;
4. Invites the Director-General to take into account the need to improve linkages between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education, in the framework of paragraph 15 of the Action Plan;
5. Encourages Member States to promote South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, with a particular focus on Least Developed Countries;
6. Invites Member States and development partners to reinforce UNESCO's capacities and resources through earmarked extrabudgetary funding and the secondment of experts.

Item 9 UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent violent extremism (200 EX/9)

11. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined 200 EX/9,
2. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 46 on UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent violent extremism,
3. Recalling the mission and the mandate of UNESCO to build peace in the minds of men and women,
4. Taking note of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/254 (February 2016), in which it welcomed the initiative by the Secretary-General and took note of his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism;
5. Also taking note of UNGA resolution A/RES/70/291 (July 2016) "The United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy Review", which recommended that Member States consider the implementation of relevant recommendations of the Plan of Action, as applicable to the national context, and encourages the United Nations General Assembly entities, in line with their mandates, in particular UNESCO, to implement

relevant recommendations of the Plan of Action, including by providing technical assistance to Member States upon their request,

6. Referring to the UNESCO Education Strategy 2014-2021, whose second strategic objective is empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens, in particular through supporting global citizenship education,
7. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for having launched and implemented activities to guide and build capacity of Member States to prevent violent extremism through education;
8. Stresses the benefits of human rights education, research and training in the prevention of violent extremism;
9. Thanks the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) for its contribution to the development of education for preventing violent extremism;
10. Welcomes the strong intersectoral cooperation established to ensure a comprehensive approach as well as the development of close partnerships with relevant actors and stakeholders;
11. Encourages Member States to support through extrabudgetary resources UNESCO activities on the prevention of violent extremism through education;
12. Encourages the Director-General to further enhance UNESCO activities to prevent violent extremism through education, in coordination with United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders;
13. Requests the Director-General to report at the 202nd session of the Executive Board on UNESCO's contribution to the prevention of violent extremism through education in a report reflecting the contribution of all the programme sectors and taking into account intersectoral collaboration, with particular attention to the intersectoral activities specified in paragraph 17 of 197 EX/Decision 46, keeping in view the guidelines of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/254.

Item 25 Occupied Palestine¹ (200 EX/25)

12. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

¹ After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) recommended by a vote taken by roll-call that the Executive Board adopt the draft decision contained in document 200 EX/PX/DR.25.2 Rev., with 24 votes in favour, 6 votes against and 26 abstentions:

The following States having voted for the adoption: Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chad, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Viet Nam.

The following States having voted against: Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstentions: Albania, Argentina, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, France, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine.

Absent: Serbia, Turkmenistan.

I.A Jerusalem

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 200 EX/25,
2. Recalling the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions (1949) and their additional Protocols (1977), the 1907 Hague Regulations on Land Warfare, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related Protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982), and the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO on the protection of cultural heritage, as well as resolutions and decisions of UNESCO relating to Jerusalem, also recalling previous UNESCO decisions relating to the reconstruction and development of Gaza as well as UNESCO decisions on the two Palestinian sites in Al-Khalil/Hebron and in Bethlehem,
3. Affirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions, also affirming that nothing in the current decision, which aims, *inter alia*, at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Palestine and the distinctive character of East Jerusalem, shall in any way affect the relevant Security Council and United Nations resolutions and decisions on the legal status of Palestine and Jerusalem,
4. Deeply regrets the Israeli refusal to implement UNESCO previous decisions concerning Jerusalem, particularly 185 EX/Decision 14, notes that its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all the aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, has not been fulfilled, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint the above-mentioned representative;
5. Deeply deplores the failure of Israel, the occupying Power, to cease the persistent excavations and works in East Jerusalem particularly in and around the Old City, and reiterates its request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all such works in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
6. Thanks the Director-General for her efforts to implement previous UNESCO decisions on Jerusalem and requests her to maintain and reinvigorate such efforts;

I.B Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif and its surroundings

I.B.1 Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif

7. Calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to allow for the restoration of the historic status quo that prevailed until September 2000, under which the Jordanian Awqaf (Religious Foundation) Department exercised exclusive authority on Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif, and its mandate extended to all affairs relating to the unimpeded administration of Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif, including maintenance, restoration and regulating access;
8. Strongly condemns the escalating Israeli aggressions and illegal measures against the Awqaf Department and its personnel, and against the freedom of worship and Muslims'

access to their Holy Site Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif, and requests Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the historic status quo and to immediately stop these measures;

9. Firmly deplores the continuous storming of Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif by Israeli right-wing extremists and uniformed forces, and urges Israel, the occupying Power, to take necessary measures to prevent provocative abuses that violate the sanctity and integrity of Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif;
10. Deeply decries the continuous Israeli aggressions against civilians including Islamic religious figures and priests, decries the forceful entering into the different mosques and historic buildings inside Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif by different Israeli employees including the so-called "Israeli Antiquities" officials, and arrests and injuries among Muslim worshippers and Jordanian Awqaf guards in Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif by the Israeli forces, and urges Israel, the occupying Power, to end these aggressions and abuses which inflame the tension on the ground and between faiths;
11. Disapproves of the Israeli restriction of access to Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif during the 2015 Eid Al-Adha and the subsequent violence, and calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to stop all violations against Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif;
12. Deeply regrets the refusal of Israel to grant visas to UNESCO experts in charge of the UNESCO project at the Centre of Islamic Manuscripts in Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif, and requests Israel to grant visas to UNESCO experts without restrictions;
13. Regrets the damage caused by the Israeli Forces, especially since 23 August 2015, to the historic gates and windows of the al-Qibli Mosque inside Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif, and reaffirms, in this regard, the obligation of Israel to respect the integrity, authenticity and cultural heritage of Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif, as reflected in the historic status quo, as a Muslim holy site of worship and as an integral part of a world cultural heritage site;
14. Expresses its deep concern over the Israeli closure and ban of the renovation of the Al-Rahma Gate building, one of the Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif gates, and urges Israel, the occupying Power, to reopen the Gate, and stop obstruction of the necessary restoration works, in order to repair the damage caused by the weather conditions, especially the water leakage into the rooms of the building;
15. Also calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to stop the obstruction of the immediate execution of all the 18 Hashemite restoration projects in and around Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif;
16. Deplores the Israeli decision to approve a plan to build a two-line cable car system in East Jerusalem and the so called "Liba House" project in the Old City of Jerusalem as well as the construction of the so called "Kedem Center", a visitor centre near the southern wall of the Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif, the construction of the Strauss Building and the project of the elevator in Al-Buraq Plaza "Western Wall Plaza" and urges Israel, the occupying Power, to renounce the above-mentioned projects and to stop the construction works in conformity with its obligations under the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

I.B.2 The Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram ash-Sharif

17. Reaffirms that the Mughrabi Ascent is an integral and inseparable part of Al-Aqşa Mosque/Al-Ḥaram Al-Sharif;

18. Takes note of the 16th Reinforced Monitoring Report and all previous reports, together with their addenda prepared by the World Heritage Centre as well as the State of Conservation reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine;
19. Deprecates the continuing Israeli unilateral measures and decisions regarding the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate, including the latest works conducted at the Mughrabi Gate entrance in February 2015, the instalment of an umbrella at that entrance as well as the enforced creation of a new Jewish prayer platform south of the Mughrabi Ascent in Al-Buraq Plaza “Western Wall Plaza”, and the removal of the Islamic remains at the site, and reaffirms that no Israeli unilateral measures, shall be taken in conformity with its status and obligations under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;
20. Also expresses its deep concern regarding the illegal demolitions of Umayyad, Ottoman and Mamluk remains as well as other intrusive works and excavations in and around the Mughrabi Gate Pathway, and also requests Israel, the occupying Power, to halt such demolitions, excavations and works and to abide by its obligations under the provisions of the UNESCO conventions mentioned in paragraph 2 above;
21. Reiterates its thanks to Jordan for its cooperation and urges Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate with the Jordanian Awqaf Department, in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and to facilitate access of Jordanian Awqaf experts with their tools and materials to the site in order to enable the execution of the Jordanian design of the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in accordance with UNESCO and World Heritage Committee decisions, particularly 37 COM/7A.26, 38 COM/7A.4 and 39 COM/7A.27;
22. Thanks the Director-General for her attention to the sensitive situation of this matter, and requests her to take the necessary measures in order to enable the execution of the Jordanian design of the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate;

I.C UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls and UNESCO experts meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent

23. Stresses yet again the urgent need of the implementation of the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls;
24. Recalls in this regard 196 EX/Decision 26 that decided, in case of non-implementation, to consider, in conformity with the International Law, other means to ensure its implementation;
25. Notes with deep concern that Israel, the occupying Power, had not complied with any of the 12² decisions of the Executive Board as well as six³ decisions of the World Heritage Committee that request the implementation of the reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls;
26. Regrets the continued Israeli refusal to act in accordance with UNESCO and World Heritage Committee decisions that request a UNESCO experts meeting on the

² The 11 Executive Board decisions: 185 EX/Decision 14, 186 EX/Decision 11, 187 EX/Decision 11, 189 EX/Decision 8, 190 EX/Decision 13, 191 EX/Decision 9, 192 EX/Decision 11, 194 EX/Decision 11, 195 EX/Decision 9, 196 EX/Decision 26, 197 EX/Decision 32, 199 EX/Dec. 19.1.

³ The six World Heritage Committee resolutions: 34 COM/7A.20, 35 COM/7A.22, 36 COM/7A.23, 37 COM/7A.26, 38 COM/7A.4, 39 COM/7A.27.

Mughrabi Ascent and the dispatch of a reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls;

27. Invites the Director-General to take necessary measures to implement the above-mentioned reactive monitoring mission in accordance with World Heritage Committee decision 34 COM/7A.20, prior to the next session of the Executive Board, and invites all concerned parties to facilitate the implementation of the mission and experts meeting;
28. Requests that the report and recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission as well as the report of the technical meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent, be presented to the concerned parties;
29. Thanks the Director-General for her continuous efforts to implement the above-mentioned UNESCO joint reactive monitoring mission and all related UNESCO decisions and resolutions;

II

RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GAZA

30. Deplores the military confrontations in and around the Gaza Strip and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, as well as the continuous negative impact in the fields of competence of UNESCO, the attacks on schools and other educational and cultural facilities, including breaches of inviolability of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools;
31. Strongly deplores the continuous Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, which harmfully affects the free and sustained movement of personnel and humanitarian relief items as well as the intolerable number of casualties among Palestinian children, the attacks on schools and other educational and cultural facilities and the denial of access to education, and requests Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately ease this blockade;
32. Reiterates its request to the Director-General to upgrade, as soon as possible, the UNESCO Antenna in Gaza in order to ensure the prompt reconstruction of schools, universities, cultural heritage sites, cultural institutions, media centres and places of worship that have been destroyed or damaged by the consecutive wars on Gaza;
33. Thanks the Director-General for the information meeting held on March 2015 on the current situation in Gaza in the fields of competence of UNESCO and on the outcome of the projects conducted by UNESCO in the Gaza Strip-Palestine, and invites her to organize, as soon as possible, another information meeting on the same matter;
34. Also thanks the Director-General for initiatives that have already been implemented in Gaza in the fields of education, culture and youth and for the safety of media professionals, and calls upon her to continue her active involvement in the reconstruction of Gaza's damaged educational and cultural components;

III

THE TWO PALESTINIAN SITES OF AL-ḤARAM AL IBRĀHĪMĪ/TOMB OF THE PATRIARCHS IN AL-KHALĪL/HEBRON AND THE BILĀL IBN RABĀḤ MOSQUE/RACHEL'S TOMB IN BETHLEHEM

35. Reaffirms that the two concerned sites located in Al-Khalil/Hebron and in Bethlehem are an integral part of Palestine;
36. Shares the conviction affirmed by the international community that the two sites are of religious significance for Judaism, Christianity and Islam;
37. Strongly disapproves the ongoing Israeli illegal excavations, works, construction of private roads for settlers and a separation wall inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron, that harmfully affect the integrity of the site, and the subsequent denial of freedom of movement and freedom of access to places of worship, and asks Israel, the occupying Power, to end these violations in compliance with provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
38. Deeply deplores the new cycle of violence, going on since October 2015, in the context of the constant aggressions by the Israeli settlers and other extremist groups against Palestinian residents including schoolchildren, also asks the Israeli authorities to prevent such aggressions;
39. Regrets the visual impact of the separation wall on the site of Bilal Ibn Rabaḥ Mosque/Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem as well as the strict ban on access of Palestinian Christian and Muslim worshippers to the site, and demands the Israeli authorities to restore the original character of the landscape around the site and to lift the ban on access to it;
40. Deeply regrets the Israeli refusal to comply with 185 EX/Decision 15, which requested the Israeli authorities to remove the two Palestinian sites from its national heritage list and calls on the Israeli authorities to act in accordance with that decision;

IV

41. Decides to include these matters under an item entitled "Occupied Palestine" in the agenda at its 201st session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.

Item 26 Implementation of 38 C/Resolution 72 and 199 EX/Decision 20 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories⁴ (200 EX/26)

13. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

I. OCCUPIED PALESTINE

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 185 EX/Decision 36 and 38 C/Resolution 72 as well as Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with regard to the right to education, Articles 24, 50 and 94 of the Fourth Geneva Convention with regard to the denial of the right of children to education, as well as the Hague Convention (1954) and its related Protocols and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), also recalling the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion of 9 July 2004 on the "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory",
2. Having examined documents 200 EX/26 and 200 EX/25,
3. Committed to the safeguarding of monuments, works of art, manuscripts, books and other historical and cultural properties to be protected in the event of conflict, as well as the safeguarding of schools and all educational facilities,
4. Deplores the damaging impact of the military confrontations on the fields of competence of UNESCO in and around the Gaza Strip where several hundreds of educational and cultural facilities have been destroyed or damaged, affecting more than 500,000 schoolchildren and students as reflected in United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and UNESCO reports, as well as the severe damage inflicted on cultural heritage sites and cultural institutions, and also deploring breaches of the inviolability of UNRWA schools;
5. Reaffirms, in this regard, that schools, universities and cultural heritage sites enjoy special protection and should not be targeted in situations of armed conflict;
6. Expresses its growing concern about the harmful impact of the Wall and of other practices on the activities of educational and cultural institutions, as well as obstacles resulting therefrom which prevent Palestinian schoolchildren and students from being an integral part of their social fabric and from exercising fully their right to education,

⁴ After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) recommended by a vote taken by roll-call that the Executive Board adopt the draft decision contained in document 200 EX/PX/DR.26.3, with 41 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 15 abstentions:

The following States having voted for the adoption: Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chad, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Sudan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam.

The following State having voted against: United States of America.

Abstentions: Argentina, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, India, Kenya, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sri Lanka, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda.

Absent: Turkmenistan.

and calls for the observance of the provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

7. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the Wall and other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, which, *inter alia*, have a negative impact on Palestinian schoolchildren's ability to fully exercise their right to education;
8. Also demands, in this regard, that the Israeli authorities renounce the extension of the Wall through Beit Jala and the Cremisan Monastery in the Bethlehem Governorate;
9. Notes with deep concern the Israeli censorship of the Palestinian curricula of schools and universities in East Jerusalem, and urges the Israeli authorities to immediately halt this censorship;
10. Expresses its appreciation for the substantial contributions of all concerned Member States and intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to UNESCO's action in Palestine, and appeals to them to continue assisting UNESCO in this endeavour;
11. Expresses further appreciation to all donors for their generous contributions for the development of educational infrastructure in Palestine, and in this regard notes the contributions by Belgium and France for the building of schools for Palestinian children such as the school of Tana near Nablus and the two schools of Khan Al-Ahmar and Abu Nuwar near Jerusalem;
12. Deeply regrets the destruction, by the Israeli authorities, of the schools, including the school Abu Nuwar and the school of Tana, and calls on the Israeli authorities to halt plans for further demolition, including the school in Khan Al Ahmar;
13. Thanks the Director-General for the results that have been obtained in relation to the implementation of a number of current educational and cultural activities, and invites her to strengthen UNESCO's assistance to the Palestinian educational and cultural institutions in order to address new needs;
14. Encourages the Director-General to continue to reinforce her action in favour of the protection, reconstruction, rehabilitation and restoration of the Palestinian archaeological sites and cultural heritage, and invites her to address the needs for capacity building in all UNESCO's fields of competence by expanding the financial assistance programme for Palestinian students;
15. Requests the Director-General to organize, as soon as possible, the ninth meeting of the Joint UNESCO-Palestine Committee;

II. OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

16. Also invites the Director-General:
 - (a) to continue the efforts she is making to preserve the human, social and cultural fabric of the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with the relevant provisions of its decisions;
 - (b) to undertake efforts to offer appropriate curricula, and to provide more grants and adequate assistance to the educational and cultural institutions of the occupied Syrian Golan;

- (c) to dispatch an expert to assess and evaluate the needs of the educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Syrian Golan and report to her before the 201st session of the Executive Board;

III.

17. Decides to include this item in the agenda of the Executive Board at its 201st session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.

Item 27 Proposal for the proclamation of an International Day of Light (200 EX/27)

14. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 200 EX/27,
2. Considering that that enhanced global awareness of, and increased education in, the science and technologies of light is vital to address challenges in areas such as sustainable development, energy, and community health, and for improving the quality of life in both the developed and the developing worlds,
3. Stressing that the applications of light science and technology are vital for advances in medicine, communications, sustainable and clean energy, entertainment and culture, and that light-based technologies respond to the needs of humankind by providing access to information and increasing societal well-being, and promoting peace through improved communications,
4. Noting the broad and significant impact of recent initiatives of UNESCO's International Basic Science Programme and the enthusiastic commitment by the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies consortium to continue working with UNESCO in the frame of internationally-coordinated programmes of outreach and education,
5. Recognizing that it is vital to ensure that existing gains from previous initiatives of UNESCO in science and education are effectively followed-up and strengthened,
6. Decides:
 - (1) to welcome and endorse the recommendation to proclaim an "International Day of Light" on 16 May every year;
 - (2) to invite the Director-General to support all efforts leading the proclamation of the "International Day of Light";
 - (3) to include this item into the agenda of the 39th session of the General Conference of the States Parties to UNESCO;
 - (4) to recommend that the General Conference at its 39th session adopt a resolution to proclaim "International Day of Light" on 16 May every year, as provided in the Draft Resolution contained in the Annex to document 200 EX27.

Item 29 From COP 21 to COP 22: UNESCO's contribution and perspective in the fight against climate change (200 EX/29 Rev.)

15. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Restating its concern at the harmful impact and serious consequences of climate change, which constitute a genuine threat to our planet and societies, in particular to natural resources, food security, water, health and political stability, as well as to the non-renewable cultural heritage of mankind,
2. Acknowledges that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change;
3. Recalling the texts produced by all the major United Nations conferences, including the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20), World Summit for Social Development, Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Beijing Platform for Action and United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and the Samoa Pathway adopted at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Apia,
4. Also recalling 35 C/Resolution 33 and 38 C/Resolution 67 as well as 179 EX/Decision 15, 180 EX/Decision 16, 181 EX/Decision 15 and 197 EX/Decision 45 on UNESCO's Strategy for Action on Climate Change,
5. Welcoming the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement,
6. Further recalling the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, which has generated unprecedented momentum at several levels, as shown by the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) portal, which has listed more than 11,300 commitments, not only by States but also by cities, businesses and civil society organizations,
7. Noting the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development,
8. Also welcomes the intention of developed countries to continue their existing collective mobilization goal of US \$100 billion per year through 2025 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation;
9. Encourages those States that have not yet done so to join the Paris Agreement;
10. Welcomes and encourages the efforts of Morocco to ensure that the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) is the Conference of action and materialization that serves to accelerate the agreement's implementation including in the area of transparency, and mobilization of support (finance, technology, capacity building), especially for the most vulnerable countries;
11. Notes the holding in Rabat, Morocco, from 20 to 24 September 2016, of a meeting of experts to prepare a preliminary non-binding declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change, in accordance with the terms of 38 C/Resolution 42;

12. Affirms the importance of UNESCO's role, through its multidisciplinary mandate which promotes knowledge and capacity building, the production and use of reliable and impartial data and information and capacity-building of Member States in the area of early warning mechanisms for natural disasters caused by climate change;
13. Urges UNESCO, in the light of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to continue the promotion of research and scientific work on the ocean, freshwater, biodiversity and renewable energy to cope with climate change;
14. Invites UNESCO, by means of its updated Strategy for Action on Climate Change to:
 - (a) place the specific needs of UNESCO Global Priority Africa at the heart of its action to combat climate change;
 - (b) strengthen action to combat the harmful effects of climate change, especially for the benefit of small island States and vulnerable and at-risk countries,
 - (c) continue its work on awareness-raising, information and networking, especially in relation to the role of women, young people, and local and indigenous communities;
 - (d) strengthen support for education for sustainable development;
 - (e) raise awareness of the relation between culture and climate change and the promotion of securing natural and tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites as well as biosphere reserves and Geoparks, all designated by UNESCO as climate change observatories;
15. Also supports the commitment of Member States to maintain the momentum under way for the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change in the framework of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22), and to mobilize for the facilitative dialogue in 2018;
16. Welcomes the decision to establish the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building, whose work plan was adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21);
17. Requests the Director-General to reflect the outcomes of the work of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) in the final draft of the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change;
18. Also requests the Director-General to report to it at its 201st session, on UNESCO's contribution to the work of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22);
19. Invites Member States to support the Director-General's efforts and the Organization's activities and programmes in the fight against climate change by making voluntary financial contributions to that end.

Item 30 Contribution of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to the preparation of and follow-up to the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (200 EX/30)

16. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 45, and 36 C/Resolution 21, relating to UNESCO's efforts to combat climate change,
2. Having examined document 200 EX/5 Part 1 (C) "Proposal for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change",
3. Affirming its concern about the grave consequences of climate change, on human societies and the planet, especially on freshwater systems and water security,
4. Recalling that the fight against climate change, requires the attention and cooperation of all countries as well as their active participation in an effective and appropriate international response,
5. Takes note with satisfaction of Resolution XXII-7 and XXII-9 of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), which encourages the Director-General of UNESCO to pursue action, taking advantage of the interdisciplinary mandate of the Organization to address climate change, on the basis of the Member States' reflections, foresight and anticipation in the field of water;
6. Welcomes with satisfaction the Director-General's proposals for the updating of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, taking into due consideration the outcomes of the twenty-first Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
7. Recognizing the efforts made by Morocco for the organization and preparation of the twenty-second Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held, as was the case for COP 7, in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016,
8. Considering UNESCO's fundamental role, consistent with the strategic plan for the eighth phase of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), in mobilizing international cooperation for adaptation to the effects of climate change on water resources and developing institutional and human capacities for water security and sustainability to deal with the grave consequences of climate change,
9. Appeals to all Member States to actively participate in the various ongoing discussions for the preparations for and follow-up to the twenty-second United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 22) and to ensure that the issue of water is adequately addressed in negotiations;
10. Encourages the Director-General of UNESCO to continue UNESCO's action, taking advantage of the interdisciplinary mandate of the Organization, to address climate change, further promoting the IHP, which is the only intergovernmental programme of the United Nations system devoted to water research, water resources management, education and capacity-building;

11. Requests the Director-General to take all necessary measures to support the establishment of the Special Account for the IHP, which will enable it to receive financial assistance to meet the demands of Member States, mainly in the field of capacity-building activities in support of Member States and the major initiatives approved under the IHP strategic plan;
12. Further requests the Director-General to submit at the 201st session a report regarding contributions of the IHP to the implementation of the outcome of COP 21 and COP 22, as appropriate.

Item 32 UNESCO's role in the promotion of linkages between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education qualifications (200 EX/32)

17. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 200 EX/32 and taking into consideration document 200 EX/8,
2. Bearing in mind the key role of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit (New York, September 2015), which promotes sustainable development and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection to benefit all, and the eradication of poverty and hunger,
3. Taking into account the Incheon Declaration – Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all and the Education 2030 Framework for Action,
4. Recalling the Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) adopted by the General Conference at its 38th session, which states that “TVET, as part of lifelong learning, can take place at secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels and includes work-based learning and continuing training and professional development which may lead to qualifications”,
5. Noting that, because in many countries technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education have developed independently from each other, TVET qualifications may not be sufficiently recognized among higher education qualifications,
6. Stresses the importance of improving learning pathways and international recognition of qualifications that fully take into account the links between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education qualifications;
7. Encourages all Member States and decision-makers to actively pursue this objective;
8. Invites the Director-General to take into account the need to improve linkages between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education;
9. Requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 202nd session an information document on best practices in the promotion of learning pathways and linkages between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education, within the framework of the approved budget.