



United Nations  
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# Executive Board

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## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART I

### PROGRAMME ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

This report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of the progress achieved in the follow-up to the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions.

Part I contains information on the following Programme issues:

- A. **Report on the further implementation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan**
- B. **Final draft for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change**
- C. **UNESCO's contribution to the outcome of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22)**
- D. **Contributions of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to the implementation of the outcome of COP 21 and COP 22**
- E. **Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict**
- F. **Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO**
- G. **Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)**
- H. **Report of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) on the Review Process of the Memory of the World Programme**
- I. **Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity**





United Nations  
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# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part I (A)

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## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART I

### PROGRAMME ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

#### **A Report on the further implementation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan**

This document is presented pursuant to 196 EX/Dec 5.I.B, 197 EX/Dec 5.I.D, and 199 EX/Dec.5.I.A, that requested the Director-General to report to the Executive Board at its 201st session on the progress made towards the further implementation of the Small Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 14.



## A Report on the further implementation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan

(Follow-up to 196 EX/Decision 5.I.B, 197 EX/Decision 5.I.D, 199 EX/Decision 5.I.A)

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### BACKGROUND

1. The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on SIDS (Barbados+20 review summit), provides a comprehensive and renewed framework to address sustainable development in SIDS. It acknowledges that, even though SIDS have made considerable progress in many areas over the past decades, they remain among the most vulnerable groups of countries in the world. They continue to face numerous challenges and constraints on their path to achieving sustainable development such as exposure to external shocks, whether economic or environmental, and marginalization, due in part to their remote locations, amongst other factors. The document urges the international community to take further actions to assist SIDS along their sustainable development pathway.
2. UNESCO has been among the first United Nations organizations to take concrete steps to put the priorities of the SAMOA pathway into a dedicated Action Plan that addresses the Organization's mandate. This pioneering role is acknowledged in the recently released "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for Small Island Developing States: final findings" (JIU/REP/2016/7), conducted by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in response to General Assembly resolutions 69/288 and 70/202.<sup>1</sup>
3. The SIDS Action Plan was developed by the Organization at the request of Member States (37 C/Resolution 1 (V) on *Reinforcing UNESCO's Strategy on Small Island Developing States*). The draft Action Plan was welcomed by the Executive Board at its 196th session (document 196 EX/5 Part I (B)). In response to the 196 EX/Decision 5.I.B, the Director-General further provided to the Executive Board at its 197th session a report on *Activities benefitting SIDS within the Organization's programme and budget 2014-2017, including an analysis of additional resource requirements* (197 EX/5 Part I (D) and 197 EX/5.INF).
4. The Executive Board acknowledged this additional information and requested the Director-General to present the finalized SIDS Action Plan along with an implementation strategy at its 199th session for adoption (197 EX/Decision 5.I.D). The Secretariat reviewed the draft Action Plan to reinforce it by linking objectives to specific actions. The Secretariat also elaborated an implementation strategy for the finalized SIDS Action Plan focussing on activities to be implemented within the 38 C/5, as well as a strategy for securing extrabudgetary funds for SIDS. The finalized SIDS Action Plan was approved at the 200th session of the Executive Board (199 EX/5.INF.REV Part I), together with the first phase of its implementation.
5. In addition, as per 197 EX/Decision 5.I.D, the Director-General requested the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) to disaggregate its field data in order to inform development indicators relating to SIDS. The aim is to facilitate a better understanding of the impact of the categorization of SIDS so as to more adequately reflect the specific vulnerabilities of SIDS, linked to limitations of size and resources, economies of scale, indebtedness, external economic shocks, remoteness and the frequency of natural hazards. A preliminary progress report was provided by UIS at the 200th session of the Executive Board, together with an Information document (200 EX/5.INF). The report analysed the current situation of SIDS and their specific vulnerabilities, issues and needs, in the fields of education and literacy, science and innovation, as well as culture. A full progress report

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<sup>1</sup> The findings of the comprehensive review are expected to be considered by the Second Committee during the 72nd session of the General Assembly as an addendum to the annual report of the Secretary-General on the "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

will be submitted to the Executive Board at its 202nd session, as requested in the 200 EX/Decision 5.I.A.

6. Furthermore, in pursuance of 197 EX/Dec.5.I.D, the Secretariat has integrated into 38 C/5 SISTER a dedicated tag to specifically identify the workplans that “directly benefit SIDS” under “Stakeholders and Scope” category. This tag allows a rapid search and the identification of all existing 38 C/5 activities for which the SIDS Member States are direct beneficiaries.

### **Progress towards the further implementation of the SIDS Action Plan**

7. The current report responds to 197 EX/Dec.5.I.D, and 199 EX/Dec.5.I.A that requested the Director-General to report on the progress made towards the further implementation of the Small Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan at the 201st session. The SIDS Action Plan represents UNESCO’s initial contribution to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. It covers the period of the Organization’s Medium-Term Strategy from 2014-2021. This first report on progress pertains to the expected results for the 38 C/5 for 2016. For the first time and upon the request of the Executive Board, SIDS-specific targets have been identified in SISTER for each relevant 38 C/5 Expected Result in line with the Priority Areas defined in the Action Plan. As such, a more accurate and comprehensive overview is available of the Organization’s efforts to contribute to sustainable development in SIDS.

8. Based upon the SIDS-specific reporting provided in SISTER for the 38 C/5, highlights of progress achieved within the five priority areas of the SIDS Action Plan are summarized in narrative form in the Annex of the present document. More detailed reporting for each relevant Expected Result with SIDS-specific targets is provided online at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/sids-report-2016/>. The online report follows the format of the table presented in document 199 EX/5.INF.REV, which outlines, for each relevant Expected Result, the performance indicators, 38 C/5 targets including their SIDS-specific components and the preliminary progress achieved during 2016. The reported progress is based upon both regular programme and extrabudgetary funding.

9. In addition to progress achieved within each programmatic area, the Organization also took advantage of synergies across major programmes, as well as of intervention at both policy and community levels, to advance the implementation of the SIDS Action Plan. The capacity to build bridges among scientific, educational, social and cultural priorities constitutes one of the primary assets of the Organization’s strategic collaboration across sectors within the Organization. Sharing good practices among relevant United Nations agencies, cooperation with regional and national partners, and major contributions from existing networks were crucial to optimizing the implementation of UNESCO’s SIDS Action Plan. A multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary approach, connecting vulnerable communities to policy makers, scientists to citizens, local to global, also contributed significantly to advancing implementation.

10. Intersectoral synergies allowed, among others, the enhancement of SIDS community resilience in the face of climate change and natural disaster through coping and adapting strategies developed and advanced through ocean sciences, the Sandwatch programme, ESD, social development, science policy, freshwater sustainable management, as well as the preservation of biodiversity, the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as the use of ICTs to share knowledge. They build upon a wide range of technical fields of expertise and previous experiences of previous biennia.

### **NEXT STEPS**

11. This report presents the highlights on the progress achieved towards the first phase of implementation of the SIDS Action Plan. The priority areas of the Action Plan will continue to be

implemented throughout this biennium, while continuing to propose SIDS as a priority group in the draft document 39 C/5 to be presented to the General Conference next fall.

12. In the domain of climate change, it is noteworthy that Fiji has been designated to preside over the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 23) that will be hosted by the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany from 6 to 17 November 2017. UNESCO will continue to address, within its mandate, the challenges faced by SIDS and will enhance its international collaboration for effective delivery and global impact and on the ground.

13. UNESCO will also continue to be an active contributor to the United Nations system-wide action plan for SIDS, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; the Outcome of the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), among others.

### **Proposed decision**

14. The Executive Board may wish to take the following decisions:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 196 EX/Dec.5.I.B, 197 EX/Dec.5.I.D, and 199 EX/Dec.5.I.A,
2. Having examined documents 201 EX/5 Part I (A) and its annex,
3. 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 Director-General's report on the progress made with the further implementation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan, and takes note of its content;
5. Encourages Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the further implementation of the SIDS Action Plan and to further enhance coordination of bilateral technical cooperation;
6. Further requests the Director-General to report on progress made on the further implementation of the SIDS Action Plan in the Organization's statutory reports on programme implementation.

## ANNEX

### HIGHLIGHTS ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED TOWARDS THE FIRST PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIDS ACTION PLAN WITHIN THE 38 C/5

**For priority 1 on Enhancing island capacities to achieve sustainable development through education and the reinforcement of human and institutional capacities**, the following progress has been achieved:

SIDS national capacities were strengthened to develop and implement policies and plans within a lifelong learning framework, in particular with a policy review completed in Saint Kitts and Nevis and another policy review for Bahamas launched. Support was also provided to Haiti for the design and implementation of the Educational Management Information Systems (EMIS). UNESCO has been supporting SIDS to develop national ICT in education policies and master plans through organizing national workshops followed by technical advices on the finalization of the policies, with Fiji, Jamaica, Mauritius, and Seychelles benefiting from the supports recently and having developed their policies and master plans. The ICT in Education Policy of Jamaica has been approved by the government. With support from UNESCO, the Government of Jamaica customized UNESCO's ICT Competency Framework for Teacher (ICT-CFT) in 2016 and plans to apply it in local teacher institutions.

Capacities of SIDS Member States were strengthened to design and implement policies aimed at transforming TVET. Notably, Saint Lucia has developed a new TVET policy. This was informed by a TVET policy review, conducted with the support of UNESCO, to be published in February 2017. In addition, through UNESCO-UNEVOC, a flagship TVET Leadership Programme was put into practice to support a better understanding and institutional policy implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, in particular SDG4 and in line with the UNESCO Strategy for TVET (2016-2021). Twenty-two mid-level to senior TVET leaders from 19 countries, including Barbados, Fiji and Jamaica, were trained. The programme enhanced participants' leadership and managerial capacities. In addition, five UNEVOC Centres have been engaged in implementing capacity development programmes for TVET leaders, teachers and trainers in all three priority areas of the TVET Strategy. Four of these programmes have been fully implemented and 83 teachers and trainers were trained in Asia and the Pacific, including from Fiji and Kiribati.

UNESCO has also been providing technical support to reinforce teacher education and professional development in SIDS. In particular, UNESCO has supported Cuba and the Dominican Republic to assess and review their teacher standards on the basis of UNESCO's Regional Strategy on Teachers. This has resulted in a set of recommendations for decision-makers, which are being adapted and contextualized to the national educational environment in both countries. In addition, UNESCO has been delivering support on teacher education in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with the aim to increase the number of teachers with teaching qualifications. Within two years, a number of training workshops on professional standards and competency frameworks, as well as in-service teacher training has supported the work of teachers, principals, and education officials.

UNESCO supports SIDS in implementing the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the follow-up to the United Nations Decade of ESD: 250 ASPnet schools from 25 countries including three SIDS (Dominican Republic, Cabo Verde and Haiti) participated in developing and implementing ESD whole-school action plans with a particular focus on climate change. UNESCO held an international training of trainers on the whole-institution approach to climate change (21-23 November 2016, Dakar, Senegal) for 40 national project coordinators and school facilitators. As second training will follow in March 2017. Teacher education institutions from Mauritius participate in a capacity-building programme to integrate ESD in their pre- and in-service training at secondary school level. Youth from 10 SIDS were identified to participate in a training programme on ESD Youth Leadership. Several SIDS will be involved in capacity-building session to integrate ESD and SDGs at local level.

**In the area of Priority 2 on Enhancing SIDS' resilience towards environmental, ocean, freshwater and natural resources sustainability, major progress includes:**

STI policies, the science-policy interface, and engagement with society including vulnerable groups, were strengthened, in particular through capacity building in 2016 in order for the Bahamas to develop and strengthen implementation of their STI policy. As a reminder, in the previous biennium, Curacao and Guyana had also benefitted from UNESCO's support in the development and implementation of their policy in 2015. In addition, preliminary discussions on a proposal for a regional STI policy development project for Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Kiribati were initiated in 2016. At the regional level, in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO organized the Science Open Forum CILAC 2016, in September in Montevideo, which proposed a policy agenda for STI for governments, universities, scientific companies and civil society organizations, in line with the priorities established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In West Africa, the capacity of participants from Cabo Verde was enhanced on STI policy development and management during an expert meeting in September 2016 in Dakar. In addition, an activity on innovation and enterprise development and promotion of the Global Strategy for Youth in West Africa – Sahel, was organized in June 2016 in Cabo Verde.

In the area of research and education in the basic sciences, human and institutional capacities were enhanced, through synergies among UNESCO network of partner institutions. In that context, in collaboration with the University of Mauritius, a regional conference was implemented in Mauritius (February 2016) aiming at ensuring that basic and applied sciences are accessible to all, through low-cost and easy replicable science experimentation teaching. A follow-up conference will be held in February 2017. Support was brought to Cabo Verde in the organization of the national mathematics Olympiads, and in the implementation of a postgraduate programme in basic sciences for development. Assistance was brought to Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago in the setting-up and extension of the UNESCO's Global Microscience Programme. A microscience model for PALOP countries in Africa, which will benefit Sao Tome and Principe, and Cabo Verde, is being conceived by IBSP in collaboration with the Africa Department. In the promotion of the use and application of renewable energy, reviewing the existing technologies and sharing best practices and experiences on renewable energy technologies and policies in South-East Asia, UNESCO strengthened two regional institutions, namely ASEAN Center and SEASN. The UNESCO African Schools on renewable energy policies and strategies trained participants from Sao Tome and Principe. Through collaboration with the International Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics (CIMPA), more than 22 research and innovation-oriented schools have been organized, providing training to more than a thousand young scientists, among them 200 in SIDS. During the previous biennium, Cuba benefitted from UNESCO's support to organise the 14th edition of the Carlos Finlay UNESCO prize in Microbiology, the same support will be provided to the country for the 15th edition in 2017. UNESCO is in the process of strengthening its STEM programme with the IBSP playing the role of a strategically-oriented platform with an emphasis on teacher training and on Africa and least developed countries, which will benefit to a SIDS on a global level.

In the area of scientific understanding of ocean and coastal processes, IOC has refocused its ocean science programmes with the aim of increasing awareness and mobilizing the scientific capacities of its Member States to address the challenges defined by the SDGs, the Samoa Pathway, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate. IOC-led Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (330 members from 67 countries), allows Member States to improve the monitoring of Ocean Acidification and supports the observation of its impacts on marine life. The updated GOA-ON implementation plan, including updated chemical and physical guidelines for OA observations, is still in preparation and will be published in June 2017. It comprises inputs from 67 countries, including Fiji, Palau and Samoa. A Global Oxygen Network (GO2NE) was established to support research with regard to deoxygenation of the ocean, and includes scientists from SIDS. In order to assess the impacts of climate change and global trends of phytoplankton in the ocean, more than 300 time series were analysed, divided into Arctic, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Antarctic, Indian, South Pacific and North Pacific Oceans, for both phyto-

and zooplankton, covering more than five inter-comparable marine ecosystems, including data from SIDS.

In the framework of coastal resilience and climate change education, in the AIMS, Caribbean and Pacific SIDS; the capacities of teachers' and community groups' were enhanced to introduce climate change across formal and informal curricula through UNESCO's course on Climate Change Education Inside and Outside the Classroom. The extension of the Sandwatch project was also ensured through dedicated action in support of the global roll-out of the Global Sandwatch Database as a "citizen science" climate change coastal monitoring tool.

Risks and impacts of tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, and policies for healthy ocean ecosystems were at the forefront of the IOC-supported activities of SIDS Member States. For example, IOC engaged 14 Caribbean SIDS in harmonising and standardizing tsunami early warning systems. These countries are also very active at annual CaribeWave Exercises, where monitoring and warning services are tested. The same 14 Caribbean SIDS and four South-West Pacific SIDS have benefitted from regional or in-country trainings to develop or review their Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), in Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The installation of new sea-level monitoring stations in Aruba, Jamaica and Saint Lucia have contributed to enhanced sea-level monitoring capabilities in the Caribbean, for tsunamis and other coastal hazards. A solution for the continuation of the work of the Caribbean Tsunami Information System was recently found with the help of the Government of Barbados and a voluntary contribution to the IOC Special Account by the Government of the Netherlands.

In the area of the protection and sustainable management of ocean and coastal resources, the GEF LME:LEARN project – for generating, learning and sharing knowledge among GEF Large Marine Ecosystem projects and practitioners and related coastal and marine initiatives – started with an inception workshop and a first project steering committee, held at UNESCO in March 2016. The project delivered its most visible output, namely, the 18th Annual Large Marine Ecosystem Consultation Meeting in December 2016. The meeting featured a record-setting 128 participants from 52 different countries, including three from SIDS.

The Global Ocean Science Report is envisaged as a knowledge resource that will aid Member States, their local and national governments, academic and research institutions as well as international organizations and donors, in making informed decisions regarding the status of ocean sciences research, investment, and productivity. The drafting process is close to completion. A questionnaire sent to all IOC Member States was answered by 34 Member States, with fewer than 20% from SIDS. The interdisciplinary, international Editorial Board was established and met from 24 to 26 May in Helsingør, Denmark, reviewing five draft chapters and identifying data gaps. The content and outline are aligned with major pillars of sustainable development. A second Editorial Board meeting was hosted by Korea in November 2016.

Global cooperation in the geological sciences was expanded, in particular, through the promotion of Earth Science education in Latin America in 2016. An open call was issued for experts in this field, resulting in the identification of individuals including from SIDS: Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia, who will now help in finalizing a questionnaire that will be sent out on this topic across the region. At the first IGCP Council meeting in February 2016, the Council agreed to fund four new and 16 existing projects. In addition, six projects have been extended without funding. Although none of the project leaders are from SIDS, the project participants include Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. Of 142 project leaders, 25% are women.

SIDS Member States have reduced their vulnerability and enhanced their resilience to natural hazards by strengthening their capacities in DRR, in particular, through the implementation of the UNESCO-VISUS multi-hazard school safety assessment methodology, which helps policy-makers in deciding where to focus their risk reduction efforts and interventions based on available



resources and scientific evidence. The methodology is currently under implementation in 100 schools in the north of Haiti. In addition, a ToolKit on Loss and Damage, to help collect baseline data about loss and damage in the agriculture and tourism sectors in selected Pacific SIDS, has been developed. In the future, the ToolKit can be expanded to include other sectors. Awareness-raising was also advanced through events such as the information session for the GRULAC Member States on the VISUS methodology. Capacity-building has been enhanced through training of more than 40 experts from 13 countries in the Caribbean on various technical issues related to DRR for the education sector, including assessment of critical facilities infrastructure.

The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), a network of sustainable development learning sites, contains 669 Biosphere Reserves (BR), including 16 transboundary sites in 120 countries, 20 biosphere reserves are located in SIDS, including the La Hotte BR in Haiti, which joined the network in 2016.

One research programme, promoting sustainability science and sustainable development, is being conducted in three SIDS BRs: Macchabee-Bel Ombre in Mauritius, Principe in Sao Tome and Principe and Saint Mary's in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Member States including SIDS have continued to be supported in order to improve groundwater governance at local, national and transboundary levels. Under the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP), 42 SIDS benefitted from specific assessment on groundwater. Moreover, nine SIDS have benefitted from an expansion of the institutional support for drought monitoring systems in Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Mauritius and Cabo Verde. In addition, Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Bahamas, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago have benefitted from training on water scarcity. Additionally, Saint Lucia was trained on water quality.

### **In Priority 3 on Supporting SIDS in the management of social transformations and the promotion of social inclusion and social justice:**

Progress has been made towards the enhancement of capacities of decision-makers, civil society organizations and other key stakeholders in SIDS to design and implement innovative proposals for the development of public policies in favour of social inclusion and intercultural dialogue. This includes the participation of UNESCO in the work of the interagency Global Migration Group, contributing to meetings of its Principals, conceptual work on principles and frameworks, joint advocacy statements and study papers, and to conferences and round tables on mainstreaming migration in the 2030 Agenda. The Conference on *Engaging men and boys in the achievement of gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean* was organized and attended by Cuba and Jamaica. The 2016 International UNESCO/José Martí Prize was held on 28 January in Cuba.

UNESCO has been supporting the formulation, review, and implementation of youth-related policies and legislation, with the participation of youth at different levels in Cabo Verde, Cuba, Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste, Haiti, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Other youth-related activities in SIDS include a school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) initiative in Samoa, implemented through capacity-building and the development of media programmes by media students. A youth-based research initiative in Tonga, and a network in Cabo Verde, among other countries, were conducted to put into practice the acquired knowledge and skills received during a training on innovation management and entrepreneurship development.

Research on school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) in the Pacific was promoted to improve policies and raise awareness on gender-based violence in the education system (with the engagement of universities, teachers, principals and ministries). Elaborated jointly with the Institute of Education, University of the South Pacific in Tonga, the terms of reference for the research on school-related gender-based violence focused on a desk review of existing literature on SRGBV in the Pacific and in Tonga and the development of survey tools. The research will be conducted in the major islands of Tongapatu and Vava'u encompassing a sample of 250 informants consisting

of students, parents and schoolteachers. Besides providing substantive evidence on the situation of SRGBV in Tonga, the research aims to provide policy recommendations to strengthen policies combatting gender-based violence in schools. This initiative represents a concrete contribution of UNESCO to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 international development agenda in the Pacific region. Focus will be put on the challenges related to two SDGs: SDG #5 “Achieve gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls” and SDG #16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

In the field of physical education, sports and anti-doping, 20 out of 24 countries in the Pacific region still do not have a sport policy. Following a workshop organized by UNESCO in 2015, UNESCO, along with the Organization of Oceanic National Olympic Committees (ONOC), developed the Pacific Sport Compass initiative that was officially endorsed by the fourth meeting of Pacific Ministers of Sport in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in July 2015. The initiative is currently being successfully implemented in the region.

Through the focus areas of sport policy and education, the Pacific Sport Compass provides a structured process to build the partnership between sport stakeholders and the wider development community to ensure that sport makes an active contribution to the wellbeing of the Pacific peoples and the implementation of SDGs in the region. With some seed funding secured, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat prepared a funding proposal for the European Union to support the initiative. Fiji is one of the five pilot countries in which the UNESCO Quality Physical Education Guidelines for Policy Makers are being rolled out and tested in cooperation between UNESCO, WHO, the National Olympic Committee, and the Ministry of Education.

In the framework of the implementation of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, in 2016, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana and Singapore have implemented projects with the support of the Anti-Doping Fund to strengthen national and regional capacities in the fight against doping. Moreover, in November 2016, the Fund’s Approval Committee approved initiatives submitted by the Bahamas, Fiji and Jamaica, to be implemented in 2017.

**As for Priority 4 on Preserving Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage and Promoting Culture for Island Sustainable Development**, significant progress has also been made, in particular:

Concerning the implementation of the 1972 Convention, one SIDS ratified the Convention. Four SIDS Parties developed new or revised Tentative Lists, and three SIDS submitted nomination files conforming to prescribed requirements. Eight SIDS applied to World Heritage Fund International Assistance. One SIDS was supported in the integration of the Convention’s provisions in national laws or policies. Staff capacity was reinforced in 13 SIDS World Heritage properties, focusing on sustainable tourism in two properties. Two properties in SIDS contributed to sustainable tourism development. One World Heritage marine property in SIDS revised its management plan, and managers from six SIDS World Heritage marine properties exchanged management solutions and best practices. Two partnerships were developed in SIDS for conservation. A survey on the upstream process was launched in early 2017 in order to develop harmonized proposals for its implementation, in particular, to address the needs of SIDS. Finally, youth from 10 Caribbean SIDS were involved in the “World Heritage Youth Project on Marine Biodiversity and Climate Change”. Several SIDS participated in the meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention.

Under the 1970 Convention, six SIDS were supported in the integration of the Conventions provisions, and eight SIDS benefited from awareness-raising initiatives. Several SIDS participated in the meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention as well as in the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation.

Concerning the 2001 Convention, three SIDS ratified it and two SIDS adapted their national law. The Technical Advisory Body dispatched four technical mission, including one to assist Haiti in underwater cultural heritage preservation and management. One assistance project was undertaken in Cuba. Several SIDS participated in the meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention.

With regard to the 2003 Convention, six SIDS were supported in the integration of the Convention's provisions in national laws or policies. Seven SIDS ratified the Convention during the reporting period. Five periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention at the national level were submitted by SIDS State Parties and three were examined by the committee. Moreover, human and institutional resources for intangible cultural heritage were strengthened in 13 SIDS. Several SIDS participated in the meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention.

Under the 2005 Convention, two SIDS ratified the Convention. Five SIDS applied for funding from the International Fund for Cultural Diversity. Three SIDS adopted national policies (Seychelles, Mauritius, Barbados) that promote the diversity of cultural expressions, including cultural goods, services and activities. One SIDS was supported to integrate the Convention into national cultural policy (Samoa). One SIDS submitted its quadrennial report (Cuba). Several SIDS participated in the meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention.

**In relation to Priority 5 on Increasing connectivity, information management and knowledge sharing**, the following progress was made:

In April 2016, UNESCO launched an awareness-raising campaign, showing the media's full potential in times of epidemics and crises, specifically to contain the spread of Zika virus in Latin America and the Caribbean. Informative and preventive radio spots, produced by UNESCO in collaboration with IFRC and WHO, were made available online, free of charge, to be downloaded, shared and broadcast by public, private and community radio stations. These radio spots informed their audiences on the risks associated with the virus and promoted healthy behaviors. Following the Zika virus outbreak in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO organized a workshop in Panama City, Panama, to address the issue of cooperation and the relationship between media and humanitarian organizations in disaster and emergency situations.

In the area of community media, the 32 phasing-out radio stations have reinforced their capacities to ensure the sustainability of achieved results during the first phase of the project. At least 800 radio stations have broadcast the radio spots on Zika virus across the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Local actors in Member States have fostered media development through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). The 60th IPDC Bureau was organized on 17 and 18 March 2016. Out of more than a hundred submissions received, 59 met IPDC's quality standards and were submitted to the Bureau for consideration. Fifty-one projects were finally approved in 46 countries for a total amount of US \$721,000. Seventeen of the projects approved were in Africa, five in the Arab region, 17 in Asia and the Pacific, 11 in Latin America and the Caribbean and one had an international scope. With specific reference to SIDS, a total of \$96,000 in project support was approved for Samoa, Timor-Leste, the Maldives, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. This represents \$39,000 over and above the projected \$60,000.



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### FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

#### PART I

#### PROGRAMME ISSUES

##### SUMMARY

#### **B. Final draft for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change**

In accordance with 38 C/Resolution 21 and 200 EX/Decision 5.I.C, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board a final draft of an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change.

Any financial and administrative implications related to the present document will be proposed within the framework of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5).

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 16.





**B. Final draft for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change**  
(Follow-up to 197 EX/Decision 45, 38 C/Resolution 21, and 200 EX/Decision 5.I.C)

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. By its 38 C/Resolution 21, the General Conference invited the Director-General to present to the Executive Board at its 200th session a proposal for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change taking into due consideration the outcomes of COP 21. Accordingly, the Director-General presented in document 200 EX/5 Part I.C. a proposal for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change.

2. After having examined document 200 EX/5 Part I.C, the Executive Board at its 200th session: (a) expressed its appreciation to the Director-General for the proposal; (b) invited the Director-General to integrate the results of COP 22 in the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change as appropriate; and (c) requested the Director-General to present to it at its 201st session a final draft of an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, taking into due consideration the discussion at its 200th session (ref 200 EX/Decision 5.I.C). Accordingly, the final proposal of an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (hereinafter the “UNESCO Strategy”) is presented in the Annex to this document.

**II. UNITED NATIONS 2016 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE**

3. The 2016 Climate Change Conference (COP 22) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016. Focus at COP 22 was set on accelerating global climate action in the wake of the rapid entry into force of the historic COP 21 Paris Agreement. A key outcome of COP 22 was subsequently the decision pertaining to finalizing the operational manual, or rulebook of the Paris Agreement by 2018.<sup>1</sup> For a detailed presentation of the outcomes COP 22 and UNESCO’s related contributions, please see documents 201 EX/5 Part I (C) – 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) and 201 EX/5 Part I (D) - Report regarding contributions of the IHP to the implementation of the outcome of COP 21 and COP 22.

4. The aim of the Paris Agreement is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by: (a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; (b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; (c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate.

5. Notably, each party to the Paris Agreement shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions. Following the entry into force of the Paris Agreement and the success of COP 22 in terms of advancing on aspects related to its operationalization, it is now commonly anticipated that the NDCs will play a vital role in the modus operandi of the UNFCCC in the years ahead.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision -/CMA.1 Matters relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.  
[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech\\_nov\\_2016/application/pdf/auv\\_cma1\\_matters\\_relating\\_to\\_the\\_implementation\\_of\\_the\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/application/pdf/auv_cma1_matters_relating_to_the_implementation_of_the_paris_agreement.pdf)

Consequently, it seems essential therefore that due attention is given to the NDCs in the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change.

6. By stressing the importance of the NDCs, the UNESCO Strategy satisfies three important conditions, namely, that the UNESCO Strategy is: (a) Supportive of and consistent with the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement; (b) Targeting national priorities; and (c) Pre-configured to facilitate cooperation, cost efficiency and synergies among UNESCO and other United Nations bodies.

### **III. UNITED NATIONS COLLABORATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

7. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations System undertook a review in 2015 (JIU/REP/2015/5) on the activities and resources devoted to address climate change in the United Nations systems organizations with a view to identify possible measures to strengthen the system's impact through increased cooperation, synergies and the monitoring of activities and the use of resources allocated to them.<sup>2</sup>

8. The JIU makes two recommendations of direct relevance in this context: Recommendation 1: The executive heads of United Nations system organizations should present to the governing bodies of their organizations a long-term United Nations system-wide climate change strategy responsive to the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and request its endorsement and the support necessary for its effective implementation, in order to achieve measurable interim results by 2020; Recommendation 2: The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should support and endorse the participation of their respective organizations involved in cross-cutting areas directly or indirectly related to climate change in a system-wide United Nations strategy to combat climate change, in a manner consistent with the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21).

9. In conformity with JIU recommendation 2, the Executive Board is therefore invited to support and endorse UNESCO's participation in a system-wide United Nations strategy to combat climate change.

10. Regarding JIU recommendation 1, the importance of effective United Nations collaboration on climate change is fully acknowledged by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) that at its spring 2016 session adopted a set of "Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-wide Approach to Climate Action" (see box 1) designed to facilitate and guide a system-wide approach and inform and strengthen the system's collective support to climate change action under the UNFCCC process, including the Paris Agreement, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>3</sup> These core principles are duly reflected in the UNESCO Strategy and will help guide its implementation.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.unjiu.org/en/reports-notes/JIU%20Products/JIU\\_REP\\_2015\\_5\\_English.pdf](https://www.unjiu.org/en/reports-notes/JIU%20Products/JIU_REP_2015_5_English.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/Common Core Principles for a UN System-wide Approach to Climate Action-ODS\\_0.pdf](http://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/Common%20Core%20Principles%20for%20a%20UN%20System-wide%20Approach%20to%20Climate%20Action-ODS_0.pdf)

**Box 1. Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-Wide Approach to Climate Change Action**

- A. Support and advance inclusive sustainable development for all in line with common United Nations norms and standards
- B. Facilitate integrated climate action that maximizes synergies and co-benefits across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- C. Advance and scale-up ambitious and transformative action on climate change
- D. Prioritize interagency collaboration and joint action for greater collective impact
- E. Strengthen United Nations system responsiveness to Member States' needs on climate change
- F. Base United Nations system climate action on the best climate science, data and knowledge
- G. Build and strengthen partnerships, including with non-state actors
- H. Ensure United Nations system-wide accountability on climate action

(contained in Annex VI in document CEB/2016/4)

#### IV. PROPOSED UPDATED STRATEGY FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

11. Document 200 EX/5 Part I.C. provides the background and the rationale based on which the preliminary proposal for an updated UNESCO Strategy had been prepared. Compared to the preliminary proposal, in addition to reflecting discussions at the 200th session of the Board, the outcomes of COP 22, the importance of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, and making stronger references to the Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-wide Approach to Climate Action, the final draft UNESCO Strategy contained in the Annex to this document notably includes more detailed references to sections in the draft 39 C/5 related to action on climate change. As the draft 39 C/5 is subject for discussion at this session of the Executive Board, it could be the case that the UNESCO Strategy would have to be harmonized with eventual changes to the draft 39 C/5 elaborated by the 201st session of the Executive Board.

12. The objective of the UNESCO Strategy is to enable Member States to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts through education, sciences, culture and information and communication, in line with their respective National Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the COP21 Paris Agreement, and in the overall context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDG 13.

13. In order to meet its stated objective, the UNESCO Strategy is to be implemented through actions and activities outlined in the UNESCO document 39 C/5 that satisfy a set of general principles and criteria. Specifically, such actions and activities should:

- (a) Meet the needs of Member States in relation to their efforts to realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, as well as SDG 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the overall context of documents 37 C/4 and 39 C/5;
- (b) Draw on, support and be consistent with relevant existing UNESCO programme and priority strategies and action plans;
- (c) Raise awareness on climate change as a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary issue in an overall sustainable development context while building on the strength and focus of each Major Programme of UNESCO;



- (d) Focus on activities that can be scaled-up in order to ensure a seamless, coherent and structured combination of regular and extrabudgetary sources;
- (e) Ensure synergies with the overall United Nations system based on a set of Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-wide Approach to Climate Action.

14. Consistent with the UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (document 37 C/4), UNESCO actions on climate change will target the following thematic action focus areas:

- A. Supporting Member States to develop and implement climate change education and public awareness programmes and policies
- B. Promoting interdisciplinary climate knowledge and scientific cooperation for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- C. Promoting cultural diversity and cultural heritage safeguarding for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- D. Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue and promoting ethical and gender equality principles in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation

15. Within these thematic action focus areas, priority shall be given to actions contributing to Gender Equality, Africa, SIDS and the engagement of youth. All actions should also, as appropriate, be consistent with and supportive of relevant action plans, policies and agreements developed by or endorsed by UNESCO, such as the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan, the LINKS Programme and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### **Proposed decision**

16. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to take the following decision:

The Executive Board,

- 1. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 45, 38 C/Resolution 21, and 200 EX/Decision 5.I.C,
- 2. Underlining the importance of the Paris Agreement for guiding UNESCO's actions on climate change,
- 3. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part I (B),
- 4. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for the final proposal for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change taking into due consideration the outcomes of COP 22;
- 5. Adopts the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change as annexed to this decision;
- 6. Requests the Director-General to present the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change as annexed to this decision to the General Conference for endorsement at its 39th session;
- 7. Invites the Director-General to promote effective United Nations collaboration on climate change in conformity with recommendation 2 contained in the Review on the Activities and Resources Devoted to Address Climate Change in the United Nations Systems Organizations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations System (JIU/REP/2015/5) and to base this collaboration on the Common Core Principles for a

United Nations System-wide Approach to Climate Action adopted by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB/2016/4);

8. Invites all Member States to engage fully with the UNESCO Secretariat, at Headquarters and in the field offices, for the effective implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, including, as appropriate, in relation to the establishment and achievement of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement;
9. Encourages Member States in a position to do so, to provide voluntary extrabudgetary financial support to enable the scaling-up of UNESCO's climate change action, with particular emphasis on Africa, SIDS and gender;
10. Further requests the Director-General to reflect succinctly on the progress made in the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change in the statutory reports to the Executive Board at its 2020 spring session.



## ANNEX

### UNESCO STRATEGY FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (2018-2021)

#### *CHANGING MINDS, NOT THE CLIMATE EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*

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Table: Schematic overview of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (2018-2021)

## Introduction

1. Climate action is essential for transformative sustainable development. It is also a major opportunity to leverage desirable social transformations that will favour social inclusion and justice as well as safeguard the climatic and ecological systems on which we depend. It is high time to redirect our technology, science, finance and ingenuity to transform our economies, ensure equality and promote a sustainable future for all, including young people, women, and indigenous and ethnic minorities. This requires leadership from governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society, as well as the active involvement of the most affected groups.

2. The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stresses that human influence on the climate system is clear, recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history and recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems.<sup>4</sup>

3. In 2015, the international community reached a historic Agreement on climate change in Paris, during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). That same year governments adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development together with 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), among which SDG 13 calls on Member States to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

4. The Paris Agreement, which entered into force on 4 November 2016,<sup>5</sup> constitutes a major breakthrough under the UNFCCC. It aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by: (a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; (b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; (c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate.<sup>6</sup>

5. Under the Paris Agreement, each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that it seeks to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions. This implies a bottom-up approach to holding the global average temperature increase and to augmenting adaptation abilities. The Parties to the Agreement shall periodically take stock of its implementation to assess the collective progress towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals. The first such global stocktake should take place in 2023 and thereafter every 5 years. UNFCCC COP 22 (7-18 November 2016, Marrakech, Morocco) made important progress towards the operationalization of the Paris Agreement.<sup>7</sup> The IPCC will prepare a special report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/index.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> As of 20 January 2017, 126 Parties have ratified of 197 Parties to the UNFCCC.  
[http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9444.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php)

<sup>6</sup> The decision to adopt the Paris Agreement (Decision 1/CP.21) contained in document FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1 together with the authentic text of the Paris Agreement are available in the six official UN languages from pages: [http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced\\_search/items/6911.php?preref=600008831](http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600008831) and [http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9444.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php)

<sup>7</sup> Decision -/CMA.1 Matters relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.  
[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech\\_nov\\_2016/application/pdf/auv\\_cma1\\_matters\\_relating\\_to\\_the\\_implementation\\_of\\_the\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/application/pdf/auv_cma1_matters_relating_to_the_implementation_of_the_paris_agreement.pdf)

Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways to be delivered in 2018, in time for a “facilitative dialogue” among Parties to take preliminary stock of progress under the Agreement.<sup>8</sup>

6. The UNESCO General Conference at its 38th session invited the Director-General to present to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 200th session a proposal for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change taking into due consideration the outcomes of COP 21 (38 C/Resolution 21, Contribution by UNESCO to combating climate change). Accordingly, the Director-General presented in document 200 EX/5 Part I.C. a proposal for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change to the Executive Board at its 200th session. While appreciating the proposal, the Executive Board invited the Director-General to present to it at its 201st session a final draft integrating the results of COP 22 and the discussion at its 200th session (ref 200 EX/Decision 5.I.C).

## **UNESCO STRATEGY FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (2018-2021)**

7. Under the motto “*Changing Minds, Not the Climate*”, UNESCO’s contributions to rethinking sustainability globally include a wide range of actions under our mandate reflecting the multifaceted nature of climate challenges and associated mitigation and adaptation solutions. With the purpose of providing Member States with climate-related knowledge, data and information services and policy advice to enable a shift in mindsets towards enhanced sustainability, UNESCO’s climate change actions are to be developed and implemented through its different Sectors, field offices, designated sites, category 1 and 2 centres, UNESCO Chairs and Networks, and undertaken in close synergy with the overall United Nations system.

### **I. OBJECTIVE**

8. Recognizing that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change, the objective of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (hereinafter the ‘UNESCO Strategy’) is to enable Member States to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts through education, sciences, culture and information and communication, in line with their respective National Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the COP21 Paris Agreement, and in the overall context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDG 13.

9. Targeting a wide range of stakeholders, including decision- and policy-makers, regions and communities, the private sector, academia, NGOs, youth and individuals, UNESCO will achieve this objective by harnessing its expertise in its fields of competence and built upon its experience and lessons learnt along the following three-pronged approach:

- (1) Knowledge (co-)production, openness and dissemination;
- (2) Provision of climate services<sup>9</sup>;
- (3) Policy advice.

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<sup>8</sup> For information on the report, see: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>. The ‘facilitative dialogue’ is referred to in para. 20 in Decision 1/CP.21 Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1).  
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> The notion of climate services refers here to data and information compiled and presented in a way that responds to present expressed and anticipated future needs of stakeholders in relation to their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

## II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA FOR UNESCO'S ACTIONS

10. This Strategy is to be implemented through actions and activities outlined in the UNESCO document 39 C/5 that satisfy a set of general principles and criteria. Specifically, such actions and activities should:

- (a) Meet the needs of Member States in relation to their efforts to realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, as well as SDG 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the overall context of documents 37 C/4 and 39 C/5;
- (b) Draw on, support and be consistent with relevant existing UNESCO programme and priority strategies and action plans;
- (c) Raise awareness on climate change as a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary issue in an overall sustainable development context while building on the strength and focus of each Major Programme of UNESCO;
- (d) Focus on activities that can be scaled-up in order to ensure a seamless, coherent and structured combination of regular and extrabudgetary sources;
- (e) Ensure synergies with the overall United Nations system based on a set of Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-wide Approach to Climate Action.

## III. THEMATIC ACTION FOCUS AREAS

11. Consistent with the UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (document 37 C/4), UNESCO actions on climate change shall target the thematic focus areas A – D below. Within these thematic focus areas, priority shall be given to actions contributing to Gender Equality, Africa, SIDS and the engagement of youth (see also section IV). All actions should also, as appropriate, be consistent with and supportive of relevant action plans, policies and agreements developed by or endorsed by UNESCO, such as the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan, the UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### **A. Supporting Member States to develop and implement climate change education and public awareness programmes and policies**

12. Education and awareness-raising enable informed decision-making, play an essential role in increasing climate change adaptation and mitigation capacities of communities, and empower women and men to adopt sustainable lifestyles. Climate change education is part of UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme. In 2014 UNESCO launched the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD, the official follow-up to the United Nations Decade of ESD, with climate change as a critical thematic focus.

13. Through the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness, UNESCO will continue to support and guide countries to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC Article 6 on education. UNESCO will support schools, including UNESCO Associated schools (ASPnet) and training institutions to implement climate change education through a 'whole-school approach'. Dedicated teaching and learning resources, such as Climate Change in the classroom: UNESCO course for secondary teachers on climate change education for sustainable development and many other climate change education resources will continue to be made freely available on UNESCO's Clearinghouse on ESD.

14. UNESCO will foster cross-sectoral approaches that connect Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) with the other SDGs in order to support Member States in

achieving a smooth transition to green and digitized economies, and more broadly towards sustainable development. The Organization will adopt new guidelines on green skills development, aimed at enabling Member States to leverage the process of transition towards a greener, low-carbon economy, create decent jobs on a large-scale and promote social inclusions. In line with the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO's work on institutional and professional capacity development will support Member States in "green TVET" by adopting a whole-of-institution approach to transformation, which entails the capacity building of leaders, education managers and teachers with the aim of supporting them to implement systemic reforms for embedding sustainability concepts in TVET. Implement this strand of work, the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre will develop appropriate guidelines and include training courses within its TVET leadership programme.

15. Through the provision of capacity-building for journalists and broadcast media on climate change, UNESCO will enhance public awareness of climate change, and of what countries and communities can do to adapt. This also aids reporting on what governments and companies do, or do not do, to respond to these threats. Full use will be made for this purpose of the publication *Climate Change in Africa: A Guidebook for Journalists*, which has already being deployed in training at COP 21 in Paris and COP 22 in Marrakech.

16. The UNESCO massive open online course (mooc) on Climate Justice: Lessons from the Global South will also help enhance public awareness.

17. More broadly, freedom of expression, access and openness of information and knowledge, ICTs, free public, private and community media, online and offline, have a catalyzing role for the achievement of enhanced climate action.

18. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO plans to supports Member States in their efforts to provide learners, throughout life, with the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviors needed to promote sustainable development and engage with the world as responsible global citizens. This will be achieved by assisting countries in integrating sustainable development, including climate change, into education policies, curricula, teacher education and student assessment (MPI, ER6).

19. Furthermore, UNESCO plans to support capacities of independent media (MP V, ER 3), innovative use of ICTs for sustainable development (MP V, ER 4) and capacities of Member States in fostering knowledge societies for sustainable development, including in relation to climate change, through the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (MP V, ER 6).

#### **B. Promoting interdisciplinary climate knowledge and scientific cooperation for climate change mitigation and adaptation**

20. UNESCO will promote continuous strengthening of the interdisciplinary climate change knowledge base, including through generation and use of sound and unbiased data information and early warning in order to improve the resilience of Member States to climate change through national and local climate mitigation, adaptation and risk management policies, in conformity with their respective NDCs. This will be achieved through sustainability science actions in support of climate change research, assessments and monitoring including through collaboration among UNESCO capacities in natural and social sciences, local and indigenous knowledge, ecological and socio-cultural systems, culture, education, and communication and information.

21. Through its International Hydrological Programme (IHP), International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST), Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Programme (LINKS), the Communication and Information Sector and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), UNESCO will provide, and support the provision of data and climate information services notably on water security, earth sciences, biodiversity and the ocean.



## B1. Ocean and climate

22. The IOC of UNESCO facilitates the development of ocean sciences, observations and capacity-building to monitor the ocean's critical role in the climate system and predict ocean changes. Laying the ground for efficient adaptation and mitigation strategies, IOC focuses on the most damaging impacts, e.g. ocean acidification and temperature increase, sea-level rise, deoxygenation, variations in storminess and changes in marine biodiversity. IOC's scientifically-founded services help countries, in particular coastal and small island developing states become more resilient to climate change.

23. IOC will remain at the forefront of new research priorities on climate change impacts on the ocean, climate change mitigation through the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangroves and salt marshes – the so-called 'blue carbon' – and the overall contribution of the ocean to achieving the SDGs on conserving the ocean and combatting climate change.

24. Through the international Ocean and Climate Platform, IOC will help the oceanographic community inform UNFCCC-related debates on the vital interaction between climate and ocean.

25. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO through IOC plans to support science-informed policies for increased resilience and adaptation to climate change, developed and implemented by Member States through institutional and technical capacity development assistance. It also envisages to assist in enhancing knowledge of emerging issues related to climate change and the ocean, particularly in relation to ocean processes required for adaptation to climate change, standards and methodologies to observe ocean acidification and blue carbon ecosystems, and enhanced understanding of marine ecosystem functioning and the impacts of change and variability on ecosystem services (IOC, ER1).

## B2. Water and climate

26. Climate change will reduce freshwater resources and lead to intensified competition for them. UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) will promote scientific cooperation and citizen science to assess and monitor changes in water resources and raise awareness and capacities of policy-makers on related risks and measures to prepare for such risks. IHP will also provide hydroclimatic services through the development and implementation of tools and methodologies in water-stressed and vulnerable regions to identify adaptation responses and reduce the impact of droughts and floods, support the development of web and mobile applications to monitor precipitation and glaciers. IHP will also advance sustainable groundwater management, considering climate change and linked human effects. The International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) will facilitate scientific and policy discussions on climate change impacts on water quality of the world's water resources. IHP will also promote the sustainable management of water resources in human settlements and coordinate with the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate. IHP through its worldwide network of demonstration sites for ecohydrology, will promote the use of natural existing processes as tools for an improved management of water-related ecosystems at different scales. IHP will encourage sustainability and foster peace through promoting water diplomacy in the management of transboundary water resources. UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) will coordinate the production of the UN World Water Development Report, which assesses the state of the world's freshwater resources and provides tools to promote its sustainable use.

27. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO plans to support Member States to strengthen their responses and resilience to climate change related water security challenges at local, national and regional levels towards achievement of water-related SDGs and targets (MP II, ER 4).

### B3. Biodiversity and climate

28. Biodiversity will be negatively impacted by climate change, while playing an important role for climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience. UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme will spearhead interdisciplinary work on ecosystem services, and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity such as in forests, that are of great importance for the global climate. Combining natural and social sciences, economics and education with a view to improving human livelihoods and safeguarding natural and managed ecosystems, MAB will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by promoting integrated, multidisciplinary, participatory approaches within and among biosphere reserves.

29. UNESCO designated sites – including the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (669 sites in 120 countries), the 1972 World Heritage Convention and its 147 properties listed for their biodiversity value, as well as the UNESCO Global Geoparks – provide a uniquely rich network of sites as platforms for promoting innovative approaches to enhance biodiversity conservation, while addressing climate change, in an overall sustainable development context.

30. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO will support Member States to strengthen their management of natural resources towards achievement of MAB-related SDGs and targets on biodiversity and climate change resilience, (MP II, ER 6) as well as to develop the use of BR and/or UNESCO Global Geoparks as a comprehensive network of observatories for resilience to climate change and natural hazards, making use of citizen science (MP II, ER 7).

### B4. Disaster risk reduction

31. The links between climate change and disaster risk reduction points to the need to increase the resilience of communities to climate change and extreme weather phenomena through systematic planning and capacity development, including through gender responsive components. UNESCO will assist Member States to provide a platform for enhancing cooperation in knowledge-sharing, policy advice and education for disaster preparedness and mitigation and supporting the further development of risk reduction networks hazard warning systems (such as storm-surges, storms, floods, landslides and droughts). UNESCO's actions in this area shall be supportive of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

32. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, in addition to work targeting MP II ER 4 and IOC ER 1 (see above), UNESCO will support Member States to strengthen their management of both geological resources and geohazards risk towards achievement of related SDGs and targets, including SDG 13 (MP II, ER 5).

### B5. Science, technology and innovation

33. As key drivers for sustainable development, science, technology and innovation are pivotal for addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation. UNESCO will support Member States in creating the enabling environment for comprehensive STI systems, policies and institutional and human capacity development in STI and engineering relevant to climate change action. UNESCO's programmes will, in short, be designed as delivery platforms for several international conventions, including the UNFCCC, its Paris Agreement and SDG 13.

34. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO, with its Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs, IBSP and its partners, will collaborate with Member States to increase institutional and human capacities in the sciences and engineering, including in the area of climate change (MP II, ER 2).

### B6. Social and human sciences

35. Responding to climate change entails significant social transformations that need to be understood and supported through the social and human sciences within the broader framework of sustainability science. The MOST programme will engage Member States in developing socially

inclusive responses to climate challenges, as well as working closely with research stakeholders, on the basis of interdisciplinarity, to develop the concepts and methods appropriate to dealing with the Anthropocene.

36. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, and consistently with the MOST strategy, UNESCO will collaborate with Member States to enhance research and policy capacities on the social and human dimensions of climate change and to support inclusive adaptation policies sensitive to specific national contexts (MP III ERs 1 & 2).

#### B7. Local and indigenous knowledge

37. The importance of indigenous knowledge in climate change action, particularly adaptation is embedded in the Paris Agreement. As the key United Nations actor in this domain, UNESCO, in-line with the UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples, will continue long-standing cooperation with indigenous peoples and relevant bodies, including UNFCCC, IPCC and WMO on good practices and methodologies bringing indigenous knowledge into assessment and policy.

38. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO will reinforce global recognition and mobilization of local and indigenous knowledge to respond to environmental change, expanded partnerships with the United Nations system and key intergovernmental processes on climate change with a focus on climate vulnerable regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, SIDS and the Arctic (MP II, ER 3).

#### B8. Information and communication technologies

39. In all the above, UNESCO will promote universal access to, and preservation of, information and knowledge, including through ICTs. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO will promote open and inclusive solutions and innovative use of ICTs for sustainable development, including in relation to access to scientific knowledge (A2SK) and climate change (MP V, ER 4).

### C. Promoting cultural diversity and cultural heritage safeguarding for climate change mitigation and adaptation

40. UNESCO recognizes and promotes the importance of cultural knowledge and diversity, with cultural heritage and diversity as crucial drivers for the societal transformation and resilience needed in order to respond to climate change and promote sustainable development.

41. UNESCO will continue to provide support to States Parties to its Conventions in the field of culture, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of Climate Change, in strengthening their capacities to safeguard their heritage, both natural and cultural (tangible and intangible), and in implementing preventive and corrective measures to combat Climate Change impacts on their heritage, including through raising awareness, sharing of information, good practices, experiences and lessons learned, and developing pilot projects towards Climate Change mitigation, adaptation and resilience building.

42. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO plans to support Member States to mainstream sustainable development policy, including climate change, in the conservation and management of World Heritage properties under the 1972 Convention, (MP IV, ER 1), and in policies and programmes aimed at integrating the safeguarding of cultural heritage in emergency contexts, including for preparedness and recovery (MP IV, ER 5). UNESCO will also support Member States to integrate culture into their plans, policies and programmes contributing to the achievement of SDGs (MP IV, ER 8).

**D. Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue and promoting ethical and gender equality principles in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation**

43. The social and human sciences significantly enhance our understanding of contemporary challenges, including climate change, and help us to respond to them more effectively. UNESCO will support inclusive and sustainable development, foster intercultural dialogue and help Member States to embed human rights, gender equality and ethics in the social, scientific and technological developments that are transforming today's increasingly complex and diverse societies, such as in relation to climate change. Through a focus on policy advice and capacity-building UNESCO will make a direct contribution to support Member States in their efforts under the Paris Agreement and SDG 13, with particular emphasis on climate change adaptation and a major contribution from ethics, building on the preparation of a draft declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change and the decade-long work of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology on this topic.

44. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO will support strengthened public climate related policy-making in Member States through scientific evidence, humanities-based knowledge, ethics, and human rights frameworks (MP III, ER 1), and increased institutional and human capacities at all levels to generate, manage and apply climate change relevant knowledge for development that is inclusive, equitable, and based on ethical values and human rights (MP III, ER 2). In relation to gender equality, UNESCO will mainstream gender equality considerations throughout its climate change actions and ensure equal participation of women and men in the decision-making processes, thus ensuring that the perspectives of both women and men are incorporated in the solutions to the various challenges of advancing sustainable and equitable development.

**IV. CLIMATE CHANGE AND UNESCO GLOBAL PRIORITIES AND PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS**

**IV.1 Global Priority Gender Equality**

45. As stated already in 2001 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), "climate change impacts will be differently distributed among different regions, generations, age, classes, income groups, occupations and genders" (IPCC, 2001). Gender-specific issues at stake include: (i) women are affected differently and more severely by climate change and its impact on agriculture, natural disasters, climate-change induced migrations because of social roles, discrimination and poverty; (ii) women are largely underrepresented in decision-making processes regarding climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation/mitigation; and (iii) there are significant gender biases in carbon emissions and hence carbon footprints due to women's and men's economic production and consumption patterns.

46. As women suffer disproportionately from poverty, they will also suffer most when erratic weather brings droughts or floods to marginal lands or crowded urban areas where poverty is most felt. While existing evidence underscores the vulnerability of women to climate change, there is also a wealth of evidence which underlines that women play an important role in supporting households and communities to mitigate the effects and adapt to climate change. Women are most of the world's farmers, household resource managers and caregivers; and women have led – and continue to lead – many of the most innovative responses to environmental challenges. At the local level, women provide particular kinds of social capital for mitigation, adaptation and coping with environmental change, actively organizing themselves during and after disasters to help their household and community.

47. Women are also in the best position to influence changes in behaviour for better disaster risk management as well as participate in and manage post-disaster efforts. Women are also able to map risks and vulnerabilities from their own standpoint and to play an important role in creating

and monitoring early warning systems. Women's knowledge in adaptation (traditional and community specific) is an important resource in education for sustainable development. As effective agents of change in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and education for sustainable development, enhancing women's capacities to address climate change is a critical area of action. Women's access to resources as well as their involvement in decisions and the development of policies related to climate change is of utmost importance both to identify their specific needs and priorities but also to make full use of their knowledge and expertise, including traditional practices.

48. Men and women have different access to public awareness information, including early warning systems. These societal and cultural issues must be an integral part of providing truly universal access to information, especially with a view to enhancing gender equality in this vital area.

49. UNESCO will therefore work to raise awareness of gender specificities in adaptation and mitigation to climate change, including through the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data, mapping of gender-specific emissions profiles, and differences in mitigation and adaptive capacities and strategies.

50. As already mentioned under Thematic Focus Area D above, UNESCO will ensure gender equality considerations are mainstreamed throughout the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, including equal participation of women and men in the decision-making processes.

51. Based on the information in the Global Ocean Science Report, to be published in 2017, a sex-disaggregated distribution of researchers in different fields of ocean science will be provided by IOC, including marine science with the focus of climate change. These data will serve as a baseline for biennial performance indicators and targets for the next quadrennial period.

52. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO will promote gender-responsive policies related to climate change and will ensure systematic and comprehensive contribution to Gender Equality and women's empowerment through its work on climate change (Global Priority Gender Equality, ER 1). UNESCO will also promote the increase in the participation of women in decision-making processes regarding climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation/mitigation.

## **IV. 2 Climate Change and Global Priority Africa**

53. Recognizing that climate change could endanger future well-being of the population, ecosystems and socio-economic progress of Africa and cognizant of the vulnerability of African economic and production systems to climate change and climate variability and the continent's low mitigation and response capacities, UNESCO shall aim to improve education, outreach and the policy dimension of addressing climate change in African countries, in addition to its direct contribution to the regional knowledge base. Particular attention shall be paid to the development of science and technology and related policies, as stated in the UNESCO contribution to the African Union Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.

54. To assist with adaptation strategies along the coast of West Africa, the continuing IOC Integrated Coastal Area Management Project will incorporate a human dimensions component. This is an example of what shall become common practice: incorporating social and policy aspects into all ongoing climate-related science projects in the region.

55. The IOC will further develop the capacities of its Member States in Africa by brokering innovation and learning, facilitating the transfer of marine technology and providing science-informed policy advice for the implementation of integrated ocean governance and management.

56. In the area of water UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) is implementing projects related to knowledge generation and capacity-building for water management under climate stress in all regions of Africa. IHP is also studying the impacts of global changes on river basins and groundwater resources with a focus on transboundary aquifers and groundwater systems, enhancing resilience to climate disasters (flood and drought) and urban water needs. This includes the first ever multi-disciplinary assessment of groundwater resources in 199 transboundary aquifers and the development and implementation of an experimental drought monitor project for Africa that provides near real-time monitoring of land surface hydrological conditions, based on modelling supported by remote sensing to improve capacity-building and adaptation to climate change.

57. African biosphere reserves, particularly in Central Africa and the Congo Basin, will be promoted as sites for pilot projects for reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+), thus addressing climate change mitigation.

58. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO and its global priority Africa will promote the multi-dimensional challenges relating to climate change. It will also be taken into consideration in this framework biodiversity and environmental issues in the context of green and blue economies. Cross-border cooperation frameworks, providing for agreed and appropriate management tools, will be established for the main hydrological basins in Africa and for the sustainable use of ecosystems shared by States (MP II, ER 4). Special attention will be paid to establish joint initiatives among indigenous and scientific knowledge holders to co-produce knowledge to meet the challenges of global climate change (MP II, ER 3). UNESCO and its global priority Africa will also, promote hydrographical or hydrogeological basins or cooperation frameworks, cross-border initiatives for biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks supported by consultation and coordination within an appropriate cooperation and management framework workshops to build capacity and mutual respect and understanding between indigenous and scientific knowledge holders, in particular climate change specialists (MP II, ER 4).

### **IV.3 Climate Change in the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan**

59. With an increasingly changing global environment, due in particular to climate change, impacts are showing to be particularly devastating for small island developing states (SIDS), due to their continuing reliance upon natural resources for food security, health, shelter and livelihoods. This was the case in 2015 in Vanuatu after the Cyclone Pam, or more recently after the Cyclone Winston, which hit Fiji in February 2016. The consequences of this global environmental change (coastal inundations from sea level rise, droughts, extreme climatic events, expanding urban or industrial development, establishment of protected areas), exacerbate competition for already scarce resources, such as food, water and accessible land, leading to conflicting contexts at a local level. This is what makes SIDS challenges very specific and puts them in an extremely vulnerable situation.

60. These specific concerns of the SIDS were reiterated by the international community at the Third International Conference on SIDS (Apia, Samoa, September 2014), in the 2030 Agenda, as well as at the UNFCCC COP21. The outcomes of these events shaped the development of the UNESCO long-term SIDS Action Plan approved by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 199th session in 2016.

61. The dedicated UNESCO SIDS Action Plan proposes a set of objectives and follow-up actions to address the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by SIDS. It represents UNESCO's engagement in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway, while reflecting the 2030 Agenda including the corresponding SDGs and their specific targets, as well as the UNFCCC COP21 Paris Agreement outcomes. Indeed, the Action Plan echoes many articles of the SAMOA Pathway, including *Climate Change* (paragraphs 31-46), and reflects most of the SDGs and some of their specific targets such as SDG 13.

62. The focus of the Action Plan consists of five priority areas and aims at reinforcing SIDS human and institutional capacities via education and capacity-building; enhancing the resilience and sustainability of SIDS ecosystems; promoting social transformation, inclusion and justice; preserving tangible/intangible cultural and natural heritage, promoting culture for sustainable development; as well as increasing connectivity, information management and knowledge sharing in SIDS. It mobilizes UNESCO's multidisciplinary expertise from all its programme sectors to address the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by SIDS, including climate change. Through the Action Plan, UNESCO will collaborate with SIDS countries and communities to ensure the sustainable management of terrestrial and marine natural resources and heritage at the regional, national and local levels; the adaptation of individuals, communities and states to climate and environmental change and natural hazards; as well as strengthen SIDS preparedness and response to natural disaster events and population related consequences.

63. One of the actions proposed to reduce island vulnerability and enhance resilience in the face of global environmental change, is the Sandwatch project. Through its broad-based participatory and integrated citizen-science MAST (Measure/Monitor, Analyse, Share, Take Action) approach, Sandwatch helps communities and policy-makers anticipate threats and co-design potential adaptive solutions to reinforce their resilience and contribute to global assessment process.

64. IHP will support the development of data-driven freshwater assessment tools in SIDS regions for both surface and groundwater systems. IHP will continue to provide hydroclimatic services, monitoring and early warning tools for droughts and floods, and to conduct multi-disciplinary assessment of groundwater, currently developed in 42 small islands. IHP will strengthen SIDS water education and awareness at all levels, through trainings of scientists, water professionals and decision makers as well as the provision of a platform for the exchange of information among regional and global networks, to improve water resources management in SIDS considering projected impacts of climate change on water resources.

65. IOC's engagement in support of SIDS will be guided by the IOC SIDS Action Plan and Strategy adopted by IOC Member States in June 2016 in response to the SAMOA Pathway, with particular emphasis on the building of SIDS actions related to coastal hazard early warning systems, the development of marine scientific and technological capacity of SIDS, and enhanced cooperation to assess ocean acidification impacts.

66. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 highlights international, regional, sub-regional and transboundary cooperation and calls for a broad and more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk. It specifies seven global targets, among which is the need to substantially increase assistance to developing countries to complement their national action and ensure access to multi-hazard warning systems and disaster risk information and assessment by 2030. The IOC's hazard warning system was developed in complete accordance with the Sendai Framework and is highly relevant in the context of SIDS and low-lying coastal countries.

67. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO will reinforce environmental monitoring and resilience, including through citizen science and science education. as measured by programmes to strengthen community-based monitoring of environmental change, including climate change (MP II, ER 3).

#### **IV.4 Youth – actors in understanding and addressing climate change**

68. Climate change impacts a wide range of sectors that affect the lives of all populations, particularly those of young women and men. The environmental, social and economic consequences of climate change impact youth access to safe and adequate water and food, as well as to education, good health, housing, work and an overall standard of living. Climate change also exacerbates poverty and enhances migration, leading to challenges related to the social inclusion of young migrants.

69. Youth embody the present and the future of the planet. There are currently 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 in the world. This is the largest youth population ever, and in many countries young women and men constitute the majority of the population. These young people are also the most educated, with strong social and environmental awareness and the power to transform societies towards a climate resilient future. As such, youth should play a major role in both understanding and addressing climate change.

70. In line with the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021), the role of youth in leading change, by mobilizing their energy and ideas to address climate change, will be particularly emphasized. UNESCO will mobilize its youth networks, including young men and women scientists, to promote mitigation and adaptation to climate change by encouraging their engagement as knowledge holders, innovators and leaders in policy processes, as well as in education and public awareness campaigns. Building capacities of youth to become today's and tomorrow's drivers of green economies, green growth and sustainable development will be a particular priority. Such action will not only tackle climate change in the long term, but will also respond to major concerns regarding youth employability and livelihoods, and will enhance their recognition and inclusion as key actors in the development of our societies.

71. In the context of the draft 39 C/5, UNESCO will promote action, initiatives, organizations and networks developed by youth, both women and men, from local to global, to address climate change challenges (MP III, ER 3).

## V. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

72. The Strategy will be implemented both through actions undertaken by UNESCO Major Programmes, as well as through intersectoral and inter-programme cooperation involving UNESCO Headquarters and field offices facilitated by the intersectoral UNESCO Task Team on Climate Change. Full use will be made of the UNESCO designated sites (i.e. biosphere reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks and World Heritage sites) for this purpose.

### A. International and Intergovernmental UNESCO Programmes, IOC and their Networks and Partners

73. The international and intergovernmental science programmes (MAB, IHP, IGCP, IBSP, LINKS and MOST) and IOC will be fully engaged in the implementation of the Strategy, including through dedicated joint activities. Through these programmes, UNESCO will also mobilize the global academic community for common climate change actions.

### B. Collaboration with United Nations bodies, including the UNFCCC, and COP host countries

74. The Strategy shall be implemented in synergy with United Nations partner organizations, while avoiding overlaps, consistent with the established common core principles for a United Nations system-wide approach for climate action (see Box 1). UNESCO shall also further build on partnership opportunities with the UNFCCC Secretariat on actions of mutual interest for the implementation of the Strategy.

#### **Box 1. Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-Wide Approach to Climate Change Action\***

- A. Support and advance inclusive sustainable development for all in line with common UN norms and standards
- B. Facilitate integrated climate action that maximizes synergies and co-benefits across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- C. Advance and scale-up ambitious and transformative action on climate change



- D. Prioritize interagency collaboration and joint action for greater collective impact
- E. Strengthen United Nations system responsiveness to Member States' needs on climate change
- F. Base United Nations system climate action on the best climate science, data and knowledge
- G. Build and strengthen partnerships, including with non-state actors
- H. Ensure United Nations system-wide accountability on climate action

\* Contained in Annex VI in the Report of the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at its Thirty-First session (document CEB/2016/4).

[http://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/Common%20Core%20Principles%20for%20a%20UN%20System-wide%20Approach%20to%20Climate%20Action-ODS\\_0.pdf](http://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/Common%20Core%20Principles%20for%20a%20UN%20System-wide%20Approach%20to%20Climate%20Action-ODS_0.pdf)

75. Following its initial success in relation to COP 20, COP 21, and COP 22, UNESCO, through the “UNESCO for COP” Partnership Initiative (U4C), will continue to cooperate with COP host countries for the mobilization and engagement of the scientific, educational, media, and private sector communities, as well as the public at large, for enhanced climate change awareness and action in the lead-up to, during and in the follow-up to UNFCCC COPs.

C. UNESCO designated sites (World Heritage, Biosphere reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks)

76. The iconic value of UNESCO-designated World Heritage properties, Biosphere reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks means they serve as a very useful platform for the implementation of the Strategy by facilitating the sharing of information on applied and tested monitoring, mitigation and adaptation processes, and by raising awareness on the impacts of climate change on human societies and cultural diversity, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the world's natural and cultural heritage. Spread across different regions, climates and ecosystems around the world, UNESCO designated sites serve as global field observatories for climate change, where information on the impacts of climate change can be gathered and disseminated. Studies are currently being conducted at several sites, and the results are used to plan tailored adaptation and mitigation measures. This includes, where additional funding can be raised, the promotion of sustainable applications of renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency and sharing of related best practices, in conformity with the various standard-setting instruments.

77. UNESCO supports its Member States, as the sovereign custodians of their sites, in these efforts including in building their capacity to design sustainable development options, responding to the new conservation challenges posed by climate change, developing innovative policy, tailoring management strategies, and recognizing the value of resilient communities and of protected area systems that help safeguard the global environment and human societies from the threats posed by climate change.

78. Finally, by effectively linking efforts under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, and by creating synergies among them and other UNESCO Conventions in the field of Culture, UNESCO designated sites provide the Organization with a significant comparative advantage in the overall United Nations family.

D. UNESCO Centres and Chairs

79. The full range of relevant UNESCO category 1 and 2 centres and UNESCO Chairs will be encouraged to engage in the implementation of the Strategy.

#### E. UNESCO National Commissions

80. Ultimately, the success of the Strategy will depend on the effective mobilization of actors and stakeholders at the national levels. This implies that UNESCO National Commissions and national committees linked to UNESCO intergovernmental programmes, as well as Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, have an important role to play, including through the design and execution of projects financed under the UNESCO participation programme, in the implementation of the Strategy.

#### F. Cities and regional authorities

81. By 2030, over a billion people will live in approximately 100 very large cities and 60 % of the world's population will live in urban areas. It is projected that population growth in the coming decades will be higher in urban centres, and especially in Africa. City and regional authorities are increasingly pioneering innovative climate change and sustainability initiatives. UNESCO will subsequently establish or reinforce mechanisms under the Strategy for effective partnerships with such authorities. One such example is the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate Change.

#### G. NGOs, Youth and ASPnet

82. UNESCO, through its NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, Youth Networks and the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), will engage with the global NGO community, youth and schools on issues of common interest linked to actions promoting the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy.

#### H. Private sector

83. In view of the crucial, pivotal role of the private sector for addressing contemporary and future climate change and sustainable development challenges, UNESCO will seek to establish or maintain solid partnerships with relevant private sector partners and branch organizations esteemed for their climate change and sustainable development credentials in industry, business and finance.

#### I. Intersectoral UNESCO Task Team on Climate Change

84. Established by the Director-General, the UNESCO Task Team on Climate Change is charged with facilitating intersectoral cooperation and coordination related to the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, and related monitoring. The Task Team, lead by ADG/SC, is supported by two co-chairs (in SC/MAB and in SHS). The Task Team also ensures coordination, coherence and synergies with the overall United Nations system in relation to climate change, including the UNFCCC and the IPCC and contributes to resource mobilization efforts to scale up UNESCO climate actions.

### **VI. BUDGETARY PROVISIONS**

85. Financial resources needed for the implementation of the Strategy will be estimated and included in document 39 C/5. It is expected that the effective implementation of the updated Strategy will depend to a significant degree on the availability of extrabudgetary resources. Cognizant of this fact, the Strategy endorses as a guiding principle a focus on activities that can be scaled-up in order to ensure a seamless, coherent and structured combination of regular and extrabudgetary sources. Enhanced efforts for enlarging the donor base and establishing new strategic partnerships will be made. This includes ongoing efforts to renew the Organization's accreditation to the Adaptation Fund and accreditation to the Green Climate Fund. In view of the fact that many developing countries among the Member States, especially those most vulnerable, will require substantial financial support to carry out mitigation and adaptation efforts, UNESCO will

also seek to act as an honest broker assisting Member States in their efforts to secure financing, such as under the Adaptation Fund<sup>10</sup> and the Green Climate Fund.<sup>11</sup>

## **VII. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH**

86. Actions undertaken to implement the Strategy shall include communication and outreach components. These shall be fully consistent with the Strategy's mission statement "Changing Minds, Not the Climate" and its objective. UNESCO's web and social media facilities shall be mobilized in support of the Strategy. This will include the preparation of a set of core messages and graphical resources to be made available to interested Member States and implementation partners. A special brochure for the general public on UNESCO's climate change actions will be prepared and regularly updated.

## **VIII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

87. The implementation of this Strategy will be monitored and reported through the statutory periodic reports to the governing bodies. Evaluation of the Strategy implementation will be undertaken in collaboration with the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS).

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<sup>10</sup> In relation to the Adaptation Fund (AF), UNESCO will adhere to the operational policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund (<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/policies-guidelines/>).

<sup>11</sup> In relation to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), UNESCO will adhere to the GCF Accreditation Policies and Standards (<http://www.greenclimate.fund/partners/accredited-entities/get-accredited>).

**Table: Schematic Overview of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (2018-2021)**

<b>Objective</b>					
<i>To enable Member States to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts through education, sciences, culture and information and communication, in line with their respective National Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the COP21 Paris Agreement, and in the overall context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDG 13</i>					
<b>Principles and criteria for UNESCO Action</b>	<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Thematic Action Focus Areas</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Impact</b>
A. Meet the needs of Member States in relation to their efforts to realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, as well as SDG 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the overall context of documents 37 C/4 and 39 C/5	Gender equality  Africa  SIDS  Youth	A. Supporting Member States to develop and implement climate change education and public awareness programmes and policies	Knowledge (co-) production and dissemination	Member States take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts through education, sciences, culture and information and communication, in line with their respective National Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the COP21 Paris Agreement	In-line with the aims of the COP 21 Paris Agreement, the Strategy will contribute to the strengthening of the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.
B. Draw on, support and be consistent with relevant existing UNESCO programme and priority strategies and action plans		B. Promoting interdisciplinary climate knowledge and scientific cooperation for climate change mitigation and adaptation			
C. Raise awareness on climate change as a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary issue in an overall sustainable development context while building on the strength and focus of each Major Programme of UNESCO		C. Promoting cultural diversity and cultural heritage safeguarding for climate change mitigation and adaptation	Provision of climate services		
D. Focus on activities that can be scaled-up in order to ensure a seamless, coherent and structured combination of regular and extrabudgetary sources		D. Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue and promoting ethical and gender mainstreaming principles in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation	Policy advice		
E. Ensure synergies with the overall United Nations system based on a set of Common Core Principles for a UN System-wide Approach to Climate Action					
<b>Implementation modalities</b>					
Consistent with the UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4) and the draft 39 C/5 for 2018-2021 (e.g. MPI:ER6; IOC-ER; MP II:ER2-7; MP III: ER1-3; MP IV: ER1, ER5, ER8; MP V: ER3-4, ER6 Global Priority Gender Equality: ER1), The Strategy will be implemented both through actions undertaken by UNESCO Major Programmes, as well as through intersectoral and inter-programme cooperation (MAB, IHP, IGCP, IBSP, LINKS and MOST), and IOC, involving UNESCO Headquarters and Field Offices facilitated by the intersectoral UNESCO Task Team on Climate Change. Full use will be made of the UNESCO designated sites, UNESCO Centres and Chairs. Collaboration will be strengthened also with Member States, including UNESCO National Commissions, cities and regional authorities, and with United Nations bodies, including the UNFCCC, and COP host countries, as well as with NGOs and the private sector.					



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

## 201 EX/5 Part I (C)

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### FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

#### PART I

#### PROGRAMME ISSUES

##### SUMMARY

**C. UNESCO's contribution to the outcome of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22)**

In accordance with 200 EX/Decision 29, the Director-General presents herewith a report on UNESCO's contribution to the outcome of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** proposed decision in paragraph 12.





## C. UNESCO's contribution to the outcome of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22)

(Follow-up to 200 EX/Decision 29)

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### I. Background

1. The United Nations 2016 Climate Change Conference under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7-18 November 2016.<sup>1</sup> Following on the rapid entry into force of the historic COP 21 Paris Agreement, COP 22 aimed to accelerate global climate action.<sup>2</sup>

2. Hosted by HM the King, Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, the Marrakech Climate Change Conference was attended by some 22,500 participants, the majority of which were government officials (nearly 15,800), notably 50 Presidents, Prime Ministers and Vice Presidents, along with over 110 Ministers and Heads of Delegation. There were some 5,400 representatives of United Nations organizations and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, and some 1,200 members of the media.

3. UNESCO attended the Conference as an observer. The UNESCO COP 22 delegation was headed by the Director-General, supported by ADG/SC as the lead ADG for the UNESCO Task Force on Climate Change and by ADG/IOC. Representing all programme sectors, IOC, ERI and the Africa Department, the UNESCO COP 22 delegation comprised staff from Headquarters, as well as the Rabat, Cairo and Jakarta field offices.

4. Parties at the Marrakech Climate Conference adopted 35 decisions (25 decisions under the COP 22, eight under CMP 12 and two under the CMA 1). Several important new initiatives were also launched at COP 22.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC, the Marrakech Climate Change Conference also included the following sessions: the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12); the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1); the 45th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 45); the 45th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 45); the second part of the first session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-2). Full Conference programme available here: [http://unfccc.int/meetings/marrakech\\_nov\\_2016/meeting/9567.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/meeting/9567.php)

<sup>2</sup> The COP 21 Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016. As of 9 January 2017, 122 of 197 Parties to the UNFCCC have ratified the Paris Agreement. Source: [http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9485.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php)

<sup>3</sup> Parties at the Marrakech Climate Conference adopted 35 decisions (25 decisions under the COP 22, eight under CMP 12 and two under the CMA 1, including on: writing the operational manual, or rule book of the Paris Agreement by 2018; addressing long-term financing; providing guidance to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF); entrusting the Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement; improving the effectiveness of the Doha Work Programme on Article 6 of the Convention (education, training and public awareness); encouraging the implementation plan of the Global Climate Observing System; continuing and enhancing the Lima Work Programme on gender; approving the five-year work plan of the Warsaw International Mechanism to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change (WIM); enhancing climate technology development and transfer using the Technology Mechanism; and initiating a process to identify the information to be provided in accordance with Paris Agreement Article 9.5 (biennial finance communications by developed countries). All decisions are available here: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php#auv> Among the important new initiatives launched at COP 22 were the "NDC Partnership" which aims at helping countries achieve the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ([http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech\\_nov\\_2016/application/pdf/ndcpartnership\\_launch\\_release\\_en.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/application/pdf/ndcpartnership_launch_release_en.pdf)) and the "Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action" to provide a strong roadmap for how the UNFCCC process will catalyse and support climate action by Parties and non-Party stakeholders in the period 2017-2020. ([http://unfccc.int/files/paris\\_agreement/application/pdf/marrakech\\_partnership\\_for\\_global\\_climate\\_action.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/marrakech_partnership_for_global_climate_action.pdf))

5. The outcomes of the Marrakech Climate Conference are being reflected, as appropriate, in the draft proposal for the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (document 201 EX/5 Part I (B)).

6. At the conclusion of the Conference, Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, expressed her sentiment of appreciation and satisfaction with COP 22, saying: *“I would like to pay tribute to the Government of Morocco and the President of the Conference, Mr Salaheddine Mezouar, for their remarkable success. COP 22 has been what it needed to be, a COP of action that has accelerated progress under the Paris Agreement across finance, new initiatives, ambition and solidarity between nations and across continents”*.<sup>4</sup>

## II. The UNESCO for COP Partnership Initiative – UNESCO’s contribution to COP 22

7. The aim of the UNESCO for COP (U4C) Partnership Initiative is to promote collaboration between UNESCO and COP host countries for enhanced climate change awareness and action in the lead-up to, during, and in the follow-up to UNFCCC COPs. Initiated at COP 20 (Lima, Peru) and at COP 21, U4C do this by mobilizing and engaging the scientific, educational, media, and private sector communities, as well as the public at large on key COP themes and issues, such as at conferences, exhibitions, publications, media and training events. U4C is coordinated through the UNESCO Task Force on Climate Change.

8. Detailed information on UNESCO’s overall contribution to the work of COP 22, which included a large number of actions and events, several of which were organized in close cooperation with Morocco as the host country of COP 22 under the U4C Partnership Initiative, is provided in the Annex to this document. In accordance with 200 EX/Decision 30, document 201 EX/5 Part I(D) contains a separate report outlining the contributions of IHP to the implementation of the outcome of COP 22.

9. In the lead-up to and during COP 22, UNESCO advocated for strong climate action, notably in relation to: education and public awareness; the fundamental role of the ocean; SIDS, the critical impact of climate change on water resources; the need to base climate decisions, policies and actions on a firm scientific foundation including in the natural and in the social and human sciences with due consideration given to the importance of traditional knowledge, indigenous peoples, ethics, gender equality and youth. UNESCO puts special emphasis on Global Priority Africa, amplified by the fact that COP 22 was held on the African continent and that the host country, Morocco, promoted COP 22 as a COP for Africa. UNESCO Sites (World Heritage properties, biosphere reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks) were also advocated as useful laboratories for comprehensive, multi-stakeholder climate action on the ground.

10. In terms of the outcomes of UNESCO’s COP 22 deliberations, a few highlights are (see also Annex):

- COP 22 was the first ever COP at which an Oceans Day was officially included in the UNFCCC’s Global Action Agenda. IOC co-organized this one-day high-level event and together with partners released the report “Toward a Strategic Action Roadmap on Oceans and Climate: 2016 to 2021”.  
[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/the\\_ocean\\_center\\_stage\\_at\\_the\\_un\\_cop22\\_climate\\_talks\\_a\\_stra/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/the_ocean_center_stage_at_the_un_cop22_climate_talks_a_stra/)
- COP 22 was also the first ever COP to highlight water as part of the climate change solution. UNESCO was the only United Nations agency represented at a high-level event, organized on the 9 November 2016 under the framework of the Global Climate

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<sup>4</sup> Quote cited in UNFCCC Press Release, Marrakech, 18 November 2016. <https://goo.gl/RrBSGy>  
A detailed presentation and analysis of the Marrakech Climate Conference prepared by the IISD Reporting Services is available here: <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop22/enb/>



Action Agenda (GCAA), and showcased its work on water resources management under Climate Change.

- UNESCO launched the French version of its publication “Water, Megacities and Global Change”.  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002454/245419E.pdf>
- Launch of iRain: new mobile application to promote citizen-science and support water management.  
<http://en.unesco.org/news/irain-new-mobile-app-promote-citizen-science-and-support-water-management>
- UNESCO launched two new publications: “[PLANET: Education for environmental sustainability and green growth](#)”, by the Global Education Monitoring Report and “Action for Climate Empowerment: Guidelines for accelerating solutions through education, training and public awareness”, a guidance document for policy-makers, developed in collaboration with the UNFCCC.  
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/resources/online-materials/single-view/news/un-climate-summit-says-education-primers-societies-for-global/>
- The Director-General presented UNESCO’s Green Citizens project which showcases outstanding ESD projects from around the world in a photo exhibition. The travelling exhibition was at the Marrakech Menara Airport until end of November 2016, and tours other Moroccan airports until March 2017.  
<http://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-green-citizens-exhibition-begins-its-tour-morocco>
- In close cooperation with Morocco, the Director-General drew attention to important gender issues, as well as to the impacts of climate change on intangible heritage and handicraft.  
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/women-provide-key-solutions-to-climate-change-challenges-and/>
- Tangier Appeal for Biosphere Reserves as Climate Change Observatories and Laboratories for Sustainable Development in Africa and the Arab States.  
<http://en.unesco.org/news/tangier-appeal-biosphere-reserves-climate-change-observatories-and-laboratories-sustainable>
- Launch of the Sustainable Oasis Initiative.  
<http://andzoa.ma/fr/2016/11/15/cop22-presentation-de-linitiative-oasis-durables-par-m-le-ministre-de-lagriculture/>
- Signing of MOU between UNESCO and the National Council of Human Rights of Morocco.  
<http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/rabat/about-the-office/single-view/news/signature-dune-convention-cadre-de-partenariat-unesco-c/>
- Presentation of the World Social Sciences Report 2016  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002458/245825e.pdf>
- A new policy brief on “Assessing the Risks of Climate Change” was released during COP 22 by the United Nations Secretary-General’s Scientific Advisory Board.  
<http://en.unesco.org/news/risk-management-approach-needed-fulfill-promise-paris-climate-agreement>

### III. Towards COP 23

11. Fiji was announced during COP 22 as the incoming President of the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 23) which will be hosted by the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany from 6 to 17 November 2017. It is anticipated that in its role as convener of COP 23, Fiji will draw special attention to the critical climate change challenges facing SIDS. The UNESCO Climate Change Task Force has already approached Fiji, and Germany as host country of the UNFCCC Secretariat, for preliminary U4C consultations.

#### Proposed decision

12. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to take the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 200 EX/Decision 29,
2. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part I (C),
3. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for UNESCO's contributions to the outcome of COP 22;
4. Acknowledges the valuable efforts of Morocco towards the success of COP 22;
5. Notes with satisfaction the effective collaboration between Morocco and the UNESCO Secretariat in the lead-up to and during COP 22;
6. Invites the Director-General to engage with Fiji as the convener and president of the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 23) to be hosted at the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017;
7. Recommends that the climate change challenges facing SIDS be given due attention in UNESCO's efforts related to COP 23;
8. Requests the Director-General to report on UNESCO's contributions to United Nations Climate Change Conferences in the future as part of the reporting on the implementation of the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change.

## ANNEX

### DETAILED INFORMATION ON UNESCO'S CONTRIBUTION TO COP 22

1. This Annex contains detailed information on UNESCO's activities in the lead-up to and during COP 22 organized under the overall motto of "*Changing Minds, Not the Climate – Education, Science, Culture, Communication and Information for Sustainable Development*". Additional information can be found through the links provided in this document, as well as on the UNESCO COP 22 web page (<http://en.unesco.org/cop22>), and on the IOC COP 22 page (<http://en.unesco.org/node/265595>). For a general overview of UNESCO's climate change actions, please see the UNESCO climate change web page (<http://en.unesco.org/themes/addressing-climate-change>) and the 2016 UNESCO climate change brochure (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002459/245977e.pdf>).

#### I. Pre-COP 22 events

2. Key pre-COP 22 events organized by UNESCO or with UNESCO participation, include:

- Africa Week on the theme "African Women facing Climate Challenges", UNESCO Headquarters, 23-27 May 2016.  
The 2016 edition of African Week "African Women facing Climate Challenges", began Monday 23 May at UNESCO in the presence of the Princess of Morocco, Her Royal Highness Lalla Hasnaa, the event's sponsor, President of the African Group and Rwandan Ambassador to UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Jacques Kabalé, UNESCO's Deputy Director-General, Mr Getachew Engida, and Assistant Director-General for Africa, Mr Firmin Edouard Matoko.  
[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/africa-department/resources/africa-department/news/launch\\_of\\_africa\\_week\\_2016\\_at\\_unesco\\_headquarters/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/africa-department/resources/africa-department/news/launch_of_africa_week_2016_at_unesco_headquarters/)
- UNESCO Workshop on "Science and Knowledge for Advancing the 2030 SDGs in the Arab Region", Cairo, Egypt, 25-26 May 2016.  
This workshop gathered experts from 10 Arab Countries, four regional organizations, two national science institutions concerned with STI, knowledge societies, and knowledge economy, and three regional offices of United Nations agencies. The main objective was to formulate a joint vision and outlines of a master plan for the effective activation and deployment of science and knowledge for achieving the SDGs, including on climate change, in the Arab region.  
<http://www.wfeo.org/unesco-workshop-science-knowledge-advancing-2030-sdgs-arab-region/>
- World Ocean Day 2016 at UNESCO, Paris, 8 June 2016  
The annual World Ocean Day at IOC-UNESCO has become a symbolic day for Member States, the scientific community and civil society to gather and discuss the numerous challenges that connect the health of the ocean and the health of Earth's climate. During World Oceans Day 2016, themed "Healthy Ocean, Healthy Planet", the IOC organized round tables, exhibitions and a UNESCO Campus for youth, as well as the Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture dedicated this year to the issue of ocean acidification. The aim of the Day was to continue the momentum established by the global agreements on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement in the lead up to COP 22 in Marrakech.  
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/world-oceans-day-2016/>

- “Climate Services for Sustainable Water Management” side event organized by IHP in collaboration with WMO within the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, United Nations, New York, 15 July 2016.  
The event brought together experts, policy-makers and practitioners to discuss advances and challenges in the use of data, technological and scientific advances in support of implementation and monitoring of water-related SDGs.  
[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/all-events/?tx\\_browser\\_pi1%5BshowUid%5D=40397&cHash=20e246f922](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/all-events/?tx_browser_pi1%5BshowUid%5D=40397&cHash=20e246f922)
- MedCOP Climate 2016, Tangier, Morocco, 18-19 July 2016.  
MedCOP gathered representatives from Mediterranean countries, the private sector, civil society, as well as regional and international organizations, including the UNESCO Rabat Office, with the objective to highlight existing initiatives related to climate action in the region and to formulate innovative ideas by associations of local, national and regional society networks. <http://medcopclimat.com/en>
- First meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) for the Elaboration of a Preliminary Text of a non-binding Declaration on the Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change, Rabat, Morocco, 20-24 September 2016.  
In accordance with [38 C/Resolution 42](#), a declaration on ethical principles in relation to climate change is to complement existing reference instruments and its preparation is to be carried out in cooperation with the [World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology \(COMEST\)](#), in consultation with Member States and taking into consideration the outcome of negotiations within the framework of the COP 21 and COP 22. At the generous invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, the first meeting of the group of experts was held in Rabat from 20 to 24 September 2016, with a strong support of the Moroccan National Commission for Education, Sciences and Culture. During this meeting, the AHEG prepared the first draft of a preliminary text of a declaration.  
[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/member\\_states\\_invited\\_to\\_comment\\_on\\_first\\_draft\\_of\\_the\\_decla/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/member_states_invited_to_comment_on_first_draft_of_the_decla/)
- International Conference on “Facing Climate Change – A New Political Era?”, Marrakech, Morocco, 18-20 October 2016.  
The event was organized by the Royal Academy of Morocco and the Fondation de l’écologie politique (France), involving high-level personalities of the Moroccan COP 22 Steering Committee, as well as Mr Nicolas Hulot, President of the Fondation Hulot (France). UNESCO took an active part in presenting and discussing the first draft of the Preliminary Text of a non-binding Declaration on the Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change. This was a good opportunity to share the draft Declaration with some international civil society actors on the ground.  
<http://www.fondationecolo.org/activites/evenements/Colloque-COP22-a-Marrakech>
- 7th Regional Workshop on “Capacity Building for Arab Climate Change Negotiators”, Rabat, Morocco, 25-29 September 2016.  
The workshop was organized through a partnership between the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), the League of Arab States (LAS), the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), and the UNESCO’s Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States (UNESCO Cairo Office) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Morocco. The workshop explored the implications of the Paris Agreement, climate change impacts in the Arab region, access to climate finance and technology transfer, the mainstreaming of climate change in water resources strategies, and the water-food-energy nexus as a framework for sustainable development under climate change in the region.  
<https://www.unescwa.org/events/climate-change-negotiations-arab-7th-training>

- WaterLinks Forum 2016 – High-Level Seminar on Megacities, Water and Climate Change organized by WaterLinks and IHP, Manila, Philippines, 5 October 2016. WaterLinks Forum 2016 was a two-day congregation of operators, utilities, policy-makers, thought-leaders, tech providers and stakeholders from the urban water, sanitation and wastewater sectors principally from across Asia and the Pacific. It was a venue for generating practical solutions, cultivating innovations, and inspiring synergies to address present and future challenges in Asia’s water operations – particularly challenges stemming from climate risks and uncertainties.  
[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/all-events/?tx\\_browser\\_pi1%5BshowUid%5D=40928&cHash=334f83b4dd](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/all-events/?tx_browser_pi1%5BshowUid%5D=40928&cHash=334f83b4dd)
- First Joint Arab-African Meeting of UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme: Towards COP22 and Sustainable Development Goals, Tangiers, Morocco, 18-20 October 2016. The meeting brought together over 100 participants from 18 countries of the African and Arab States regions, including biosphere reserve managers, IHP focal points, members of the scientific community, local authorities and civil society. The meeting adopted the Tangier Appeal for Biosphere Reserves as Climate Change Observatories and Laboratories for Sustainable Development in Africa and the Arab States that was presented at a COP 22 side event. <https://en.unesco.org/news/tangier-appeal-biosphere-reserves-climate-change-observatories-and-laboratories-sustainable>
- Launching of the “Water, Megacities & Global Change” Publication: at Habitat III. Quito, Ecuador, 19 October 2016. UNESCO, launched the publication on Megacities, water and climate change that discusses challenges faced and best practices that can be replicated when dealing with water resources management and the pressure applied by climate change while having to provide basic services to millions of people.  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002454/245419E.pdf>
- Climate change and urban disaster resilience: UNESCO, WMO and UNU session at Habitat III, Quito, Ecuador, 20 October 2016. Risks of disaster are on the rise in cities due to the intersection of two global megatrends: urbanization and climate change. The side event provided a state-of-the-art overview and reflection on knowledge-based solutions for improving urban resilience and reducing urban risks from natural and climatic hazards.  
[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/all-events/?tx\\_browser\\_pi1%5BshowUid%5D=41006&cHash=4768870087](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/all-events/?tx_browser_pi1%5BshowUid%5D=41006&cHash=4768870087)
- Launch of free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Climate Justice: Lessons from the Global South, created by UNESCO. This course deals with some of the key issues related to the ethical dimensions implied by climate change – learning especially from the problems faced as well as the resilience models formulated by the marginalized sectors of society or the so-called “Global South”.  
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/climate-justice>
- International Conference on Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Change, Marrakech, Morocco, 2-3 November 2016. Organized by UNESCO Climate Frontlines, CNRS, the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC), the Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education (TEBTEBBA), the conference brought together some of the world’s leading experts from indigenous peoples, researchers and governments. Speakers provided testimonies about how local communities are grappling with impacts exacerbated by climate change, their efforts to adapt but also the constraints and limits that they are facing, and case studies that highlight how indigenous and local knowledge can be sources of renewed understanding, resilience and resistance.  
<http://en.unesco.org/events/indigenous-knowledge-and-climate-change>

- Summit of Climate Conscience, Fez, Morocco, 3 November 2016.  
Under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Summit, which was initiated by the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE), Morocco, aimed to contribute to laying the foundations for a new ecological consciousness. UNESCO was represented at the Summit, which included a number of religious leaders and thinkers, through the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC), Flavia Schlegel.

## **II. Events and activities during COP 22**

3. The UNESCO Delegation to Marrakech Climate Change Conference attended formal negotiation sessions in the “blue zone” of COP 22 as observers with special attention given to items relevant to the mandates of the organization. UNESCO also actively organized, participated in or attended a large number of side events in the blue, as well as in the green, civil society zone of COP 22 open to all COP 22 delegates and the public at large. Several events were also staged in the wider Marrakech area.

4. As part of the coordinated One-UN approach to the UNFCCC COPs, UNESCO attended several United Nations COP 22 coordination meetings, chaired by the UNFCCC Secretariat, and helped organize the joint United Nations exhibit stand in the blue zone on education and public awareness focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education. UNESCO publications related to climate change were also made available on an USB memory stick that comprised documents by a large number of United Nations bodies and distributed at the COP 22 venues.

### **II.I UNESCO COP 22 Pavilion**

5. Throughout COP 22, UNESCO had its own pavilion in the civil society area of the green zone flagging the Organization’s motto: “Changing Minds, Not the Climate – Education, Science, Culture, Communication and Information for Sustainable Development”. UNESCO was the only United Nations agency with a pavilion in the civil society area and was also the only body to present a series of debates and conferences all day, every day. The UNESCO 100m<sup>2</sup> COP 22 Pavilion was erected on 100m<sup>2</sup> of floor space graciously allocated to UNESCO by the COP 22 host organizers, and equipped with multimedia facilities offering a unique space and opportunity for a great variety of stakeholders such as UNESCO experts, representatives of other United Nations agencies, UNESCO partners, civil society and the general public, including entire school classes, to gather and exchange on main issues related to climate change.

6. The UNESCO Pavilion was also the venue for several high-level discussions and bilateral meetings involving senior UNESCO representatives, including the Director-General. High-level visitors to the UNESCO Pavilion included: Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa of Morocco, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection; Mr Salaheddine Mezouar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco and President-Designate of the COP 22; Mr Driss El Yazami, President of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) and the Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME) and Member of the Moroccan COP 22 Steering Committee in charge of Civil Society; Ms Fatema Marouane, Minister of Crafts, Social and Solidarity Economy, Morocco; Ms Zohour Alaoui, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Morocco to UNESCO; Mr Dwight L. Bush Sr. Ambassador of the US to Morocco; Mr Sydney Alexander Samuels Milson, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Guatemala.

7. The programme at the UNESCO Pavilion was coordinated through the UNESCO Task Force on Climate Change. The specific activities at the pavilion were organized by sectors and offices concerned and organized according to “thematic days”, synchronized as far as possible with the thematic days adopted for COP 22 side events in general, according to the schedule in table 1.

**Table 1. Thematic Days at the UNESCO COP 22 Pavilion**

November	Theme
7	Local and Indigenous Knowledge
8	UNESCO Sites
9	Water
10 (am)	Ocean
10 (pm)	Disaster Risk Reduction
11	Social and Human Sciences
12	Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
14	Education and Public Awareness
15	Gender
16	Africa

## **II.II Overview of UNESCO activities at the UNESCO COP 22 Pavilion, at other COP 22 venues and in the City of Marrakech**

### **II.II.A Local and indigenous knowledge**

8. Prior to COP-22, UNESCO-LINKS together with CNRS and in partnership with IPACC and Tebtebba organized on 2-3 November 2016, the International expert conference on Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Change (see above).

9. On 7 November at the UNESCO Pavilion, speakers, welcomed by ADG/SC, came together to share key messages from the conference. Drawing on experiences from across the United Nations, speakers on the first panel gave their perspectives on how indigenous knowledge could be considered within the mandate of the UNFCCC, in particular within the context of ongoing consultations on the establishment of an indigenous platform. Participation of indigenous peoples was seen as a key enabling factor, and speakers also recommended a diversity of activities that could be encompassed under the platform.

10. The panels that followed were dedicated to indigenous knowledge in adaptation and mitigation. While highlighting the contributions of indigenous knowledge, the case studies presented demonstrated the diversity of these place-based knowledge systems and how they complement Western science approaches to building both resilience and self-determined development in communities most affected by climate change.

[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/about-us/single-view/news/indigenous\\_peoples\\_we\\_must\\_work\\_together\\_to\\_address\\_climate/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/about-us/single-view/news/indigenous_peoples_we_must_work_together_to_address_climate/)

### **II.II.B UNESCO sites**

11. The iconic UNESCO-designated World Heritage properties, biosphere reserves and global geoparks provide useful platforms to apply and test climate monitoring, mitigation and adaptation, and to raise awareness on climate change impacts on human societies, cultural diversity, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the world's natural and cultural heritage. Spread across different regions, climates and ecosystems around the world, the impacts of climate change are already being felt in many UNESCO-designated properties. Some communities there are working on innovative ways to address climate change, while some other communities' traditional management systems and resilience can be a source of inspiration. As climate change observatories, many UNESCO-designated properties also contribute to mitigation solutions including by promoting green economies and the sustainable use of renewable energy sources.

12. Organized by UNESCO's Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences and its MAB Secretariat, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the sessions held at the UNESCO Pavilion during

the thematic day on 8 November, which was opened by ADG/SC, served to explore how UNESCO designated sites can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development through concrete actions on the ground.

[https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/unescosites\\_10nov2016.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/unescosites_10nov2016.pdf)

13. Several other COP 22 events also focused on UNESCO Sites, notably the side event entitled “Biosphere reserves: climate change observatories and laboratories of sustainable development” organized at Moroccan COP 22 Pavilion. With the participation of ADG/SC this event launched the Tangier Appeal for Biosphere Reserves as climate change observatories and laboratories for sustainable development in Africa and the Arab States.

<http://en.unesco.org/news/tangier-appeal-biosphere-reserves-climate-change-observatories-and-laboratories-sustainable>

14. Another event was the ceremony at the Cervantes Institute in Marrakech on 17 November when Spain and the Abertis Foundation presented its International UNESCO Centre for Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, Castellet Castle near Barcelona.

<http://www.fundacioabertis.org/en/the-abertis-foundation-has-presented-its-unesco-centre-for-mediterranean-biosphere-reserves-in-marrakech/>

## II.II.C Water

15. The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that climate change over the twenty-first century is projected to reduce renewable surface water and groundwater resources significantly in most dry subtropical regions, intensifying competition for water among sectors. In many regions, changing precipitation or melting perennial snow and ice are altering hydrological systems, affecting the quantity and quality of water resources.

16. UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (IHP) organized a comprehensive series of events during COP 22 to provide information and technical resources about its work on water and climate change (see also document 201 EX/5 Part I (D)).

17. UNESCO IHP co-organized a high-level event on the 9 November 2016 under the framework of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA), which brought together government representatives and non-state actors to assess progress made since COP21 and reinforce cooperation to tackle water and climate challenges. The opening included speeches by Abdeladim Lhlafi, Commissioner of COP 22, together with UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General, Flavia Schelgel, Morocco’s Champion for the Climate, Hakima El Haite, Morocco’s Minister Delegate in charge of water, Charafat Afailal, and the World Water Council.

18. During the Water Day at the UNESCO Pavilion on 9 November, special attention was given to the use of new technologies to support stakeholder’s engagement in tackling impacts of climate change in water resources. For instance, the first global real-time crowd-sourced rainfall observation system, the iRain application, was launched at the UNESCO pavilion, and a session focused on UNESCO’s open source software platform of experts on hydrology, the HOPE Initiative. Strong focus was also given to Megacities and on gender and water.

19. Other highlights included events on: Fostering SDG#8: Innovative Job Creation and Young Water Professionals Role (8 November); Scientific knowledge on water and climate for smart planning and decision-making, involving a representative from the GEM Report on the importance of education for building relevant skills of young professionals in the sector (8 November); Improve stakeholder engagement in decision making to combat extreme flood and drought impacts of climate change (8 November); Global Climate Action Agenda Water Event, with the participation of the Director-General (9 November); Ceremony for the signing of the declaration between the



Megacities Alliance, RIOB and the Business Alliance (9 November); and UN-WATER: Hydro-Climate Services for All (9 November).  
<https://en.unesco.org/cop22/water-climate-day>

#### II.II.D Ocean

20. The importance of the ocean to global climate must not be underestimated. It absorbs a significant part of carbon and an overwhelming portion of the planet's excess heat. Warmer atmosphere and increasing concentration of greenhouse gases nevertheless exert enormous pressure on the ocean's ability to regulate the climate.

21. IOC sessions at the UNESCO Pavilion focused on Restoration of Blue Carbon Ecosystems and on reducing risks and saving lives from ocean and coastal hazards in a changing climate. The Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Assistant Director General of UNESCO, Mr Vladimir Ryabinin opened the Ocean Day at the UNESCO Pavilion.

22. Throughout the COP, IOC engaged with a number of important event stressing the importance of the Ocean, such as: Oceans Action Day at COP 22 (12 November); Incorporating Blue Carbon Into Nationally Determined Contributions Under the Paris Agreement Coastal blue carbon ecosystems (8 November); EarthInfo Day (Observing for Climate) (8 November); Changing oceans and seas around the world: implications for mitigation and adaptation (9 November); SDG14: Oceans: Science-based solutions for achieving adaptation and mitigation goals (9 November); Building Resilience and Adaptations Measures with Co-mitigation Benefits in Red Sea and Arabian Gulf (10 November); Ocean and Climate Forum: a multi-stakeholder mobilization for ocean and climate (11 November); An African perspective: changing oceans, the impact on society and the need for solutions, planning and implementation (11 November); SDG17: Science for informed mitigation and adaptation choices (11 November); Avoiding Irreversible Ocean and Polar Thresholds – Raising Ambition for 2018 Facilitative Dialogues (11 November).  
<https://en.unesco.org/node/265595>

#### II.II.E Disaster Risk Reduction

23. Disasters often follow natural hazards and they are a result of the combination of hazards, the conditions of vulnerability and of the insufficient capacity or measures to reduce the potentially negative consequences of the hazard. Disaster risk reduction is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters. Climate change is posed to aggravate the risks of disasters around the globe.

24. UNESCO organized two sessions on disaster risk reduction during the day devoted to this topic at the UNESCO Pavilion on 10 November showcasing concrete initiatives, lessons learned and issues to be addressed, and explored more effective solutions to harmonize climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures through science and technology.

25. The first session focused on Science & Technology and Policy-making for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation – essential linkage for comprehensive and effective policy harmonization. This session elaborated and discussed on how science and technology can maximize their impact to reducing disaster risks and losses and adapting to climate change in the context of a harmonized policy-making process. The second session was on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation at UNESCO-designated sites, and focused on how to strengthen the potential of more than 2,000 UNESCO-designated sites, and protected areas in general, to ensure sites' conservation in the face of natural hazards.  
[https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/flyer\\_of\\_drr\\_session1\\_10November2016.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/flyer_of_drr_session1_10November2016.pdf).  
[https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/flyer\\_of\\_drr\\_session2\\_10nov2016.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/flyer_of_drr_session2_10nov2016.pdf)

## II.II.F Social and Human Sciences

26. Human beings must be at the centre of any successful transition to a transformed global society resulting from tackling climate change on the basis of the principles of equity and social justice, especially for the most vulnerable men and women. That requires that policy discussions and policy design need to ensure that the social dimensions of climate change are adequately reflected in global agendas for public policies related to climate change. To that end, UNESCO held a full day of events dedicated to social and human sciences on 11 November 2016. Its specific purpose was to present the social dimensions of climate change to an international audience, highlight the interrelated nature of climate change and social development, and increase awareness of the multidimensionality of climate change.

27. The panel discussions that took place throughout the day at the UNESCO Pavilion focussed on key topics within social and human sciences as they relate to climate change. These include issues, such as advocacy of equality and social justice, sustainability science, ethical principles of climate change, the co-production of knowledge for social transformation, philosophical and social views on climate change, and resilient cities, climate change and migration. A significant participation of public in panels, especially students and youth, was attained, facilitating the visibility of several key platforms coordinated by SHS such as the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme, the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), and the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR). Renowned experts participated in the panels in representation of the UN-Scientific Advisory Board (UN-SAB), the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) at the UN Economic Commission for Africa, IOM, UNHCR, UNEP, and several universities and research institutions.

28. The Social and Human Sciences thematic day included the dissemination of the *World Social Sciences Report 2016*, the UNESCO's "*Philosophy Manual. A South-South Perspective*", and the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Climate Justice, the first one organized by the SHS Sector. The rich agenda of the day also included a ceremony for the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) of Morocco and the UNESCO Rabat Office represented by Mr. Driss El Yazami, President of the National Council for Human Rights, and Member of the National Steering Committee of COP 22 – Responsible of Civil Society Dialogue, and Mr Salah Khaled, UNESCO Rabat Office.

[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SHS/pdf/cop22\\_shs\\_programme.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SHS/pdf/cop22_shs_programme.pdf)

## II.II.G Small Island Developing States

29. Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to global climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise. The UNESCO SIDS Action Plan, adopted in 2016, embraces the "Samoa Pathway" and integrates its priorities across all the Organization's programmes and encompasses UNESCO's response to combatting climate change through the strengthening of capacities in SIDS to deal with emergencies triggered by natural disasters.

30. UNESCO's Section for Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge organized a series of discussions on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and climate change at the UNESCO Pavilion on 12 November. The day was organized in the framework of the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan 2016-2021. Through this Action Plan, the organization is committed to building a solid foundation for enhancing SIDS resilience and self-reliance. Different international and regional agencies, NGOs, experts and governments were invited to a transdisciplinary dialogue to ensure that island voices on environment and development issues are heeded so that they become a catalyst for action on the ground.

<https://en.unesco.org/events/thematic-day-small-islands-and-developing-states-cop22>

## II.II.H Education and Public Awareness

31. Education plays a paramount role in raising awareness and promoting behavioural change for climate change mitigation and adaptation. It helps increase the climate change mitigation and adaptation capacity of communities by enabling individuals to make informed decisions. The critical role of education in climate change responses was clearly recognized in the Paris Agreement.

32. COP 22 provided the opportunity to ensure that climate change education is put into practice. An opportunity seized by UNESCO's Education Sector that organized a rich series of events during the thematic day on Education at the UNFCCC, including at the UNESCO COP 22 Pavilion on 14 November. Pavilion events included short ESD-related discussion rounds facilitated by UNESCO staff, key ESD Global Action Programme (GAP) and ASPnet teachers. Topics discussed included: the role of teachers and students; water education; greening technical and vocational education (TVET).

33. Notable key events at other venues, several of which were organized in close cooperation with other United Nations partners, included: High-level panel discussion with the Director-General on Education and GEM Report representative – A key driver to scale-up climate action (14 November); Round table on Sustainability starts with educators (14 November); side event on Leaving No One Behind in Climate Change Education (14 November). UNESCO was also present in the One UN booth on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on quality education, jointly managed by United Nations partners forming the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness.

<https://en.unesco.org/events/thematic-day-education-climate-cop-22>  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002464/246479E.pdf>

34. A press conference (14 November) was also held at the start of the Education Day during the COP 22 in order to officially launch the GEM Report publication: [PLANET: Education for environmental sustainability and green growth](#). Speakers at the Press conference included Nick Nuttall, Spokesperson for UNFCCC, Manos Antoninis, Senior Policy Analyst for the GEM Report, Tariq Al Olaimy, National Coordinator for the Arab Youth Climate Movement and Ghaith Fariz (PhD) Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States, Cluster Office for Egypt, Sudan, and Libya.

## II.II.I Gender equality

35. The aim of the gender day on 15 November at the UNESCO COP 22 Pavilion, which was opened by the Director-General and ADG/SC, was to highlight the Organization's vision and action at global level and those of other institutions at the local level to promote the key role of girls and women in the fight against climate change, through research and community action.

36. In recognition of the fact that women are underrepresented in scientific research and scientific and technological solutions essential in the struggle for climate and sustainable development and conscious of the fact that women's involvement in communities is crucial, because women, particularly in rural and disadvantaged areas, are severely affected by climate change, UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector organized a high-level panel discussion on Women, Science and Climate Change.

37. The panel highlighted the strong and effective partnership with the L'Oréal Foundation in the context of the UNESCO For Women in Science Programme was highlighted as a successful initiative and among the high-level participants at the panel discussion on Women, Science and Climate Change was professor Rajaa Cherkaoui El Moursli, Laureate of the l'Oréal-UNESCO Prize for Africa and the Arab States for 2015.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/gender-and-science/for-women-in-science-programme/2016-awards/>

38. On 16 November, the Director-General took part in the Women Leaders and Global Transformation Summit, held within the framework of COP 22, in Marrakech. The Summit was organized under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohamed VI and attended by the President of Marshall Islands, H.E. Hilda Heine, first woman in the Pacific to be elected president, Helen Clark of UNDP and Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and founder of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice.

[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/women\\_provide\\_key\\_solutions\\_to\\_climate\\_change\\_challenges\\_and/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/women_provide_key_solutions_to_climate_change_challenges_and/)

39. Other UNESCO events with strong gender emphasis included: IHP event at the UNESCO Pavilion on Water, Gender and Climate Change (9 Nov); and side event on How climate change affects Women and Girls in Africa (during Africa Day, see below).

#### II.II.J Africa

40. With COP 22 being promoted as a “COP for Africa”, it was natural for UNESCO with its strong emphasis on Priority Africa to highlight the continents climate change challenges and actions at the UNESCO COP 22 Pavilion. This was skilfully achieved by the UNESCO Africa Department that organized a round table event at the UNESCO Pavilion, entitled “climate change; what is the impact for Africa?” on 16 November. The round table offered a platform for climate change panellists, and the participating, audience, to expound on and discuss issues that directly impact the African continent, including on: COP 22 negotiations from an African perspective; scarcity of water and sanitation in Africa; The impact of climate change on oceans and African ecosystems; the use of green energy in Africa; and how climate change affects women and girls in Africa.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/africa-department/cop-22/>

#### II.II.K Arab Region

41. Several events focusing on the Arab Region were also organized by UNESCO Cairo and Rabat Offices, such as: side event at the UNESCO Pavilion on the Regional Non-Conventional Water Resources Initiative (9 November); Mainstreaming Climate Change in Water Resources Strategies and Action Plans in the Arab Region (9 November); Water Education in the Arab Region (14 November); Technical and High-Level Panels on Climate Change Impacts on the Arab Region and Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives (15 November).

#### II.II.L Intangible Heritage

42. In addition to being prominently featured on 8 November during the UNESCO Sites Day, a number of cultural issues were in focus at the UNESCO Pavilion, notably in relation to climate change and intangible heritage. Events included a session on 16 November when the results of a study on climate change, intangible heritage and crafts were presented by the UNESCO Rabat Office in the presence of Ms Fatema Marouane, Minister of Crafts, Social and Solidarity Economy, Morocco.

#### II.II.M Climate Radio

43. Supported by the UNESCO Communication and Information Sector, the community led, youth focused, Climate Radio broadcasted from the civil society area of COP 22 throughout the entire Conference. The highly successful Climate Radio had more than 150 guests and broadcasted live for more than 90 hours, including a seven-hour non-stop live coverage of the “Walk for Climate” on 13 November. More than 200 news reports and 48 news bulletins were produced. The Climate Radio functioned as a press agency serving community radios around the world and as a local FM radio. Eighteen young journalists from the Middle East and Africa

produced news content in Arabic, Amazigh, English and French. Prior to covering the COP 22 event and during the coverage itself, the young journalists, from Algeria, Angola, Cameroun, Jordan, Israel, Morocco, Palestine, Rwanda and Tunisia, received training from AMARC and Forum Alternatives based on UNESCO's key publications on climate change. These are:

- Climate Change in Africa: A Guidebook for Journalists
- Teaching Journalism for Sustainable Development: New Syllabi

The Director-General was among those interviewed.

[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/all-news/news/community\\_led\\_climate\\_radio\\_puts\\_young\\_voices\\_on\\_air\\_at\\_cop2/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/all-news/news/community_led_climate_radio_puts_young_voices_on_air_at_cop2/)

#### II.II.N Exhibition UNESCO GREEN CITIZENS: Pathfinders for Change

44. The UNESCO GREEN CITIZENS: Pathfinders for Change” is an exhibition which aims to pay tribute to the men and women who give life to educational projects for sustainable development worldwide. Launched during COP 22 in the presence of the Director-General, the Exhibition was showcased at the Marrakech Menara's airport in November 2016, and was thereafter shown at several other airports in the country (until March 2017).

<http://en.unesco.org/events/exhibition-unesco-green-citizens-pathfinders-change-1>

#### II.II.O Private Sector Engagement

45. The business and private sector was well represented at different zones of COP 22. Opportunities were seized by the UNESCO Delegation to engage in discussions and information exchange with companies with strong climate credentials. This included discussions with representatives of the Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy (MASEN) that oversees the Ouarzazate Solar Complex the “Noor Power Station” situated within the UNESCO designated Oasis du sud marocain Biosphere Reserve.

<http://www.masen.ma/en/cop22/>

### III. **UNESCO's contributions to the outcome of COP 22 – Conclusion**

46. Within its mandates, and under the overall motto of *Changing Minds Not the Climate*, UNESCO made a substantive effort in support of COP 22. UNESCO's contributions were in good harmony with those of the UNFCCC, United Nations partners, and the COP 22 host-country Morocco with which UNESCO forged a solid and privileged collaboration in the framework of the UNESCO for COP (U4C) partnership initiative. While it is not within UNESCO's role, function and mandate to engage formally in COP negotiations, that is the role and responsibility of Member States Parties to the UNFCCC, UNESCO fulfilled an important function by contributing to enhanced climate knowledge and public awareness globally, which is crucial for effective policy and decision-making.

47. The value of UNESCO's contributions is a function not only of its specialized expertise, but also of its capacity to provide interdisciplinary insights and recommendations spanning across a uniquely vast set of disciplines, all needed to assess and address present and future climate change challenges. It would seem that this value is increasingly acknowledged and appreciated by the UNFCCC, its parties and stakeholders around the world.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

## 201 EX/5 Part I (D)

PARIS, 21 March 2017  
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

### FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

#### PART I

#### PROGRAMME ISSUES

##### SUMMARY

**D. Contributions of the IHP to the implementation of the outcome of COP 21 and COP 22**

In accordance with decision 200 EX/Dec.30, the Director-General presents herewith a report on UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme's (IHP) involvement at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that took place in Morocco from 7 to 18 November 2016, and a report on the establishment of an IHP special account.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 19.





**D. Contributions of the IHP to the implementation of the outcome of COP 21 and COP 22**  
(Follow-up to 200 EX/Decision 30)

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**INTRODUCTION**

**I. UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme's (IHP) involvement in COP 21 and COP 22**

1. Water security is a priority for UNESCO as reflected by the focus of IHP's Eighth Phase on the theme of "Water Security Responses to Local, Regional and Global Challenges". Climate change threatens water security as it is closely associated with the increased intensity and frequency of floods and droughts, applying pressure on the availability and use of the resource and posing a threat to the livelihoods of billions of people. IHP produces and disseminates available data and information regarding the state, availability and use of freshwater, assisting policy-makers in taking informed decisions concerning climate change. The Programme also provides the scientific knowledge base and tools for Member States to increase the resilience of natural and human systems in the face of climate change, in particular of vulnerable communities. The following paragraphs present the main activities implemented by IHP to support the outcomes of COP 21 and COP 22.

2. As one of the COP 21 events, IHP, ARCEAU-IdF (The Alliance of Water Stakeholders from the Paris Region) and ICLEI (Global Association of Local Governments Addressing Sustainability) organized the International Conference "Water, Megacities and Global Change" at UNESCO Headquarters. The event issued a Declaration on the importance of establishing a *Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate* as a worldwide cooperation platform to improve the dialogue on adapting to or mitigating the effects of climate change on water resources in megacities.

3. In June 2016, the IHP Intergovernmental Council approved the *Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate* as an initiative of IHP that shall host its secretariat.

4. On the occasion of COP 21, IHP and the World Glacier Monitoring Services launched a Glacier app for mobile devices to inform on the melting of Glaciers worldwide. This system brings scientifically sound facts and figures on glacier changes to decision makers at governmental and intergovernmental levels and also raises public awareness.

5. The Paris Agreement is the main outcome of COP 21. This agreement recognizes, among other aspects, the importance of ensuring the "integrity of all ecosystems, including water ecosystems". As part of the IHP Ecohydrology demonstration sites system (23 in total including 3 in Africa, <http://ecohydrology-ihp.org/demosites/>), UNESCO capacitated over 300 experts, 32% women, in Ecosystem Services Economic Assessment since COP 21.

6. To increase the visibility of IHP's intervention, based on COP 21 results, a paper was published on "Strengthening drought risk management and policy: UNESCO International Hydrological Programme's case studies from Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean". Notably, it presents the Droughts and Floods Monitor at regional centres in Africa, which benefits 13 countries in West Africa and 8 countries in East Africa. The installation of the Monitor is progressing for the benefit of 12 countries in Southern Africa.

7. IHP joined the international initiative #WaterisClimate to combine forces with other international stakeholders to bring attention to water within the climate change discussions during COP21 and beyond. #WaterisClimate was instrumental to craft unified messages on water and climate change of United Nations and non-United Nations water organizations. Among the international community – scientist, policy makers and stakeholders – it is now recognized that the important role of water as connector, not as a sector, can offer many solutions to address climate change.



8. COP 22, as a first for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), devoted a special day to water issues. It provided the opportunity to water stakeholders to gather in Marrakech, Morocco, and showcase solutions to adapt to climate change impacts and to help the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The #WaterisClimate initiative and the stakeholders' Alliances launched at COP21, such as the one on Megacities, were instrumental for setting up the day.

9. IHP's contribution to organizing COP 22 allowed UNESCO to improve synergies between its activities following up on other internationally agreed goals, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, as well as strategic internal policy documents, such as the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan (2016) and Operational Strategy for Priority Africa (2014-2021). It also served to communicate UNESCO water activities on climate change to society at large. In total, IHP organized three events in the official United Nations Blue Zone of COP 22, five in the stakeholders' Green Zone and 11 at the UNESCO Pavilion located in the Civil Society Area. The events brought together 400-500 scientists, ministers, public and private operators, elected officials, representatives of international institutions and NGOs, UNESCO water Chairs and category 2 centres. The events served to raise awareness and inform on IHP themes such as Water Quality, Water and Youth, Water and Gender, and the UNESCO Water Family. Hundreds of copies of different communication materials, including books, booklets, pamphlets and flyers, were distributed in the Blue and Green Zones, in several languages.

10. The flagship event of the Water Day at COP22 was a high-level panel organized on 9 November 2016 in the Blue Zone in the framework of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA). The opening session included speeches by Mr Abdeladim Lhlafi, Commissioner of COP22, Ms Hakima El Haite, Minister of Environment and Climate Champion, Morocco, Ms Charafat Afailal, Minister delegate in charge of water, Morocco and Mr Altinbilek Dogan, Vice-President of the World Water Council. During the event, the establishment of the alliances was considered one of the major outcomes of COP 21 in relation to water. This had also been recognized by Ms Ségolène Royal, the French Minister for the environment on an earlier occasion, the World Water Week in Sweden in August 2016. The alliances are the *Business Alliance for Water and Climate*, the *Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate*, the *International Network of Basin Organizations* and the *Water Desalination Alliance*. They will reinforce cooperation to tackle water and climate challenges.

11. At COP 22, IHP together with ICLEI, the Paris-Greater Paris Sanitation Authority (SIAAP) and ARCEAU launched the publication "Water, Megacities and Global Change" at UNESCO's pavilion in English, French, and Spanish.

12. A second COP 22 high-level event provided a unique opportunity to bring the Alliances together, with the objective to ensure that common projects and initiatives are developed to improve synergies and cross-sectoral integration in the management of water and of climate change issues. In particular, they will contribute to secure a place for water in climate summits, negotiations and financial mechanisms and actions, to exchange lessons learned and best practices and to identify and support new actions. A first consultation on the modalities of cooperation among the alliances was held in UNESCO headquarters on 10 February 2017 and initiated the discussions for the way forward.

13. The outcome document of COP 22 called for the implementation of "... a priority Water Action Plan for Climate Resilience, which includes the development of water knowledge, decision support, and information systems (WIS)". To this end, IHP developed and successfully launched on 31 January 2017 the Water Information Network System (WINS), which is an open source platform to be used by Member States as a web-based decision-making tool and a global reference on water-related information and data. IHP-WINS provides digital geographical data on the state of water resources at global, regional, national and local levels; facilitates inter-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing among water-related stakeholders; and enables professional networking and mentoring among water-related stakeholders. WINS allows the user to overlay various maps

produced with UNESCO information, e.g. the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Man and the Biosphere Programme, the UNESCO Global Geoparks, the World Heritage sites, moving thus from sectoral approaches towards more comprehensive ones.

14. During COP 22, IHP together with the Center for Hydrometeorology and Remote Sensing (CHRS) of the University of California launched a new App (iRain) for mobile devices with remotely sensed rainfall data, which is essential for water resource planning and preparing for floods and droughts.

15. The Annex provides a full list of UNESCO-IHP events organized at COP22.

## **II. Planned activities**

16. IHP will continue to support Member States with the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the COP22 outcomes and will pursue an active role in COP 23 and its outcomes. In particular, IHP and the Megacities Alliance will be collaborating with the other Alliances to implement at least a common project in 2017, including the implementation of WINS. Furthermore, IHP will continue its work on forecasting floods and droughts and will aim at expanding the Ecohydrology demonstration sites system to benefit more countries by capacitating a critical mass of experts while focusing on African Member States.

17. IHP's future contribution to address climate change is reflected in the updated UNESCO Strategy for action on Climate Change for 2018-2021, as well as in the Expected result 4 of Major Programme II of draft document 39 C/5.

## **III. Report on the establishment of a special account**

18. Following up on the IHP Intergovernmental Council Resolution XXII-7, the IHP Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), prepared the establishment of a special account. That special account will enable IHP to receive the financial assistance it needs to meet the demands of the Member States, mainly in the field of capacity-building activities in support of Member States and the major initiatives approved under the strategic plan for the eighth phase of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP-VIII).

## **IV. Proposed decision**

19. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to take the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 45, and 36 C/Resolution 21, relating to UNESCO's efforts to combat global changes, in particular climate change,
2. Taking note with satisfaction of resolution XXII-7 and resolution XXII-9 of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), which encourages the Director-General to pursue actions, taking advantage of the interdisciplinary mandate of the Organization, to address climate change, on the basis of the reflection, foresight and anticipation conducted by its Member States in the field of water,
3. Recalling 200 EX/Decision 30 requesting the Director-General to report on the IHP involvement in the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to establish an IHP special account,
4. Recognizing and expressing its gratitude for the successful organization by the governments of France and Morocco of the twenty-first and the twenty-second

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, respectively, and for their support to the implementation of a dedicated water day at both events,

5. Acknowledging IHP's contributions to the implementation of the outcomes of the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21 and COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
6. Welcomes with satisfaction the establishment of an IHP Special account by the Director-General;
7. Calls on Member States to make voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to support the UNESCO-IHP work on climate change and water resources management;
8. Invites the Director-General to report to it at its 204th session on the follow-up of IHP on COP 21 and COP 22, and its involvement in the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to be held on 13 and 14 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany.

## ANNEX

## LIST OF IHP EVENTS DURING THE COP 22

Time	UNESCO's role	Partners	Activity
<b>8 November</b>			
<b>15:00-16:30</b>	Lead organization	Centre of Hydrometeorology, WWAP, FREEWAT, HOPE-Initiative, ECHN-IAH, IAH, UN-Habitat, USGS, WRC	Fostering SDG#8: Innovative Job Creation and Young Water Professionals Role
<b>17:00-18:30</b>	Lead organization	WMO, FWP, IRD, BRGM, IRSTEA, IOWater, AFD, SIAAP and IM2E	Scientific knowledge on water and climate for smart planning and decision-making
<b>17:00-18:30</b>	Partner organization	SIWI, AGWA, #ClimatelsWater	Capitalizing on water and multi stakeholder engagement for successful implementation of the Paris Agreement
<b>19:00-21:00</b>	Lead organization	International Water Association (IWA). Co-organizers: Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), World Water Council (WWC).	Improve stakeholder engagement in decision making to combat extreme flood and drought Impacts of climate change
<b>Water and Climate Day – COP 22 9 November</b>			
<b>10:00-10:20</b>	Lead organization	N/A	Launch of water day - The Water rooms
<b>10:00-10:35</b>	Partner organization	UNFCCC, Morocco's Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, and Ministry of Environment, Energy and Sea, France, Business Alliance for Climate Change, INBO and World Water Council (WWC)	Global Climate Action Agenda Water Event: showcase- <b>"Opening"</b> and Presentation of the <b>"Blue Book on Water and Climate"</b>
<b>10:20-11:00</b>	Lead organization		Stakeholder-Engagement in Flash Flood Risk Reduction
<b>11:00-11:40</b>	Lead organization	Center for Hydrometeorology and Remote Sensing (CHRS) at the University of California-Irvine; International Center for	Launching of IRain App: Use of earth observatories and citizen sciences.

Time	UNESCO's role	Partners	Activity
		Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM)	
11:25-12:15	Partner organization	UNFCCC, Morocco's Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, and Ministry of Environment, Energy and Sea, France, Business Alliance for Climate Change, INBO and World Water Council (WWC)	Global Climate Action Agenda Water Event: showcase- " <b>Progress made in the initiatives launched during COP 21</b> "
11:40-12:20	Lead organization	N/A	Fostering Innovative Job Creation: The HOPE-Initiative
12:40-13:20	Lead organization	FREEWAT Consortium	Open source and free software for water resource management: The H2020 FREEWAT platform
13:20-14:00	Lead organization	The World Youth Parliament for Water	Youth Synergies, Water and Climate
14:00-14:40	Lead organization	Moulouya Basin Agency, Morocco; Arab Water Council UNESCO water centre CLEQM, Egypt; UNESCO Chair on Sustainability, Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Spain; Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)/Eau Vive, France	Climate change and water quality: Connecting science-policy interface
15:00-15:40	Lead organization	UNESCO Chair "Water, Women and Decision-making", Morocco	Water, Gender and Climate Change
15:40-16:20	Lead organization	Arab Water Council	Mainstreaming Climate Change in Water Resources Management Strategies and Action Plans
16:00-17:00	Lead organization	ICLEI; SIAAP; INBO, Business Alliance	Signing of the declaration between the Megacities Alliance, INOB and the Business Alliance.

<b>Time</b>	<b>UNESCO's role</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>16:20-17:00</b>	Lead organization	Arab Water Council	Regional Non-Conventional Water Resources Initiative
<b>17:20-18:00</b>	Lead organization	Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI); SIAAP; ARCEAU Île-de-France	Megacities and Water under Climate Change-Book Launch, Water mega Cities and Global Change
<b>18:00-18:40</b>	Lead organization	UNESCO Chair in Water, Women and Decision-making, Côte d'Ivoire	Gender as a management tool for the sustainability of drinking water in villages
<b>18:30-20:00</b>	Lead organization	UN-Water	UN-Water: SDG6: Hydro-Climate Services for All
<b>10 November</b>			
<b>10:00-12:00</b>	Partner organization	OCP	Water Security and Climate Change organized by OCP Group during the COP22



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part I (E)

PARIS, 24 March 2017  
Original: English

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## **FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

### **PART I**

### **PROGRAMME ISSUES**

#### **SUMMARY**

**E. Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict**

The present document is submitted for the consideration of the Executive Board, pursuant to 38 C/Resolution 48 adopting the Strategy on the "Reinforcement of UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict", as well as to 200 EX/Decision 5.I.F.

The document presents a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy since the 200th session of the Executive Board. Annex I presents the revised draft Action Plan for the implementation of the strategy. Annex II presents a proposal concerning practical ways for implementing a mechanism for the rapid intervention and mobilization of national experts.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 28.







**E. Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict**

(Follow-up to 38 C/Resolution 48, 200 EX/Decision 5.I.F)

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**I. Background**

1. At its 38th session, the General Conference adopted 38 C/Resolution 48, concerning a Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict.

2. The Resolution invited the Director-General to elaborate, in coordination with Member States and relevant actors, an Action Plan in order to further refine and implement the strategy, in accordance with UNESCO mandate (paragraph 2); invited Member States to support the elaboration of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, by defining mechanisms of rapid response and mobilization of national experts, as well as by contributing to the Heritage Emergency Fund (paragraph 3); and invited the Director-General to explore, in collaboration with Member States, practical ways for implementing such mechanism for the rapid intervention and mobilization of national experts (paragraph 4).

3. Following the presentation of a report on the implementation of the Strategy, together with the Action Plan to its 200th session, the Executive Board, by its Decision 200 EX/Decision 5.I.F.2 requested the Director-General to continue the implementation of the Strategy and to report on it, as well as on its expected financial and administrative implications on the 39 C/5, at its 201st session.

4. By its Decision 200 EX/Decision 5.I.F.2, the Executive Board also "requested the Director-General to undertake open and transparent consultations with Member States on the proposed Action Plan and to submit to it at its 201st session a revised version". In order to ensure full consultation of Member States, the draft Action Plan and the proposal concerning the rapid response mechanism have been made available to Member States for comments in electronic form.

5. During the consultation process, Member States underlined the need to ensure that all activities listed in the Action Plan as well as the establishment of the envisaged rapid response mechanism be carried out in full respect of United Nations rules and regulations and this aspect has indeed been strengthened. The consultations enabled to address a number of issues concerning the activities of the Action Plan and the rapid response mechanism, the latter enabling UNESCO, through a roster of heritage experts, to assist in the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage from threats that may arise in emergency situations. In this framework, experts may be deployed either as individuals or as teams, including on the basis of specific agreements signed between UNESCO and governments.

6. Recognizing that many activities conducted in response to armed conflict are also relevant to crisis situations associated with natural disasters and that natural disasters and armed conflict often interact and reinforce each other, Member States requested that the Action Plan include also natural disasters in addition to armed conflict. Indeed, UNESCO is witnessing increasing requests from Member States following natural disasters damaging cultural heritage in their countries and UNESCO's experience and response to natural disasters in Haiti, as well as in Nepal over the recent years, and in many other countries, have proven to be extremely useful to sustain resilience of societies. In the same spirit, actions meant to protect heritage under attack complement preventive protection measures in disaster-affected countries. All such activities form an integral part of UNESCO's overall response to crisis and emergency situations.

7. The outcomes of this consultation, held between 28 October 2016 and 9 January 2017 as well as in the framework of an Information Meeting, and any consequent revisions to the Action Plan and the proposed rapid response mechanism, are presented in Annexes I and II.

## **II. Report on progress**

8. Since the 200th session of the Executive Board, significant efforts were made to continue and enhance UNESCO's response to the conflicts in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Mali and Yemen at the country level, through operational actions, at Headquarters and through international advocacy. The activities carried out, together with various partners, are in line with the Strategy's two main objectives, as follows.

### ***II.A Strengthening the ability of Member States to prevent, mitigate and recover the loss of cultural heritage and diversity as a result of conflict***

9. Concerning Iraq, and in view of the military operations in and around Mosul, UNESCO developed a list of significant cultural heritage sites/monuments/institutions in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Iraq. In October 2016, this list with the related geographic coordinates was shared with the Iraqi Security Forces and the countries part of the anti-ISIL Coalition, in view of incorporating these sites in their no-strike lists. A rapid assessment mission to the Nimrud archaeological site, located in Nineveh Governorate, took place on 14 December 2016. It was undertaken jointly by the UNESCO Iraq Office, the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) of Iraq, and with the participation of the Provincial Council of Nineveh. The mission identified a number of emergency safeguarding measures to be carried out in order to prevent any further loss. A second mission was carried out to the World Heritage site of Ashur on 2 February 2017 in the presence of a high-level Representative of the Iraqi Government. The outcomes of both missions informed an International Coordination Conference on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq, which took place from 23 to 24 February 2017 at UNESCO Headquarters.

10. The UNESCO Iraq Office carried out several capacity-building activities. In the framework of the project for "Preventive Conservation of Iraq's Museum Collections and Cultural Heritage Sites at Imminent Risk" funded by Japan, a training workshop on "Assessing Risks for Museum Collections, Preparedness, and Establishment of Emergency Contingency Plans for Museums" was organized from 9 to 13 October 2016, in partnership with the ICCROM-ATHAR Center in Sharjah. Participants included directors, curators and museum personnel from the SBAH. Furthermore, a training workshop was carried out in Baghdad, from 5 to 9 November 2016, focusing on aerial and ground documentation, photogrammetry and 3D modelling techniques. Survey, documentation, and monitoring were carried out at archaeological sites in Samarra, including the World Heritage property, as well as at sites in Baghdad.

11. In the context of the #Unite4Heritage campaign, and with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UNESCO Iraq Office released a children's mobile application/computer game on 28 October 2016 that celebrates cultural diversity and seeks to raise awareness on the importance of protecting Iraq's heritage. In addition, and to highlight the successful restitution of looted artefacts to Iraq, the Office produced a series of communication materials, including posters, postcard and leaflets. The app game was distributed to students at a first "Cultural Heritage Play Day" organized at Harsham Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp in Erbil on 24 November 2016. The programme included the screening of one of the video clips produced under the project, followed by an interactive discussion with the children on their heritage and what it means to them. On 2 December 2016, and in observation of the International Day for Tolerance, UNAMI and the UNESCO Iraq Office jointly organized a multimedia event and a Peace and Unity Concert at the Martyr Monument in Baghdad.

12. Regarding Syria, UNESCO led an emergency mission to Aleppo from 16 to 19 January 2017 to undertake a preliminary assessment of the extent of damages at the World Heritage site of the Ancient City of Aleppo, as well as the state of educational institutions in the city. The UNESCO

team reported extensive damage at the Great Umayyad Mosque, the Citadel, mosques, churches, suqs, khans, madrassas, hammams, museums and other significant historic buildings in Aleppo. According to a preliminary assessment, some 60% of the old city of Aleppo has been severely damaged, with 30% totally destroyed. The mission noted the incredible resilience of the people of Aleppo and the efforts led by heritage professionals to undertake mitigation actions during the conflict, as well as emergency measures for the recovery phase (damage assessment, debris management, etc.). During a number of working meetings with the Aleppo City Council, the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and NGOs, emergency measures were discussed in order to identify and coordinate follow up action. The mission also visited Homs and assessed rehabilitation measures taken in the World Heritage site of the Old City of Damascus, in particular the souk, following two fires (April and November 2016).

13. The implementation of the Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project funded by the European Union (EU) and the Government of Flanders and Austria, in partnership with ICCROM and ICOMOS, progressed. Following the fire that had erupted in April 2016 in the al-Asrooniya neighbourhood in Damascus, a coordination meeting with all stakeholders for the Ancient City of Damascus was held at UNESCO Office Beirut on 14 and 15 November 2016. From 29 November to 31 December 2016, UNESCO worked with ICONEM and the DGAM at the Homs Governorate, Syria, to conduct 3D documentation and structural analysis of the World Heritage site of the Crac des Chevaliers. UNESCO and the DGAM held a technical assistance workshop on emergency consolidation measures at the World Heritage sites of the Crac des Chevaliers, Palmyra and Ancient City of Damascus from 10 to 12 December 2016, at the UNESCO Office in Beirut.

14. Several capacity-building activities were also carried out in the context of the EU project. The UNESCO Office in Beirut held a training in partnership with the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) from 19 to 23 September 2016 on the safeguarding and digitization of historic documents and archives in Syria. An IT workshop on storage and data management, also in partnership with the DAI, was held from 4 to 13 October 2016 and another on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from 14 to 25 November 2016. The UNESCO Office in Beirut, the DAI and the Arab Center for Architecture (ACA) partnered on a workshop on building documentation and damage assessment, from 24 October to 4 November and 20 November to 3 December 2016.

15. Concerning Syrian intangible cultural heritage, between September and November 2016, a pilot survey was conducted among displaced Syrians in view of contributing to a better understanding of the changing role and function of living heritage in the context of displacement, its potential for resilience and peacebuilding, the new threats arising on its viability as well as the ways in which communities try to address them and continue practicing and transmitting.

16. To support professionals and cultural institutions in Libya, the Libyan Government's capacity to ensure proper conservation of mummies rescued from illicit excavations was strengthened through support to the participation of four experts from the Department of Antiquities in a dedicated workshop, organized in Cairo, Egypt, from 9 to 13 October 2016. International assistance for US \$50,000 from the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict under the 1954 Convention was granted with a view to elaborating emergency measures by the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The international assistance aims at enhancing the protection of the Al-Gaghbub oasis, the Museum of al-Gaygab, the Museum of Gasr Libya, and the Kufra oasis.

17. In response to the crisis in Yemen, the UNESCO Doha Office held a GIS expert meeting in Sharjah with the Yemeni General Organization of Antiquities, Museums, and Manuscripts (GOAM) and the University of Oxford from 12 to 13 October 2016 to establish a GIS-based cultural heritage management platform with the objective of integrating materials collected through the Observatory of Yemen Cultural Heritage and the mobile application for rapid assessment. A technical meeting on GIS, museums and awareness raising for the safeguarding of Yemen's cultural heritage was held in Venice from 19 to 20 December 2016 to follow up on decisions made during the meeting in

Sharjah. The meeting included experts from different archaeological missions in Yemen, the British Museum and the University of Oxford. Participants agreed to contribute to a joint heritage management platform managed under the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) project and to organize an exhibition about all archaeological missions in Yemen. Moreover, UNESCO shared updated coordinates of a select number of cultural assets to coalition members and their militaries. UNESCO Doha continues to support GOAM in the documentation of objects in the Mukallah Museum, which was damaged in the ongoing conflict, as well as with the provision of conservation materials and equipment necessary for proper storage.

18. In Mali, the sacred gate of the mosque of Sidi Yahia in Timbuktu, which bears testimony to cultural traditions dating back to the 15th century CE, was officially reinstalled on 19 September 2016 in a ceremony organized by the local community. It had been pulled out and damaged on 2 July 2012 by armed extremists who occupied the city. The restoration and reinstallation of this ancient protective symbol of the city was carried out by local wood workers with the support of UNESCO. From 16 to 17 November 2016, Malian armed forces were brought together at the National Museum of Mali in Bamako for a UNESCO Workshop on the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Thirty representatives of Mali's military, security, customs as well as local and national police were trained on preventive measures, emergency situations and museum security. The workshop led to a reflection on the necessity of integrating protocols and strategies on the Protection of Cultural Property at all levels of the command chain. On the occasion of the Eleventh Meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Paris, 8-9 December 2016), enhanced protection was granted to the Tomb of Askia (the first African site ever to be inscribed on the List of Cultural Property Under Enhanced Protection). At this meeting, international assistance from the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in the amount of \$35,000 was also granted to Mali for the implementation of safeguarding measures aiming at protecting cultural heritage. Emphasis was particularly put on the adoption of national penal legislation implementing Chapter IV of the 1999 Second Protocol of the 1954 Convention and the training of Malian armed forces in the protection of cultural property in times of armed conflict.

## ***II.B Incorporating the protection of culture into humanitarian action, security strategies and peacebuilding processes***

19. In the context of the 1954 Convention, a high-level panel on "Targeting Heritage: in search of new paradigms – save heritage through dialogue" was jointly organized by UNESCO and the Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan on 5 December 2016 at UNESCO Headquarters. It explored how protection of cultural heritage can be strengthened through exchange and outreach. On this occasion, the "Military Manual on Protection of Cultural Property" was launched, published by UNESCO with the support of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo, Italy) and funded by the Republic of Azerbaijan. UNESCO staff participated in a NATO consultative meeting concerning best practices for "Cultural Property Protection" in military mapping in New York, USA, from 31 August to 3 September 2016. As a follow-up, UNESCO staff attended the NATO International Conference on Cultural Property Protection in NATO-led Military Operations held in Sanremo, Italy, from 6 to 8 December 2016. The event was intended to further develop the draft Report of the NATO Science for Peace and Security Project "Best Practices for Cultural Property Protection in NATO-led Military Operations".

20. Concerning the fight against illicit trafficking, UNESCO sent its second report to the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 and 2253 on 9 December 2016. The analytic report is mainly based on information shared by UNESCO Member States. From 14 to 15 December 2016, the UNESCO Office in Beirut partnered with INTERPOL on a conference to assess the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2199 for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Middle East. Staff from the UNESCO Office in Cairo and the 1970 Convention Secretariat participated as trainers in a workshop on countering the financing of terrorism through illicit

trafficking of cultural property, organized in UNODC's Office in Beirut from 21 to 23 January 2017 and aimed at increasing awareness among Iraqi judiciary staff. On 16 November 2016, the UNESCO Cairo Office and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office jointly presented at the League of Arab States on the issue of countering terrorism and fighting against illicit trafficking of cultural property. UNESCO staff also participated in a study day on illicit trafficking in cultural property as a source of financing for terrorism and armed groups, organized by the Belgian Francophone and German-speaking National Commissions for UNESCO on 28 November 2016.

21. In the field of intangible cultural heritage, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage examined an item devoted to intangible cultural heritage in emergencies at its eleventh session held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 November to 2 December 2016. The Committee recognized that in situations of emergencies, intangible cultural heritage can be directly affected and threatened while it can also be a source of resilience and recovery. It stressed that armed conflict, natural disasters or displaced populations should receive equal attention considering their respective relevance in different parts of the world. It also underlined that this reflection should be part of the overall reflection regarding the operationalization of the *Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Actions for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict*, while recognizing that the approach to intangible cultural heritage should differ from that of built heritage. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to enhance gathering knowledge and gaining experience on the role of communities in both safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage at risk in emergencies and mobilizing it as a tool for preparedness, resilience, reconciliation and recovery and to present examples of such mobilization to its next session. The consideration of operational modalities for the implementation of the principles of the 2003 Convention in situations of emergencies was proposed for the twelfth session of the Committee in 2017. In addition, implementation of two projects in Mali (\$307,307) and Côte d'Ivoire (\$299,972), supported by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund under the emergency assistance mechanism, continued with a focus on community-based inventories in areas affected by conflict as a means to raise awareness of and ensure respect for inclusive and pluralistic identities.

22. At Headquarters, a technical meeting was held on 13 December 2016 to discuss the data and functional requirements for a possible Emergency Preparedness and Response Data Toolkit, built around a customized version of the ARCHES software.

## **II.C Advocacy and outreach**

23. Continuing her international advocacy for the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict, the Director-General participated in public events at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (20 September 2016), for the high-level closing meeting of the "Protecting Cultural Heritage – an Imperative for Humanity" at United Nations Headquarters (22 September 2016), with the Royal Society of Edinburgh (30 November 2016); in the framework of the International Conference for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas, held under the patronage of UNESCO in Abu Dhabi (2-3 December 2016); at the opening of the "Sites éternels" exhibition (14 December 2016); in a symposium on offences related to Cultural Property organized jointly by the Cypriot chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers and its Secretary General in Strasbourg, France (13 January 2017). Representatives from international organizations and governments, as well as academic experts, discussed ways to strengthen co-operation to protect cultural heritage from destruction and illicit trafficking, including by organized crime and terrorist groups. Finally, the Director-General participated in two events at the Davos World Economic Forum (18 January 2017).

24. The Assistant Director-General for Culture participated in the EU Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council (22 November 2016), where he presented an overview of UNESCO's operational projects carried out in response to conflicts.

25. The Director-General continued to condemn destructions of cultural heritage and remind parties to conflicts of their international obligations through a number of public statements regarding Iraq (17 October and 25 November 2016), Syria (14 July 2016 and 20 January 2017) and Yemen (3 and 23 September 2016).

26. In the framework of the #Unite4Heritage Campaign, UNESCO released online “The Value of Heritage” video clip on 22 November 2016, produced by the Beirut Office. UNESCO also organized an exhibition and conference on Yemen World Heritage: Archaeology Art and Architecture in Venice, Italy, from 20 October to 16 December 2016. UNESCO granted patronage to and acted as Communication partner for the exhibition “Sites éternels” held at the Grand Palais, Paris, and organized by the Réunion des Musées nationaux in the framework of the campaign from 9 December 2016 to 14 January 2017.

## **II.D Heritage Emergency Fund**

27. In 2016 and 2017, the Heritage Emergency Fund, the multi-donor fund for the protection of heritage in emergency situations established in 2015, received contributions for an overall amount of \$2,313,523, notably from Qatar, Norway, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Monaco, Estonia, Slovakia and Andorra as well as individuals. Activities in the areas of emergency preparedness, response and outreach have been implemented in Myanmar, Ecuador, Syria, Haiti, Yemen, Libya and Afghanistan. Contributions to the Heritage Emergency Fund have exerted a catalyst effect leading to the mobilization of additional “indirect” funding, namely funding received for the implementation of emergency-related activities but not attributed directly to the Heritage Emergency Fund (due to its nature of a pool-funding mechanism not allowing earmarking of contributions). Examples of such indirect contributions include a \$1,2 million support from the European Union, the funding of a Junior Professional Officer (at P-2 level, for two years) by Switzerland and a € 120,000 contribution from Spain.

## **III. Proposed decision**

28. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 38 C/Resolution 48, as well as 199 EX/Decision 5.I.D and 200 EX/Decision 5.I.F,
2. Having examined documents 201 EX/5 Part I (E) and its two annexes,
3. Welcomes the progress made in implementing the *Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict*, adopted by the General Conference at its 38th session, hereafter referred to as “the Strategy”;
4. Welcomes also the opportunities provided to Member States for coordination and consultation on the Action Plan, including in the context of three intersessional meetings, two information meetings, three meetings of the Group of Friends “Unite4Heritage”, an online questionnaire and a written consultation, as well as in the framework of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO’s normative instruments related to culture;
5. Takes note of and welcomes the Action Plan as well as the proposal concerning practical ways for implementing a rapid response mechanism, as described in Annexes I and II, respectively;
6. Recognizes that the Action Plan, as described in Annex I, should be understood as a work in progress, that will be adjusted and enriched over time, in coordination and

consultation with the concerned Member States, according to their evolving needs and the situation on the ground;

7. Notes that the activities foreseen in the Action Plan contribute directly to the strengthening of the UNESCO cultural conventions and will be conducted in strict accordance with relevant United Nations rules, with the express consent of territorial states concerned, and in accordance with relevant international law;
8. Recognizes that many activities foreseen within the Action Plan are also relevant to crisis situations associated with disasters;
9. Decides, therefore, to include consideration for crisis and emergency situations associated with natural disasters within the scope of the Action Plan and to reflect this in its title, introductory note and, as appropriate, relevant activities;
10. Calls on all the Member States to support the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan, including by making additional voluntary contributions to the Heritage Emergency Fund, as well as providing in-kind contributions as appropriate;
11. Requests the Director-General to report on the implementation of the Strategy, including on its rapid response mechanism, to its 202nd session.

## ANNEX I

### Action Plan for the Implementation of the *Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Actions for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict* and for the Protection of Culture in Emergency Situations related to Natural Disasters

**NOTE:** The activities included in this Action Plan refer to the two main objectives and to all the priority areas of action of the *Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Actions for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the event of armed conflict*, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 38th session (38 C/Resolution 48). The Action Plan also covers emergency situations related to natural disasters, recognizing that many of the activities foreseen in its framework are also relevant to crisis and emergency situations associated with disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards and that such disasters and armed conflict often interact and reinforce each other. Activities are grouped according to their short, medium and long term priority, with long term extending to the end of the foreseen time span of the Strategy (i.e. until 2022). The estimated costs are approximate and will need to be confirmed or adjusted subject to actual needs and the specific conditions of implementation. It is also indicated in green, orange or red whether funding for each activity is fully, partially or not secured, respectively.

#	§ in 38C/49	Activity	Estimated Costs (\$)	Funding secured	Preparedness	Response	Recovery
<b>Objective 1:</b>							
Strengthen the ability of Member States to prevent, mitigate and recover the loss of cultural heritage and diversity as a result of conflict							
Short-term							



1	<p><b>Development of training tools and provision of trainings for national law enforcement, armed forces, specialized units and legal sectors on cultural property protection and illicit trafficking of cultural objects</b></p> <p>This activity will build on pilot materials currently being developed and will also take into account the ongoing cooperation with the International Institute for Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and specialized police forces, as well as the International Committee of the Blue Shield, including in the framework of the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). In the framework of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols, it will see the development of toolkits, manuals, user-friendly material and other items for increasing the knowledge and capacities of military personnel, custom officers and police forces to protect cultural property, in cooperation with heritage managers and local communities. In addition, through the development of materials and conducting tailor-made trainings, the activity will enhance the knowledge of how to prevent illicit trafficking and of the relevant international instruments, particularly the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and build capacities of legal professionals – in particular judges, prosecutors and lawyers - as well as heritage managers, law enforcement agencies, civil servants, actors of the art market, police, customs and the financial sphere. E-learning and other innovative methods will be used in order to facilitate the sustainability of this action. Ideally, these activities will be carried out in at least 5 priority countries, with their consent. This activity is closely linked to activity 25.</p>	400,000				
2	<p><b>First Aid training</b></p> <p>Building on the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property's (ICCROM) successful international course on “First Aid to cultural heritage in times of crisis” and successful experiences through UNESCO’s Libya programme, this activity will include conducting practical trainings at the local level on the evacuation, protection, safeguarding and recovery of cultural heritage during emergencies in partnership with ICCROM. It will also include practical training on how to promote the safety of artists. Ideally, these trainings will benefit at least 8 priority countries, with their consent. In addition, a first aid tool box (e.g. apps, infographics, short videos) will be developed for rapid damage assessment, which will be pilot tested in these 8 countries, and later on be made widely available for heritage professionals and authorities globally. UNESCO’s Movable Heritage Outreach Programme handbooks for museums will also be widely disseminated.</p>	400,000				

3	§20	<p><b>Development of Inventorying, Monitoring and Assessment tools using information and communications technology (ICT) and social media for recording, reporting and documenting events affecting heritage in all its forms</b></p> <p>This will include a coordination meeting with relevant actors on technologies already mapped by UNESCO, as well as the identification of needs and possibilities. Building on this, policy guidance and concrete tools will be developed in view of better preparedness, as well as to contribute to rehabilitation and transition in the wake of crisis and emergency situations, as foreseen in activities 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 23. These will include – amongst others - innovative models for heritage - tangible and intangible - databases using crowd-sourcing, social media, mobile applications and satellite imagery, as well as strengthening database systems of police and related actors to prevent looting and study trafficking routes, including through monitoring of the internet. These tools will be piloted in at least 3 countries, and will later on be made widely available. They could be used in activity 13, together with other existing tools.</p>	250,000				
4	§20	<p><b>Risk assessment and emergency plans in areas at risk</b></p> <p>A comprehensive tool for the analysis and risk assessment of the cultural sector in relation to emergency preparedness and response, including the identification of gaps and opportunities, will be developed and piloted in 3 priority countries. Tailored strategies and action plans will be developed accordingly in consultation with these countries, to mitigate risks for culture and seize opportunities to harness its potential to contribute to resilience and stability. Cooperation in the implementation of this activity will be sought from the International Council of Museums (ICOM), ICCROM and the International Council on Museum and Sites' International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICOMOS-ICORP).</p>	300,000				
5	§§21, 23, 25, 34	<p><b>Campaign for the global ratification of UNESCO Conventions</b></p> <p>In consultation with the pertinent Governing Bodies of UNESCO's cultural conventions, the campaign will include organizing and participating in international fora, such as the UN Treaty Event in 2017, as well as country-specific diplomatic initiatives. Such advocacy will draw States' attention to the advantages and the importance of ratifying and implementing, in times of peace and through the appropriate legal and institutional measures at the national level, relevant treaties that contain international standards such as UNESCO Culture Conventions and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention, as well as promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant instruments. Particular attention will be given to regions with low ratification rates of such treaties, specifically of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999) and of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The initiative will continue advocating for the full respect, by all parties, of international humanitarian law (IHL) pertaining to the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict as well as international law relevant for crisis and emergency situations in general, and will build on the partnerships with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights.</p>	75,000				

6	§§22, 25, 36	<p><b>Reinforcement of the #Unite4Heritage campaign using international, regional, and national media as well as social networks</b></p> <p>Building on the achievements of the global #Unite4Heritage campaign, which focused so far mainly on social media and was targeted at young people from the Middle East, communication and outreach material will be developed through a number of innovative partnerships and creative initiatives. These will have a more global scope, to foster a counter narrative to hatred and harness heritage to promote tolerance and mutual understanding. They will target countries not directly affected by armed conflict, and involve the tourism, media, art, and other industries, as well as museums and private collectors, to expand the reach of the campaign while promoting its core values of cultural pluralism and appreciation for tangible and intangible heritage in its diversity, including in relation to the issues of looting and illicit trafficking. In cooperation with Member States and their National Commissions for UNESCO.</p>	275,000				
7	§24	<p><b>Comprehensive review of legal and policy frameworks on safe havens for cultural property</b></p> <p>Based on a needs assessment conducted in consultation with Member States, and in order to address the current lack of a legal and policy framework for the implementation of safe havens as foreseen by the 1954 Hague Convention, a comprehensive legal review concerning their setting up and operationalization will be undertaken, as well as case studies examined from which principles, legal justifications and best practices will be drawn, including modalities of restitution. Building on the work already carried out by the International Law Association and other initiatives, such as the one launched in Abu Dhabi, including the existing legal bases provided in the Regulations for the Execution of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and in the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, these findings will then be compiled into specific, non-binding, guidelines, which will include principles and minimum requirements for the temporary hosting of movable heritage evacuated during crisis and emergency situations in respect of national law and relevant international Conventions and, in particular, the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols. This activity is closely linked to activity 16.</p>	75,000				
8	§24	<p><b>First aid and mitigation measures</b></p> <p>This activity may include first aid and mitigation measures, such as rapid risk assessment, debris management, the securing of affected sites, the emergency structural stabilization of damaged monuments, the creation of emergency inventories and the salvaging of cultural artefacts as well as their conservation, and enhanced security at museums and sites, in consultation with host countries. Whenever possible, a capacity-building component targeting local personnel will be integrated in this activity.</p>	1,000,000				

9	§24	<p><b>Establishment and maintenance of a Rapid Response Mechanism</b></p> <p>Based on the provisions of 38 C/Resolution 48 (§§ 3 and 4), and building on the "Unite4Heritage" task force established by Italy, this activity will include preparatory consultations with potential UNESCO operational partners, heritage experts, knowledge and university networks and staff- or fund-contributing Member States, the establishment and maintenance of a roster of experts, the organization of induction and training courses for pre-selected members of the roster, as well as the deployment of rapid assessment and advisory missions to assist national authorities in affected countries, as needed and with the affected Member States' consent. This activity and its implementation modalities are further detailed in Annex II.</p>	400,000			
10	§26	<p><b>Formulation and coordination of international efforts for country-based Emergency Response</b></p> <p>Pursuant to its mandate, UNESCO will continue ensuring technical coordination among all stakeholders, including relevant regional cultural institutions and organizations, to formulate Emergency Action Plans for the Safeguarding of Culture in affected countries, as well as for the implementation of new and existing Action Plans, with a view to reviewing progress, identifying emerging challenges and determining the appropriate response.</p>	350,000			
11	§§27, 28	<p><b>Development of recovery plans</b></p> <p>Subject to the improvement of security in the concerned areas, this activity involves working with relevant authorities and stakeholders in at least 3 countries in the Middle East to plan for heritage rehabilitation or restitution as well as the development of surrounding historic urban environments in selected locations and to have these efforts integrated as a part of peacebuilding and reconciliation strategies. It will include all relevant preparatory work, such as collecting documentation, convening stakeholders, and planning. This activity will build the basis for the mid- to long-term implementation of programmes for cultural heritage rehabilitation and preservation, again subject to enabling security conditions.</p>	300,000			
12	§§30, 33	<p><b>Recovery and Peace Building and Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (RPBAs and PDNAs)</b></p> <p>In the framework of UN-wide RPBA and PDNA exercises, this activity aims at strengthening their culture component and training UNESCO staff, NGOs in the cultural sector and relevant government officials in their methodology and implementation, through dedicated regional workshops, as well as supporting UNESCO's participation for culture in an estimated 3-4 PDNAs and 2 RPBA exercises per year.</p>	350,000			
Mid-term						

13	§20	<p><b>Preparatory documentation, risk assessment and emergency plans for heritage</b></p> <p>As a preventive measure, inventory and documentation work will be undertaken in countries affected by crisis and emergency situations or potentially at risk, including the development of community-based inventories (notably for intangible cultural heritage), with the consent of the relevant State. This will include the elaboration of lists of important cultural heritage assets to assist militaries in the development of no-strike maps. In at least 3 priority countries, these activities will develop comprehensive inventories and the related documentation of tangible and intangible heritage (these countries will also receive the First aid training under activity 2), which will include the use of digitization, 3D-scanning and related methodologies, such as those developed in the framework of activity 3. They will also introduce tools such as the object ID for movable heritage as a preventive measure, which is promoted by UNESCO and ICOM, as well as the development of comprehensive risk preparedness plans for sites, cultural institutions and for the promotion of the safety of artists. This activity is linked to activity 25.</p>	350,000				
14	§§22, 36	<p><b>Learning through heritage: promoting cultural pluralism and enhancing youth engagement around culture</b></p> <p>This activity will contribute to the larger "Learning through heritage: enhancing youth engagement" project, specifically through educational activities, including informal ones, promoting cultural pluralism and the respect for cultural heritage, with an aim to build more tolerant and inclusive societies and to contribute to the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE). Building on the World Heritage in Young Hands Programme and jointly with UNESCO's Education, Communication and Information as well as the Social and Human Sciences Sectors, relevant partners, and the Network of Mediterranean (NET-MED) Youth and Youth 2.0 projects, the project foresees the development of a comprehensive programme for heritage education, with a long-term view to strengthening the protection of heritage in all its forms, facilitating access to and enjoyment of heritage among the younger generation as related to the development of their self-identities, including through history and commemoration. This will contribute to improved learning outcomes through two intertwined steps: 1) At the global level, UNESCO will develop a generic "teacher's resource pack on using all forms of heritage in education"; 2) at the local level, pilot countries will use these resources to train a team of facilitators, which will then work with teacher-training institutions on developing adapted educational resource materials (teacher training materials, lesson plans, sample curricula and content) to fit their respective contexts. In countries affected by crises and emergency situations, this activity will involve working together with local actors operating in refugee and IDP camps, including national Red Cross and Red Crescent movements, and specifically those managing child-friendly spaces and similar child- and youth-oriented efforts. This activity will be closely linked to activity 27, and will concentrate initially on the current Syrian refugee crisis.</p>	1,200,000				

15	§24	<p><b>Establishment of a Global Observatory of Cultural Heritage to monitor and document looting or damage to cultural heritage sites</b></p> <p>This activity will build on the experience with the EU-funded Syria Observatory, and aim, with the concerned Member States' consent, to collect systematic, reliable and verified data on damage, destruction, looting and misappropriation of cultural property, before, during and in the aftermath of conflict, essential to define priority mitigating measures, ensure respect for cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, prevent further loss and engage in longer-term planning for recovery. On the basis of the collected data, regular reports will analyze the facts on the ground. In partnership with UNOSAT and other relevant research projects, data and documentation of looting or damage to cultural heritage will also be collected, which are a critical component of assessing whether and to what extent judicial mechanisms are appropriate, while systems and tools will be developed to maximize the value of documentation efforts for transitional justice purposes. This activity will be piloted in 3 priority countries, with the consent of each country, and then expanded to global scale. It will feed into activity 23.</p>	400,000			
16	§24	<p><b>Facilitate the creation of safe havens for cultural property</b></p> <p>Based on activity 7 and in respect of national legislation and relevant international Conventions and agreements, particularly the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, this activity will facilitate, if and when requested by the countries concerned, the temporary evacuation of cultural assets from sites, museums and other cultural repositories to, as a priority, domestic safe havens or - when the domestic option is not feasible - abroad. It will also facilitate, if and when requested by a Member State, the establishment of domestic safe havens. To this end, UNESCO would, once requested, assist by liaising between source and host countries, developing agreements, including modalities for restitution, and where required, providing coordination and technical support for the moving and preservation of collections.</p>	500,000			
17	§§22, 28	<p><b>Community-based recovery projects</b></p> <p>Whenever possible, it is proposed to implement a number of culture rehabilitation or recovery initiatives owned and implemented by local communities at their request and in coordination with the concerned Member States' national authorities. Such efforts will aim to reconcile communities, foster dialogue, promote sustainable development and contribute to enhancing conditions for local integration into host communities or for return through cultural rehabilitation, tangible or intangible – linked to broader peacebuilding efforts. This activity complements activity 11 as part of the overall recovery effort.</p>	300,000			
18	§22	<p><b>Culture creation for social inclusion and peaceful societies</b></p> <p>This will involve working with artists and the performing art sector in the wake of crisis and emergency situations and with displaced communities in at least 5 countries to ensure greater social inclusion and sustainable development, as an enabling factor for other activities related to transition and peacebuilding efforts. Cooperation will be sought with NGO's active in this field. This activity is linked to activities 11 and 17.</p>	150,000			

19	§§20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36	<b>Evaluation and continuation of short-term activities</b> Following an evaluation, relevant elements (e.g. trainings, awareness-raising, advocacy, etc.) of short-term activities 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be continued in the mid-term as well, as appropriate.	1,875,000			
Long term						
20	§19	<b>Strengthening synergies among Conventions</b> Building on ongoing initiatives within the relevant statutory processes, this activity involves the conducting of a study to analyze, in consultation with all relevant actors and in particular the Governing Bodies of the Conventions and associated mechanisms, the gaps and opportunities – specifically related to the protection of culture in crisis and emergency situations - associated with all Conventions and with their possible synergies, which would lead to proposals for strengthening the effectiveness of existing reporting and monitoring mechanisms for the Conventions, as well as the institutionalization of the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the UNESCO's Culture Conventions and of Joint Meetings of the Bureaus of the monitoring organs of the Conventions.	100,000			
21	§§20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36	<b>Evaluation and continuation of short and mid-term activities</b> Following an evaluation, relevant elements (e.g. trainings, awareness-raising, advocacy, etc.) of short-term activities 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, as well as mid-term activities 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 will be continued in the long term as well, as appropriate.	3,025,000			
<b>Objective 2:</b> Incorporate the protection of culture into humanitarian action, security strategies and peacebuilding processes by engaging with relevant stakeholders outside the culture domain.						
Short-term						

22	§§25, 33	<p><b>Strengthened cooperation in the fight against illicit trafficking</b></p> <p>In consultation with the Governing Bodies of UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and in the framework of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), which condemn the destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria, and decide that all Member States shall take appropriate steps to prevent the trade in cultural property from these countries, this activity will aim at reinforcing on-going cooperation with INTERPOL, the WCO, UNODC, UNIDROIT, national specialized police units, research initiatives, university networks and other UNESCO partners, including from the cultural sector such as ICOM, for the prevention of trafficking, tracking, control, authentication, seizure, conservation and restitution of objects stolen and illegally exported, including the joint development of tools and international as well as domestic policies, and at encouraging the conclusion of bilateral agreements for the import, export and return of cultural properties. Particular attention will be given to the art market, including online. This activity is closely linked to activities 1, 3, 6, 7, and 16.</p>	250,000				
23	§29	<p><b>Cooperation and exchange of information with the International Criminal Court (ICC)</b></p> <p>If and when requested by the ICC, in the context of investigations concerning alleged attacks against cultural heritage, UNESCO may agree to cooperate with the ICC, on a case-by-case basis, by providing relevant factual information and documentation in its custody, possession or control.</p>	100,000				
24	§§33, 34	<p><b>Cooperation and exchange of information with the Human Rights Council and the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights</b></p> <p>In order to mainstream culture into Human Rights policies, this activity could include research, assessments, the development of non-binding guidelines that are based on the actual practice of States, and the organization of special advocacy events in the framework of the Human Rights Council and in cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights and explore the possibility of cooperating with other Special Rapporteurs, including the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It could also involve cooperation with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Prevention of Genocide for the development of tools that would take consideration of violations or abuses of cultural rights and attacks against culture for early warning of possible genocidal processes.</p>	150,000				



25	§§33, 35	<p><b>Integration of the protection of cultural heritage into UN peace-keeping operations (including their police and civilian components) and UN special political missions, where they include the protection of cultural heritage in their mandate</b></p> <p>This activity will include training and sensitization activities, building on the experience of UNESCO in working with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) but also with other UN peacekeeping missions in Lebanon, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as on the work carried out in the past by the International Blue Shield Committee and the ICRC and pilot training materials developed (activity 1). These will be adapted to the specificities of UN peacekeeping forces in line with all norms and principles of the UN Charter with mandates to protect cultural heritage. The training modules will be tested in pilot capacity-building initiatives in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). They are aimed at enhancing, among mission personnel, including police, awareness of the basic principles of IHL related to cultural property and more in general of the importance of culture and cultural heritage and the need to safeguard them.</p> <p>Furthermore, also building and expanding on the MINUSMA precedent, this activity will include the exchange of information (e.g. for militaries to use in the development of no-strike lists) and advising on cultural property protection, as well as, if and when explicitly foreseen within their mandate as determined by the UN Security Council and requested by the latter, cooperation with UN peacekeeping missions on the ground for the protection of cultural and natural World Heritage, through the deployment of UNESCO technical experts in coordination with DPKO and mission leadership. This activity is closely linked to activities 1 and 13.</p>	400,000				
Mid-term							
26	§§33, 34	<p><b>Integration of culture into humanitarian relief efforts related to displacement</b></p> <p>This will include research, promotional materials, assessments, development of guidelines, training and the organization of special events with the relevant UN Agencies (Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM)) and selected humanitarian actors at global and grassroots levels. A particular focus – as a priority - will be on displacement and migration, addressing access to culture in situations of displacement, including through the development of dedicated tools (such as the IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix) –with a view to local integration into host communities or to reintegration. With a pilot effort focusing in particular on the Syrian refugees, assessments will be conducted for the safeguarding and importance of intangible cultural heritage for community resilience during humanitarian crises and emergency situations, leading to the development of concrete tools. This activity will be closely linked to activity 14.</p>	200,000				

27	§§33, 34	<p><b>Integration of culture into peacebuilding efforts</b></p> <p>Against the background of the recent review of the UN Peace architecture, as decided by the UN General Assembly, this activity will aim at integrating a culture component into policies and tools used by UN actors involved in peacebuilding efforts. This will involve the development of research, promotional materials and guidance, for example for United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA) Advisors and Peace Building Support Office staff; the inclusion of culture into vulnerability assessments tools (such as the Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) recently elaborated by the UN Working Group on Transition); the organization of thematic meetings (e.g. at the Peace Building Commission's sessions); and ultimately the elaboration of proposals for projects to be supported under peacebuilding funding mechanisms, such as the establishment of “peaceparks” and “Sites of Conscience”. This will be done at a global level, and subject to the availability of funds, piloted in at least 5 countries in cooperation with the relevant humanitarian actors.</p>	200,000			
28	§§33, 35	<p><b>Protected Cultural Zones</b></p> <p>Building on the legal bases provided within the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Second Protocol (1999) and other relevant IHL, as well as on the right of initiative granted to UNESCO therein, the activity will explore, through consultations with UNDPKO and UNDPA, the legal framework for the possible establishment of protected cultural zones - clearly identified significant cultural heritage sites, protected from the conflict based on a mutual agreement between military forces operating in the given area -, as well as the practical implementation modalities on the ground, including through UNESCO partners such as the ICRC, taking into account the particularities of each case and in accordance to the national legal framework for the protection of cultural property. The actual establishment of Protected Cultural Zones would require the consent of all parties to a conflict.</p>	40,000			
29	§§25, 29, 33, 34, 35	<p><b>Evaluation and continuation of short-term activities</b></p> <p>Following an evaluation, relevant elements (e.g. trainings, awareness-raising, advocacy, etc.) of short-term activities 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 will be continued in the mid-term as well, as appropriate.</p>	850,000			
<b>Long term</b>						
30	§§25, 29, 33, 34, 35	<p><b>Evaluation and continuation of short and mid-term activities</b></p> <p>Following an evaluation, relevant elements (e.g. trainings, awareness-raising, advocacy, etc.) of short-term activities 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26, as well as mid-term activities 27 and 28 will be continued in the long term as well, as appropriate.</p>	1,200,000			
<b>General</b>						

31	§51	<p><b>Management and promotion of the Heritage Emergency Fund</b></p> <p>This will include the development of procedures and assessment and evaluation mechanisms, the coordination of the implementation of activities, the reporting as well as initiatives for outreach, fund-raising and communication. These activities may include the preparation of promotional and fund-raising materials, the organization of information meetings and the development and maintenance of a comprehensive webpage – within the website of UNESCO - on the programme with updated information on current activities, as well as the proactive outreach to potential donors from the public and private sectors.</p>	300,000			
<b>Human Resources (over 6 years)</b>						
		1 (P3) Project Officer - Coordination of Heritage Emergency Fund and of Rapid Response Mechanism (CLT/HER/EPR)	1,103,976			
		1 (P2) Associate Project Officer - Development and implementation of innovative partnerships and tools (CLT/HER/EPR)	936,000			
		1 (P1/P2) Associate Project Officer - Research, Knowledge management and Communication (CLT/HER/EPR)	725,976			
		1 (P2) Associate Project Officer - 1970 Convention (CLT/HER/MHM)	936,000			
		1 (P2) Associate Project Officer - 1954 Convention (CLT/HER/CHP)	936,000			
		1 (P2) Associate Project Officer - 1972 (CLT/HER/WHC/ARB)	936,000			
		1 (P3) Project Officer - Baghdad Office	1,350,000			
		1 (P3) Project Officer - Beirut Office	1,350,000			
		1 (P3) Project Officer - Libya	1,350,000			

GRAND TOTAL 24.914.976

## ANNEX II

### PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A MECHANISM FOR THE RAPID INTERVENTION AND MOBILIZATION OF NATIONAL EXPERTS (ROSTER “UNITE4HERITAGE”)

#### Introduction

Resolution 48 adopted by the General Conference at its 38th session (38 C/Resolution 48) calls, in its paragraph 3, on Member States to define mechanisms for the rapid mobilization of national experts, as a way to support the elaboration of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy on the reinforcement of UNESCO's action to protect culture and promote cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict. In its paragraph 4, moreover, the resolution invites the Director-General to explore, in collaboration with Member States, practical ways for implementing such mechanism for the rapid intervention and mobilization of national experts.

The Secretariat welcomes the wealth of suggestions, comments and best practices shared by Member States in the context of the consultations carried out. The comments received point to the need to carefully assess various legal and financial implications. In further developing the concept for the establishment and maintenance of a mechanism for the rapid intervention and mobilization of national experts, the Secretariat will give these issues careful consideration.

The following describes how such mechanism could be set up within UNESCO, resulting from preliminary consultations both with Member States as well as potential partner organizations.

#### Establishment and operation of the rapid response mechanism

UNESCO may deploy the Rapid Response Mechanism at the request of national authorities and in full consultation with them. This mechanism complements, as needed, existing UNESCO mechanisms, such as missions related to the implementation or execution of the World Heritage Convention. In order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of the response, the proposed mechanism for the rapid intervention of national experts should be based on a roster that UNESCO would establish, containing pre-selected experts in fields related to the protection and safeguarding of culture, ready to be deployed. In this framework, experts may also be deployed, as individuals or as teams, on the basis of specific agreements signed between UNESCO and Governments.

Experts of the Roster would be used to assist in the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage from threats that may arise in emergency situations associated to possible armed conflicts and/or natural disasters. To this end, they might be employed at anyone of the three stages of the emergency management process, that is before, during and after, to contribute to preparedness, immediate response and recovery initiatives.

The members of the Roster, when deployed on mission, will assist in the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage by exercising their relevant professional expertise of a legal or technical nature, i.e. not by enforcing laws and security (e.g. ensuring the physical protection of people, a heritage site or Museum).

Among the possible activities that the experts of the Roster might be asked to undertake, are the following:

- Rapid assessment of damage and other needs related to cultural heritage and in line with relevant national legislation, and identification of urgent safeguarding measures;
- Technical support to the implementation of urgent safeguarding measures, including emergency documentation, stabilization of structures at risk, salvaging and storage of

collections, transport of movable cultural properties at risk to safe havens, legal counselling;

- Capacity building, including through training of relevant staff from national authorities, NGOs and volunteers;
- Legal advisory services to national authorities on measures to strengthen the protection of cultural property;
- Culture-related activities in support of internally displaced and refugees, such as psycho-social and educational programmes, vocational training, etc.

A set of pre-determined profiles would be established, with the help of an advisory panel created on purpose and involving UNESCO institutional partners such as ICOM, ICCROM, ICOMOS and the International Committee of the Blue Shield. Candidatures would subsequently be screened against such profiles. Desired competencies will not be limited to knowledge and skills within a specific area of knowledge related to the protection of culture, but also include the ability to work within a multicultural environment in emergency situations with security challenges, when applicable. Special attention would be put to ensure a diversity in profiles, nationality, regional experience, language skills, and gender. In selecting and deploying experts of the Roster, moreover, the United Nations-agreed humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence will also be applied. Within UNESCO, the roster would be managed by the Unit for Emergency Preparedness and Response of the Culture Sector.

The selected experts will become members of the roster and will be asked to guarantee, and reconfirm every two years, their readiness to be deployed within a short period of time and provide their services, possibly in areas affected by a critical situation. Once selected, the expert members of the roster will be required to undergo an induction course and specific training programme, possibly drawing from existing practices. These will be aimed at providing them with relevant information on the context in which they may be deployed, focusing on institutional and security arrangements, but also on culture-related processes to which they may be asked to contribute, such as the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) for Culture. In addition, as customary for all UNESCO experts, the members of the Roster will be required to undertake – and maintain updated - the standard online security training courses provided by the United Nations, and will receive specific country-briefings when deployed. The quality of their contribution to the mission will be evaluated after the latter's completion, in view of a future redeployment on behalf of UNESCO.

The decision to deploy one or more experts will be taken by the UNESCO Secretariat in concertation with the concerned Member State, as is current practice for any technical support mission undertaken by UNESCO to respond to an emergency related to the protection of cultural heritage. The Secretariat will report on Rapid Response deployments in the framework of its reports to Governing Bodies on the implementation of the Action Plan.

The actual deployment of the members of the Roster will be subject to the granting of security clearance by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and require the formalization of certain legal and administrative arrangements, to comply with United Nations established standard procedures. The different options for the deployment (presented in the table hereafter) depend on the timeframe, on the funding source and on the entity organizing the deployment, but in all cases the deployed experts will have to sign some form of individual contractual arrangement with UNESCO and, when on mission, will have the status of "UNESCO experts", not UNESCO staff.

RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM	Direct deployment		Indirect deployment	
	Type of partnership	Government	Government	Stand-by Partner
Operational modality	Consultant contract OR Travel Order	Loan agreement + individual loan contracts	Stand-by partnership <sup>1</sup> agreement + individual "Undertaking"	Stand-by partnership agreement + individual "Undertaking"
Expenses for the deployment	UNESCO	Government OR Government (salaries) and UNESCO (travel)	Government	UNESCO OR Stand-by Partner OR both
Organization of the deployment	UNESCO	UNESCO	Government	Stand-by Partner

Experts from the roster could be also deployed in the framework of a United Nations mission, whether led by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) or the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA), which would include in its mandate the protection of cultural property and which would request UNESCO to assist in implementing this particular aspect of its mandate. In such circumstances, and based on the specific terms establishing the United Nations Mission, UNESCO may wish to define specific arrangements with UNDPKO or UNDPA whereby the experts of the roster, would cooperate with the United Nations mission in protecting cultural and/or natural heritage. Such arrangements would require further formal agreements to be completed between UNESCO and UNDPKO/UNDPA in accordance with the rules and regulations of both parties and in consultation with the authorities of the concerned country. The terms of the arrangement would depend on various factors, including the required scope of work, the presence of a UNESCO Office in the country hosting the Headquarters of the United Nations mission and the availability of funds to support the deployment of the experts. The contribution by the UNESCO experts might focus on training and awareness raising of the mission personnel (notably police and military) on cultural property protection; capacity building of national authorities and local communities; and technical support for assessment and urgent protection and safeguarding measures. The United Nations Mission could, as was the case for MINUSMA in Mali, contribute by ensuring logistics and security support, as well as in monitoring the situation related to cultural heritage, through its military and police personnel.

The establishment and operationalization of the roster would require significant resources for UNESCO, on a structural and permanent basis. Ideally, these should be foreseen within the regular programme and budget of the Organization, at least to maintain its basic capacity to manage the roster. Extrabudgetary contributions, however, will be also critical. Interested donors could contribute through the recently established Heritage Emergency Fund or through specific Funds-in-Trust agreements.

<sup>1</sup> Stand-by Partners are organizations which maintain large rosters of qualified personnel that can be deployed rapidly to field offices on UNESCO's request. The related procedures are outlined in the User guide: "The Stand-by Partnership Users' Guide", accessible online from: [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/BSP/pdf/standby\\_partnerships.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/BSP/pdf/standby_partnerships.pdf)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

## 201 EX/5 Part I (F)

PARIS, 21 March 2017  
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

### FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

#### PART I

#### PROGRAMME ISSUES

##### SUMMARY

**F. Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO**

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 8.



## F. Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO

(Follow-up to 124 EX/Dec.6.1, 167 EX/Dec.4.2)

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1. In 2016, UNESCO actively participated in United Nations high-level meetings, summits and related side-events as appropriate, raising the banner for UNESCO's messages and priorities. They include: the 71st session of the UNGA; the 31st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (February 2016); the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2016); the Annual Counter-Terrorism Implementation Taskforce's (CTITF) coordination meeting (March 2016). the World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016); the United Nations Global Compact 15th anniversary celebration (June 2016); the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (July 2016); and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) (Marrakesh, Morocco, November 2016); the Comprehensive High-Level Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (Antalya, Turkey, May 2016) and the Global South-South Development Expo (October-November 2016).

2. UNESCO has regularly contributed, as requested, to United Nations Secretary-General's reports, and other relevant United Nations documents and/or publications including the Report on "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals" and "The Sustainable Development Goals Report". As mandated, it also submitted to the General Assembly substantive reports on agenda items for which the Organization has a specific mandate or responsibility. The following reports were submitted, and were or will be examined and serve as a basis for GA resolutions at the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly:

- Report on literacy for life: shaping future agendas and on education for democracy;
- Report on the implementation of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, 2015;
- Report on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system;
- Report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace.

3. At the the time of drafting this report, the 71st session of the General Assembly has adopted the following resolutions which refer to UNESCO's programmes and/or assign specific action(s) to the Organization:

- **Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR) (Res. 71/243).** In the Resolution, in comparison with previous ones, the United Nations Development System (UNDS) and its entities are mentioned as a whole with no difference between Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies, but more frequent mention of the "respective mandates, role, resources and unique expertise" of the entities. UNGA calls upon UNDS entities to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals in all strategic planning documents and work at all levels, in close consultation with and for presentation to the respective entities' governing bodies for approval. Eradicating poverty continuing to be the "highest priority". It should be noted that UNESCO is already engaged in several requests of the resolution, in particular with regard to the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda, the working methods of the Governing Bodies, the RBM and RBB, the integrated budget, the structured financing dialogue and the engagement in United Nations mechanisms at the country level (Additional Information is available in document 201 EX/5.INF.)



- **Education for democracy (Res. 71/8).** Based on the relevant report prepared by UNESCO (see paragraph above), the Assembly “encourages” United Nations agencies, including UNESCO, to “strengthen their efforts to promote the values of peace, human rights, democracy, respect for religious and cultural diversity and justice through education”, and invites them to “provide appropriate expertise and resources for the development of relevant educational programmes and materials for democracy”. It “requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General [of UNESCO], to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution”.
- **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe (Res. 71/17).** The Assembly “notes the cooperation between the Council of Europe and [UNESCO] (...) in the field of education, and encourages the extension of this cooperation, which should continue to focus on the role of education in developing just and humane societies characterized by the participation of individuals and the ability of individuals and societies to conduct intercultural dialogue, as well as on the encouragement of the diversity of cultural expressions. [It] welcomes the cooperation between the Council of Europe [and several United Nations agencies including UNESCO] on the organization of the first Global Forum on Youth Policies, which took place in Azerbaijan in October 2014, and encourages those organizations to continue their cooperation to promote and implement the Baku Commitment to Youth Policies as a contribution to the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth. [Finally, it] notes the Council of Europe “No Hate Speech” movement, launched as a youth campaign against hate speech and for human rights online, and encourages UNESCO to continue its cooperation with the Council of Europe on this theme”.
- **The law of transboundary aquifers (Res. 71/150).** The Assembly commends “the efforts made by the International Hydrological Programme (...) in order for the Member States to draw more attention to and to deepen understanding of the draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers, in particular through organizing a series of training courses on the application of the draft articles as well as compiling an inventory of and evaluating the world’s transboundary aquifer systems” and “encourages the International Hydrological Programme (...) to continue its contribution by providing further scientific and technical assistance upon the consent of the recipient State and within its mandate”.
- **Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace (Res. 71/160).** By acknowledging “the role of UNESCO, (...) including the declarations that it has adopted, as well as the convening of the sixth International Conference, to be held in Kazan, Russian Federation, in July 2017” and “the revised International Charter for Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, as proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO at its thirty-eighth session in November 2015” and “the proclamation by the General Conference of UNESCO, at its thirty-eighth session, of 20 September as the International Day of University Sport”, the Assembly “urges Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, acceding to and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention against Doping in Sport”.
- **Literacy for life: shaping future agendas (Res. 71/166).** Taking note “with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of UNESCO”, the Assembly “requests UNESCO to continue its coordinating and catalysing role through the implementation of the GAL recommendations and continuing support to Member States, in collaboration with partners, in enhancing capacities for policy formulation, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as sharing information and knowledge on policies, programmes and progress in the achievement of SDG targets

connected with literacy, especially Target 4.6 on youth and adult literacy, and creating synergies of action between the GAL and other initiatives, including the Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education and UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)".

- **Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Res. 71/178).** The Assembly “proclaims the year beginning on 1 January 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, (...) and invites UNESCO to serve as the lead agency for the Year, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, within existing resources”.
- **Information and communications technologies for development (Res. 71/212).** “Noting the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme”, the Assembly “decides to discontinue the request made to the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO, to report to the Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of resolution 50/130.”
- **Sustainable Gastronomy Day (Res. 71/246).** The Assembly “invites UNESCO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate the observance of Sustainable Gastronomy Day in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system”.
- **Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace (Res. 71/249).** “Noting the Unite for Heritage campaign”, the Assembly “recognizes UNESCO’s leading role in promoting intercultural dialogue and invites the Organization to continue its leadership in the context of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures”. The Assembly also “encourages Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further consider and carry out activities in support of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022).
- **Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (Res. 71/252).** The resolution highlights, among others, the role of UNESCO as a leading agency in promoting the culture of peace and non-violence. It further commends the Organization for strengthening efforts to mobilize all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of a culture of peace.
- **Oceans and the Law of the Sea (Res. 71/257).** The resolution largely refers to UNESCO-IOC and the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. In particular, the Assembly “calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to that Convention” and “recognizes with appreciation those organizations that contributed to the first cycle of the Regular Process [for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects], including UNESCO” and “invites the IOC-UNESCO [and other relevant UN agencies], as appropriate, to assist in the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process....”.

4. The following UNGA resolutions should also be mentioned as particularly relevant for UNESCO’s mandate: Protecting children from bullying (Res. 71/176); Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Res. 71/179); Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief (Res. 71/195); The right to privacy in the digital age (Res.

71/199); International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028 (Res. 71/222); and Disaster Risk Reduction (Res. 71/226).

5. The following United Nations Human Rights Council resolutions (9), adopted during the 31st, 32nd and 33rd sessions of the Human Rights Council, are of relevance for the work of UNESCO, and/or assign specific action(s) to the Organization:

- **Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity (Res. 31/12).** “Noting the declarations within the United Nations system on cultural diversity and international cultural cooperation, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation and the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1966 and 2001 respectively”, and “welcoming the increasing number of States parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions”, the Council “recalls that, as expressed in the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope”.
- **Freedom of religion or belief (Res. 31/16).** The Council “stresses the importance of a continued and strengthened dialogue in all its forms, including among individuals of, and within, different religions and beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding, and takes note with appreciation of different initiatives in this regard, including the Alliance of Civilizations and the programmes led by UNESCO”.
- **Human rights education and training (Res. 31/21).** The Council “welcomes the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNESCO in advancing human rights education and training globally, including through the promotion of national implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, methodological and training support, capacity-building and technical assistance, and urges them to step up collaboration with States, upon request, in order to build their capacity for human rights education and training”. It also “encourages the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with UNESCO, to support the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal 4, target 7 thereof”. It “appreciates the work done by (...) UNESCO to collect and develop educational materials on human rights education and training, including through regional centres, and to provide access to online educational materials, including through (...) [its] clearinghouse on global citizenship education”, and “encourages the High Commissioner and UNESCO to further collect and provide access to educational materials on human rights education and training, including through the use of online platforms and information and communications technology”.
- **Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief (Res. 31/26).** “Welcoming the leading role of UNESCO in promoting intercultural dialogue”, the Council “recognizes that the open, public debate of ideas, and interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national and international levels can be among the best protections against religious intolerance and can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred”.
- **Realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl (Res. 32/20).** “Welcoming the World Education Forum 2015, organized by UNESCO (...) and the declaration “Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all”, adopted at the Forum”, and “noting with appreciation the work carried out by all relevant organs, [in particular UNESCO] (...), to promote girls’ enjoyment of the right to education”. The Council also “reaffirms the importance of

enhancing the dialogue between UNESCO, UNICEF, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and other partners that pursue the “goals of girls” education, with a view to integrating further the right to education of girls into the operational activities of the United Nations system”.

- **The right to education (Res. 32/22).** By referring, in the preamble of this Resolution, to the Convention against Discrimination in Education of UNESCO, the Council “welcomes (...) the contribution of UNICEF, UNESCO and other relevant bodies towards attaining the goals of the Education for All agenda and education-related Millennium Development Goals”.
- **Declaration on the Right to Peace (Res. 32/28).** The Council “declares (...) the United Nations and specialized agencies should take appropriate sustainable measures to implement the present Declaration, in particular UNESCO”.
- **The safety of journalists (Res. 33/2).** “Welcoming the important work of UNESCO for the safety of journalists and taking note (...) of its 2015 publications entitled *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development* and *Building Digital Safety for Journalism*, (...) [the Council] invites United Nations agencies, (...), Member States (...), to cooperate further in promoting awareness of and implementing the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and to this end calls upon States to cooperate with relevant United Nations entities, in particular UNESCO”. It also “invites States to share information on a voluntary basis on the status of investigations into attacks and violence against journalists, including in response to requests by UNESCO, through the mechanism operated by its International Programme for the Development of Communication”.
- **Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage (Res. 33/20).** “Acknowledging the important role of UNESCO, UNODC, the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL in international efforts to combat and prevent damage or destruction, organized looting, smuggling and theft of and illicit trafficking in cultural property, and to restore damaged property (...), [the Council] calls for enhanced international cooperation in preventing and combating the organized looting, smuggling and theft of and illicit trafficking in cultural objects and in restoring stolen, looted or trafficked cultural property to its countries of origin, and invites States to take measures in this regard at the national level to make effective use to this end of relevant tools and databases developed under the auspices of UNESCO [and other relevant organizations], within the scope of their respective mandates”.

### Other relevant events and decisions

6. On 29 June 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted the Resolution 2295 on the situation in Mali, which “authorizes MINUSMA to use its existing capacities to assist in implementing (...) support for cultural preservation in Mali (...) [by assisting] the Malian authorities in protecting from attack the cultural and historical sites in Mali, in collaboration with UNESCO”.

7. On 12 December 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted the Resolution 2322 on the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, where it “urges States to develop, including, upon request, with the assistance of UNODC and in close cooperation with UNESCO and INTERPOL, broad law enforcement and judicial cooperation in preventing and combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences that benefit or may benefit terrorist or terrorist groups”.

**Proposed decision**

8. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part I (F), along with 201 EX/5.INF, containing the overview of recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO,
2. Takes note of its content, and encourages the Director-General to maintain UNESCO's leadership and coordination within the United Nations system, on matters that fall within its terms of reference.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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**Executive Board**  
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**201 EX/5**  
**Part I (G)**

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**FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY  
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE  
AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

**PART I**

**PROGRAMME ISSUES**

**SUMMARY**

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

This information is presented pursuant to 200 EX/Decision 5 (I.H) on “Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)” – including a review of existing and planned actions in UNESCO’s fields of competence; information provided to the Secretariat on 23 February 2017 by the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine on latest developments in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) in UNESCO’s fields of competence; and information provided by UNESCO’s institutional partners: including the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Council on Monuments and Sites and Amnesty International.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 19.



## **G. FOLLOW-UP OF THE SITUATION IN THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA (UKRAINE)**

(Follow-up to 200 EX/Decision 5 (I.H))

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### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. In line with 200 EX/Decision 5 (I.H) on “Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)”, the Director-General continued to gather information from international organizations within and beyond the United Nations system, as well as from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have at their disposal relevant updates on the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) within UNESCO’s fields of competence.
2. To implement the Decision, the Secretariat reviewed existing and planned actions within UNESCO’s fields of competence. In addition, the Secretariat addressed a letter to the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to request information on latest developments in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) in UNESCO’s fields of competence.
3. Given their relevance to UNESCO’s fields of competence and existing partnership relations with UNESCO, the Director-General requested the following organizations to provide relevant updates on the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) in UNESCO’s fields of competence – namely, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe; the Representative on Freedom of the Media of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS); and Amnesty International (Official Partner of UNESCO, with Associate Status).
4. The Director-General consulted regularly with the Chairperson of the Executive Board on taking forward the decisions of the Executive Board, as well as with Member States. Regular consultations were held also between the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information and the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Ukraine, as well as with Member States. In addition, the Secretariats of the relevant UNESCO Conventions were seized of the Executive Board decisions, for consideration by their respective governing bodies, as distinctive sovereign bodies chaired by Member States.
5. From 4 to 6 December 2016, the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information undertook a visit to Kyiv in order to discuss with the Ukrainian authorities the possible parameters of “a direct monitoring activity” by the Secretariat on the follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine). This monitoring activity would complement the indirect monitoring mechanisms that the Secretariat has put in place with the support of institutional partners since June 2015. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of mutual trust, while recognizing jointly the importance and the challenge of the task at hand, given that it would be the first instance in which the Secretariat is being requested to monitor such a complex situation in all its fields of competence.
6. Moving forward, the Director-General will continue to strengthen information-sharing and exchanges with institutional partners of the Organization on a regular basis, in order to ensure regular monitoring of developments in UNESCO’s spheres of competence. This will include an Information Meeting with Member States on developments in the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) in UNESCO’s spheres of competence, to be held at UNESCO Headquarters prior to the 201st session of the Executive Board, with UNESCO’s institutional partners, given their relevance to UNESCO’s fields of competence and existing partnership relations with UNESCO.

## **II. REVIEW OF EXISTING/PLANNED ACTIONS RELATING TO THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA (UKRAINE)**

7. In all of its actions, UNESCO has been guided by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 27 March 2014, on “Territorial Integrity of Ukraine,” which “affirms its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.”

8. As reported in 197 EX/5 (II), under Major Programme I, there are four schools and institutions which are part of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) located in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine): Gymnasium No. 9 of Simferopol City Council, Simferopol, Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine); Secondary school of I-III Degrees No. 14, Simferopol, Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine); Alexander Pushkin Secondary School, Gurzuf, Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine); and Sevastopol Liceum No.1, Sevastopol, Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine). The Secretariat has not received recent activity reports through the National Coordinator from these schools and institutions, which have not been active in the Network.

9. On 19 December 1962, Ukraine ratified the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education. Ukraine has not submitted national reports on the measures taken for its implementation during the last three consultations, held between 1995 and 2013. Regarding the ongoing 9th Consultation of Members States on this Convention (2016-2017), as of 26 January 2017, Ukraine has not submitted its national report and did not participate in the Consultation.

10. The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) had a project relating to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine), entitled “From the Caspian to the Mediterranean: Environmental Change and Human Response during the Quaternary” (2013-2017). The project leader is the head of the Department of Physical and Marine geology, Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University. The project held a Plenary Conference in Georgia (2-9 October 2016), under the auspices of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences, Ilia State University, and the Avalon Institute of Applied Science (CAN). The IGCP project has no further involvement with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine).

11. Two National Oceanographic Data Centers (NODCs) are located in Sevastopol (Ukraine), both part of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission’s International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme: (i) the O. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas (IBSS); and (ii) the Marine Hydrophysical Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The web sites of both institutions have been closed. Both NODCs are still included in the IODE NODC data centre webpage (<http://www.iode.org/datacentres> ). In addition, the IBSS document repository, as well as the Central and Eastern European Marine Repository, previously located in the former YugNIRO in Kerch (Ukraine), both contributors to the IODE OceanDocs project, have been closed.

12. As reported previously, under Major Programme III, the International Children Centre (ARTEK), located in Gurzuf, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) became a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO in July 2007. The objective of the Centre was to promote learning to live together, tolerance, understanding and knowledge about different peoples, cultures, customs and traditions among young people through artistic education and creativity. The agreement with UNESCO came to an end in July 2013 and may be renewed in conformity with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Centres. No action has been taken.

13. Under Major Programme IV, the World Heritage Centre continues to monitor the state of conservation of the World Heritage property “Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora”, situated in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine). The property has not been reported by UNESCO’s partners, including the World Heritage Advisory Bodies, ICOMOS and ICCROM, as facing threats to its Outstanding Universal Value. A number of specific conservation issues had



already been identified and assessed when the property was evaluated and inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2013.

14. Further to concerns expressed by the Ukrainian authorities concerning the state of conservation of the property and to past decisions of the Executive Board, which invited the governing bodies of UNESCO to assess the situation in Ukraine within its fields of competence, a state of conservation report was examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session held in Istanbul from 10 to 20 July, 2016. The Committee, in its Decision 40 COM 7B.62, urged all parties concerned with the state of conservation of the property to refrain from any action that would cause damages to it and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect the property. The Decision further requested the State Party to invite, as soon as the situation allows, a joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation. Subsequently, the Terms of Reference were elaborated by the World Heritage Centre and transmitted to ICOMOS and ICCROM as Advisory Bodies for review. The necessary invitation from the State Party for such a mission had not been received at the time of preparation of this report.

15. Concerns expressed by the Ukrainian authorities regarding damages to the state of conservation of the “Complex of the Sudak Fortress Monuments of the 6th-16th c.”, site included in the Tentative List of Ukraine in 2007, which were caused by a windstorm, are being followed by the Secretariat, in consultation with ICOMOS. No specific information has been received by the World Heritage Centre about possible threats relating to other sites included in the Tentative List of Ukraine that are situated in Crimea (Ukraine).

16. With regard to cultural heritage in general, no information has been received by the Secretariat that immovable and movable cultural property in Crimea (Ukraine) has suffered damage or destruction, contravening the provisions of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its first (1954) Protocol. The situation in this regard continues to be monitored by the Secretariat in cooperation with its partners, and in particular the International Committee of the Blue Shield and its members, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization and ICOM.

17. As concerns possible looting, illegal excavations and illicit trafficking of cultural objects, including through illicit export, the 4th session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Party to the 1970 Convention that took place on 26-28 September 2016 examined, at the request of Ukraine, a case concerning paintings that originate from the Aivazovsky National Art Gallery in Feodosia, Crimea (Ukraine), and which were exhibited at the Tretyakov State Gallery in Moscow, Russian Federation. Ukraine stated that no export license had been issued by the Ukrainian authorities. The Russian Federation indicated that agreements were signed with the Aivazovsky National Art Gallery, and stated that the paintings will be returned at the end of the exhibition.

18. Under Major Programme V, the Secretariat has continued to maintain contacts with international governmental organizations, such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as international non-governmental organisations, relating to issues of freedom of expression and the safety of journalists in Ukraine and the region. Contacts have continued with the International Federation of Journalists, and the European Federation of Journalists, as well as with national unions of journalists in the region.

### **III. INFORMATION ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN UNESCO'S FIELDS OF COMPETENCE PROVIDED BY THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

**Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)** (*Follow-up to 194 EX/Decision 32, 195 EX/Decision 5 (II)E, 196 EX/Decision 5 (II)B, 197 EX/Decision 5 (II), 199 EX/Decision 5 (I.E), 200 EX/Decision 5 (I.H)*)

The information hereafter is provided by the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine on request of the Director-General of UNESCO.

This information, together with factsheets previously provided by Ukraine upon relevant requests of the Director-General as well as on its own initiative throughout 2014-2017, constitutes an integral part of the continuously updated database on the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) collected by Ukrainian state and non-governmental institutions in collaboration with international monitoring bodies and missions.

Ukraine welcomes the *United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/205 "Situation of human rights in Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)", adopted on 19 December 2016.* This important document provides a clear definition on the status of Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as part of the territory of Ukraine, condemns the temporary occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and reaffirms the non-recognition of its annexation.

The Resolution underscores, that the United Nations General Assembly welcomes the efforts of international and regional organizations to support Ukraine in promoting, protecting and ensuring human rights, and expresses concern over the lack of safe and unfettered access by established regional and international human rights monitoring mechanisms and human rights non-governmental organizations in Crimea. Therefore, the General Assembly urges the Russian Federation to ensure the unimpeded access of international human rights monitoring mechanisms to the temporary occupied peninsula to monitor and report on the situation according to their mandates. This provides UNESCO as an integral part of the United Nations system with a clear guidance and a powerful tool in the implementation of the full-fledged monitoring mechanism designed to ensure a direct monitoring over the human rights situation on the peninsula within the scope of mandate of the Organization.

#### **Information on the latest developments in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)**

*According to the Decisions "Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)" adopted by 194th-200th sessions of UNESCO Executive Board*

#### **Overview of the human rights situation in Crimea with emphasis on the rights of minorities within UNESCO's mandate, freedom of expression and safety of journalists**

Further deterioration of the situation concerning the rights of minorities in Crimea constitutes an integral part of the growing disrespect of human rights and fundamental freedoms since the occupation of the peninsula by Russia.

Russian restrictive legislation regulating political and civil rights has been extended to Crimea that has resulted in drastically curtailing the freedoms of assembly, expression, association, access to information, and religion. This has had a devastating impact on the rights of all residents in Crimea, especially those who have opposed and resisted occupation. Russia aims at "squeezing out" of the peninsula of anyone who publicly condemns Kremlin's illegal actions, rejects forced Russian "passportisation" and attempts to preserve one's language, religious, ethnic and cultural identity.

The overwhelming majority of Crimean Tatars, the indigenous people of the peninsula, who have rejected the occupation rule and organized civil actions aimed at protecting their rights have been regularly subjected to reprisals by occupying authorities as well as by the so called Crimean self-defence and other paramilitary groups in Crimea controlled by the Russian authorities. They face illegal searches, interrogations, detention and forced disappearances as a part of campaign of intimidation and persecution. For this sake quite often the Russian authorities are resorting to the false accusations based on the Russian legislation on “extremism and terrorism”. Furthermore, in violation of international law and basic human rights, Russian criminal laws have been used in Crimea retroactively to persecute civil society activists and Mejlis members.

Just since January 2016 up the public organization “Crimean Tatar Resource Center” has recorded 15 violations of freedom of movement, 20 violations of freedom of belief, 7 violations of freedom of peaceful assembly, 14 violations of freedom of thought and expression, 25 violations of cultural and religious rights of indigenous people and national minorities, 67 violations of the right to a fair trial and legal aid, 11 violations regarding the illegal transfer of political prisoners (citizens of Ukraine) from Crimea, 6 violations of right to health protection and medical care, as well as 21 violations of right to property. During the mentioned period only, the occupying authorities of Crimea illegally conducted 112 interrogations, 91 searches, and 107 detentions.

As for the ethnic Ukrainians, they have also become the victims of acute discrimination and political persecution especially when they express pro-Ukrainian views or their Ukrainian identity (speaking in the Ukrainian language, celebrating Ukrainian holidays, or wearing symbols of Ukraine). Human rights defenders have registered also systemic repressions against all Crimeans who identify themselves with Ukrainian state irrespective of their ethnic origin.

Against the backdrop of gross human rights violations in occupied Crimea, the occupying authorities are fomenting inter-ethnic animosity by spreading the use of intolerant and hateful language, including through pro-Russian mass media and in the discourse of public officials in Crimea. Certain minority representatives and groups are also being frequently labeled in media as ‘disloyal’ to Russia.

The occupying authorities widely exert pressure on independent media in order to suppress any attempt to question legitimacy of occupation or to disseminate any unbiased information on the human rights situation on the peninsula.

From the very first days of the occupation, the occupying authorities have cancelled the broadcasting of Ukrainian TV stations in Crimea and launched attacks against independent journalists and local television and radio stations airing dissenting voices. “Chernomorskaya” TV and radio station, the Centre of Independent Journalists, key Crimean Tatar television station “ATR”, Mejlis newspaper “Avdet”, and the Crimean News Agency were targeted both by the paramilitary “Crimean self-defence” and the occupying authorities through assaults against journalists, intimidation, searches and property seizures, arrests, and close-downs. After the annexation of Crimea, the occupying authorities prosecuted independent media, journalists, bloggers, and even ordinary residents who expressed their views in different social networks.

Another serious obstacle for the activities of independent media was deliberately created by the introduction of the requirement of mandatory re-registration of the media operators on the peninsula. Thus far, only around 230 media operators have been allowed to pass the registration procedure in Crimea and Sevastopol imposed by the occupation authorities under the regulations of the occupation authorities, which constitute 8% of total 3,121 media pull previously registered on the peninsula according to the Ukrainian legislation. This means that all the rest should have ceased their activities as non-compliant to the rules of registration procedure according to the decision of Russian authorities, otherwise their activities may be subject to an intervention by court. The accreditation is being issued at the “parliament” of Crimea only to journalists that have the passports of the Russian Federation. Moreover, the Crimean authorities usually do not explain the grounds for refusals in re-registration, referring to the legislative regulations on the protection of

privacy and personal data. The safety of media and individual journalists that have not received approval from the occupying authorities is not guaranteed at all.

By refusing in registration to such popular Crimean Tatar media outlets as “ATR” and “Lale” television channels, “Meydan” and “Leader” radio stations, the Crimean News Agency, Avdet newspaper, and “15 minutes” Internet site, the occupying authorities have not only restricted media freedom and access to information, but also deprived the Crimean Tatar community of indispensable sources of objective information.

Ukrainians of Crimea can only watch Ukrainian TV channels via satellite. There is one 13-minute television programme in Ukrainian shown twice a week on the Crimean TV run by local authorities. The only Ukrainian language newspaper, “Krymska Svitlytsia”, funded by the government of Ukraine, was closed.

There is not a single radio station in Crimea that is free to conduct broadcasting in the same media format as before the annexation of the peninsula. The similar situation persists in the sphere of the printed media. No Ukrainian newspapers or magazines are being allowed to Crimea. At the same time, the Russian state-owned or pro-governmental media have problems neither with re-registration nor with access to public.

The severe limitations introduced into the conditions of operation of media as well as gross violations of the rights of journalists, their harassments and illegal arrests have become a regular practice of Russian authorities on the Crimean Peninsula. Damaging and confiscation of equipment, use of force and unlawful detention by the "Crimean self-defense", illegal dismissals, interrogations by the FSB agents in connection with fabricated accusations of "extremism", prohibition of entry to Crimea, unfounded prosecution, arrests of property and other measures are widely applied to journalists. Many of them have been forced to cease their professional activities or flee the peninsula to avoid negative consequences.

Actions of paramilitary units of the so-called “Crimean self-defense” are widely used as a tool of intimidation of “dissenters” and one of the main sources of human rights violations in the Crimea. They often accompany their actions not only by insults and threats, but also by arbitrary detentions, beatings of the “unwanted persons” including the representatives of media. Legalization of their activities within the Russian federal law "On the national militia – people's territorial army of Republic of Crimea" has only worsened the situation.

Under such circumstances, dissemination of Ukrainian information products on the Crimean Peninsula is possible only through satellite platforms and public resources in Internet. At the same time, the existing internet network equipment on the peninsula is being entirely substituted by the communications facilities provided and controlled by Russia. Following the instructions of the Prime-Minister of the Russian Federation D. Medvedev to take the internet in Crimea under the state control, and according to the Decision of the Ministry of Communications, the State Joint Stock Company "Rostelecom" has implemented a project of construction of a fiber-optic communication line through the Kerch Strait, replacing the connection provided by the mainland Ukraine and creating all the technical preconditions for exercising an unlimited control over the content of internet communications. Thus the content of Crimean internet network is not only subject to severe limitations but also being is being physically filtered due to cutting access of any unwanted web-resources to the peninsula.

During the period of occupation, the following statistics of media freedom violations has been recorded:

- During the period since September 2014 until December 30, 2016, 69 cases of direct pressure of the Russian internal security services on Crimean media, journalists and bloggers have been recorded, in particular:
  - 22 searches;

- 12 cases of illegal detention;
  - 15 ungrounded charges of criminal and administrative offenses;
  - 4 cases of physical assaults on journalists and editors;
  - 2 cases of obstruction to media activities undertaken by paramilitary formations;
  - 4 cases of threatening the journalists and destruction of information;
  - 11 other cases of obstruction to media activities (a ban on filming on behalf of FSB, forced seizure of media equipment, a ban on entry to Crimea, physical obstruction to media activities undertaken by the local police officers);
  - 23 cases of direct ban on visiting state and government institutions and enterprises, refusal of media coverage of official events, refusal to provide non-restricted information;
- 8 cases of interference into the Crimean independent media editorial policy by local authorities, including:
- Imposing of obligatory thematic lists for the content of broadcasted information – 1 case;
  - unmotivated demands to withdraw or refute articles - 5 cases;
  - unjustified dismissals – 2 cases.

Listed below are just some examples of the ways the human rights are being dealt with by the occupying authorities in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) for the period since October 2016 until February 2017 (*information collected by the Human Rights Information Center; humanrights.org.ua*). They are several out of dozens of human rights violations perpetrated by the occupying authorities, the majority of which stays unrecorded due to absence of any permanent independent monitoring on the peninsula.

**October 4, 2016**, Aleksey Nazimov, the editor of *Tvoya Gazeta* newspaper in Alushta and the cameraman Andrey Oblezov were arrested by the Regional Office of the Federal Security Service (FSB) for Crimea and Sevastopol, on false accusation of “bribery and racketeering”, and the reporter is accused of intermediation in bribery. It is well known in Crimea, that A.Nazimov and his media team have been covering all local issues in an honest and an unbiased way, and this is a real reason for this detention. A.Nazimov has continued his media activities via online publications after the shutdown of printed version of his newspaper in 2015 and ongoing pressure exerted by the occupying authorities. **On October 22, 2016**, the so-called “Supreme Court of Crimea” dismissed an appeal of A.Nazimov, and he was remanded in custody till 6 January 2017. According to the editor of *Tvoya Gazeta* newspaper, within three weeks of his detention there have not been any notable investigative activities performed by “judicial bodies”. At the same time, the prosecuting attorney, while speaking in favor of extension of arrest for Nazimov, mentioned that “being an editor of a media resource he may affect public opinion”.

**October 5, 2016**, a group of armed people in masks have undertaken a search in the house of Suleiman Kadyrov, a Crimean Tatar activist. Later, it was discovered that the search had been made by the order of the judge Igor Rodionov, based on the suspicion “of calls for non-recognition of the borders of Russian Federation” which in fact is a distorted interpretation of S.Kadyrov’s support to the relevant UNGA Resolution A/RES/68/262 of 27 March 2014.

**October 11, 2016**, the editorial team of *Novosti Sevastopolya* website received a letter from the Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology and Mass Media (Roskomnadzor), by which the latter requested to remove the article about the residents of a house in Sevastopol, who had been actively opposing the attempts of illegal construction that posed a threat of damage to a historic site. Roskomnadzor threatened to block the website if the article was

not removed. The editorial team commented on this situation: “Of course, we deleted the article. All is left is to regret that there’s no authority to supervise the activities of public officials and law enforcement officers, who push citizens to radical measures in order to fight injustice”. The website considers this letter as a tool of censorship.

**October 28, 2016**, during the ceremony of stone laying into foundation of Jameh (congregational mosque) in Simferopol, the representatives of muftiate and local occupying authorities prohibited the filming crew of Crimean Tatars Club from accessing the site of event. They were told that the crew was not allowed to film the ceremony because “their footage could be used by ATR”, the Crimean Tatar channel relocated to Kyiv due to the ban of their activities in Crimea. It is worth mentioning that Crimean Tatars Club is an internet media portal, founded as a source of important information about the life of Crimean Tatar people, their customs and traditions. The portal was created under the auspices Qara Deniz Production Studio by the ex-employees of the mentioned Crimean Tatar media holding ATR.

**October 2016**, journalist Marina Reznikova was fired from the Crimean branch of the publication “Rossiyskaya Gazeta” (“Russian newspaper”). The reason for the dismissal, according to her colleagues, was her video about the luxurious house of the current “head” of Crimea Segey Aksenov. Another reason for the deprivation of her work, according to human rights activists, is the participation of the journalist in several public awareness campaigns on the protection of green spaces in the central street of Simferopol. It was also reported about pressure exerted upon other members of this campaign against the destruction of trees, in particular, on journalists Oleh Kryuchkov, Dmytro Zhmutskyi, Maksym Hroznyi.

**November 1, 2016**, “the judge” of the so-called “Supreme court of Crimea” Natalia Terentyeva has upheld the accusations of the local “court” of Simferopol concerning blogger **Oleksiy Shestakovych** regarding a post published on social networks in 2010. He is charged with “violation of article 20.29 of the RF Administrative code (Production and possession of extremist materials)”. The court ignored the facts that video was published in 2010, and that it was retroactively added to the list of extremist materials only in after the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

**November 3, 2016**, the FSB Investigative Committee launched a criminal proceeding against Aleksey Amelin, the director general of Grand Media Ltd, Promedia Ltd and Nika Media, all of which are well-known for not supporting an anti-Ukrainian propaganda campaign in Crimea. The trumped up “grounds” for the arrest of A.Amelin are said to be “the bribe given by him to the officer of Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology and Mass Media (Roskomnadzor) for coverup and exemption from administrative liability, and also for advising him on the way to avoid responsibility for law violations found in the activities of his companies”.

**November 7, 2016**, Nedim Khalilov, the coordinator of the "Resistance Movement of the Crimean Tatars" has been forcefully deported from the peninsula by the decision of the so-called “Supreme court of Crimea”. N.Khalilov was placed in a filtration camp, from which he was further deported to Uzbekistan. To recap, in February 2016 Nedim Khalilov filed a statement to the “Central court of Simferopol” in which required to recognize the actions of the occupation authorities, as well as Russian President Vladimir Putin, aimed at annexation of Crimea as unlawful and illegal. In his statement Khalilov demanded to give the Crimean Tatar people special status and to recognize it as the indigenous people of Crimea.

**November 23, 2016**, when yet another hearing of “Case of February 26” (the notorious fabricated case against Crimean Tatar activists who opposed the Russian aggression and occupation by holding a mass rally in Simferopol on 26 February 2014) was about to begin in the “Central District Court” of Simferopol, the Radio Svododa journalist Anton Naumliuk attempted to get inside with a photo camera but the bailiffs blocked his way. Later on, the same persons attempted to prevent him from entering the courtroom, ignoring the requests of defendants’ relatives and availability of free seats. After the hearing, Naumliuk recorded an interview with the lawyer Edem Semediaev

and the scene of prisoner van leaving. One of the bailiffs threatened the lawyer: “If this video appears on the internet, the journalist will never be let into the courtroom”.

**November 28, 2016**, it was reported that Sergey Psarev, a blogger from Yalta, was threatened to be killed together with his 3 year-old son for the publication of video about the construction affair on the Krasnykh Partisan street which threatens the state of conservation of adjacent historic buildings of the old downtown. The blogger stated that he has informed the police in order to identify the perpetrators and bring them to responsibility but no reaction followed.

**December 3, 2016**, Dmitry Polonskiy, so-called “Minister of internal policy, information and communication of Republic of Crimea”, announced that Ukrainian media broadcasting would be shut down in Crimea, as it failed to comply with Russian legislation. These were his comments on the start of construction of telecommunication tower near Chongar village in Kherson region of Ukraine. The tower’s purpose is to broadcast Ukrainian radio and television programs in the southern areas of the Kherson region and in Crimea. “We have sufficient technical means to prevent the broadcasting unauthorized by Russian legislation in the Republic of Crimea,” the “minister” said.

**December 7, 2016**, an indictment was handed to the journalist Mykola Semena by the investigators in Crimea. Semena was falsely accused of calls for violation of the territorial integrity of Russian Federation. Semena’s lawyer Emil Kurbetdinov informed that the criminal case file is contained in almost six volumes.

To recap, the Ukrainian journalist Mykola Semena, performing his professional duties and defending his civil position, wrote an article “*Blockade is a first step to liberate Crimea*” posted on the information web-site “Crimea.Realities”, the Radio Freedom project, while he was in the mainland of Ukraine in September 2015.

On 19 April 2016 while the journalist was visiting the temporarily occupied Crimea, the Russian security service (FSB) held a search of the residence of Mykola Semena (as a part of the campaign of mass searches in Crimea at the homes of the independent journalists who were suspected of contributing to “Krym.Realii” project of Radio Svoboda) and initiated a criminal investigation accusing him of separatism for his publications. Mykola Semena, was forbidden to leave the peninsula and shortly arrested. On 23 August 2016, the lawyers of Mykola Semena filed a motion to release him from Crimea for treatment at the Kyiv Romodanov Neurosurgery Institute, but the FSB office in Crimea dismissed the motion, which can be clearly regarded as a torture. In October, 2016 the criminal proceedings against him based on the trumped up charges continued.

On 28 November 2016 M.Semena was awarded the special prize for promotion of human rights and freedom of expression at the Eighth Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Brussels.

**December 12, 2016**, StopFake internet project reported blocking of their website in the territory of Crimea. The project’s co-founder Margo Gontar said that the access to the website was also partially restricted in Russia. “Everybody who failed to enter our site saw the message from Roskomnadzor saying that the site is not recommended”, Gontar explained.

Stopfake.org verifies and refutes information and propaganda on the events happening in Ukraine. The website was launched on 2 March 2014 by lecturers, graduates and students of Kyiv Mohyla Journalism School together with participants of Digital Future of Journalism, a project for journalists and editors. Stopfake.org is not supported financially or otherwise by any governmental institution of Ukraine.

**In December 2016**, the accreditation of the journalists of Krymskyi Telegraf newspaper for attendance of Crimean Council of Ministers was canceled. Reportedly, this decision was made by Yekaterina Polonchuk, the press secretary of the “head of Crimea” Sergey Aksionov, on the

grounds “that the newspaper posted photos of staff of the council on its humor page with ironic comments” (this is a newspaper’s common practice for the last 7 years). Polonchuk commented this decision, saying that the newspaper presented biased information about the work of public authority to its readers. The editorial team filed a complaint, but no official reaction to it was received.

As of **mid-February 2017**, several important media websites remain blocked in Crimea: Krym.Realii, Investigator.com.ua, Censor.net, Blackseanews.net, 15minut.org, QHA, pravda.com.ua.

### **Cultural Heritage. Human rights in the sphere of culture (including rights pertaining to traditional religions).**

#### **– Cultural heritage**

As a direct result of occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, Ukraine has been deprived of the World Heritage site “Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora”; three sites submitted to the World Heritage Tentative List; over 15,000 historical and architectural monuments and sites of a national significance; over 100 museums. The situation in the field of culture on the occupied peninsula remains a matter of great concern, especially as for Ukrainian cultural heritage property.

It is necessary to note that any action undertaken by the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territory seeking to modify jurisdiction in relation to Ukraine’s cultural, industrial and technical heritage sites constitutes a direct violation of Ukraine’s sovereign rights and of universally recognized standards and principles of international humanitarian law, including the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), its Protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) and the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995).

### **State of conservation of Cultural heritage sites, including World Heritage Site “Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora”**

According to media reports, the Russian Orthodox Church has expressed its intention to assume ownership of 24 objects, which are an integral part of **the World Heritage Site “Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora”** inscribed on the World Heritage List.

As it was previously reported, the everyday activities of the parish of the Russian Orthodox Church within the mentioned world heritage site and, from now on, its intention to assume ownership of 24 objects gives all grounds to anticipate future deterioration of the situation with the state of conservation and preservation of the property.

As for the other cultural heritage sites, in particular **Khan’s palace in Bakhchisarai** submitted to the World Heritage Tentative List in 2005, it should be stressed that the situation remains to be of a grave concern. In particular, according to the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine and media reports, restoration works are to be conducted on a roof of The Big Khan Mosque, including construction of iron awning over the principal front of main building of the Khans palace. The mentioned works are meant to be supervised by designers who have no experience in restoration of historic buildings. There are also grounded doubts that they possess necessary licenses to conduct the relevant works.

Taking into consideration the afore-mentioned, the planned construction could pose a threat of damaging the property. Due to the location of the Crimean Peninsula, there are strong and frequent winds which adversely affect the property during restoration works. Moreover, the



construction in question does not foresee an adequate drainage system which in turn could cause destruction of existing water discharge facilities due to overflow.

The lack of designer's supervision is also a matter of concern. As of today, the experienced designers that had been supervising the site for more than a decade in full accordance with a coherent plan of actions, were dismissed, and the results of their work have been ignored.

### **Complex of the Sudak Fortress Monuments of the 6th – 16th c.**

Another important challenge has arisen from the intent or grave negligence by the Russian occupation authorities with regard to the preservation of Sudak Fortress submitted in 2005 to UNESCO's Tentative List.

For the detailed description of problems related to the preservation of the mentioned cultural property, please refer to the images attached hereto (3 pgs.).

#### **- Illicit trafficking of cultural property**

The amount and the frequency of illicit transfer of Ukrainian cultural property to Russia from the territory of Crimea continues to cause a significant concern.

As it has been previously reported, in March 2016, **38 paintings were moved from the Aivazovsky National Art Gallery** for the exhibition to the Tretyakov State Gallery which was held in Moscow in July 2016.

Recently, it has become known, that only some paintings have been returned to the Ivan Aivazovsky National Art Gallery after the exhibition at the State Tretyakov Gallery, the rest of paintings have been moved to St.Petersburg for the exhibition «The 200th anniversary of Ivan Aivazovsky » in the National Russian Museum (opened 22 December 2016). Hence, it is worth recalling, that the Russian delegation assured the 4th session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) in October 2016, that all the paintings would be returned to their home museum in Feodosia right after the end of the exhibition in Moscow. It is worth noting, that apart from paintings, some other valuable objects have also been illegally moved from the Feodosia National Art Gallery to Russia.

These facts prove that Russia does not fulfil its obligations under the international law, and clearly demonstrate that illegal operations with the cultural property of Ukraine, who is the sole legitimate owner of the said objects, have sadly become a regular practice in the Russian Federation.

#### **- Illicit archaeological researches and excavations**

Russia continues to conduct **illicit archaeological researches and excavations** in the occupied territory (Ukrainian authorities have not granted their permission to conduct such works), as well as to export archaeological objects found during such researches, that is a direct violation of Articles 2, 3, 4, 11 of the UNESCO 1970 Convention. The clear evidence of such practice is the statement of the Director of the State Hermitage in St. Petersburg (Russia) M. Piotrowski at the 386th meeting of the Federation Council of Russia on recent constant enrichment of the museum with new exhibits originated from the Crimean Peninsula.

According to Russian media reports, the occupying authorities, are planning to implement a research project on the occupied peninsula linked to the events of Crimean war in the middle of 19th century, in particular to carry out archaeological excavations, as well as to publish relevant books and magazines and to organize youth archaeological camps.

In the light of the above, it should be noted that 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its First Protocol (1954), inter alia, prohibit any

archaeological excavations in relation to the occupied territory as well as any alteration to cultural property.

- Freedom of conscience and traditional religions as an integral part of cultural life of Crimean population

The occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation has led to gross violations of the freedom of religion, such as intimidation of members of the clergy, discrimination, intentional bureaucratic delays and other obstacles, destruction of the property of religious communities, imposition by the occupying power of alternate religious groups, introduction of new religious authorities designed to upset the balance of interconfessional relations. These acts violate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion enshrined in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 19 December 1966.

Currently, one of the main obstacles to the continuing existence of religious communities is the obligation imposed on them to re-register themselves in accordance with Russian legislation.

These communities report that the procedure entails almost insurmountable problems, owing to the enormous quantity of information they have to submit in writing and the cumbersome procedures for providing the information.

Any failure to re-register leads to major legal problems and difficulties in the use of municipal services, including the deactivation of lighting and heating and, in general, impediments to the use of churches and other places of prayer. According to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the requirements laid down by the Russian Federation for the registration of NGOs, media entities and religious groups are deliberately used against those who fail to show loyalty to the new government. The repression of the expression of dissident beliefs has significantly reduced cultural breadth and diversity and the scale of civil society in the peninsula.

Artificial legal obstacles and excessively lengthy processes for the consideration of applications, as well as discriminative and sometimes even humiliating rules, established by the Russian authorities, lead to major delays in the re-registration of religious communities in Crimea.

At the same time, the occupying authorities put considerable direct and indirect pressure on all churches (except those which come under the Patriarchate of Moscow), in order to suppress “disloyal” religious communities and increase their influence over the spiritual life of the peninsula.

Many priests have been forced to leave Crimea since the beginning of the Russian occupation. Priests and parishioners who have resisted despite the difficulties and are still present remain under constant pressure.

The occupying authorities have used a wide range of activities to bring about a split in the environment of Muslim religious communities, which were united before the occupation. In order to avoid pressure on religious activities from the occupying authorities, the Muslims of Crimea had been forced to establish the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Crimea (SAMC) in the mainland part of Ukraine, with its headquarters in Kyiv. This decision was also motivated by a great number of Crimean Tatars, who had been forced by the occupying authorities to flee the peninsula. To strengthen this pressure on the Muslim community, an alternate, pro-Russian organization, the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Crimea and Sebastopol, registered after the annexation of the peninsula as a Russian organization. At the same time, using criminals they have hired, the occupying authorities have been threatening Islamic centres.

Here are just several out of numerous facts registered throughout the period since October 2016 till February 2017 that may serve a vivid evidence of what the situation in Crimea in religious sphere is like nowadays.

On 2 December 2016 the Christian Church "The Voice of Hope" in Bakhchisarai which belongs to the All-Ukrainian Union of Evangelical Pentecostal Christians has been served with the decision of the occupation authorities in Crimea on the ban of religious services of the community in the church that belonged to it for 10 years. It is important to mention that the mentioned church was used not solely for prayers, but was an essential focus of assistance to low-income families and homeless people; it hosted two rehabilitation centers for drug and alcohol addicted.

Also, earlier in December 2016 a group of armed law enforcement officers stormed a mosque in the village Mamashay (Orlovka) and took into custody to the Kaczynski police outpost a group of Muslim worshippers. Zaire Smedlyayev, the head of the Central Executive Committee of the Kurultai (national popular assembly) of Crimean Tatars who made this fact public, stressed that provocations against Muslims traditionally take place during their community holidays and commemorative dates.

According to the report by the Crimean Human Rights Group, the imam of the local "Khan Jami" mosque Elmar Abdulganiyev was arrested by police on 4 November 2016 in Yalta without presenting any arrest warrant. The imam has been falsely accused of "storing and distributing extremist literature", this accusation being a notorious standard persecution formula widely used by occupying authorities against Crimean Tatar activists and spiritual leaders. Investigation and subsequent trial at the "Yevpatoria city court" have been conducted with numerous violations of internationally recognized judicial principles, including the use of false evidence, obstruction to the advocacy and limiting the public access to the process.

The occupying authorities, without any consultations with Crimean Tatar community and despite the repeated objections of archaeologists, have appropriated the historic site where the ancient Juma-Jami mosque in Feodosiya once stood, and transferred this land plot to the ownership of Russian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate in order to use it for the construction of the premises for religious services of the mentioned Church.

According to His Holiness Clement, the Archbishop for Simferopol and Crimea of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Kyiv Patriarchate, the representation of Kyiv Patriarchate in the Crimea is on the edge of total disappearance. In particular, the St. Mary Church in Perevalne village as well as Martyr Clement Church in the city of Sevastopol have been destroyed, while the churches in Krasnoperekopsk, Saki and Leninsky district were closed. The Archbishop informed that as of the beginning of 2017, the active service of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Kyiv Patriarchate is limited only to Simferopol, Belogorsk and Pervomaisky district. His Holiness Clement stressed in this context the following:

"Today we have only 9 full-fledged parishes, where the worship services are still active. There are only 13 priests of our Patriarchate in Crimea, half of whom are, in fact, "working in shifts" because they were forced to move their families out of the peninsula due to the constant threat to life for their children. "

## **Education**

Throughout the period of occupation of Crimea, the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science of the Russian Federation (Rosobrnadzor) has drastically limited curricula in relation to teaching in the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages at all levels.

The education system in Crimea has been entirely changed over to the Russian language. Most of schools and classes with instruction in the Ukrainian language were requalified into instruction in Russian. Only 0.5% of children currently have the possibility to learn Ukrainian. In connection with this, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation has undertaken a massive compulsory "re-education of teachers of Ukrainian language and literature" for teaching in Russian. Particularly, the mentioned subjects are gradually becoming optional. All post-graduate

programmes in Ukrainian philology, as well as almost all chairs in higher educational institutions have been closed.

Only one school with instruction completely in Ukrainian remains operational out of seven that existed before occupation. The number of Ukrainian classes in schools has been reduced to one-six comparing to the quantity registered before occupation. The school curricula are being drafted the way that forces the Crimean schoolchildren to skip Ukrainian classes due to the fact that they are superimposed on the classes in mandatory subjects.

There is also a serious problem with study of subjects in Crimean Tatar language. As of today, 2.76% of schoolchildren in Crimea are learning Crimean Tatar language. The units in scientific and educational institutions, especially higher institutions which were focused on the study of Crimean Tatar culture have been shut. As a result, teachers and researchers engaged in the study of this subject lost their jobs.

The Russian Federation is creating a fake reality, absolutely incompatible with international law, in particular through adoption of decisions aimed at integrating in school textbooks information on the «accession of Crimea to the Russian Federation». Moreover, in accordance with the the “Guidelines on the specificities of teaching of history and social studies in 2015/2016 and the criteria of evaluation” elaborated by the Crimean Republican Institute of Postgraduate Education under occupation, the new history textbooks that are being mandatorily introduced into secondary school programs, are based on a largely politicized concept of history teaching developed by the Russian Historical Society. This concept envisages, in particular, that the course “The history of Russia” should seize at least 60-70% of world history class time throughout the secondary education period. The course of history of Ukraine was reduced to zero. No doubt, such initiatives have negative impact on the schooling of children as they are not just distorting the real picture of the situation, but do not allow children to obtain an adequate knowledge of world history.

## **Science**

With the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation Ukraine has lost several unique science centers in Crimea. Among them are world-renowned Marine Hydrophysical Institute (MHI), the A.O.Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas (IBSS) and Black Sea Center for Underwater Research, all three in Sevastopol. The first two institutes had over 150 scientists each working locally in the research facilities; they disposed of 2 research vessels each (among which the unique research vessel "Professor Vodyanytsky" which belonged to the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), as well as of laboratories, training courses and libraries with over 100,000 items each, including the printed editions of the late XVIIIth and early XIXth centuries. All three were active participants of UNESCO programs and conference activities. The Marine Hydrophysical Institute has been a part of the Black Sea Regional Program in Marine Sciences and Services and of the Global Oceanographic Data Archaeology and Rescue Project, both within the framework of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee. The Black Sea Center for Underwater Research, that has been continuously taking an active part in the implementation of the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, had to evacuate its scientists and facilities from Crimea to the city of Mykolaiv and restart their activities anew which took substantial time and funding.

The situation with A.O.Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas is much worse. The facilities of the Institute have not been transferred to the continental part of Ukraine, and only a few members of personnel including its Director V.Yeremeev were able to move to Kiev without any research papers or equipment necessary for further scientific work. This, in particular, prevented V.Yeremeev from participation in the last two Assemblies of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in 2015 and 2016, although he remained the official representative of Ukraine in its Executive Council, and throughout the last ten years has been actively taking part in IOC activities.

The Ukrainian science has lost also 3 biosphere reserves as well as the 204-year-old Nikitsky Botanical Garden near Yalta with established research base. All in all, 22 unique centers of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (including those actively participating in UNESCO-led programs and research activities) with their unique scientific equipment and invaluable research archives has been forcefully taken away.

Ukraine has also been deprived of its unparalleled scientific facilities in astrophysics and space science situated on the peninsula. Ukrainian Academy of Sciences lost several invaluable assets with the annexation of Crimea. To name just a couple of them, the Crimean Laser Observatory, the Crimean Astrophysics Observatory which has a unique radio telescope, a powerful reflector telescope and a large solar telescope. The National Control and Test Center for Space Systems in the city of Evpatoria, which has the satellite flight control facility and one of the world's most powerful radio telescopes, as well as the Space Monitoring Center situated at Cape Chersonese were not only forcefully taken away from Ukraine but afterwards were immediately handed over to the Military Space Defense Command of the Ministry of Defense of Russia.

Ukraine desperately lacks the national facility of this type in order to continue its satellite program (in particular, the operation of the modern Ukrainian telecommunication satellite "Lybid" which is to provide the functioning of the national satellite communication system), and does its best to revive the National Control and Test Center for Space Systems in new locations, but this requires extensive investments and logistical efforts.

As a result of the occupation of Crimea and dispossession of premises and equipment, some areas of research are currently lost for the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, including those within the sphere of UNESCO programs. Primarily, this concerns a comprehensive study of the basic processes of the modern evolution of the ecosystem of the Black and Azov seas and other regions of the oceans; fundamental and applied physics and climate research in marine environment; development of tools and methods of operational oceanography; the implementation of modern information technologies and systems for collecting, processing, analysis and use of oceanographic data; geomechanical study of stress-strain and gas-dynamic state of the rock mass to ensure the efficient and safe operation of mineral deposits; research of rock mass and the earth's surface, the impact of mining on groundwater and surface facilities and the development of measures to protect them; studies in the area of history and culture of Crimea from ancient times to the present, including archaeological excavations; experimental activities in centimeter- and millimeter-wavelength radio astronomy; laser ranging satellite research to address the problems of space geodynamics; development and modernization of methods and technology of laser-based geolocation.

Given the total absence of international control over the archaeological activities on the occupied peninsula and taking into consideration that Russia bears no obligations under the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, the situation in this sphere is non-transparent and causes great concerns as to potential looting of the underwater heritage and its illegal trafficking of the goods of the sunken cultural property.

## **Sports**

Russia has expropriated a number of Ukrainian sports facilities situated in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) thus depriving Ukrainian sportsmen of the possibility to use them for training and preparation for the international competitions, Olympic, Paralympic and Deflyampic games:

- Olympic Sport Centre "SPARTAK", city of Alushta (The Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine).
- "National Centre of Paralympic and Deflyampic training and rehabilitation for people with disabilities", city of Eupatoria (The National Committee of sports and people with disabilities).

- Training Centre “DYNAMO”, city of Feodosia (The Central Council of physical training).
- Olympic training centre “AVANGARD”, city of Sevastopol (The Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine).
- The Centre for training of Olympic reserve “PARUS”, city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)
- State Municipal Company “Sport Recreative complex named after 200 year of Sevastopol”, city of Sevastopol (Ukraine).

## Conclusions

The occupation of Crimea by Russia led to massive and systemic violations of human rights on the Crimean Peninsula. Under international law, the Russian Federation bears full responsibility for human rights violations in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as an occupying power in effective control of the Crimean peninsula, and is obligated to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms in Crimea in line with the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is party, as well as its commitments as UNESCO Member State to uphold those human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The most vulnerable groups suffering from human rights violations, including those within the scope of UNESCO mandate, are Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians due to the policy of intolerance and discrimination pursued by the occupying authorities on the grounds of ethnic origin and religion. Thousands of Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians had to leave their homes in Crimea and flee to the Ukrainian mainland.

The areas of freedom of expression, conscience, and religion; the right to peaceful assembly and association; freedom of the media and access to information; the right to a fair trial and effective remedy; the right to education in one’s native language; and linguistic and cultural rights are of particular concern.

The occupying authorities have imposed severe limitations on media freedom and freedom of expression in Crimea, where Ukrainian television channels are switched off and replaced with channels originating from the Russian Federation, Crimean Tatar media organizations are forced to close, and the journalists are threatened, intimidated, and persecuted.

The education in and of the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian languages is disappearing in Crimea through pressure on school administrations, teachers, parents and children to discontinue teaching in and of this languages, which further limit the presence of the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian culture on the peninsula.

The losses that Ukrainian science and culture have suffered due to the annexation of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are difficult to underestimate. Ukraine has been deprived of the World Heritage site “Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora”, numerous historical and architectural sites of a national significance, museums, biosphere reserves, scientific centers, including those actively participating in UNESCO-led programs and research activities.

The occupying authorities continue to actively transfer and redistribute the cultural property belonging to Ukraine to the ownership of the Russian federal governmental institutions, often with a lack of transparency. In the absence of external monitoring and supervision, the illicit trafficking of Ukrainian cultural property from Crimean museums for exhibitions has assumed significant proportions.

The list of violations of fundamental human rights on the Crimean Peninsula within the spheres of UNESCO’s competence presented in this information document cannot be exhaustive. The main reason for this is the lack of systemic and independent monitoring of the situation on the ground (*the only international monitoring mission directly on the peninsula throughout the last twelve*

months was undertaken by the “Amnesty International” in September 2016; its results have been published in a detailed report “Crimea in the Dark. The Silencing of Dissent”). The atmosphere of impunity created by the occupying state due to the total absence of transparency leads to further growth of human rights violations in Crimea and results in depriving the Crimean population of the values promoted by UNESCO and widely accessible before the occupation.

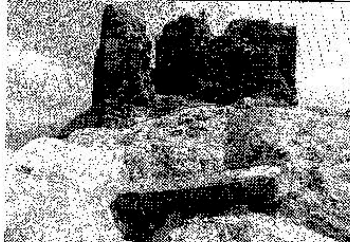
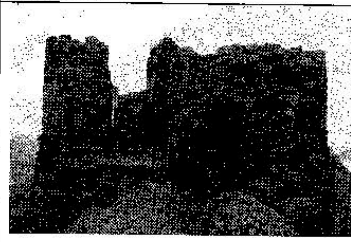

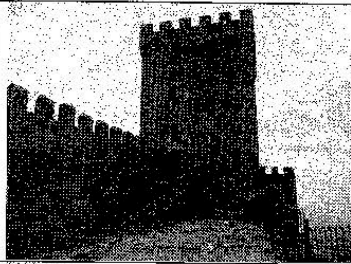
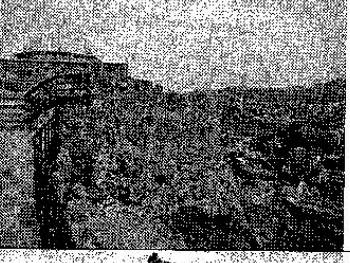
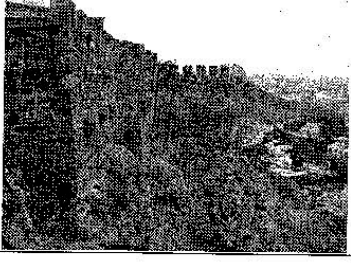
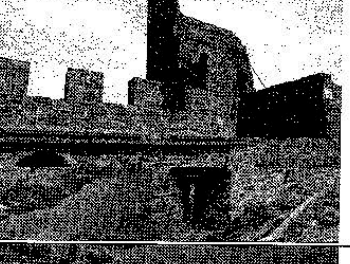
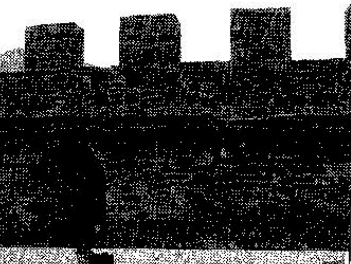




Russia hampers or bans access to the peninsula of the international observers and monitoring groups that collect information on the violations of human rights in Crimea. For example, in November 2016 the Russian Federation denied access to the Crimea and the city of Sevastopol to at least three delegations – of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI, the fifth monitoring cycle), the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (fourth monitoring cycle), and the Committee of experts of the European Charter of regional languages and languages of national minorities.

In addition, the United Nations monitoring mission for human rights in Ukraine, acting at the invitation of the Ukrainian government since March 2014 and having within its mandate a provision on monitoring the human rights situation in Crimea, cannot get access to the occupied peninsula for almost three years.


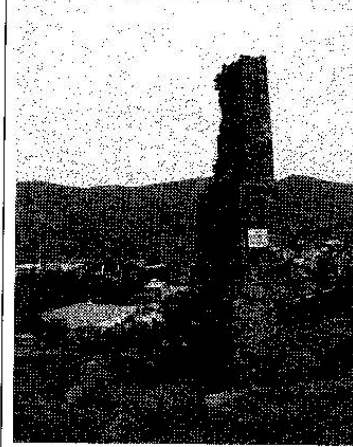
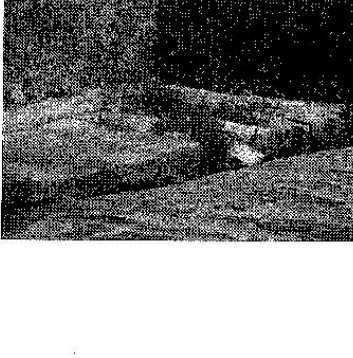
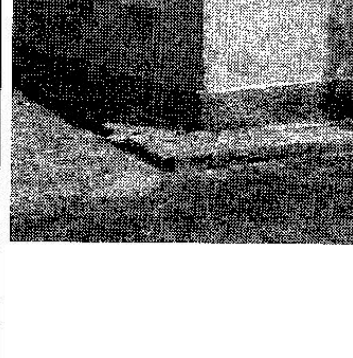

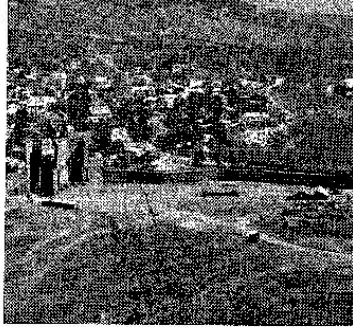
The major amount of the violations of human rights in Crimea pertaining to the spheres of direct UNESCO’s competence has not been covered by the monitoring activities of other institutions, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, due to specificity of their mandates. The scope of violations of United Nations and UNESCO norms and sanctions in Crimea keeps growing at alarming rates. The direct UNESCO monitoring of the situation on the peninsula is the only viable answer to this challenge, and there is no other alternative.

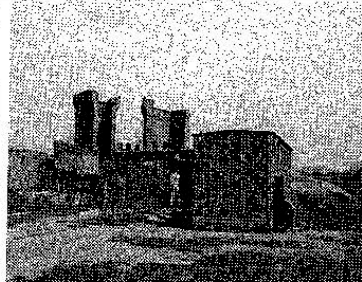






Considering the above-mentioned, Ukraine stands for complete and meaningful implementation of the Executive Board’s decisions adopted at its 196th-200th sessions concerning the follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) aimed at creation of result-oriented monitoring mechanism that would efficiently address the major scope of problems in the occupied Crimea within the competence of UNESCO. Ukraine is ready to continue a meaningful dialogue with UNESCO’s Secretariat on the elaboration of parameters of direct monitoring activities based on the ideas expressed by the Director-General in her letter dated 9 September 2016 (Ref.: DG/7/16/6778), and to further provide full assistance to UNESCO’s Secretariat in this respect.

Comparison photo table of 2012-2016 at Sudak Fortress.

Monument	State on June 2012	April 2016	June 2012
<i>Tower №1 Dozorna</i>	<p><u>Emergency</u></p> <p>Cladding destruction is ongoing, threshold was lost..</p>		
<i>Tower №5 donjon of Consular castle</i>	<p><u>Satisfactory</u></p> <p>Closed for observation because of H&amp;S violation.</p>		
<i>Curtain VII</i>	<p><u>Satisfactory</u></p> <p>Deformation (cracks) in the rock base of the, that slides down, it is reinforcement events are required</p>		
<i>Curtain X</i>	<p><u>Emergency</u></p> <p>Increased the number of wall leads, deformation process is ongoing, emergency cladding and foundation reinforcement is required</p>		
<i>Curtain XVIII</i>	<p><u>Unsatisfactory</u></p> <p>Deformation processes are still ongoing, there are cases of stone loses in to the direction of the medical center «Sokil», cladding requires an urgent reinforcement and conservation events.</p>		
<i>Curtain XIX</i>			



<p><i>Tower №19 Nameless</i></p>	<p><u>Emergency</u></p> <p>17.11.2015 the top part of the authentic wall of 15 century has collapsed, no reinforcement works were provided afterwards. .</p>		
<p><i>Kirch</i></p>	<p><u>Unsatisfactory</u></p> <p><i>Roof corrosion of the roof covering is still ongoing, approximately 70% of the painting has lost pavement condition is getting worse</i></p> <p><b>Pavement</b> Pavement destruction is ongoing: subsidence, some plants appeared</p>		
<p><i>Fortress territory, sight disclosure</i></p>	<p>Monument's sight disclosure and perception of the historical environment at the main entrance of the fortress has deteriorated. There are some structures on the territory of the fortress constructed with modern materials that do not fit esthetically and conceptually to the atmosphere of architectural monuments of 14-15 centuries, such as poultry house, a public toilet with foundation, stationary scene. There are some newbuilt administrative structures (modules) at the utility area of the museum close to the curtains. This modules through a considerable height became dominant.</p>		

	<p>Public toilet with newbuilt foundation,</p>		
	<p>Location, size and general view of the scene comparing to the monument</p>		
	<p>Broken toilet modules and garbage under the curtain wall near the main entrance</p>		
	<p>Newbuilt poultry house</p>		

#### IV. INFORMATION FROM INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

##### The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND  
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

3 February 2017

Dear Ms. Bokova,

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 2016, asking for a summary of the latest developments in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) in the fields of UNESCO's competence.

I am pleased to enclose a series of updated excerpts of our reports on the situation of human rights in Ukraine (October 2016 – January 2017) in line with UN GA resolution 68/262 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine. I hope you will find this information useful, and look forward to discussing this matter with you at the next opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein', written over a horizontal line.

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein  
High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms. Irina Bokova  
Director-General  
UNESCO  
Paris

**OVERVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA  
OCTOBER 2016 – JANUARY 2017**

**PREPARED BY OHCHR/HRMMU**

**General Assembly Resolution on Crimea**

On 19 December 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 71/205 on the “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)”. The resolution refers to Crimea being under the “temporary occupation” of the Russian Federation and reaffirms the non-recognition of its “annexation”. It calls on the Russian Federation “as an occupying power” to bring an immediate end to “all the abuses against residents of Crimea,” and to ensure proper and unimpeded access to the peninsula. The UN Secretary General is invited, through consultations with the UN High Commissioner and regional organizations, “to seek ways and means” to ensure access to Crimea to human rights monitoring mechanisms.

**Arbitrary detention, due process and fair trial rights**

HRMMU continued to follow the situation of people whose arrest and detention could amount to an arbitrary deprivation of liberty. Human rights concerns include abusively resorting to anti-extremism and anti-terrorism legislation to criminalize the expression of non-violent views, opinions and beliefs; cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment; and violations of due process, including the right to unimpeded access to legal counsel.

Seven persons were arrested since August 2016 on suspicion of spying for Ukraine or planning acts of sabotage. HRMMU has information that their right to defence has been interfered with: the accused do not enjoy regular access to their lawyers; they are pressured by the investigators to renounce their right to legal counsel; and in some cases, defence lawyers have advised their clients to confess and ‘cooperate’ with the prosecution. There is also credible information that the video confessions where the suspects confirm the accusations against them have been obtained under duress.

On 12 October 2016, the FSB forcefully broke into six Crimean Tatar houses, conducting searches in the presence of children and women, and confiscating religious literature prohibited in the Russian Federation. Five Crimean Tatar men were arrested on suspicion of being members of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a religious group banned for terrorism in the Russian Federation but not in Ukraine. In 2016, 15 Crimean Tatars and Muslims have been detained by the *de facto* authorities in Crimea on suspicion of membership in Hizb-ut-Tahrir. In addition, four other alleged members of this organization arrested in 2015 were found guilty of planning and participating in the activities of an illegal organization. They were sentenced by a Russian Federation court to prison terms of 5 to 7 years although their lawyers portrayed them as Muslim believers having committed no offense and argued for their rights to freely practice their religion.

**Rights of minorities and indigenous peoples**

Eight members of the Mejlis were fined by Crimean ‘courts’ for holding a meeting of the Mejlis on 28 September. They were gathering in the house of Ilmi Umerov, one of three deputy chairmen of the Mejlis, to discuss internal policy issues. The sanction was applied after the Mejlis was declared by the ‘supreme court of Crimea’ to be an extremist organization, in April 2016, and banned its activities. The decision was confirmed on 29 September 2016 by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. The Mejlis is viewed by many Crimean Tatars as a traditional organ of an

indigenous people: its members, forming an executive body, were elected by the Kurultai, the Crimean Tatars' assembly. In addition to the national Mejlis - which has 33 members - there are about 2,500 regional and local Mejlis members in Crimea. While approximately 30 Crimean Tatar NGOs are registered in Crimea, HRMMU is of the view that none can be considered to have the same degree of representativeness and legitimacy as the Mejlis and Kurultai.

Repressive measures were applied against individual Mejlis members for their public opposition to the annexation of Crimea. On 18 August, Mejlis Deputy Chairman Ilmi Umerov was forcibly placed in a psychiatric hospital to undergo testing before being released on 7 September. HRMMU considers that this decision, which seemed to have a punitive character, may have amounted to ill-treatment. Umerov was prohibited by Court from leaving the Crimean peninsula. He is accused of having made public calls to undermine the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and risks being sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment. Ilmi Umerov's Russian Federation lawyer, Nikolay Polozov, publicly stated that he was "under pressure" from the Russian Federation Security Service (FSB) to end the defence of his client. In another 'separatism' case, a member of the regional Mejlis Suleyman Kadyrov, was arrested in Feodosiia on 11 October 2016 and charged for having publicly stated six months earlier that "Crimea is Ukraine".

### **Rights of detainees**

A convict from mainland Ukraine with residency in Sevastopol died on 4 December 2016, in a prison facility in the Republic of Adygea (Russian Federation). After his arrest for theft in Sevastopol, he was transferred to serve his sentence in the Russian Federation. The prison facility is the same where on 8 September 2016, another prisoner transferred from Crimea, also died. According to sources inside the colony, both men were suffering from serious ailments and were not provided with necessary medical assistance in violation of their right to health.

On 26 December 2016 the Ombudsperson of Ukraine visited three Crimean Tatars held in custody in Crimea: Akhtem Chiygoz , Ali Asanov and Mustafa Degirmenci. The accused did not complain about their conditions of detention but claimed the charges against them were politically motivated. The three men are the only ones still in detention out of seven people arrested in 2015<sup>1</sup>. They are accused by the *de facto* authorities of having organized and participated in violent protests in front of Crimea's parliament on 26 February 2014. Following clashes, two ethnic Russians died and about 70 demonstrators were injured. HRMMU has questioned the impartiality of criminal proceedings where all the accused belong to the Crimean Tatar community.

### **Right to education**

The start of the 2016-2017 school year confirmed the continuous decline of Ukrainian as a language of instruction, a phenomenon observed since the illegal application of the curriculum of the Russian Federation on the peninsula. Of the seven Ukrainian language education institutions that existed until 2014, the Simferopol Gymnasium School is the only one remaining. This year, however, it ceased instruction in Ukrainian in the first and second grade. The spokesperson of the Crimean 'ministry of education' attributed this to a supposed lack of interest among parents for continuing Ukrainian-language instruction. Elsewhere throughout the peninsula, very few Ukrainian language classes remain.

<sup>1</sup> The seven Crimean Tatars who were arrested are: Akhtem Chiygoz (date of arrest - 29 January 2015), Eskander Kantemirov (date of arrest - 7 February 2015), Eskander Emirvaliev (date of arrest - 18 February 2015), Talyat Yunusov (date of arrest - 11 March 2015), Ali Asanov (date of arrest - 15 April 2015), Eskender Nabiev (date of arrest - 22 April 2015) and Mustafa Degirmenci (date of arrest - 7 May 2015). Akhtem Chiygoz, Ali Asanov and Mustafa Degirmenci are currently in pre-trial detention. Eskander Emirvaliev is not in custody but under written undertaking not to leave his place of residence. Eskander Kantemirov was bailed out on the guarantee by Eskander Bilyalov, Advisor to the so-called Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in Crimea Federal District, chairman of Sakskiy Regional *Mejlis*. On 8 May 2015, on the same conditions, Talyat Yunusov, was released on bail. On 18 June 2015, Eskender Nabiev was released on bail guaranteed by DUMK's leader mufti Emirali Ablaev.

The situation is different for the Crimean Tatars who seem more willing to make use of the possibility to educate their children in their native language. According to the Crimean Tatar NGO 'Maarifchi', out of approximately 20,000 first-grade children, 825 are educated in Crimean Tatar. Instruction in Crimean Tatar language is provided in 14 national schools. Another 19 schools have classes in the Crimean Tatar language, including six which have two languages of instruction: Russian and Crimean Tatar; and 13 that use Russian as a language of instruction but have classes in Crimean Tatar.

### **Right to health**

HRMMU documented a third case<sup>2</sup> showing that the availability of public health care has been restricted for those without Russian Federation citizenship. In September 2015, a Crimean resident working in his field seriously injured one eye. He went to the Yevpatoriia city hospital but was refused treatment by the medical personnel. He was turned down due to not having a health insurance whose delivery is contingent upon possession of a Russian Federation passport, which he refuses to have due to his political opinions<sup>3</sup>. The refusal to provide medical assistance on account of one's origin or status, such as citizenship, constitutes a violation of the internationally protected right to the highest attainable level of physical and mental health.

### **Cultural rights**

A district court in Amsterdam ruled on 14 December 2016 that a collection of gold artifacts from Crimea that were on loan to a Dutch museum when the Russian Federation took control of the peninsula must be returned to Ukraine. Ukraine and four Crimean museums had been in a legal battle since 2014 over the fate of the archeological treasures, popularly known as Scythian gold. The Ukrainian government claimed that, as state property, they could not be returned to territory outside its control, while the Crimean museums argued the objects must be returned by the Netherlands to the institutions from which they were on loan. The court said that Crimea was not a sovereign country and so could not claim the treasures as cultural heritage. The Crimean museums appealed the court's decision on 25 January 2017.

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<sup>2</sup> See 13th HRMMU report, paragraph 195 and 14th HRMMU report, paragraph 202.

<sup>3</sup> HRMMU interview, 4 November 2016.

**The Representative on Freedom of the Media of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe**



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
The Representative on Freedom of the Media  
Dunja Mijatović**

380/16

Vienna, 5 December 2016

**Irina Bokova  
Director-General  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization**

Dear Director-General,

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 2016 (Ref: DG/16/8892) with a request for a brief summary of the latest developments in Crimea.

Since the last UNESCO Information Meeting for Member States on 30 September 2016, I have not intervened in developments in Crimea. However, my Office continues to closely monitor the media freedom situation on the peninsula and follow up on the problematic issues that I have raised previously, such as the case of journalist Nikolay Semena from the Krym-realii online media. According to information available to me, Semena remains under house arrest. He has serious health issues and requires urgent professional outside medical treatment. Unfortunately, there are no details about the state of the investigation against the journalist.

As you know, it remains difficult to give a more comprehensive assessment of the current state of affairs of media freedom and safety of journalists in Crimea based on the fact that my Mandate as Representative is limited to addressing issues in participating States. Given Crimea's current status, I am neither able to officially engage with *de facto* authorities nor travel there.

However, during my trips to mainland Ukraine, I continue to meet with journalists and representatives of media organizations from Crimea to discuss media freedom issues and seek ways to offer assistance to them. The last of such visit took place in October 2016 (please see <http://www.osce.org/fom/274761>).

In case you need any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dunja Mijatovic'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Dunja Mijatović

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Wallnerstrasse 6-6a  
A - 1010 Vienna, Austria

Telephone  
+43-1-514 36 6800

Telefax  
+43-1-514 36 6802

E-mail  
[pm-fom@osce.org](mailto:pm-fom@osce.org)

## **Safety, ending impunity for attacks against journalists must remain priorities for Ukraine authorities, OSCE Representative says during Kyiv visit**

KYIV, 14 October 2016 – Ending a four-day visit to Kyiv, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović today welcomed the commitment by the authorities, the media community and civil society to strengthen media freedom in Ukraine. She also called on the authorities to intensify their efforts to end impunity for crimes committed against journalists.

The Representative met Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin and stressed the need to ensure the safety of members of the media and safeguard media pluralism. She stressed that the cases of Ukrainian journalists Roman Sushchenko, detained in Moscow, and Nikolay Semena, under house arrest in Crimea, remain at the top of her agenda.

“I am receiving more reports of threats made against journalists, especially online, and particularly targeting those involved in investigative journalism,” Mijatović said. “Harassing and labeling journalists as traitors is unacceptable in a democracy and it effectively limits members of the media to carry out their work.”

In meetings with the authorities, including the parliament of Ukraine Verhovna Rada, Ministry of Interior and Prosecutor's office, the Representative reiterated the readiness of her Office to assist with media reforms in line with OSCE media freedom commitments and best practices.

Mijatović also met with Sevgil Musaeva, the editor-in-chief of *Ukrainska Pravda*, and paid tribute to journalist Pavel Sheremet, who was killed by a car bomb in July.

“Sheremet’s murder sent a chilling message to the whole media community,” Mijatović said. “All journalists killed in Ukraine, including Georgiy *Gongadze*, Oles Buzina and Vyacheslav Veremyi, deserve full justice to be served. Impunity puts every journalist at risk.”

Mijatović also met with the Director General of the National Television Company, Zurab Alasania, the management and members of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, representatives of INTER TV and other media and civil society representatives from Crimea, Donetsk, Kyiv and Odesa to discuss media freedom issues, especially the pressing issue of journalists’ safety.

“It is unfortunate that I still have not been able to travel to the eastern part of Ukraine and to Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in order to meet journalists and civil society to make first hand assessment of media freedom issues that according to reports need immediate engagement by my Office,” Mijatović said.

“Ukraine has a vibrant media community whose members often have to work under difficult conditions and in dangerous situations,” Mijatović said. “It is encouraging to see the level of support journalists are showing each other.”

*The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media observes media developments in all 57 OSCE participating States. She provides early warning on violations of freedom of expression and media freedom and promotes full compliance with OSCE media freedom commitments.*



## The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

### ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES  
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Ms Irina Bokova  
Director General  
UNESCO  
7, place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris 07, SP, France

Our Ref.: GA/GJ/27

Paris, 6 March 2017

Dear Director General,

ICOMOS thanks you for your letter of 22 February 2017 (Ref. DG/17/1562) with the invitation to attend and report at the next information meeting concerning "Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)" in the fields of UNESCO's competence.

Following ICOMOS' participation at the previous meeting held on 30 September 2016 at UNESCO headquarters, and despite our closely following the situation, ICOMOS has been unable to obtain any new verifiable information. We are therefore regrettably not in a position to provide an up-dated report on latest developments in the field of cultural heritage in Crimea (Ukraine) at this moment in time as per your request.

In addition, we regret that due to prior commitments none of our Board or senior staff members are available on 28 March to attend the meeting, and we ask you to excuse us. Nevertheless, please be assured that ICOMOS will continue to closely follow the situation and that we will not fail to inform UNESCO as soon as we have any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Gustavo Araoz  
President

**Amnesty International (Official Partner of UNESCO, with Associate Status)**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
INTERNATIONAL  
SECRETARIAT  
www.amnesty.org

e: [contactus@amnesty.org](mailto:contactus@amnesty.org)  
t: (+44) 207 413 5500  
f: (+44) 207 956 1157

1 Easton Street,  
London, WC1X 0DW,  
United Kingdom



Reference: TIGO IOR 40/2017.12

Ms Irina Bokova  
Director General  
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization  
7, place de Fontenoy  
F-75352 Paris 07 SP

21 February 2017

Dear Ms Bokova,

Thank you very much for your letter dated November 28, 2016.

As requested, in lieu of our submission to UNESCO, please find enclosed Amnesty International's recent publication on the human rights situation in Crimea titled "Crimea in the Dark: The Silencing of Dissent".

I look forward to meeting you in person this week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salil Shetty".

Salil Shetty  
Secretary General



# CRIMEA IN THE DARK

THE SILENCING OF DISSENT

**Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.**

**Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.**

**We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.**

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**Cover photo:** Armed men stand guard in front of the entrance of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people (the single highest executive-representative body of the Crimean Tatars) in Simferopol on September 16, 2014. Russian police on September 16 raided the assembly of pro-Kiev Crimean Tatars, activists told AFP, days after Crimean residents overwhelmingly backed pro-Kremlin parties in polls. Authorities also raided the homes of two Tatar activists in what the leader of the Tatar governing body, the Mejlis, called the start of "direct repressions" against the peninsula's pro-Kiev community.

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**AMNESTY  
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# INTRODUCTION

In the two and a half years that have passed since the occupation and annexation of Crimea by Russia in violation of international law, in February-March 2014, the peninsula has changed beyond recognition. In violation of international humanitarian law, Russia has fully incorporated the peninsula into the Federation and imported its legislation wholesale, including its more repressive elements.

The annexation of Crimea was presented in Moscow and proclaimed in Crimea as the righting of a historical wrong, indeed, a return to the natural order of things. It has certainly been hugely popular in Russia and was backed by a great many in the peninsula itself. Just how many it is impossible to say: it is difficult to take the results of the “referendum” held shortly after the occupation at face value given the intensity of the repression of opposing voices. Almost two years on, there has been no let up on the part of local and national authorities, for whom the incorporation of the peninsula into the Russian Federation is not enough: they demand complete submission to this brute fact, characterizing – and prosecuting – those who oppose it as extremists and terrorists.

As the most organized focus of opposition, Crimean Tatars have borne the brunt of this repression. Their principle representative structure – the Mejlis – has been banned as an extremist organization; its leaders have been exiled, or face prosecution on a range of trumped up charges. Most other opponents of Crimea’s annexation, including pro-Ukrainian activists were harassed into exile or silence by the de facto authorities and their proxies, including paramilitaries from the so-called Crimean Self-Defence, in the weeks before and immediately after the annexation: many were forcibly disappeared.<sup>1</sup> The case of journalist Mykola Semena highlights the perils for those still minded to speak out.

Beyond the prosecution of individual activists that this briefing focuses on, the full weight of Russia’s repressive legislation has been employed to severely restrict the freedom of assembly and dramatically reduce media freedoms.

Public protest has been virtually extinguished. Since the annexation of Crimea by Russia, independent political, cultural and other events have been disallowed by the local de facto authorities in Crimea. This has affected everything from street protests, to traditional commemorative and cultural events held by Crimean Tatars and gatherings to celebrate Ukrainian culture. There have been rare exceptions when such gatherings have been allowed, but this has typically been in remote locations and under very restricted conditions.<sup>2</sup> More recently, public protest in the Crimean capital, Simferopol, has been completely prohibited after the de facto Mayor of the Crimean capital Simferopol issued, on 7 March, a decree banning all mass public, cultural, entertainment and other events except those organized by the authorities.

Prior to the peninsula’s occupation and annexation by Russia, the media in Crimea operated largely freely: access to printed and broadcast media critical of the authorities was commonplace. This has been lost. Already in 2014, the de facto authorities requested all media outlets to re-register under Russian law by 1 April 2015. They then arbitrarily refused re-registration to specific media outlets, particularly the leading Crimean Tatar-language ones, many of which submitted applications for re-registration several times, forcing them into exile or closure.<sup>3</sup> At least three TV stations, two news agencies and other independent media outlets have been closed. Those that relocated to the mainland Ukraine, like the popular Crimean Tatar-language ATR TV channel, have since been deprived of the opportunities to report freely from and broadcast to Crimea. As with a number other media outlets, ATR TV was also deprived of the opportunity to broadcast on the peninsula via the internet. Under Russian legislation, which allows the authorities to block access to specific websites without a court order for purported violations of Russia’s anti-extremism legislation or calls to “unsanctioned” public assemblies, the channel’s website was entered into the so-called Single Register of online resources which “contain information circulation of which is prohibited in the Russian Federation”. Internet providers are now obliged to restrict access to its website, and internet users from Crimea have reported that since 3 August 2016, the channel’s website is no longer accessible to them. At the same time, the channel’s correspondents are unable to operate openly in Crimea. To do so would expose them to the risk of criminal prosecution, under Russian law, in connection with the channel’s position that control over the peninsula should to be returned back to Ukraine and its criticism of the Russian authorities.

In parallel with the banning of the Mejlis and the silencing of opposition media, the authorities have targeted prominent individual activists in their efforts to stamp out the last remaining vestiges of opposition to peninsula’s annexation. The primary vehicle for this harassment has been criminal prosecution under Russian anti-terrorism and anti-extremism legislation. A growing number of people

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see the following Amnesty International publications: *Crimean Tatars: At risk of persecution and harassment in the new Crimea*, 23 May 2014, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2014/05/crimean-tatars-risk-persecution-and-harassment-new-crimea/>; (accessed 12 December 2016) and *Ukraine: One Year On: Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Expression, Assembly and Association in Crimea*, report, 18 March 2015, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR50/1129/2015/en/> (accessed 12 December 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Once again, the Crimean Tatar community has been particularly affected by these changes. For instance, for years, its members had been holding annual commemorative events throughout Crimea on 18 May. On that date, in 1944, the entire Crimean Tatar population had been deported to remote parts of the USSR, following which its members were not allowed to return to their homeland until the late 1980s. Members of the community were allowed to assemble for the 18 May for the commemoration in 2014 in just one, remote, location, and in the presence of heavy law enforcement force. However, no commemorative assemblies were authorised on that date in 2015, and in 2016 members of the community did not even try applying for the permission in the knowledge that they would not be given it.

<sup>3</sup> For more information see: Amnesty International, “Crimean Tatar media will shut down as arbitrary registration deadline expires”, 31 March 2015, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/03/crimean-tatar-media-will-shut-down-as-arbitrary-registration-deadline-expires/> (accessed 12 December 2016).

faces highly questionable charges of membership of Hizb ut-Tahrir, which is a proscribed organization in Russia. Four of these have been convicted in trials outside Crimea.

No progress has been made in the investigations into the spate of enforced disappearances that followed shortly after the peninsula's annexation, including at least six documented previously by Amnesty International in Crimea (and up to 18 documented by other NGOs).<sup>4</sup> The impunity for these egregious offences has left a lasting legacy. At least one more activist, Crimean Tatar Ervin Ibragimov was forcibly disappeared in 2016.

While few doubt that a majority of residents supported and continue to support the peninsula's incorporation into the Russian Federation, it is equally clear that the move has come at considerable cost to the rights of those who oppose it. By extending restrictive Russian legislation to Crimea, the de facto authorities have significantly curbed the freedoms of assembly, association and expression and prosecuted many individuals in proceedings that have blatantly violated fair trial standards.

However the matter is perceived and presented in Moscow, the fact remains that under international law Russia is an occupying power and has clear obligations as such. This means that the authorities cannot make permanent changes to the legal regime in Crimea. According to both Article 43 of the Hague Regulations and Article 64 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 Russia, as the occupying power, must as a rule, respect the penal legislation that was in force when they occupied the territory. Although Russia can make discrete changes to the applicable law to ensure "the security of the occupying power" and may also promulgate "penal provisions for its own protection" it cannot completely replace the law in force with its own domestic law or change the law, "merely to make it accord with their own legal conceptions."<sup>5</sup> To the extent that Russia replaced in its entirety the penal laws of Ukraine with the laws of Russia it has violated international humanitarian law. In any case, according to Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 the occupying power cannot transfer prisoners outside of the occupied territory. Thus all civilians arrested in Crimea must be tried within the territory and cannot lawfully be transferred to Russia. The obligations on Russia to respect the rights guaranteed in the European Convention on Human Rights, in any case remain untouched, even if they are clearly not being observed.

## METHODOLOGY

Amnesty International researchers conducted over 50 interviews in Crimea and in Kyiv for the purposes of compiling this briefing. Amnesty International's delegates visited the peninsula at the end of September 2016 and traveled to Alushta, Bakchisaray, Bylohyrsk, Simferopol, Sevastopol, Koreiz and Yalta. There, the delegates collected testimonies and photographic evidence pointing to multiple human rights violations which particularly target the most active members of the Crimean Tatar community associated with opposition to the Russian occupation and annexation of Crimea. Representatives of Amnesty International spoke with victims or their relatives, lawyers, local Crimean Tatar activists and journalists. The identity of most of the interviewees has not been revealed on account of the very real risk of reprisals they face. Amnesty International also requested meetings with representatives of the de facto authorities. However, these requests were not granted. In particular, the de facto Prosecutor's Office did not reply to Amnesty International's letter, while representatives of the de facto Ombudsperson of Crimea told the organization that she was travelling and could not receive them, and did not suggest anyone in her stead.

<sup>4</sup> After the annexation by Russia of Ukraine's Crimea in March 2014, Amnesty International has documented a rising number of human rights violations by the *de facto* authorities. In March 2015, the organisation published the report *Ukraine: One Year on: Violations of the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association in Crimea* (AI Index: EUR 50/1129/2015, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR5011292015ENGLISH.pdf>), which offered a detailed overview of its concerns, including several cases of enforced disappearances. For more information on enforced disappearances in Crimea, see also Amnesty International, "Crimea: One year on from annexation; critics harassed, attacked and silenced", 18 March 2015, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/03/crimea-annexation-critics-attacked-and-silenced/> (accessed 12 December 2016).

<sup>5</sup> See also the ICRC commentary of 1958 on Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949.

## THE BANNING OF THE MEJLIS OF THE CRIMEAN TATAR PEOPLE AND PERSECUTION OF ITS LEADERS

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People (hereafter, the Mejlis) is a body elected at an informal all-Crimean Tatar assembly, Kurultai, to represent the community vis-à-vis the local and central authorities. Mejlis members and particularly its current and former leaders, have been subjected to harassment, forcible exile and criminal prosecution, while the body itself was promptly deprived of its offices, formally warned not to engage in “extremist” activities (criticism of the new political realities on the peninsula), and more recently declared an illegal “extremist” organisation. Several activists associated with the Mejlis are currently facing persecution. Their cases are documented below.

On 15 February 2016, the de facto Prosecutor of Crimea initiated a case against the Mejlis alleging that it was an “extremist” organization on the basis of its leaders’ non-violent defiance of the Russian occupation and annexation of Crimea. Prior to this, the Mejlis’ leader Refat Chubarov had been forcibly exiled from Crimea, as was his predecessor, Mustafa Dzhemiliev, a Crimean Tatar veteran human rights activist and informal leader, and another vocal opponent of the occupation. The Mejlis had earlier been forced out of its building in the capital Simferopol after a court ruled that the building’s owner, the charitable Foundation Crimea, had no right to rent it out, and ordered the historic building to be vacated, and then seized the property on account of the owner’s failing to evict its tenants.

On 17 March, the Supreme Court of Crimea began hearing the case brought against the Mejlis by the de facto Prosecutor’s Office alleging that it was an “extremist” organization. The prosecution relied principally on statements made by the exiled Mejlis’ leader, Refat Chubarov, who has refused to recognize the legality of the Russian annexation of Crimea, called for an economic and energy blockade of the peninsula from the mainland Ukraine, and repeatedly called for the control of the peninsula to be returned to Ukraine.<sup>6</sup> The case was concluded on 26 April resulting in the Mejlis’s final closure and banning. However, already on 13 April the de facto Prosecutor of Crimea ruled to suspend the Mejlis’s activities while on 18 April the Russian Ministry of Justice included it in the official register of “extremist organisations”. The listing of the Mejlis as an “extremist organization” meant that its members and supporters from local organisations across Crimea were open to criminal prosecution as “extremists”. Meanwhile, the two remaining in Crimea deputy leaders of the Mejlis, Akhtem Chiygoz and Ilmi Umerov, are facing prosecution on trumped up charges.

## THE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND FORCIBLE CONFINEMENT IN A PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION OF THE MEJLIS’S DEPUTY LEADER ILMU UMEROV

**“In Russia, complete loyalty is obligatory. We are the only people who are not demonstrating it to the authorities. They don’t want us to love them, they want us to fear them,”**

Crimean Tatar activist Ilmi Umerov, in an interview with Amnesty International, 28 September 2016

Following the forcible exile of the Mejlis’s former and current leaders, Mustafa Dzhemiliev and Refat Chubarov, the attention of the Russian and Crimean authorities turned to its deputy leaders. One of them, prominent Crimean activist Ilmi Umerov, became the target of harassment by the security services and was charged under the Russian anti-extremism legislation.

Born in Uzbekistan to Crimean Tatar parents – both of them victims of the 1944 deportation – Ilmi Umerov returned to the peninsula after the ban on the Crimean Tatars’ return was lifted in the late 1980s, and became a prominent member of the community and a local politician. At the beginning of the Russian occupation and annexation of the peninsula, he was serving as the Head of the Bakhchisaray District administration. He resigned in protest in August 2014. Ilmi Umerov has remained an outspoken critic of the annexation and peacefully advocates for the return of Crimea to Ukrainian control.

On 19 March 2016, Umerov gave a TV interview in the Crimean Tatar language, in which he insisted that Russia should be “forced to leave Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk” (the latter two are cities in eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russian armed groups). On 12 May, at around 4 pm, two officials from the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) and a local police officer showed up at Umerov’s house in Bakhchisaray and took him to the FSB headquarters in the Crimean capital Simferopol for questioning. During questioning, he was

<sup>6</sup> Amnesty International, “Crimea: Proposed closure of the Mejlis marks culmination of repressive measures against the Crimean Tatar community”; available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur50/3655/2016/en/> (accessed 12 December 2016).



informed that he was being investigated as a criminal suspect under Article 280.1 of the Russian Criminal Code for “threatening the territorial sovereignty of the Russian Federation.”<sup>7</sup>

In the following months, Umerov was summoned twice more by the FSB for interrogation, but refused to testify against himself and chose not to answer any questions. The Kievskiy District Court in Simferopol placed Umerov under travel restrictions, forbidding him to leave Crimea. Meanwhile, a translated recording of his interview was referred by the investigators for a “linguistic examination” to determine whether his words constituted “extremism”. Umerov and his lawyers have not seen the translation and worry that it might have changed Umerov’s original statements in the Crimean Tatar language.

The FSB also made an application to the court for Ilmi Umerov to undergo a forcible psychiatric examination to assess his mental health. Umerov’s lawyers contested the FSB’s application. On 11 August, during the hearing on the FSB’s request about the psychiatric examination in the Kievskiy District Court in Simferopol, Umerov – who suffers from a number of health conditions, including cardiovascular problems, diabetes and Parkinson’s disease – developed high blood pressure and had to be hospitalised. The judge approved the FSB’s request in Umerov’s absence.

“On 18 August, as I was lying in bed, FSB agents came to the hospital and transferred me to the Psychiatric Hospital number 1 in Simferopol for the forced psychiatric examination”, Ilmi Umerov told Amnesty International. This was done before his appeal could be heard, in violation of Russian law.<sup>8</sup>

On the first day of Umerov’s stay at the psychiatric hospital, he was immediately placed in a “special regime ward” (isolation ward) for patients with severe psychiatric conditions, and on that basis denied a meeting with his lawyers and family. Following mounting international pressure for his release, on the next day, 19 August, Umerov was granted twice-daily visits by family members. He spent a total of three weeks inside the psychiatric institution before his release on 7 September. His “examination” during his 21 day-long forcible confinement consisted of three interviews by the psychiatric staff. Before Umerov’s release, a medical commission concluded that he had no mental conditions that should affect his criminal prosecution.

“I call these three weeks ‘one big torture’. It was very hard to be in contact with patients with actual psychiatric problems. They were constantly trying to talk to me, pull my clothes, screamed. Some of them were always in the toilet, which had no door and was very filthy. There was no privacy at all”, Umerov told Amnesty International.

After his release from the psychiatric institution, the FSB summoned Umerov for further interrogation at least three more times, while also continuing his secret surveillance and harassment. Thus all the fellow Mejlis members he invited to tea on 25 September were subsequently summoned for questioning by the FSB. On 28 September, Umerov was found in violation of Article 20.28 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation (“Organization of activities of a public or religious association in respect of which a decision has been taken to suspend its activities”) and ordered to pay a 750 rouble fine (about US\$ 11) for organising the meeting. Three of his guests were similarly fined for “participating in the activities” of the banned Crimean Tatar Mejlis.

At the time of writing, the criminal investigation into Umerov’s “extremism” case is ongoing. On 2 November, the FSB informed him that he was regarded psychologically stable and that the linguistic expertise had shown that his statements had been “extremist”.

## MEJLIS DEPUTY LEADER AKHTEM CHIYGOZ IN PRE-TRIAL DETENTION FOR 18 MONTHS ON TRUMPED-UP CHARGES

After the forcible exile of the Mejlis’s leader Refat Chubarov in July 2014,<sup>9</sup> the Deputy Chairman Akhtem Chiygoz emerged as its most senior member still residing in Crimea. He in turn was arrested on 29 January 2015 after the *de facto* authorities accused him of having organised “mass disturbances” on 26 February 2014 under Article 212 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, which carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

On 26 February 2014, pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian supporters assembled simultaneously in front of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (the local parliament). Tensions were running high. The police had withdrawn from the streets. At some point skirmishes between pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian supporters erupted, but these were confined to the area where the two opposing crowds met, and both crowds remained for the most part peaceful. According to the existing media footage and eyewitness accounts, Akhtem Chiygoz was one of those who tried to calm the two crowds and keep them apart in order to prevent violence. All

<sup>7</sup> Amnesty International interview with Ilmi Umerov in Bakchisaray, Crimea, 28 September 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Amnesty International considered Ilmi Umerov a prisoner of conscience during his forcible confinement to inside the psychiatric institution, intended as reprisal for his political activism, and called for his immediate and unconditional release and termination of all criminal proceedings against him. For more information, see Amnesty International, “Activist Forcibly Detained in Psychiatric Hospital”, Urgent Action, 6 September 2016, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR5047762016ENGLISH.pdf> (accessed 12 December 2016).

<sup>9</sup> After participating in a Mejlis meeting on 5 July 2014, which was held in mainland Ukraine for security reasons, Refat Chubarov was denied re-entry into Crimea on the *de facto* Russian border post. The Prosecutor of Crimea at the time, Nataliya Poklonskaya, published her decision banning Refat Chubarov from “entering the Russian Federation” for five years.

available evidence from that day suggests that there were no “mass disturbances”, and certainly not in the sense defined in Article 212 of the Russian Criminal Code under which he has been indicted (“mass disturbances accompanied by violence, pogroms, arson attacks, destruction of property, use of arms, explosives, poisonous or other substances and objects that pose danger for those around, as well as armed resistance to a representative of the authority”).

The first court hearing in the case against Akhtem Chiygoz took place on 2 August 2016 in Simferopol after he had already spent more than 15 months in pre-trial detention. The trial judge accepted the prosecution’s request that Akhtem Chiygoz only be allowed to participate in his trial via video-link – from the Simferopol pre-trial detention center less than 500 meters away from the court house. Akhtem Chiygoz’s defense challenged this arrangement, but their application was declined. According to Akhtem Chiygoz’s lawyer, the judge ruled, on procedural grounds, that because the decision to use video conferencing had been made during the pre-trial phase of the investigation it could only be appealed after the court delivers its verdict.<sup>10</sup>

Amnesty International attended a court hearing on 27 September 2016, at which Akhtem Chiygoz was, as usual, present only via Skype. He could not hear everything that was said in court, and the trial had to be interrupted several times because of the bad quality of the internet connection. At one point, the hearing was interrupted because another Crimean court tried to dial in at the Skype address used by the pre-trial detention center where Akhtem Chiygoz was held. Because of the video link, at no point during the hearing was Akhtem Chiygoz able to consult his lawyer in private.

“They have decided to isolate me because of my protests. I would like to be present [in the court room] because here I can’t hear half of the questions”, Akhtem Chiygoz told Amnesty International delegates via the video link during a break.

The two prosecution witnesses who were questioned in court that day confirmed their presence at the demonstration in Simferopol near the Supreme Council building on 26 February 2014. However, neither of them had seen Akhtem Chiygoz or could provide any details on how the events described as mass disturbances had started. One of them told the court that he did not possess any information about Akhtem Chiygoz’s “criminal plan” to organise mass disturbances (one of the allegations against Chiygoz as stated in his indictment and cited in court). The other witness, who had suffered minor injuries and bruising following the clashes, told the court that Refat Chubarov, the leader of the pro-Ukrainian demonstration on 26 February 2014, and Sergey Aksionov, the leader of the pro-Russian demonstration, were addressing their supporters via loud speakers calling for calm. He, like the first witness, had not seen Akhtem Chiygoz on that day either.

According to Akhtem Chiygoz’s lawyer the witnesses’ testimonies heard in court on that day were similar to numerous others. At the time of writing, none of the more than 60 prosecution witnesses called has confirmed seeing Akhtem Chiygoz near the Supreme Council on 26 February 2014 or has been able to describe his role in the “mass disturbances” on that day.

“They [the Russian authorities] are trying to scare all of our people. I’m being prosecuted only because of my political activism and refusing to support them. This is a sham trial”, Akhtem Chiygoz told Amnesty International.

There are also five secret witnesses in the case against Akhtem Chiygoz whose testimonies have not been heard in court yet at the time of writing. His defence team are concerned that their testimonies may be entirely fabricated and yet impossible to challenge as such. The use of secret witnesses and undisclosed evidence in this case is a direct violation of the right to a fair trial. The trial is ongoing.

Amnesty International believes that Akhtem Chiygoz is a prisoner of conscience detained and prosecuted solely in connection with his peaceful political activism and his opposition to the Russian occupation and annexation of Crimea. He should be released immediately and unconditionally, and all charges against him must be dropped.

## THE ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF ERVIN IBRAGIMOV

Crimean Tatar activist Ervin Ibragimov is a former member of the local Bakhchysarai Town Council and a member of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, an international organisation aimed at promoting the rights of Crimean Tatars and their cultural heritage which was set up after the peninsula’s annexation by Russia in 2014. He first became aware of covert surveillance of his activities in May 2016. Ervin Ibragimov told his friends that on 17 May he noticed a car waiting outside his house, which later followed him during the day.

Ervin Ibragimov last spoke to his father on the phone at around 11 pm on 24 May. His father later found his car abandoned outside their home, in Bakchisaray, central Crimea, with the doors open and the key left in the ignition. CCTV footage from a camera at a nearby shop shows a group of men stopping Ervin Ibragimov’s car. He is seen briefly speaking to the men before trying to escape. The men are seen apprehending and forcing him into their van and immediately driving away.

On 25 May, Ervin Ibragimov’s father went to the offices of the FSB in Simferopol to file a complaint and provide the CCTV footage. FSB officers refused to register the complaint and told him to send it by post. The police in Bakhchysarai opened an investigation into the incident and inspected the car. However, at the time of writing, the investigation has not yielded any tangible results.

<sup>10</sup> Amnesty International’s interview with lawyer Nikolay Polozov in Simferopol, Crimea on 27 September 2016.

## PROSECUTION FOR ALLEGED MEMBERSHIP OF A “TERRORIST” ORGANISATION

After the annexation of Crimea, Russia has extended its own laws over the occupied peninsula, in violation of its international obligations as an occupying power. Russian anti-extremism legislation, which is often used to target government critics in Russia, in particular the Law on Combating Extremist Activities, has been used in conjunction with anti-terrorism legislation to bring specious charges against a range of individuals.

Furthermore, hearings into cases concerning “terrorism” charges are reserved only for military courts in Russia. The nearest such court is the North Caucasus Military District Court in Rostov-on-Don in Russia. Putting defendants from Crimea on trial in a military court outside Crimea is a direct violation of the international humanitarian law governing occupation.

At the time of writing, at least 19 individuals have been arrested on charges of being members of Hizb ut-Tahrir.<sup>11</sup> Four were convicted in Rostov on Don in September 2016, in a deeply flawed trial. Amnesty International was able to examine the cases of two further individuals, Emir-Usein Kuku and Muslim Aliev, who were arrested on 11 February 2016 and remain in pre-trial detention: their cases reveal a pattern of harassment and, especially in the case of Emir-Usein Kuku, a paucity of disclosed evidence of criminal wrongdoing.<sup>12</sup> Amnesty International was unable to establish contact relatives and lawyers of the remaining suspects during its mission to Crimea and is therefore not in a position to express a view on the probity of the charges against them, though the broader pattern of abuses inevitably casts its shadow on all these cases.

In all these cases, the charges of Hiz ut-Tahrir membership either appear manifestly unfounded or there are serious doubts regarding the probity of the respective charges, raising serious fair trial concerns.

### THE “SEVASTOPOL FOUR”

Four men have already been put on trial in Rostov-on-Don in Russia and convicted of membership of Hizb ut-Tahrir, and received prison sentences of between five and seven years, while 15 others are currently in pre-trial detention in Crimea while their cases are being investigated.

On 7 September 2016, the North Caucasus Military District Court found Ruslan Zeitullaev, Rustem Vaitov, Nuri Primov and Ferat Saitullaev guilty of membership of a Hizb ut-Tahrir cell in Sevastopol. Ruslan Zeitullaev was sentenced to seven years in prison for being the “organiser” of the cell, and the three other men received a five-year sentence each.

Numerous fair trial concerns arose in connection with their trial. In particular, during the court hearings, several prosecution witnesses retracted their statements given before the trial. One man, a shepherd from Sevastopol, told the court that during his questioning the investigating FSB officer had warned him that if he did not sign the paper in front of him he would end up in jail with the other four. Others cited similar forms of pressure on them during the investigation when they retracted their statements in court.

According to one of the defence lawyers in the case against the four men, only one piece of evidence could in principle be considered as supporting the prosecution’s claim that the four men were members of Hizb ut-Tahrir: an audio and video surveillance tape which recorded a conversation between the four men in an acquaintance’s house when they were discussing religious topics. Only 10 minutes of the 90 minute-long conversation recording were played in court, followed by the testimony of a secret witness delivered over a video link who, unlike most or all of the prosecution witnesses who appeared in court in person, reiterated his earlier statement in front of the judge and the defendants.<sup>13</sup>

The prosecution appealed the sentence and requested a longer jail term for Ruslan Zeitullaev, while the lawyers of the four men appealed the conviction. At the time of writing, an appeal hearing is still pending.

<sup>11</sup> Hizb ut-Tahrir was recognized a terrorist organisation by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on 4 February 2003. The Court’s decision stated:

“Islamic Revival Party” (“Hiz ut-Tahrir”) [is] an organisation that aims to eliminate non-Islamic governments and establish Islamic rule worldwide by reinstating the “World Islamic Caliphate”, initially in regions with a predominantly Muslim population, including Russia and the CIS countries.

The main forms of [its] activities: militant Islamic propaganda combined with intolerance to other religions; active recruitment of supporters, intentional activity to achieve division of the society (primarily propaganda with powerful financial backing). (Quoted in <http://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/articles/234923/>).

<sup>12</sup> On 11 February 2016, the Russian security service arrested officials Enver Bekirov and Vadim Siruk as part of the same case as Emir-Usein Kuku and Muslim Aliev, and charged them with membership in the same Hizb ut-Tahrir “cell”. Nine other men were arrested in April, May and October in different parts of Crimea and accused, in separate cases, of membership of Hizb ut-Tahrir. Refat Alimov and Arsen Dzhepparov were arrested on 18 April in Krasnokamenka, a suburb of Yalta, Southern Crimea. Four others - Zevri Abseitov, Remzi Memetov, Rustem Abiltarov and Enver Mamutov – were arrested on 12 May in Bakchisaray. Finally, Timur and Uzeir Abdullaevs, Rustem Ismailov, Ayder Saedinov and Emil Dzhemadenov were arrested on 12 October 2016 in Kamenka and Stroganovka, villages in Central and Northern Crimea. All of these nine men were on remand and awaiting trial at the time of writing.

<sup>13</sup> Amnesty International’s interview with lawyer Emil Kurbetdinov in Simferopol, Crimea on 30 September 2016.

## **THE HARASSMENT, BEATING AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST EMIR-USEIN KUKU**

Emir-Usein Kuku has been detained on remand since February 2016 on highly dubious charges of membership of a terrorist organization, namely Hizb-ut Tahrir (Article 205.5 of the Russian Criminal Code). He was a local civil servant in Yalta and Koreiz administrations at the time of the beginning of the Russian occupation and annexation of Crimea, and is a well-known member of the local Crimean Tatar community. His trial has not yet begun.

Emir-Usein first told his wife Meriem Kuku that an FSB operative had visited him at work in July 2014 and tried to convince him to become an FSB informant. In the months that followed, the FSB officer reiterated his “offer” of “cooperation” at least three more times. Emir-Usein’s wife, Meriem Kuku, was also approached once by the same FSB officer in autumn 2014, outside the school attended by their children while waiting to collect them, but she refused to talk to him.<sup>14</sup>

Following the wave of enforced disappearances of Crimean Tatars, in October 2014 Emir-Usein Kuku decided to join the newly established Crimean Human Rights Contact Group. It was created by the relatives of missing persons with the purpose of engaging with the authorities and monitoring the progress of the official investigations. As part of this initiative, Emir-Usein Kuku often travelled to document new cases of disappearances. He also participated in public meetings of the Contact Group.

On 20 April 2015, at around 8 am, Emir-Usein Kuku was walking towards the bus stop near his house on his way to work. At the time, according to eyewitnesses, two men in civilian clothing were waiting for Kuku in a Gazel minibus on a street near his home. The Gazel’s bonnet was open but the two men were sitting inside. Emir-Usein Kuku found this suspicious and turned towards a busy petrol station. The men came rushing out of the minibus, chased Emir-Usein Kuku, threw him on the ground and started kicking him in the head and torso. When he asked who they were, the men said: “Wait, you’ll see our identity soon”. A large crowd of witnesses gathered around the two men as they were beating him. Two more men with masks and automatic rifles came out of the minibus and the people beating Emir-Usein Kuku pointed at them, saying: “See, this is our identity”. Together, the four men forced Emir-Usein Kuku into the minibus and drove to the FSB station in Yalta.

About an hour later Kuku was returned to his home, again in a Gazel minibus. Eight more men with masks and automatic rifles came out with him and followed him to his door. He was limping. Another minibus with at least a dozen more masked men with automatic rifles also arrived, and the men took positions around Emir-Usein Kuku’s house. The only man without a mask was the FSB officer who, according to Emir-Usein Kuku, had repeatedly tried to recruit him as an informant. He produced a search warrant. While officers were searching his house, the FSB officer started questioning Emir-Usein Kuku about his “extremist” activities on social media and enquiring what kind of websites he visited. Meriem Kuku overheard the FSB officer promising to her husband that he would “put [him] in jail for Hizb ut-Tahrir”. The search was brief, according to Meriem Kuku, and the FSB seized their two computers, several books and Emir-Usein’s mobile phone but did not arrest him then.

On the next day, Emir-Usein Kuku visited a doctor and got a medical record of his injuries. He was advised that he required hospitalisation, but refused to be admitted to the hospital and went to the local police station to complain about his beating. On 1 May 2015, Emir-Usein Kuku learned that the local police refused to open a criminal investigation into his allegations citing the “absence of the elements of a crime” as the reason. Three months later, in August 2015, he was called in by the Military Investigative Committee in Yalta and informed that the FSB had opened a criminal case against him about him having assaulted two of their officers on 20 April.

On 3 December 2015, the Investigative Committee in Yalta called Emir-Usein Kuku and informed him that he was under criminal investigation for posting extremist material on his social media accounts. During his interrogation, the investigator asked about 42 online items that Kuku had posted on the social media, including his posts about the Mejlis and its leaders.

On 11 February 2016, around 6.45 am, Emir-Usein and Meriem Kuku were woken by the noise of the door to their house being knocked down. Two masked men with automatic rifles, two civilian men attending as witnesses, and five investigators entered their house. The investigators introduced themselves as FSB officers and produced a search warrant.

After about five hours of very thorough and intrusive searching, the men took away Emir-Usein Kuku and seized one computer, two mobile phones and one tablet. One of the FSB officers told Meriem Kuku: “Your husband brought this upon himself and you’ll go bonkers in the evening”. Later in the day, Emir-Usein Kuku was officially named a criminal suspect accused of being a member of Hizb ut-Tahrir and put in pre-trial detention, where he remains at the time of writing.

Emir-Usein Kuku has denied membership of this organisation. As a public figure in his community, he is not known to have had any links to Hizb ut-Tahrir, nor does he have a history of activities likely to make him a member. According to his lawyer, the only substantive piece of evidence that could possibly link Kuku to Hizb ut-Tahrir is a wiretapped conversation between him, Muslim Aliev (see below) and two other men on 5 October 2015. According to his lawyer, he could remember the conversation, during their private meeting, which concerned politics and the general situation in Crimea. There is an official FSB surveillance record about this conversation in Kuku’s case file. However, his lawyer has been denied access to the transcript of the conversation, which is classified, undermining Emir-Usein’s ability to challenge his ongoing detention on remand.

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<sup>14</sup> Amnesty International’s interview with Meriem Kuku on 29 September 2016 in Koreiz, southern Crimea.

Like Akhtem Chiygoz, Emir-Usein Kuku is unable to attend his remand hearings other than via video link (these have to happen regularly to extend his pre-trial detention). The connection quality is poor, and Emir-Usein Kuku cannot hear properly what is going on inside the courtroom. It has also prevented him from seeing his family, who are not able to visit him in pre-trial detention center in which he is being held.

While he has been in pre-trial detention, Emir-Usein Kuku has been visited at least twice by the same FSB officer who tried to recruit him as a secret informant, who repeated his demands - which Emir-Usein again refused.

Emir-Usein Kuku's family has continued to face harassment since his arrest. On 2 March 2016, around 3.20 pm, an unknown man approached Emir Usein's nine year-old son Bekir near his school while he was waiting for his aunt to pick him up. The man told the boy that he "worked for the FSB" and that his father "did a bad thing and will rot in jail for 10 to 12 years". Scared, the boy told his mother and with the help of Emir-Usein's lawyer, the family filed a complaint with the local police about this incident. No progress has been made in the investigation into the incident – which has since been turned against Emir-Usein himself.

On 26 September 2016, the local inspector for juvenile cases (*inspektor politsii po delam nesovershennoletnikh*) in Koreiz phoned Meriem Kuku. She informed her that, following a request from the Investigative Committee, she was looking into why Emir-Usein was unable to protect his son from harassment by a stranger. When Meriem told the inspector that she should talk to their lawyer first, the inspector insisted that she wanted to meet Bekir on his own and question him about his father. After Meriem refused, the inspector went to Bekir's school and spoke to his teachers. Meriem Kuku fears that these enquiries may have been initiated by the de facto authorities with the intention of stripping her and Emir-Usein of the custody over their son Bekir.

Amnesty International considers the charges against Emir-Usein Kuku to be unfounded and that he is being persecuted for his human rights activities and the legitimate expression of his views. All criminal charges against him must be immediately dropped, and he should be released immediately and unconditionally.

## **ACTIVIST MUSLIM ALIEV DETAINED AND PROSECUTED AFTER CHALLENGING THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES**

Muslim Aliev is an informal leader in his local Muslim community in Alushta, southeastern Crimea. For some time, he has acted as the organizer of the community during conflicts with the local Islamic authority, the Muftiat. In the view of many Crimean Tatars, after the Russian occupation and annexation of Crimea, the Muftiat has been coopted by the de facto authorities, trading its loyalty in exchange for their support. Muslim Aliev's family believe that these conflicts have prompted the criminal investigation against him for membership of a terrorist organization alongside Emir-Usein Kuku.

According to Muslim Aliev's wife Najie, at around 6.30 am on 11 February, a group of armed masked men burst into their house, while they and their four children were sleeping. They were told to lie on the ground at gunpoint. The men proceeded to search their house. One of them presented his identification as an FSB officer and told the family that they were looking for guns, drugs and munitions. When Muslim Aliev insisted on calling a lawyer, he was told that he had no such right.<sup>15</sup>

"They were very rude. Everyone had dirty boots and they went everywhere in our house. One of them threw the Quran to the ground and did not let me pick it up, despite my pleas", Najie Alieva described the search to Amnesty International.

The search lasted over six hours, and nothing in the house was left untouched. The officers conducting it appeared intent on taking every opportunity to humiliate the family. For instance, when searching the cellar where the Alievs keep bags of flour, the officers joked that it might be cocaine. One of them addressed the Aliev's youngest son with a question: "When you grow up, do you want to be like us? To dunk people like your father?"

When the search was over, none of the items the FSB officers purported to be looking for were found. Instead, they confiscated some religious books, the tablet and the family's computer, and took Muslim Aliev away, without announcing where they were taking him despite Najie Alieva's repeated pleas to be informed of this.

At about 8 pm, Muslim Aliev called his wife and told her that he was in Simferopol, in the FSB headquarters. After questioning him, the FSB investigators named him a criminal suspect accused of "organising activities of a terrorist organisation", a crime under Article 205.5 of the Russian Criminal Code, punishable by imprisonment of up to 20 years in connection with his supposed membership of Hizb ut-Tahrir. At the time of writing, criminal proceedings against Muslim Aliev are ongoing and he remains in pre-trial detention.

<sup>15</sup> Amnesty International's interview with Najie Alieva in Alushta, Crimea on 28 September 2016.

## HARASSMENT OF LAWYERS WORKING ON “TERRORISM” AND “EXTREMISM”-RELATED CASES

Lawyers representing several of those mentioned in this briefing have themselves become targets of harassment, including threats of criminal prosecution and the withdrawal of their professional licenses. Thus, Nikolay Polozov, who is representing Akhtem Chiygoz, was informed on 20 September that the Investigative Committee of Crimea, acting upon request from the Crimean Prosecutor's Office, had instigated a pre-investigation inquiry into his posts on the social media. If the content of his online posts were found to constitute criminal offense under Russian law, this would lead to him losing his professional license (status *advokata*).

Unlike Nikolay Polozov, who is based in Russia and travels regularly to Crimea to represent his clients, lawyer Emil Kurbetdinov lives and works in Crimea. He represented the four defendants in the “Hizb ut-Tahrir case”. He is also often the first lawyer to arrive at the scene when a house belonging to ethnic Crimean Tatars is raided and searched by the FSB and in other instances where members of the Crimean Tatar community require legal assistance vis-à-vis the Russian and de facto Crimean authorities. He has faced a range of threats and other forms of harassment, from authorities he believes are intent on forcing him to give up his legal practice.

Thus, on 30 August 2016, around 20 men in civilian clothes tried to force their way into the building in Simferopol where Emil Kurbetdinov's law firm has its office. Kurbetdinov was not inside, and his colleagues locked the door and refused to let them in without knowing who they were. None of the men introduced themselves, but Kurbetdinov's colleagues were able to recognize some FSB operatives whom they had seen earlier, in court or during house searches. The men insisted that Emil Kurbetdinov should open the door, and kept on banging and hovering outside the windows for the next two and a half hours. After they left, Kurbetdinov's colleagues noticed that a suspicious car with a man inside was parked close to their office, where it remained for several weeks.

Kurbetdinov's fellow lawyers from the Crimean Bar Association told him that the FSB had informally approached several of them and with a request to try to convince him to withdraw from cases involving Crimean Tatars.

On 2 November, Kurbetdinov received a call from an official in Simferopol who told him that he should leave the Crimean Bar Association because he is involved in politics, travels a lot and speaks against Russia. The official warned that all lawyers in the Bar Association would suffer if he did not leave. The chair of the Bar Association also received a call, from an FSB official, who demanded that Kurbetdinov be expelled. The business center where Kurbetdinov rents office space is frequently inspected by the municipal authorities, possibly in an attempt to pressure the landlord into terminating the lease.

## THE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND HARASSMENT OF JOURNALIST MYKOLA SEMENA

The right to freedom of expression in particular has taken a severe blow in Crimea, and the current state of the media in the peninsula is a striking testimony to this. The media has ceased to be pluralist, while individual journalists daring to be critical of the de facto authorities are effectively restricted to writing for media based outside of Crimea and under assumed names. Denouncing the Russian occupation and annexation is a criminal offence, under Article 280.1 of the Russian Criminal Code (“Public calls for the implementation of actions aimed at violation of the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation”) introduced two months before the occupation of Crimea and amended further since its annexation, and may lead to prosecution, as the case of Mykola Semena demonstrates.

Mykola Semena is one of the few remaining pro-Ukrainian journalists in Crimea after the occupation and annexation in violation of international law and continued working for international media under different pseudonyms. On 11 September 2015, he published an article titled “Blockade – the Necessary First Step for the Liberation of Crimea” on the website of Krym.Realii, a Radio Free Europe sponsored project.<sup>16</sup>

Using a pseudonym, Semena argued in the article that the blockade of delivery of goods into Crimea, which some Crimean Tatars and other activists had started days earlier on the border with mainland Ukraine, was a form of “struggle necessary for the return of the peninsula to Ukraine”.

“I continued working in Simferopol as if nothing happened. Then, on 19 April 2016, at 7 am someone knocked on my door. It was the Federal Security Service of Russia (FSB). The agents told me that they had started a criminal investigation against me and presented a court order to search my house,” Semena told Amnesty International.<sup>17</sup>

After searching his home, the FSB officers seized Semena's computer, took his mobile phone and requested him to come with them to the FSB regional office in Simferopol for questioning.

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<sup>16</sup> The article is available at: <http://ru.krymr.com/a/27240750.html> (accessed 12 December 2016).

<sup>17</sup> Amnesty International interview with Mykola Semena in Simferopol, Crimea on 27 September 2016.

During the questioning, the officers showed Semena over 30 screenshots from his computer, which had been secretly taken while he was writing his article about the blockade. Semena confirmed that he was the author of the article but insisted that he had not committed any criminal offence.

After the questioning, a case was opened against Semena for the purported crime of “making public calls threatening the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation” Semena was put under travel restrictions which bar him from leaving Simferopol while the criminal proceedings against him are ongoing (which is still the case at the time of writing). He has a pre-existing medical condition on his spine, which was diagnosed before the FSB search in February 2016, requiring surgery.

“Every morning I need about 30 minutes to stretch before I can start moving and get on with my day. I would like to get surgery in Kyiv because I don’t trust the doctors here. My lawyer has made a request to the FSB to lift my travel restriction, but they refused”, Semena told Amnesty International.

In addition to the travel restrictions, Semena has already been placed on the Russian federal list of “extremists”, despite the investigation being ongoing. Being on the list severely restricts Semena’s access to his bank account. He must submit a written application to his bank every time when he wants to withdraw any funds. Semena has stopped working as a journalist because of the criminal investigation and is living off his savings.

“I wasn’t planning on leaving. My house and my family are here. But now I need to get the surgery and I can’t work in Crimea to pay for it. I don’t think I’m guilty. I was just voicing my own opinion.”<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Amnesty International interview with Mykola Semena in Simferopol, Crimea on 27 September 2016.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### TO THE DE FACTO CRIMEAN AND RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES IN CRIMEA

- Request access for all relevant monitoring mechanisms, including the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, to the territory of Crimea.
- Effectively and impartially investigate all alleged and suspected cases of enforced disappearance in Crimea since March 2014, and in particular:
  - Immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of all those arbitrarily deprived of liberty, including those subjected to enforced disappearances, and inform their families accordingly;
  - For those in custody either release them immediately or bring them before a competent civilian court and charge them with a recognisable criminal offence, ensure that they have access to a lawyer of their choice, to medical care and to their families;
  - Bring to justice in fair trials anyone suspected of criminal responsibility for crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations, including any arbitrary deprivation of liberty, unlawful killing or enforced disappearance.
- Respect the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and ensure that these can be exercised by any individual and group in Crimea, without discrimination on the grounds of political or religious views, ethnicity, or any other grounds:
  - Remove the restrictions imposed on the right to peaceful assembly, including the highly restrictive regulations introduced under Russian law, as well as any arbitrary prohibitions which affect the exercise of this right by members of the Crimean Tatar community and any other groups and individuals;
  - Allow and facilitate media outlets that have been unlawfully closed, or forced to close, under the requirement to re-register under the Russian law, to reopen;
  - Ensure that journalists have unrestricted access to, and the freedom to conduct their professional activities in, Crimea, including those from mainland Ukraine;
  - Investigate all reported instances of unlawful detention, intimidation and harassment of journalists in Crimea, and bring those suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials;
  - End the practice of blocking access to online resources on arbitrary grounds and without judicial authorisation.
- Remove the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People from the list of “extremist organisations” and lift all the associated restrictions imposed on its activities.
- Cease the use of criminal proceedings to harass and imprison individuals peacefully opposed to the Russian occupation and annexation of Crimea.
- Stop arbitrary house searches, summons for questioning and other forms of harassment by members of the police and the security services of those peacefully opposed to Crimea’s annexation.
- Immediately and unconditionally release and drop all charges against Akhtem Chiygoz.
- Drop all criminal charges against Ilmi Umerov, Mykola Semena, as well as anyone else who has been arbitrarily subjected to criminal or administrative proceedings in connection with their peaceful activism, pro-Ukrainian or other peaceful views critical of or disapproved by the de facto Crimean and the Russian authorities.
- Immediately end the transfer of Crimean residents to Russia and their trials before Russian military courts.
- Quash the convictions in unfair trials of membership of Hizb ut-Tahrir; any retrial must respect international fair trial standards and international humanitarian law, and be conducted before a civilian court within Crimea.
- Immediately release and drop all charges against Emir-Usein Kuku.
- Ensure that Muslim Aliev, and other individuals under investigation for alleged membership of Hizb ut-Tahrir, are provided with sufficient elements of the accusations against them to effectively challenge their detention on remand; cases that move to trial must be



heard in Crimea and scrupulously respect fair trials standards.

- Ensure that all lawyers in Crimea are able to perform their professional duties without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference in accordance with the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.
- Cooperate fully with all international and regional monitoring mechanisms, in particular with the UN, OSCE and Council of Europe, as well as all independent human rights monitoring initiatives, including by providing them with full and unrestricted access to Crimea and, in particular, by lifting the requirement to obtain a Russian visa to visit Crimea.

## **TO THE UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES**

- Promptly ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, signed on 20 January 2000.
- Develop a programme of state support to victims of human rights violations from Crimea and ensure that it is made as accessible to them as possible in present circumstances, including, amongst other things, a programme of effective legal, consular, medical, psychological and other support to individuals in or from Crimea, including those transferred to Russia as part of their criminal prosecution.
- Cooperate fully with all international and regional monitoring mechanisms and explore all available opportunities to facilitate the extension of their mandate (where this is not yet the case) and their access to Crimea.
- Facilitate independent human rights monitoring in, and access to, Crimea by other actors, including international non-governmental organisations, in particular by easing the legislative restrictions outlined in the Ukrainian Council of Ministers decree #722 from 16.09.2015.

## **TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

- Explore every available opportunity for effective monitoring of the human rights situation in Crimea.
- Use every available opportunity to address human rights issues in Crimea with the Russian authorities in bi- and multi-lateral fora, and insist on full respect for human rights and for Russia's obligations to protect them under international law.
- Insist on Russia's full cooperation with all international and regional monitoring mechanisms, including by granting full and unrestricted access to their representatives to Crimea.

## **TO THE OSCE**

- Escalate efforts to ensure full implementation of the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, which extends to Crimea, including by insisting on full and unrestricted access to the peninsula.
- Provide as effective and comprehensive monitoring of human rights violations in Crimea as possible in the circumstances, and regular public updates on findings.

## **TO THE UN OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

- Escalate efforts to ensure full implementation of the mandate of the Human Rights Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, which extends to Crimea, including by insisting on full and unrestricted access to the peninsula.
- Provide as effective and comprehensive monitoring of human rights violations in Crimea as possible in the circumstances, and regular public updates on findings.

## **TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

- The Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General should ensure regular political consultations to address the human rights situation in Crimea and find solutions that ensure and facilitate the immediate and unrestrained access for all Council of Europe human rights monitoring mechanisms and bodies, including the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities , the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, to the territory of Crimea.
- Ensure that the Parliamentary Assembly is given unrestricted access to Crimea to observe and report on the human rights situation there as a matter of priority in line with its Resolution 2133 (2016) on Legal remedies for human rights violations on the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities, adopted in October 2016 . The PACE should continue to follow closely and debate regularly the political and humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Ukraine also as per Resolution 2132 on the Political consequences of the Russian aggression in Ukraine, adopted in October 2016.

# CRIMEA IN THE DARK

## THE SILENCING OF DISSENT

Since the Russian occupation and annexation of Crimea in February-March 2014, the Russian and de facto local authorities, have demanded total submission to this brute fact. With most opponents of Crimea's annexation harassed into exile or silence, Crimean Tatar leaders and activists have been the most organized focus of opposition, and have borne the brunt of the repression. Their representative structure, the Mejlis, was banned as an "extremist" organisation and any association with it has been outlawed; its leaders have been exiled or prosecuted on a range of trumped up charges; several have been forcibly disappeared. The most popular Crimean Tatar-language media outlets have been forced to close and have been blocked from reaching their audiences in Crimea via the internet. Public protest has been extinguished. Beyond the fundamental political questions relating to Crimea's annexation, Russia remains bound by the full range of international human rights law. It has shown that it is only too happy to flout these as it seeks to consolidate its hold on peninsula. Those silenced and bullied need others, internationally, to speak out alongside them.

**V. PROPOSED DECISION**

19. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part 1 (G),
2. Takes note of the information provided therein,
3. Invites the Director-General to report thereon at the 202nd session of the Executive Board.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part I (H)

PARIS, 24 March 2017  
Original: English

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART I

### PROGRAMME ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

#### **H. Report of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) on the Review Process of the Memory of the World Programme**

Pursuant to 199 EX/Decision 29, the Director-General submits to the consideration of the Members of the Executive Board, the progress report of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) on the Review Process of the Memory of the World Programme.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 6.



## H. Report of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) on the Review Process of the Memory of the World Programme

(Follow-up to 199 EX/Decision 29)

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### BACKGROUND

1. UNESCO launched the Memory of the World Programme (MoW) in 1992 with the aim to preserve the world's documentary heritage and ensure its wide dissemination. The Programme vision is that the world's documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all and, with due recognition of cultural mores and practicalities, should be permanently accessible to all without hindrance. This year the MoW Programme celebrates its 25th anniversary.

2. The MoW Programme has grown significantly since its establishment, with the development of activities, events, committees and registers, and the expanding of operational expertise. The adoption of the Recommendation on the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form by the General Conference in 2015 also required that the General Guidelines of the Programme be reviewed accordingly.

3. The MoW Programme review is undertaken pursuant to the decision by the International Advisory Committee (IAC) taken in October 2015. It seeks to explore means for further strengthening the Programme by enhancing its visibility, mobilizing additional resources, ensuring greater transparency and dialogue. The MoW review is conducted on a global scale, which includes a wide consultative process involving experts and Member States.

4. In addition, an Experts Meeting on the MoW review was held in Berlin, in March 2017. The meeting, jointly organized by UNESCO and the German Federal Foreign Office in cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO, took place from 1 to 4 March 2017 at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. The meeting, chaired by Dr. Abdulla Alraisi, Director-General – Under Minister of the National Archives of UAE, and Chair of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the MoW Programme, brought together IAC experts and members of the two working groups tasked to review respectively the Statutes, Rules and overall functioning of the Programme. The set of recommendations formulated in Berlin synergize the different views expressed by the IAC and the experts of the two working groups, taking into consideration the comments made by the Member States during the online consultation.

5. Based on the experts' deliberations in Berlin the IAC Chair prepared and submitted to the Director-General the progress report contained in the Annex.

### Proposed decision

6. In the light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 199 EX/Decision 29, by which the Director-General was invited to keep the Executive Board appropriately informed of the review undertaken by the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme,
2. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part I (H),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the International Advisory Committee on the MoW review;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the national authorities of Germany for their generous contribution to this review process by hosting the experts' meeting in March 2017;

5. Welcomes the IAC Chair's progress report contained in the Annex and encourages the IAC to continue working on the statutes and guidelines along the lines of this report and its recommendations;
6. Requests the Director-General to present the final report on the MoW review by the International Advisory Committee to the Executive Board at its 202nd session.

## ANNEX

### **Report of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) on the Review Process of the Memory of the World Programme**

by  
Dr. Abdulla Alraisi,  
Director-General - Under Minister of the National Archives of UAE and Chair of the International Advisory Committee (IAC)

#### **Background**

At its 12th meeting in Abu Dhabi in October 2015, the Memory of the World International Advisory Committee (IAC) launched a comprehensive review of the rules, procedures and guidelines of the Programme (Final Report, part VI, p. 18). It seeks to explore means for further strengthening the Programme by improving its visibility, human and financial resource mobilization, transparency and dialogue among relevant heritage institutions. The review was also welcomed by the UNESCO Executive Board at its meeting in April 2016 (199 EX/29). The revision of the modalities of implementation of the MOW Programme was made necessary by the evolving operating context of MoW which has changed markedly. The MoW Review is conducted on a global scale, including a wide process of inclusive consultation both with experts and with Member States.

In addition to the wide and transparent consultation process an Experts Meeting on the Memory of the World Programme Review was held in Berlin, in March 2017. Organized by UNESCO in cooperation with, and thanks to the substantial contribution of the German Federal Foreign Office and in collaboration with the German Commission for UNESCO, it took place from 1st to 4th March 2017 at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. The meeting brought together IAC experts and members of the two working groups tasked to review the Statutes, Rules and overall functioning of the Programme. The set of recommendations formulated in Berlin presents the views expressed by the IAC and the experts of the two working groups, taking into consideration the comments made by Member States during the online consultation.

To provide the necessary background and facilitate the review process, two discussion papers were prepared:

Review of Statutes and Rules: Discussion Questions on issues and Direction

Review of Guidelines and Companion Documents: Call for Submissions and Discussion Issues

The comprehensive review was conducted on globally, through an open process of inclusive consultation. Many comments and suggestions had been submitted by National Commissions for UNESCO, National and Regional Memory of the World Committees, national and international associations, institutions and individuals. These have been taken into account by the two working groups charged with reviewing and revising the basic documents of MoW: The Statutes of the IAC, the Rules of Procedure, the General Guidelines for the Implementation of MoW, and the Register Companion.

The Meeting also finalized specific recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO for consideration by Member States on how to address a range of issues, including those relating to procedures for nominations that have been called into question, and new challenges created by the global move to digitization, in order to achieve the full potential of this important Programme.



## **Outcomes of the experts' deliberations at the Berlin meeting:**

### **Summary of Report – Working Group 1 (WG1)**

Dr. Ian Wilson presented a report and a set of recommendations, which he had prepared, together with Dr. Alraisi and Dr. David Fricker, who was attending the Forum via video conference. They formed WG1, which was in charge of revising the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the IAC. Not all recommendations were discussed due to the limited time-frame and the intensive agenda, but it was decided that this be done at the next IAC meeting. These recommendations, which are summarized below, will be revised by WG1 based on the comments received.

#### **Recommendation 1**

The Forum debated whether MoW could be considered an established programme, with a legal framework. This debate was triggered by the statement that “there is neither a long term strategy for preserving the precious documentary heritage nor a legal framework for the functioning of the Memory of the World Programme”, to be found in the UNESCO Resolution 36C/COM CI/DR2. Some members of the Forum noted that MoW was an established programme, with a legal framework given by the Statutes and by the 2015 Recommendation concerning Documentary Heritage. This view was confirmed by Mr. Boyan Radoykov, Chief of Section, Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Forum agreed that MoW had to be strengthened, along with the advisory role of the IAC.

#### **Recommendation 2**

All previous evaluations of MoW revealed that it was under-staffed and under-resourced. While commending the work that has been achieved despite existing constraints, the Forum recognized that the programme cannot develop its full potential under such conditions. Some participants remarked that the MoW International Register was stretching resources in the MoW Secretariat. Thus, the Forum considered whether slowing down the process of submitting nominations, or even closing down the register was an option. The Forum agreed that the Register had a very important role for the visibility and popularity of MoW, and that the inability to accept further nominations would put the programme in a risky situation. Consequently, the Forum noted that it was necessary to make a real statement about the financial situation of MoW, in order for Member States to understand that there is a financial problem, and a need to seek new revenue measures and increase the group of donors.

#### **Recommendation 3**

With the increasing popularity of commercial search engines and the online availability of documentary heritage resources, the recognition of the role and needs of memory institutions preserving heritage are obscured and overlooked. Apart from that, the current website of MoW is limitative in terms of design and capacity, is not doing justice to the range of MoW activities and the possibilities of presenting them. This has a negative impact on the visibility and understanding of MoW. The Forum debated whether MoW could establish its own interactive website, more attractive and with an advanced design, to be controlled by UNESCO but prepared and maintained in collaboration with external partners. Although a draft design had already been developed previously, it could not be implemented due to the technical and institutional limitations imposed by UNESCO. The Forum agreed that this recommendation be put forward to UNESCO, after gaining more clarity concerning the financial and structural implications, and the distinction between content- and technology-related aspects, the former being something that would rest with UNESCO.

#### **Recommendation 4**

Due to technical and financial constraints, the Forum noted that the documentary heritage of many regions of the world was poorly represented online. This was considered a problem, especially in light of today's massive migration of people, who can access their documentary heritage only

electronically. Consequently, the Forum agreed that it was necessary to encourage the digitization of important documents inscribed on the MoW International Register or those at risk, so as to make them discoverable and sustainable online. Nevertheless, they also stressed the need to conserve the originals, which must be promoted along with digitization efforts.

### **Recommendation 5**

Currently, the international MoW register is not evenly representative of the diversity of documentary heritage around the world. The Forum considered the possibility that IAC take a proactive approach to encourage nominations based on a gap analysis of existing documentary heritage at the international level. The Review Committee noted that whereas this might function at a national or regional level, it would be difficult, even impossible, at the international level. Besides, it was further remarked that the growth of the registers had been happening organically, and that this should not be led from the top. Yet, the Forum agreed that there was need for measures to raise the profile and visibility of MoW, which should include opportunities devised by the General Conference of UNESCO, such as the celebration of new MoW inscriptions and its inclusion at their meetings.

### **Recommendation 6**

In response to the need for follow-up on the condition of inscribed documentary heritage, the Forum agreed that the custodians of inscribed documents should report periodically, at least every four years, to the IAC, on the state of conservation and provisions for access. They further considered whether this would require visits by MoW staff to the custodian institutions. Due to visits being expensive, the Forum sought alternative methods. They remarked that support could be obtained from National Commissions of UNESCO, national authorities and other relevant institutions. The Director General of UNESCO could periodically circulate a letter, asking the relevant bodies to provide a report on the status of inscribed documentary heritage.

### **Statutes and Rules of Procedure**

The Forum agreed that the name “International Advisory Committee” (IAC) would continue to be used as the official name of the peak body of MoW. This decision was taken in response to the online consultation, in which the majority of respondents preferred to retain the existing name. In addition to minor adjustments of language, the Forum agreed that some provisions of the Statutes should be amended. The resulting revised version of the Statutes and of the Rule of Procedure is to be discussed at the next IAC meeting after consultation with the Legal Office of UNESCO.

### **GUIDELINES AND COMPANION - Summary of Report – Working Group 2 (WG2)**

Dr. Ray Edmondson, chair of WG2, former IAC member and author of the current Guidelines and the Companion, explained the sequence of events followed by WG II, which was composed of Roslyn Russell, Alissandra Cummins, Joie Springer, Jan Bos, David Fricker and himself. Dr. Edmondson presented the current working draft of the revised General Guidelines, which incorporated feedback from the online consultation process. WG II was commended for their work, which was considered a great improvement on the current Guidelines, and several participants offered themselves to actively support the finalization of the revised Guidelines for adoption at the next IAC meeting.

### **2015 MOW-related Recommendation adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO**

Its provisions had to be accommodated throughout. The main definitions used in the new draft were adopted word-for-word from the 2015 Recommendation, so as to ensure consistency between the two tools. In addition, the new text includes an annex which provides an expanded discussion of these definitions. Chapter 2 of the new text, which sets out the main strategies of the Programme, matches the structure of the 2015 Recommendation.

## **Code of Ethics**

The ethical foundations of MoW were strengthened with the introduction of a Code of Ethics. This was adopted some years ago by the IAC but was used primarily by the Register Sub-Committee to guide their work. WG II will amend the Code of Ethics so as to apply to the IAC and all Sub-Committees.

## **Knowledge Centres**

The need to more intensively consider the concept of knowledge centres was stressed by the Forum on several occasions.

## **Criteria for Assessing Nominations**

The Forum agreed to the revised nomination criteria, which are more detailed than the current criteria but which embrace the same values and are intended to be easier and clearer to follow. An important change is the introduction of a “statement of significance” which summarises the points made under the detailed criteria and explains why the heritage in question is important to the world’s memory, why its loss would impoverish the heritage of humanity, and what its impact has been.

## **Submission of Nominations**

The Forum agreed that IAC would continue to accept nominations from non-state actors, including individuals. For practical reasons, the requirement that nominations be limited to two per country will be maintained. This rule does not apply for joint nominations by two or more countries. It was also agreed that while nominators are encouraged to contact the National MoW Committees, where they exist, or the National Commissions of UNESCO, submitting nominations through such committees would not become a requirement. The Forum also agreed that there was need to develop a mechanism to ensure that nominations evaluated by the IAC conform with UNESCO legal requirements and the MoW Code of Ethics.

## **Monitoring**

The Forum agreed on the need to introduce a monitoring strategy so as to be able to monitor on the condition of inscribed documentary heritage. A questionnaire that serves this purpose will be prepared and annexed to the Guidelines. WG II will now work on the next draft of the revised Guidelines based on the remarks received during the Forum discussion, and the written contributions received from members following the meeting. An updated version will be circulated for further comments.

## **Branding**

The Forum acknowledged that as a concept MoW was very powerful and organizations worldwide would like to cooperate. In order to continue to work, however, MoW needed funding to sustain its activities. The MoW brand could help in this regard but the Forum decided that there was need to consult the UNESCO policy on branding and the use of its logos, before developing specific measures.

## **Strategic Partnerships**

The Forum debated the need to develop partnerships and stretch MoW in all areas. Examples were provided, including the World Digital Library, the Endangered Archives Programme, Europeana, or academic associations.

## **Questioned Nominations**

The Review Committee discussed cases when Member States sharply disagree over the significance of the documents nominated, or when historical issues are mixed with national political

agendas and international disputes, accompanied by active lobbying through diplomatic channels. IAC is an advisory committee, whose role is limited to technical and professional expertise. IAC cannot solve political disputes but the Forum agreed that, as an advisory body, the IAC needed a mechanism which would protect the MoW programme from political abuse. Consequently, the participants present at the Forum prepared and unanimously adopted the following recommendation for consideration by the Director-General:

### **Recommendation to the Director General of UNESCO**

The UNESCO international expert meeting “Memory of the World Review Discussion Forum” proposes the following recommendation for consideration by the Director-General of UNESCO:

The Memory of the World programme has three main objectives:

- (a) To facilitate preservation of the world’s past, present and future documentary heritage.
- (b) To assist universal access to documentary heritage.
- (c) To increase awareness worldwide of the existence and significance of documentary heritage.

(1) In its pursuit of these objectives, the Memory of the World programme recognises that “history is an unending dialogue between the present and the past” (E.H. Carr) or, in other words, the interaction between primary sources and their on-going interpretation. MoW’s concern is with the preservation and accessibility of primary sources, not with their interpretation or the resolution of historical disputes. The recommendation of the experts is that Memory of the World does not enter into disputes concerning the interpretation of historical events, nor does it take sides. It neither endorses the ideas or opinions expressed in any items of documentary heritage accepted for register assessment and/or inscription, nor does it necessarily endorse the content of the nominations themselves. Therefore, the following clarification related to the nomination procedures is proposed.

2) At least 4 months prior to the fixed deadline, the MoW Secretariat issues a call for nominations for the international register on the MoW website also indicating the deadline and the formal criteria that each nomination must meet.

On submission of a nomination the MoW Secretariat examines the legal, technical and other pertinent aspects of the nomination and informs the nominator about the results of this preliminary examination. If the nomination is accepted for assessment the MoW Secretariat notifies the nominator copying the concerned Permanent Delegations, National Commissions for UNESCO and the National Committees “Memory of the World”, uploads the nomination forms on UNESCO’s Memory of the World website and sends the nomination form to the Register Subcommittee (RSC) for assessment.

The nomination is immediately open for comments (objections, support or other information pertaining to the selection criteria). Comments can be sent to the Secretariat via the respective form within a fixed time frame according to the timeframe set in the MoW guidelines.

The entire process of the assessment of MoW nominations will be conducted in accordance with both the UNESCO rules of procedures and the MoW Code of Ethics.

(3) The MoW Secretariat transmits to the RSC the received comments. The RSC reviews these and initiates a course of action appropriate to the circumstances indicated and the context of the documentary heritage nominated.

(4) The RSC takes into account all the comments received in its assessment of the nomination. The RSC comes to a preliminary assessment of the nomination.

After the RSC issues its preliminary recommendation, the MoW Secretariat notifies the nominator copying the Permanent Delegations, the National Commissions for UNESCO and the National Committees “Memory of the World” of the countries concerned.

The nominator is offered the opportunity to respond to this preliminary recommendation.

(5) Based on these responses the RSC can reconsider its assessment before submitting its recommendations to the IAC.

(6) The IAC examines the nominations together with the recommendations of the RSC and recommends to the Director-General its professional assessment of the nominations.

(7) Questioned nominations will be given more time for dialogue to the concerned parties, even before submission to RSC. Dialogue may be mediated.

The outcome of such a dialogue could be

- (a) a joint nomination,
- (b) agreement on an inscription including opinions showing differing perspectives on the events or facts reflected in the nominated document,
- (c) if no agreement has been reached, continued dialogue among the concerned parties may be encouraged for one more cycle (i.e. a maximum of four years after submission of the nomination) at which time the RSC will submit its recommendation to the IAC and the IAC will be expected to make a final recommendation to the Director-General.

(8) The Director-General takes the final decision on the inscription taking into account the professional advice provided by the IAC and any other relevant information.

#### Transparency

The need to increase transparency of decisions emerged in relation to how RSC and IAC members are appointed; to decisions concerning the nominations, whose assessment is held in camera and the participation of observers at such meetings. The Forum agreed that discussion of nominations in the IAC would continue to be held in camera but that the final decisions concerning nominations, meeting agendas and reports would be made publicly available. Similarly, it was agreed that the mandates, rules of procedure, and membership of each subsidiary body be made public. All these aspects are now reflected in the modified Statutes, and will be suitably highlighted in the Rules of Procedure, the Guidelines and the Code of Ethics.

Abdulla Alraisi, Ph.D.

Chairman, IAC Memory of the World Program

10 March 2017



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part I (I)

PARIS, 23 March 2017  
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## **FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

### **PART I**

### **PROGRAMME ISSUES**

#### **SUMMARY**

##### **I. Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity**

The United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (hereafter, the UN Plan), developed in 2012, has become a global reference point on the safety of journalists. It was created in order to ensure a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach to promoting journalists' safety and to address the widespread climate of impunity for crimes against journalists. Coordinated by UNESCO, the UN Plan will mark its fifth year of implementation in 2017.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 32.



## I. SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND THE ISSUE OF IMPUNITY

(Follow-up to 196 EX/Dec.31)

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### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN PLAN OF ACTION

1. UNESCO has spearheaded implementation of the UN Plan across the board, acting at a number of levels including: standard-setting and policy-making; awareness-raising; monitoring and reporting; research; capacity-building; and coalition-building.

### STANDARD-SETTING AND POLICY-MAKING

2. Since 2012, with UNESCO support, the UN Plan has contributed to increased recognition on the international agenda of the safety of journalists and the danger of impunity. In the last five years, nine resolutions have been adopted at United Nations and regional levels, highlighting the commitment of national governments to ensuring a safe and enabling media environment worldwide.

3. In May 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution S/RES/2222, which condemns all violations and abuses committed against journalists in situations of armed conflict as well as the prevailing impunity that exists for such acts.<sup>1</sup> The United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed its position on ending impunity by unanimously adopting A/RES/70/162 at its 70th session.<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted Resolution A/HRC/33/2 in September 2016, commending UNESCO's work on the safety of journalists and encouraging Member States to "share information on a voluntary basis on the status of investigations into attacks and violence against journalists".<sup>3</sup> The global standards set by these resolutions provide a compass by which regional and national legislation and policy can be further developed.

4. Other notable international developments include the call by a coalition of leading media associations and NGOs committed to freedom of expression for the United Nations Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative for the Safety of Journalists, and the adoption by media and civil society groups of an International Declaration for the Protection of Journalists.

5. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda includes Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 16.10 which reads: "Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements". In order to track the overall progress, indicators have been put into place for each of the SDGs. UNESCO acts as the contributing agency to indicator 16.10.1 of target 16.10, which refers to the number of verified cases of killings, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists and associated media personnel. This indicator has already helped to mainstream the safety of journalists in the international development agenda. Journalistic safety is also recognized in the United Nations General Assembly's Outcome Document of the 10-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society.

### AWARENESS-RAISING

6. Safety of journalists and impunity have been prominently featured in celebrations of World Press Freedom Day (WPF, 3 May). This has been complemented and reinforced by the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists<sup>4</sup> (IDEI, 2 November) and the

<sup>1</sup> See [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2222\(2015\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2222(2015))

<sup>2</sup> See [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/162](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/162)

<sup>3</sup> See [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/33/2](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/33/2)

<sup>4</sup> Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 via Resolution A/RES/68/163.

International Day for Universal Access to Information<sup>5</sup> (IDUAI, 28 September). The three international days provide unique opportunities to bring together key stakeholders and to sensitize the public at large.

7. The upcoming celebration of WPF, UNESCO's flagship event on freedom of expression, will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia from 1 to 4 May 2017 under the theme *Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies*. It will include several sessions and training workshops dedicated to journalists' safety, as well as a full-day session to discuss prospects for the creation of a special mechanism on freedom of expression and safety of journalists in the Southeast Asia region.

8. Ms Christiane Amanpour, Chief International Correspondent for CNN and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of Expression and Journalist Safety, has helped to amplify the Organization's work in the field through her work and commitment.

9. UNESCO has also led awareness-raising efforts through the organization of a number of international conferences on topics linked to journalists' safety and freedom of expression. These include: *News organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals* (Paris, February 2016 – see point 25); *Strengthening Judiciary Systems and African Courts to Protect Safety of Journalists and End Impunity*, co-organized with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in preparation of IDEI (Arusha, September 2016); and *Journalism under Fire: Challenges of our times* (Paris, 23 March 2017).

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

10. The biennial Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity is the core component of UNESCO's monitoring of the state of journalists' safety worldwide. The Report responds to a call from the 39 Member States of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). The Council convenes every two years, providing an occasion for Member States to take stock of global developments and discuss challenges linked to safety of journalists and impunity.

11. The 2016 UNESCO Director-General's Report provides an overview of the killings of journalists condemned by the Director-General in 2014-2015, as well as an analysis of trends over the last decade. It includes data on the status of judicial enquiries into the killings of journalists, based on information provided voluntarily by Member States, with response rates steadily increasing over recent years.

12. UNESCO also monitors journalists' safety and impunity by contributing to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Developments in the implementation of the UN Plan are reported on in UNESCO's bi-monthly newsletter on the UN Plan, as well as on the UNESCO webpage on the Safety of Journalists and Impunity.

13. In selected countries, monitoring is also ensured through the UNESCO-led assessments based on the UNESCO/IPDC Journalists' Safety Indicators (JSIs). The JSIs have been applied in 10 countries to date with a view to reflecting the state of implementation of the UN Plan and providing a baseline for measuring progress.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Declared by the UNESCO General Conference in 2015 via Resolution 38 C/70.

<sup>6</sup> JSI assessments have been carried out in Guatemala (2013), Honduras (2013), Pakistan (2013-2014), Kenya (2016), and Nepal (2016), while others are ongoing in Afghanistan, Iraq, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda.



## RESEARCH

14. The *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development* is UNESCO's flagship report that includes a comprehensive analysis of trends, including on safety and impunity. First published in 2014, it is now a benchmark analysis for the state of freedom of expression worldwide. Emerging digital challenges and their effect on the safety of journalists were highlighted in the second issue, published in November 2015. The next edition is set to be released in November 2017.

15. In 2015, UNESCO initiated a Research Agenda on the Safety of Journalists to stimulate new academic research in this area. This has been complemented by the organization of sessions dedicated to journalists' safety at academic conferences to share ongoing research. For the upcoming International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference in July 2017, UNESCO will host a panel on the safety of women journalists.

16. On the occasion of WPF 2016, the first Research Conference dedicated entirely to the safety of journalists involved over 50 international academics from six continents, with the proceedings to be published in 2017. A second Academic Conference will be organized in Jakarta, in conjunction with WPF 2017.

17. UNESCO has also published research on the challenges of the digital era in the 2015 study *Building Digital Safety for Journalism: A Survey of Selected Issues*, which is part of the UNESCO Series on Internet Freedom.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

18. One of the key courses of action of the UN Plan is capacity building for a variety of target audiences, including journalists, media owners, policy and security forces, and members of the judiciary.

19. Since 2014, UNESCO has supported a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) targeting judicial officials of the Latin-American region. In total, 3,200 justice system workers, including judges, were trained on international standards of freedom of expression and information and the role of the judiciary in defending these fundamental freedoms. UNESCO will initiate a similar initiative in Africa in 2017.

20. A further strategic focus has been on law enforcement agencies. UNESCO has published a manual titled *Freedom of Expression and Public Order* (2015), on the basis of a pilot training course in Tunisia in 2013. Since then, the manual has been used as a resource to conduct training of security forces in ten countries.

21. Teaching future journalists and media professionals has also been part of UNESCO's capacity-building. The organization updated its Model Curricula for Journalism Education to include a specialized syllabus on the safety of journalists. In partnership with the International Federation of Journalists, UNESCO also developed in 2016 a full Model Course on the Safety of Journalists for the Arab states that will be piloted in universities across the region.

22. Training of the new and current generation of media workers, with an emphasis on women journalists and young media professionals, is actively supported by UNESCO and its partners. These efforts are complemented by practical tools, such as the "Safety Guide for Journalists: A handbook for reporters in high-risk environments", developed with Reporters without Borders (RSF).

23. Institutional capacity building has also been key, with the development and strengthening of national protection and/or monitoring systems for preventing attacks against journalists and combatting impunity in a number of countries. Many of these mechanisms are still in their early

days while others have had mixed results thus far. These initiatives involve a variety of approaches and highlight the need to tackle the “three Ps” (prevention, protection and prosecution). In partnership with the Centre for Law and Democracy, UNESCO developed in 2016 a practical guide on how to set up national safety mechanisms.

## **COALITION BUILDING**

24. Coalition building is the foundation of the UN Plan on which all other efforts are developed and fostered. Through the UN Plan, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes – such as UNESCO, OHCHR, UN, UNDP, UNODC, and OCHA – have taken concrete steps to coordinate their activities addressing journalists’ safety and tackling impunity. The same is true for regional organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the African Union.

25. With support from the IPDC Bureau and several Member States, close to 300 media leaders and Member State representatives met on 5 February 2016, to discuss steps to ensure a more secure environment for journalism. Entitled *News organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals*, the event championed close to 60 ideas for urgent action, most of which have been successfully followed up.

26. In March 2016, an informal “Group of friends” for the safety of journalists, co-chaired by France, Greece and Lithuania, was created at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Eight months later, in November 2016, a similar “Group of friends” was established at UNESCO Headquarters at the initiative of the Austrian Delegation. A similar group has also been set up in Geneva.

27. During the first World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey, a global call for action to protect media workers and encourage independent reporting in crisis situations was issued by the participants of a special session on the safety of journalists.

28. UNESCO established close cooperation initiatives with several countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region during 2016. In June, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Supreme Court of Justice of Uruguay to cooperate on issues of freedom of expression, access to information, and security of journalists. November 2016 saw the signing of a letter of intent with the Republic of Paraguay for a permanent safety mechanism for journalists through co-operation between the executive, legislature and judiciary. In addition, UNESCO and the Ibero-American Judicial Summit signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation on issues of freedom of expression, access to information, transparency and the safety of journalists.

## **MOVING FORWARD**

29. Since the beginning of the implementation of the UN Plan in 2012, safety of journalists and the issue of impunity have gained prominence on the international agenda. Efforts are being undertaken on a multitude of fronts to tackle these challenges and tangible progress has been made. This impetus has also translated into the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs, ensuring a continued relevance of these issues across the international community.

30. A new, dedicated Special Account has recently been created to support UNESCO’s work in promoting the safety of journalists.

31. On 29 June 2017, UNESCO, together with OHCHR, will convene a multistakeholder consultation on strengthening the UN Plan in Geneva, Switzerland in order to reinforce the efforts carried out by all stakeholders and identify the priorities for the future.

32. It is proposed to adopt the following Decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 196 EX/Decision 31 by which the Executive Board requested the Director-General to report on the actions taken by UNESCO on the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity,
2. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part I (I),
3. Acknowledges with appreciation the results achieved by UNESCO in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity;
4. Expresses its gratitude to all stakeholders for their support to the implementation of the Plan, as well as to donors for their contribution to UNESCO's action in favour of the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity;
5. Appeals to all stakeholders to continue assisting UNESCO in its work in this field;
6. Requests Member States to provide substantial inputs for the next Multistakeholder Consultation on Strengthening the UN Plan of Action that will be held organized by UNESCO and UNOHCHR in Geneva on 29 June 2017;
7. Invites the Director-General to present a progress report to the Executive Board at its 202nd session.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part II

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## **FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

### **PART II**

#### **EVALUATION ISSUES**

#### **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR ENHANCING THE COOPERATION OF THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WITH NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO**

##### **SUMMARY**

In accordance with 196 EX/Decision 5.III, the Director-General submits, at this present session, a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan, which was adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session in 2013 (37 C/Res.97).

This progress report contains a summary of the reports submitted by Member States on the implementation of Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 of the Action Plan, as well as the measures taken by the Secretariat to improve its cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO in liaison with Permanent Delegations.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 90.



## **Progress made for the implementation of the Action Plan for Enhancing Cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO**

1. The Secretariat received, as of 31 January 2017, reports from 52 Member States/National Commissions, namely Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Congo, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The Director-General expresses her thanks to these Member States (22 from ENA; 6 from LAC; 8 from APA; 9 from AFR; and 7 from ARB) for their active participation in the preparation of this progress report, thus demonstrating their strong interest in and support of UNESCO activities. The following sections highlight the progress achieved as well as the challenges faced by the concerned National Commissions as well as the UNESCO Secretariat.

### **Findings and Recommendations 1 and 3: Legal framework and Review of the status and structure of the National Commissions**

2. As mentioned in the previous progress report (196 EX/5 Part III), Canada, Congo, France, Gabon, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Qatar and Uganda, had previously undertaken a review of the status and structure of their National Commissions. For the present report, a number of countries, namely Algeria, Armenia, Burundi, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Ecuador, Georgia, Lithuania, Namibia, Slovakia, Sudan, and Trinidad and Tobago stated that they have also proceeded with a review of the status and structure of their National Commissions within their national contexts and in view of the ever-changing national, regional and international contexts. The following are excerpts from the National Commissions' reports.

3. *"Chapter III of the new statute of the National Commission of Algeria adopted in February 2016 clearly defines its composition, organization and the functioning. The Algerian National Commission has today a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, a General Secretariat and six Technical Committees".*

4. *"Burundi has adopted an important legal instrument specifying the role and organization of the National Commission in its national context, through the Decree No. 100/239 of 29 October 2014, signed by the President of the Republic. Unfortunately, financial and human resources have not been made available. This is detrimental to the proper functioning and relations with other partners both of the Government and of civil society working in the fields of competence of UNESCO. Thus, there is a great delay in the formation of specialized committees, the establishment of UNESCO Clubs and Associated Schools".*

5. In Cyprus, *"in the course of the fifteen years since its inception, the National Commission developed a broad spectrum of activities.[...] Considering that its statute and structure, approved by the Council of Ministers in 2004, was insufficient for the Commission to fulfil its mission, the governing board decided to review its existing provisions in 2015. Following consultations with relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Education and Culture submitted to the Council of Ministers a proposal for the establishment of a non-profit foundation with the name "Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO". As of 2017, the Commission operates according to the new statute approved by the Council of Ministers on 25 November 2016, with an increased budget".*

6. *"The Ecuadorian National Commission for UNESCO has undergone a process of reorganization, by Executive Decree No. 777 issued by the President of the Republic of Ecuador on 9 September 2015. This Decree establishes the transfer of the National Commission from the Ministry of Education to the Coordinating Ministry of Knowledge and Human Talent of Ecuador, an*

*institution whose competency aligns with the themes handled by UNESCO. Due to its character of being a coordinating organism, it can better promote inter-ministerial and intersectorial cooperation with national institutions related to UNESCO's sectors”.*

7. In Lithuania, *“in 2016, by the initiative of the National Commission, the legal documents defining the status and regulations of the Commission and its Secretariat were revised and adjusted in order to better integrate the principles of the UNESCO Constitution and the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO. Such important elements as the recommendations regarding the composition, representativeness, balance between representatives of governmental and civil society sectors, balance of their areas of competence and activities, were taken into account. The draft documents were submitted to the Ministry of Culture for its adoption”.*

8. *“The new Statute of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO was approved by the government of the Slovak Republic in July 2016 and entered into force on 1 October 2016. [...] The Commission is an advisory body to the government of the Slovak Republic in matters relating to UNESCO and the Slovak Republic's relations with that organization. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic is responsible for material, administrative and organizational arrangements for the Commission's work”.*

9. Sudan reported that *“the Commission is now revising its organizational and financial by-laws. Now it is following the approval by the concerned authorities of the proposed structure. Lately, the National commission revised and updated its budget and priorities in line with UNESCO main activities, with the Ministry of Finance and other related Ministries”.*

10. In Trinidad and Tobago, *draft Rules of Procedure were developed in 2015 for its National Commission for UNESCO. This was adapted from the UNESCO Charter of National Commissions, and will be adopted in 2017 by a new Commission.*

11. The case of Congo should also be mentioned. It is reported that there is currently no well-defined legal framework to guarantee a special status to the National Commission. A new decree which was drafted by the Secretary-General and submitted to the Government in 2013, remains under review to date.

12. Several other countries reported on their ongoing, future and periodical review process as follows:

13. *“The Canadian Commission for UNESCO is presently reviewing the functioning and composition of its sectoral commissions so that they work more effectively in the implementation of the Commission's strategic priorities and objectives”.*

14. In Hungary, *“a review of the governmental decree on the legal status of its National Commission is now being considered, based on the experiences of the past 4 years”.*

15. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, *“needs-based changes were introduced to the statutes of the governing bodies of the Iranian National Commission – the Executive Board and the Supreme Council - concerning the legal nature, role and mandate of Its National Commission, membership of its Executive Board and the necessity of strengthening partnership with GOs and civil society. The new statues have been submitted to the Cabinet for their approval and adoption”.*

16. *“The status and structure of the Mexico's National Commission will be revised and updated in 2017, in the framework of the 50th Anniversary of its foundation in 1967”.*

17. In Namibia, *“its National Commission currently resorts under the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and innovation, but the process of reviewing the status and structure is in progress”.*

18. *“The tasks of the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO, beyond its advisory and liaison functions crafted in the 1950s, grew to include a more active role ... In early 2016, the Philippine Permanent Delegate to UNESCO recommended to lessen the number of Commissioners of the Philippine National Commission. Relative to this, a review of the Philippine National Commission’s Charter and By-Laws was also raised as most of the provisions included therein are irrelevant and no longer conform to the current situation”.*

19. *“The Portuguese National Commission is considering revising its Advisory Board in order to have a broader representation of civil society, as well as representation of all the National Committees and Networks created by the Portuguese National Commission or developed under its aegis, such as the Portuguese World Heritage sites, UNESCO Chairs, Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks Networks”.*

20. *“The Decision of the Federal Council of 18 November 2015 approved the revision of the Act of Institution of the Swiss Commission and the full renewal of the members of the Commission for the period 2016-2019. Under the concerned law, the mandate and composition of the Swiss Commission for UNESCO are reviewed every four years by the Swiss Government”.*

21. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the legal basis of its National Commission for UNESCO dates back to 1978 and 1980. Nowadays the structure described in these documents is to be updated. Actually, the National Commission is working to review its structure.

22. Regarding the financial resources, the budget of the majority of National Commissions is covered principally by their respective governments. While the information on the exact budget level of the National Commissions is not always available, it seems extremely varied from one National Commission to another. Consequently, the level of human resources as well as of activities undertaken by National Commissions also vary, as demonstrated by some examples quoted below.

23. Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo and Democratic Republic of the Congo mentioned their difficulties in terms of financial and human resources to fulfil their functions.

24. The Czech Republic indicated that *“its National Commission does not have any budget of its own. Given the fact that its secretariat is a body of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its costs are covered by the budget of the Ministry”.*

25. *“The Lao National Commission for UNESCO has few staff and does not have its proper Secretariat”.*

26. *“For the Latvia National Commission, its financial resources shall comprise: (1) State budget funds; (2) gifts and donations from legal and natural persons, including foreign legal and natural persons; and (3) income from economic activity”.*

27. *“The Norway Commission has a grant scheme for UNESCO-purposes, which is very useful in supporting UNESCO activities all over the country and promoting UNESCO values and name”.*

28. Turkey stated that *“the adoption of the Action Plan further raised the awareness on the mandate of the Commission and the financial means are improved as the Commission is better positioned to express itself”.*

#### **Findings and Recommendation 4: Appointment of Chair/President and Secretary-General**

29. In conformity with this recommendation, most of the National Commissions have internal rules that determine the term of the President/Chair and the Secretary-General. Again, the term and mode of appointment varies from one National Commission to another, due to their diversity in the structure, functions and recruitment process. In many Member States, the President of the National Commission is *ex officio* the Minister of the responsible Ministry and his/her nomination as

President of National Commission corresponds to his/her governmental tenure. The reports of National Commissions underline the importance of ensuring the continuity of the qualified Secretary General for the efficiency and stability of National Commissions.

30. However, in some Member States (Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Lao DPR), the mandate and term of office of the Secretary-General are not clearly and explicitly defined by legal texts.

31. In Ecuador, *“in virtue of the Executive Decree 777 dated 9 September 2015, the synergy and coordinated work of the main authorities (President and Secretary-General) at the National Commission is guaranteed. However, the continuity of the position as Secretary General could not be guaranteed”*. In some countries such as Algeria, Kuwait, Mexico, Serbia, there is no definite period for the assignment of the Secretary-General. *“In Paraguay, both positions of Chair and Secretary-General are subject to changes of Government and Ministers of the Presidential Cabinet”*. *“The Executive Secretary of the Salvadoran Commission has a term of 2 years in charge of the conduct of the Commission”*. *“The Secretary General of the Turkish National Commission works under one-year contract with a possibility of renewal”*.

### **Findings and Recommendation 5: Engagement with public and private partners and seeking for sponsorship**

32. Following up to the Action Plan, many of the National Commissions have actively engaged with various governmental, private sector and other funding partners in their countries, in a variety of ways, as shown below. A couple of National Commissions acted as sponsors for activities undertaken jointly with their partners. Very few National Commissions have undertaken fund raising activities with individual donors and the private sector. However, as mentioned below through the Korean National Commission’s experience, such activities require a huge amount of investment in terms of capital and human resources. In addition, not all National Commissions are in a position to seek private sponsorship due to their internal budgeting systems. Some African National Commissions refer to other challenges in seeking private sector’s sponsorship.

33. *“The Andorra National Commission has established its partnership with FEDA, a public electricity company that has developed a cultural branch. It has also initiated new collaboration with private partners in bilateral or multilateral projects (Art camp Malta (2015), exhibition Art camp Andorra at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (September 2016), cultural and environmental project at La Havana, Quinta de Los Molinos Park (2016)”*.

34. Congo reported that *“partnership with the private sector is still embryonic and that the relaunch of the Bulletin of the National Commission, through a project within the framework of the Participation Programme, would play a decisive role to that effect”*.

35. The Democratic Republic of the Congo stated that *“the difficult economic situation of most private companies and public enterprises does not encourage the implementation of this recommendation with the private sector. Moreover, these companies often confuse the National Commission with UNESCO and do not know that the former is not a donor. As such, these potential private sector partners have difficulty in conceiving how a United Nations Organization may need the private sector to implement joint projects. Hence, an advocacy action is envisaged to resolve this incomprehension”*. Similarly, in the Central African Republic, *“the principle of partnership is so poorly understood that GOs and NGOs only request a financial contribution from UNESCO via the National Commission”*.

36. *“The Ecuador National Commission has signed several agreements on cooperation with institutions and universities such as the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences – FLACSO, the National University of Education of Ecuador, the Ministry of Education, the International Centre for Higher Education in Communication to Latin America –CIESPAL, in order to develop joint projects on education, science, technology, and culture, which are currently being implemented”*.



37. *“The German Commission for UNESCO constantly reviews and expands, as appropriate, its wide network of partners in Germany. Beyond its 114 members, the Commission cooperates with at least 1,000 partners in Germany on a regular basis. The German Commission for UNESCO receives funding almost exclusively from different government sources. Its very strict principles for accepting sponsorship from private sector donors, in existence since 2007, are implemented very carefully. Many expressions of interest from the private sector are turned down. The principles are based on the UN Global Compact and explicitly rule out several types of corporations”.*

38. *In Hungary, “in the past four years about 50 partnerships have been established with civil society for specific projects falling within UNESCO’s mandate. The partnerships have been concluded in various forms (patronage/support by the Commission or its President) and have sometimes involved financial commitment from the part of the National Commission as well (such as payment for the venue of an event, catering costs).[...] These partnership agreements have proved to be very efficient in gaining visibility for UNESCO and for promoting causes, projects and activities directly relevant for the Organization”.*

39. *“The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU) provides assistance through government funding to activities conducted by NGOs [...]. Japan was the first country in the world to launch private-sector UNESCO activities. JNCU places great importance to collaboration and cooperation with NGOs such as the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan and the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), and promotes the energizing of UNESCO activities by these and other organizations”.*

40. *“Since 2014, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) has been carrying out activities to raise funds from individual donors and strengthening its relationships with donors from the private sector. Although it is too early to evaluate fully the results of these fundraising initiatives, KNCU has experienced that establishing and maintaining such initiatives requires a huge amount of investment in terms of capital and human resources, not to mention a solid legal basis that allows this type of fund-raising”.*

41. *“Through various activities, the Malawi National Commission has been able to establish links and networks with partners such as UNICEF, FAO, SOS Children’s Village, Copyright Society of Malawi, National Youth Council, National Library Service, Malawi Anti-doping Agency, MISA-Malawi, Malawi Polytechnic, Centre for Social Research (under the University of Malawi), Mzuzu University, College of Medicine and National Commission for Science and Technology among many others”.*

42. *Mongolia, Italy and the Philippines reported that their National Commissions were working with a view to expanding its network of partners and to seeking sponsorship.*

43. *“The New Zealand National Commission works with a range of stakeholders in a variety of ways including through partnerships, sharing of expertise, and funding.[...] The National Commission also undertakes an annual funding round, accepting applications from a range of organizations for grants for activities within UNESCO’s mandate and that align with the National Commission’s current priorities”.*

44. *“In cooperation and partnership with both governmental and non-governmental institutions, the Serbian National Commission for UNESCO was a sponsor of various projects, publications and events, which helped creating synergy and common positions on issues related to UNESCO’s field of competence”.*

45. *“The Seychelles National Commission has no procedures in place yet for sponsorships”.*

46. *“The National Commission of Sudan has been working on expanding its partners by involving them in the implementation of activities, circulation of information, advice, consultation and guidance requesting. The more closely engaging partners are MTN Telecommunication Company,*

*Babikr Badri Association for women, Islamic Dawa Organization, and governmental and private universities”.*

47. In Trinidad and Tobago, *“sponsorship is sought mainly from the corporate sector. A major bank sponsors the “Leading for Literacy Now!” project, which continues for five years after the success of the initial Participation Project. Projects such as these are favoured by those organizations fulfilling their ‘corporate social responsibility’ role. Estonia have also developed in the recent years partnerships with private sector – Samsung and L’Oreal”.*

48. *“The Venezuela National Commission does not have any network of partners and it does not seek sponsorship because it actually depends only on state budget”.*

**Findings and Recommendation 6: Engaging more closely with the larger UNESCO family, including associations, centres and clubs, and NGOs**

49. The majority of the National Commissions stated that they have continued to work closely with various partners in their respective countries to expand their networks, which include UNESCO Chairs, National Committees of Intergovernmental Programmes, ASPnet, UNESCO Clubs and Associations, category 2 institutes and centres and non-governmental organizations.

50. Namibia reported that *“identifying and helping new NGO partners should be strengthened in the country. The importance of monitoring and assessing the Associations, Chairs, etc. has been discussed at the meeting of Secretaries-General organized by the Regional Office for Southern Africa. This aspect should be reinforced”.*

51. *“The Seychelles National Commission liaises with the UNESCO Regional office for Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean to establish networking for specific regional projects like training workshops, conferences”.*

52. The specific relationship of the National Commissions with UNESCO Associations, Centres and Clubs varies greatly from one country to another. In the Asia and Pacific region, for Japan and the Republic of Korea, the clubs and associations for UNESCO have traditionally played an important role. *“Papua New Guinea wishes to reactivate clubs and associations activities”.* *“The Philippine National Commission encourages clubs to be avenues for youth mentoring and dialogue and peer collaborations along UNESCO’s areas of work”.*

53. *“In Bulgaria, UNESCO Clubs are very active and its National Commission for UNESCO sent recently a thorough questionnaire to all NGOs that had stated their will to join the network of clubs for UNESCO. This operation aims at establishing a national federation of UNESCO’s clubs in the country”.* *“In Congo, the clubs and associations for UNESCO have been close partners of the National Commission”.* *“El Salvador wishes that experiences of other Member States be shared in order for the country to develop its collaboration with associations, centres and clubs”.* However, Canada, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Lao PDR, Latvia, New Zealand and Norway reported that no such entities exist in their countries.

54. On the responsibility of the National Commission with regard to the accreditation of and monitoring of activities undertaken by UNESCO clubs, association and centres, many National Commissions have been assuming seriously such a responsibility by taking some new concrete measures, as reported by Armenia, Central African Republic, Cyprus, Germany, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, Togo, Turkey and Venezuela.

55. For example, the National Commissions of Algeria and Seychelles envisage increasing the number of Associate schools in their respective countries. *“The Iraqi National Commission is seeking to activate UNESCO Associate Schools project in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Organization and the proper use of the logo and internet domain name of UNESCO”.*

56. The Secretariat was also informed that in France, Greece and Switzerland, their National Commissions had faced some difficulties in managing the movement of clubs for UNESCO in their countries. The French National Commission recently initiated a comprehensive review of the network of centres, clubs and associations with a view to refounding it by creating a national coordination mechanism on the model of those for UNESCO ASPnet and UNESCO Chairs. It has been developing an in-depth reflection on the new ways of mobilizing young people and adults in support of the objectives and values of UNESCO. The Hellenic National Commission started the process of drafting laws for approval by Parliament on functions of UNESCO clubs and centres, their right to use the name and logo UNESCO, as well as the national Commission's cooperation with them. The Swiss National Commission proceeded with the withdrawal of accreditation from most of the existing clubs in its country, whose activities are not in line with UNESCO's mission.

57. *“The Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO has established a closer oversight of UNESCO Clubs’ activities, in order to prevent any wrong use of the name, acronym and logo of UNESCO. In coordination with the UNESCO Office in Mexico and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Mexican Commission developed specific actions during 2016 to avoid that two different persons continue using a misleading position as ‘UNESCO/WFUCA Goodwill Ambassador’ towards institutions, media and the public”.*

58. As regards the role to be played by the National Commissions on the use of UNESCO's name, acronym, logo and internet domain names, Estonia pointed out that, *“as the use of logos/linked logos differs across different programmes and conventions, it would be useful to develop an overview with practical guidelines and examples of correct use covering ‘standard situations’ (such as publications, webpages, signs, information materials etc versus commercial use). This would be helpful for the National Commissions so that they could give better advice at national level”.*

59. *“The National Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made great efforts to avoid the misuse of the name, the acronym, the emblem and the Internet domain names of UNESCO. Guidance notes were sent to all traditional partners in this regard. A workshop for restructuring and capacity building of various stakeholders was organized within the framework of the UNESCO Participation Programme, and the instructions relating thereto were recalled on that occasion”.*

60. *“One of the UK National Commission’s agreed priorities is to support UK individuals and institutions to access UNESCO resources and, where appropriate, support UNESCO accreditations for high quality UK individuals and entities. Since 2013, the UKNC has received an annual A+ rating for its work on accreditations and associated activities around Brand protection. All organizations and/or individuals seeking UNESCO accreditation are required to go through a rigorous application and independent peer-review process before being put forward to UNESCO for nomination. The UKNC has prioritized its work with UK UNESCO designations, playing a “hub” role. This has included producing three Wider Value Reports which analyze and assess the additional value of UNESCO accreditation”.*

### **Findings and Recommendation 9: Networking of National Commissions, twinning system and staff exchange programme**

61. The reports of National Commissions indicate a number of initiatives taken to establish cooperative networks among National Commissions, in the form of training, knowledge and experience sharing and occasional secondments or funding grants. These include the South-Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region group; EU/EFTA (European Free Trade Association) informal network; Network of Nordic National Commissions; Network of Portuguese speaking countries; V4 (Visegrad Group: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia), and Network of Central American National Commissions, etc.

62. Networks have been constituted not only at regional, or sub-regional level, but also at the level of activities. For example, the Cyprus National Commission participates in the activities of the network of the *“countries which inscribed the Mediterranean Diet on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the activities of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South East Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria) and the South East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage”*.

63. *“The Algerian National Commission has proceeded to implement a partnership project with the Maghreb National Commissions in order to strengthen and intensify the ties of cooperation in close collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office in Rabat”*.

64. *“Andorra la Vella became the capital of Ibero-American culture in 2016. The Andorra National Commission organized a meeting on the management of cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List. Representatives from Colombia, Cuba, Spain and Portugal took part in this event (28-29 September 2016) for exchange of information. As part of the Art Camp initiative of the Andorra National Commission, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO facilitated the trip of an artist from Papua New Guinea in 2014, and also took charge of the trip of two young people from Saint Kitts and Nevis and Haiti for the UNESCO Youth Forum 2013 and 2015”*.

65. *“The Democratic Republic of the Congo for UNESCO collaborated with the Belgian Francophone and German-speaking Commission for UNESCO by organizing in Kinshasa a Round Table on the Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Three other National Commissions, namely the French, German and Italian Commissions hosted staff members of the National Commission for internship and sharing of experience. However, exchanges of personnel and the provision of equipment have not yet been considered”*.

66. *“The German Commission for UNESCO assists several other National Commissions. This includes operative support to the EU/EFTA informal network, capacity building for some 10 African National Commissions and cooperative project with several National Commissions worldwide, including the provision of funding for specific projects”*.

67. *“The Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) has implemented various projects to assist fellow National Commissions in building their capacities. The Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of UNESCO’s Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO has been used extensively as a reference document for KNCU in carrying out its projects in relation to the cooperation between National Commissions”*.

68. *“The Lithuania Commission tries to include the counterparts from its neighbouring countries to different activities. In 2016, for instance, the Commission implemented a pilot project Integrating Open Badge Standard in ASPnet Schools in Lithuania aimed to create and test the non-formal education achievement recognition system in UNESCO associated schools based on an open digital badges platform. The results of the projects were presented at the International ASPnet School Badge Workshop held on 18 October 2016, in Vilnius, with participation of representatives of the Estonian, Belarus, Latvian, Polish and Ukrainian National Commissions, ASPnet coordinators and teachers”*.

69. *“The Namibia National Commission organized staff exchanges with the German, Kenyan and Uganda National Commissions. The Namibia National Commission also hosted staff from the following National Commissions: Lesotho, South Africa and Tanzania). The Namibia National Commission is committed to spearhead the building of capacity in the Southern Africa region”*.

70. *“The Paraguayan National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO maintains constant communication with the National Commissions of the region, especially through the execution of joint projects through the Network of Associated Schools of UNESCO. It is also developing a Volunteer programme through an agreement signed with the German Commission for UNESCO”*.

71. *“The Portuguese National Commission of UNESCO has carried out cooperative actions with the Portuguese Speaking Countries namely under the education sector and UNESCO ASPnet Schools, delivering training actions - Cabo Verde and Sao Tome and Principe, and framed in the UNESCO Strategy for the ASPnet Associated Schools – Education for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development Goals”.*

72. *“The Swiss Commission for UNESCO has been organizing the so-called ‘Lugano’ meeting, which has reached its 8th edition, with the constant objective of providing National Commissions with a content and informal forum on a specific theme chosen, in a spirit of North-South cooperation and conducive to open discussions. The Portuguese and Canadian National Commissions have been collaborating for the VINCI project, part of the assessment exercise Lugano VII, ‘Assessing the Values of UNESCO within a framework of International Cooperation (VINCI)’, coordinated by the UK and the Swiss National Commissions for UNESCO”.*

73. *“To just quote some examples of such projects: In June 2016, KNCU co-hosted a Training Workshop for Officials of Asian National Commissions for UNESCO in Bangkok, Thailand, in cooperation with the UNESCO Bangkok Office and the Thai National Commission for UNESCO. Under the project ‘Website Development Project (2013~2016)’, KNCU assisted various National Commissions to develop their own websites, so that information about the activities and experiences of National Commissions can be shared more widely. The project also provided a training workshop for staff members of the participating National Commissions in order for them to increase their capacities to manage their websites on their own. In 2014 and 2015, the training workshops were co-organized with the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO. Under the Bridge Africa Programme(2010~), KNCU cooperates with National Commissions for UNESCO in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe to provide enhanced learning opportunities to out-of-school children, as well as to youth and adults. By supporting the establishment and operation of networks of community learning centres, which serve as hubs for community-driven educational development activities in rural areas, the programme aims to contribute to UNESCO’s Global Priority in Africa and the implementation of Education 2030. Since 2009, in partnership with UNESCO and various National Commissions, KNCU has organized regional training workshops for capacity building of fellow Member States under-represented in the Memory of the World register, in order to increase awareness of the existence and importance of documentary heritage, and contribute to its protection and promotion”.*

74. *“The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO has been inviting up to five staff members to Japan from other National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region every year. Through exchanges of views with JNCU staff and visits to UNESCO related organizations and other educational, scientific, and cultural organizations, JNCU provides training opportunities that promote understanding of UNESCO activities undertaken in Japan”.*

75. Papua New Guinea and the Philippines underline the need of twinning and staff exchange programmes organized with much developed National Commissions in the region. The Central African Republic stated that *“for the moment, the twinning attempts remained unsuccessful”*. Lebanon stated that *“an initiative of twinning with the French Commission was launched by the Lebanese Delegation to UNESCO. However, this initiative remains incomplete”*. Jordan has been developing the twinning with the National Commissions of Denmark and Bahrein, within the framework of the ASPnet activities. According to the Kuwait National Commission, *“visit programs between National Commissions witnesses a significant decline, in addition to the lack of twinning projects between National Commissions”*. Palestine stated that *“there are very important need to enhance cooperation between National Commissions. Exchange of experiences, twinning system and staff exchange programme as well as cooperative network among National Commissions are most welcome and encouraged”*.

76. *“The Iranian National Commission has no twinning systems, staff exchange programme and cooperative network with other National Commissions, which calls for a more effective involvement of the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office in devising such programme and plans”.*

77. The Italian National Commission stated that *“at this stage its limited human and financial resources make it difficult to engage on a twinning system. It hopes that this will change in the near future. The Italian National Commission would be very interested in establishing close relations with National Commissions of the Mediterranean countries”*.

78. *“The Mongolia National Commission acknowledges that regular meetings for sharing best practices and experience, exchanging staff between National Commissions are an effective tool for cooperation for the National Commissions. However, the budget constraint is very important to consider for this kind of arrangement. The well-established National Commissions can be encouraged to assist the others, those who need help/assistance”*.

### **The Secretariat’s efforts in the Implementation of Recommendations 8, 10 and 11**

79. In line with Recommendation 8 for enhancing communication between the Secretariat and National Commissions and strengthening collaboration among National Commissions, the Secretariat organized three interregional meetings of National Commissions since the adoption of the Action Plan in 2013: the first one was held from 22 to 24 July 2014 in Astana, Kazakhstan; the second one took place at UNESCO HQ in Paris on 2 November 2015 in the margins of the 38th General Conference; and the third and most recent one was held in Shanghai, China, from 13 to 15 June 2016.

80. As demonstrated notably during the Third Interregional meeting of National Commissions, which discussed, among others, the role of the National Commissions in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in the presence of some Field Office directors, these annual interregional meetings provided the participating representatives of National Commissions with an excellent platform for reflection and exchange of information among them on the topics of their concern. On that occasion, regional meetings were also organized to discuss regional priorities and challenges.

81. The UNESCO Secretariat also continued to organize traditional informal meetings of National Commissions in the margins of the 194th, 195th, 196th, 199th and 200th sessions of the Executive Board, all of which counted more than 80 participants representing National Commissions and Permanent Delegations.

82. The UK National Commission stated that *“the facilitation by the UNESCO Secretariat of in-depth discussions with National Commissions on priority issues, for example on the occasion of the Executive Board or General Conference, with a focus on organizational and policy recommendations, is welcome. The UK National Commission hopes this approach will be further developed”*.

83. As regards Recommendation 10, the revised and updated version of the “Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions for UNESCO” was endorsed by the Executive Board at its 196th session. The reports of National Commissions referring to various meetings organized jointly and a number of joint activities carried out with Field Offices as mentioned in previous sections of this report, witness to a much better cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions.

84. As an important means of facilitating the networking of National Commissions, the Secretariat has been keen in ensuring in time dissemination of information and knowledge sharing with National Commissions, in accordance with Recommendation 11. The Secretariat will continue to issue Monthly Letters and Annual Report of National Commissions. The National Commissions are encouraged to send to the Secretariat “their news” to be posted in UNESCO websites ([www.unesco.int](http://www.unesco.int), [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)).

85. *“The Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) highly values the monthly letter issued by UNESCO and believes such practice could be implemented at regional level by Field Offices as well. KNCU also highly appreciates the efforts made by the Director of UNESCO Office*

*in Beijing, to share a range of up-to-date information with National Commissions of the region by email. In this regard, and further to Recommendation 10 (close cooperation of Field Offices with National Commissions and Member States in their region), KNCU would like to suggest that the directors of cluster offices issue a regular (e.g. quarterly) letter to share news and information with National Commissions in their region”.*

86. In the course of the reporting period, as part of the Secretariat's contribution to the capacity building of the National Commissions, the Secretariat organized several video conferences and briefing sessions for a number of National Commissions, at their requests. However, some National Commissions suggested developing a capacity-building programme for National commission's staff.

## **Conclusion**

87. The present progress report is far from being fully representative of all National Commissions' assessment. However, the Secretariat is pleased to note that the Action Plan has generated very positive adjustments in a great number of National Commissions, not only in their cooperative relationship with the Secretariat, but also in the closer relationship among them, leading to an increased number of joint activities and exchanges among them, and thus constituting expended and consolidated networks.

88. One of the characteristics of the network of the National Commissions for UNESCO is their diversity. As stipulated in the preamble of the Action Plan, while the UNESCO Constitution sets the foundation and legal framework for the establishment of National Commissions, the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO reaffirms that it is for each Member State to define the range of responsibilities and the nature of the functions of its National Commission. The Secretariat of UNESCO is entrusted to promote exchanges and networking among National Commissions in the context of their diversity in organization and status, by sharing information and best practices in a transparent and cooperative manner.

89. Such diversity is an asset and a challenge at the same time for the Secretariat in assuming its role of promoter of exchanges and networking among National Commissions. While a net progress was registered in the implementation of the Action Plan, further improvements should be realized so that a larger number of National Commissions can benefit from the reinforced networks of cooperation. The UNESCO Secretariat will pursue its efforts and will continue to highlight the role of National Commissions, in spite of the current financial difficulties it has been facing. Any support from the National Commissions is most welcome.

## **Proposed decision**

90. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 189 EX/Decision 16, 190 EX/Decision 37, 191 EX/Decision 33, 37 C/Resolution 97 and 196 EX/Decision 5.III,
2. Having examined the Director-General's progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO, contained in document 201 EX/5 Part II,
3. Appreciates the efforts and progress made by both the National Commissions and the UNESCO Secretariat towards enhancing UNESCO's cooperation with National Commissions,
4. Invites Member States to continue to implement the Action Plan, notably by assuming their obligations and responsibilities to support their National Commissions as laid

down in the UNESCO Constitution (Article VII) and in the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO,

5. Requests the Director-General to continue to implement the Action Plan, by taking necessary measures to improve the Secretariat cooperation with National Commissions in liaison with the Permanent Delegations, and to report to the Executive Board on the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan in her statutory reports.





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part II Corr.

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## **FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

### **PART II**

#### **EVALUATION ISSUES**

#### **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR ENHANCING THE COOPERATION OF THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WITH NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO**

#### **CORRIGENDUM**

Paragraphs 1, 2, 47 and 53 should read as follows:

1. The Secretariat received, as of 31 January 2017, reports from 54 Member States/National Commissions, namely Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Congo, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Gabon<sup>1</sup>, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The Director-General expresses her thanks to these Member States (23 from ENA; 6 from LAC; 8 from APA; 10 from AFR; and 7 from ARB) for their active participation in the preparation of this progress report, thus demonstrating their strong interest in and support of UNESCO activities. The following sections highlight the progress achieved as well as the challenges faced by the concerned National Commissions<sup>2</sup> as well as the UNESCO Secretariat.

2. As mentioned in the previous progress report (196 EX/5 III), Canada, Congo, France, Gabon, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Qatar and Uganda, had previously undertaken a review of the status and structure of their National Commissions. For the present

<sup>1</sup> Gabon submitted its report on 5 February 2017.

<sup>2</sup> The quotations from the National Commissions' reports are put in italic.



report, a number of countries, namely Algeria, Armenia, Burundi, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Ecuador, Gabon, Georgia, Lithuania, Namibia, Slovakia, Sudan, and Trinidad and Tobago stated that they have also proceeded with a review of the status and structure of their National Commissions within their national contexts and in view of the ever-changing national, regional and international contexts.

47. In Trinidad and Tobago, *“sponsorship is sought mainly from the corporate sector. A major bank sponsors the “Leading for Literacy Now!” project, which continues for five years after the success of the initial Participation Project. Projects such as these are favoured by those organizations fulfilling their ‘corporate social responsibility’ role. Estonia has also developed in the recent years partnerships with private sector – Samsung and L’Oreal”. The Swedish Commission has adopted rules for cooperation with private entities, and cooperates with a private company to establish the Women in Science Prize in Sweden.*

53. *“In Bulgaria, UNESCO Clubs are very active and its National Commission for UNESCO sent recently a thorough questionnaire to all NGOs that had stated their will to join the network of clubs for UNESCO. This operation aims at establishing a national federation of UNESCO’s clubs in the country”. “In Congo, the clubs and associations for UNESCO have been close partners of the National Commission”. “El Salvador wishes that experiences of other Member States be shared in order for the country to develop its collaboration with associations, centres and clubs”. “In Gabon, as part of the revitalization of the National Federation of Associations, Centers and Clubs for UNESCO, the National Commission plans to organize the General Assembly of the Federation at the end of March 2017”. However, Canada, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Lao PDR, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden reported that no such entities exist in their countries.*



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## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART III

### MANAGEMENT ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

This report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of the progress achieved in the follow-up to the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions.

Part III of this document contains information on the following management issues:

- A. Sustainability of the field network**
- B. Invest for Efficient Delivery**
- C. Review of cost recovery policy**





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## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART III

### MANAGEMENT ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

##### **A. Sustainability of the field network**

Pursuant to 200 EX/Decision 5.III.A, the Director-General presents herein a report on progress made in the consolidation of the capacities of the field offices, including the implementation of improvement measures to the field network in Africa, as well as on the preliminary review of relevance and performance of the field network as a whole.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 28.



## **A. Sustainability of the field network** (Follow-up to 200 EX/Decision 5.III.A)

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### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Executive Board at its 200th session reiterated the importance of the responsive and sustainable field network for the implementation of UNESCO's mandates in particular taking into account the need for UNESCO's presence close to Member States in the national context of the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

2. The Executive Board adopted decision 200 EX/Decision 5.III.A requesting the Director-General to report to it at its 201st session, on implementation of the improvement measures to the field network in Africa as well as on the progress of work of the Task Team for the review of the sustainability of the UNESCO Field Network. The Executive Board also requested the Director-General to report on the outcome of the review of the relevance and performance of the field network as a whole and to propose concrete action-oriented and costed options for a more sustainable, relevant and effective field network.

### **OVERALL CONTEXT**

3. The present document is set in the overall framework of second phase of the process of review of the sustainability of the field network as outlined in document 199 EX/5 II.C and relevant decision 199 EX/Decision 5.II.C. It also takes into consideration recommendations of the External Auditor made in the context of the audit report on the UNESCO field network reform as well as consolidated report on field office audits (2011-2015).

4. The process of review of the sustainability of the field network builds on the reconfirmation by the Executive Board at its 199th session of the validity and relevance of the main objectives of the comprehensive reform initiated in 2009 as adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session. It also takes into account the outcome of discussions at the 200th session of the Executive Board related to the first phase of the review, and, in particular, to the proposed criteria for UNESCO's field presence and basic principles of sustainable decentralization. While taking note of these proposals, the Executive Board confirmed that the criteria and principles adopted by the 35th and 36th General Conference respectively, remain pertinent.

5. The "Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system – QCPR", which was recently adopted by the 71st General Assembly of the United Nations (GA Resolution 71/243), constitutes a major reference and guiding framework for the United Nations development system, of which UNESCO is an integral part, towards effective support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, it addresses the need to refine country level operational modalities in order to meet the specific needs and challenges and highlights the need for synergies and inter-agency efforts to maximize the use of the offices and resources on the ground. It also targets alignment of the United Nations system field presence with national needs and considerations while considering flexible, cost effective and collaborative field presence alternatives.

### **PROGRESS OF WORK**

6. The Organization has made progress in development of tools, processes and practices aimed at consolidation of the capacities and efficiencies of its field network as follows:

**(a) Work of the Task Team**

7. The Director-General established the Task Team for the review of the sustainability of the field network in May 2016 (DG/Note/16/09) under the leadership of the Assistant Director-General for Africa and supervision by a steering group chaired by Deputy Director-General, as a subset of the Programme Management Committee (PMC). Its mandate is to develop tools and processes to enable a consistent, solid and operational field structure.

8. In addition to the designated participation of representatives of programme sectors, corporate services, and directors of multisectoral regional offices the Task Team also invited certain heads of national offices to contribute to its work with broader field perspective. During phase one of the review of the sustainability of the field network, the Task Team supported the development of the basic principles of sustainable decentralization, criteria for UNESCO field presence and mechanisms for monitoring improvements to the field network in Africa. Since the 200th session of the Executive Board, the Task Team focused on and supported the following initiatives (a) action plan and follow-up on implementation of the improvement measures to the field network in Africa, (b) development of the responsibilities and accountabilities matrix for the field network in Africa and (c) development of the performance assessment tool for field offices.

**(b) Implementation of improvement measures to the field network in Africa**

9. While the level of financial resources available to sustain the current field structure in Africa and to ensure full implementation of the set of measures adopted by 200th session of the Executive Board has not significantly increased, a number of concrete actions have been taken at Headquarters and in the field which contribute to the consolidation of UNESCO's field presence in Africa.

10. Coordination between Headquarters and field offices has significantly improved in particular by enhancing the synergy between programme sectors and multisectoral regional offices in the area of planning, monitoring and implementation of programmes. Regional coordination meetings have taken place in all five regions under the leadership of the multisectoral regional offices with the view to better planning and development of joint subregional programmes. This has resulted in an increased number of joint initiatives in key areas such as support to the implementation of SDGs, water management, STI, culture and sustainable development, support to local media and promotion of intercultural dialogue.

11. As far as the implementation of the operational strategy for Africa is concerned, the Africa Department ensures regular communication and provides technical backstopping to field offices especially with regard to the flagship programmes. A global meeting of Directors/Heads of field offices in Africa was organized in 2016 to review the implementation of the flagship programmes in Africa and suggest ways of improving coordination, monitoring and reporting. Field offices were also fully involved in the alignment exercise of the operational strategy with the Agendas 2063 and 2030, which was undertaken during the second semester of 2016. In addition, the Division of Field Support and Coordination ensures efficient communication flow through regular information and knowledge sharing. A workspace was established on UNESCO's online collaborative platform UNESTeam with a wide range of regularly updated information useful to the daily work of the field network as a whole.

12. Training sessions aimed at enhancing the capacity of field offices in Africa to mobilize extrabudgetary resources, are being developed. The next training for field offices in West and Central Africa will take place in April 2017. It is expected that by end of 2017, the core of UNESCO's programme staff in Africa will benefit from this training. Furthermore, the capacity of field offices in the area of administration and financial management have been reinforced through specific regional trainings with participation of directors/heads, programme specialists and administrative officers of the multisectoral regional offices and national offices in Africa.

13. In order to ensure a better functional alignment and engagement with the United Nations system and the Africa Union at the regional level, Directors of the five multisectoral regional offices have been fully empowered as members of Regional UNDG's clusters with a clear distribution of responsibilities in terms of participation and representation in regional meetings. The representative and liaison functions to African regional groupings (RECs and other regional organizations) have been formalized. The role of UNESCO's Liaison Office in Addis Ababa has been strengthened with adequate human and financial resources to be able to fully represent and engage UNESCO in particular in the AU/UN Regional Coordination Mechanism.

14. In 2016, additional professional posts have been established in all five multisectoral offices in order to reinforce the technical expertise and capacity to deliver programmes at regional and national level. For example, the Social and Human Sciences Sector established and filled three new professional posts in Abuja, Harare and Yaoundé while the Education Sector and Natural Sciences Sector posted senior professional staff in the five regions. Other sectors are gradually strengthening their presence in the field taking into account limited available resources.

15. The contribution of African Member states to the functioning of the offices in Africa needs to be highlighted. More and more arrangements are being made with Member States in order to strengthen the technical capacity of UNESCO's offices by seconding national officers. The support of Member States is considered as a key element of the sustainability of the field system.

#### **(c) Responsibilities and accountabilities matrix for the field network in Africa**

16. Accountability and reporting lines applicable to the field network in Africa are outlined in DG/Note/14/2 ("UNESCO Reformed Field Network in Africa") and DG/Note/14/3 ("Enhanced Delegation of Authority to UNESCO Field Offices and Revised Reporting Lines"). However, the IOS evaluation report "Lessons learned from UNESCO's field reform in Africa" (September 2015, IOS/EVS/PI/143 REV.2) and the external audit report "UNESCO field network reform" (March 2016, 199 EX/15 Part IV) highlighted the need for greater clarity in the assignment of responsibilities. Consequently, the Secretariat prepared a matrix defining responsibilities, accountabilities, consultation processes and reporting lines for the accomplishment of major tasks of directors of multisectoral regional offices and heads of national offices in Africa. The matrix shall be issued by the Director-General for implementation.

#### **(d) Review of host country agreements**

17. Following the recommendations by the External Auditor<sup>1</sup>, a full review of the status of the host country agreements was undertaken (including a survey among field offices) with a view to identifying the need and opportunity to renegotiate existing host country agreements and/or to initiate negotiations with national authorities in countries where no host country agreements exist. After careful consideration of each individual case, the Secretariat identified a number of host country agreements that would lend themselves to a successful review. Concerned field offices will establish dialogue with host authorities, accompanied by Headquarters backstopping. To this end a standard model of host country agreement is being developed. This process will provide an opportunity not only to better reflect current mandates of the field offices and to bring in line the existing arrangements but to seek further backstopping and support from Member States to the field offices.

#### **(e) Harnessing the field network to deliver support to countries in crises**

18. As the IOS "Audit of UNESCO's Framework and Capacity for Support to Crisis and Transition Response"<sup>2</sup> carried out in 2016 indicates, UNESCO has a presence through an established office or an antenna in 20 of the 52 countries and territories worldwide that are considered crisis-affected; the Organization covers 30 others through regional and cluster offices.

<sup>1</sup> 199 EX/15.INF.7 "Consolidated report on field office audits (2011-2015)"

<sup>2</sup> IOS/AUD/2016/09 <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002468/246865E.pdf>

19. In 2016, 30% of extrabudgetary funding administered by the Organization is to be implemented in countries in crisis or transition. These funds are mostly in the Education Sector and Culture Sector. The average allocation for projects in these countries averages US \$1.8 million versus US \$1.3 million for other countries.

20. In recognition of the growing scope of UNESCO's interventions in crisis preparedness and response (CPR), a unit has been formed within FSC to function as a focal point for CPR programming, coordination and backstopping for Headquarters and field offices.

**(f) Performance management tool for assessment of field offices**

21. The sustainability of the field network depends to a large extent on the performance of the offices, which it constitutes. Therefore, the Secretariat intends to introduce a strategy performance management method to provide objective and measurable data enabling strategic review and decision-making as regards the network as a whole and/or of individual offices. To this end, the Secretariat initiated the development of a comprehensive tool using a Balanced Scorecard (BSC) approach with the following features.

- Analysis of a number of dimensions of performance, such as, *inter alia*, programmatic focus, national engagement, resource mobilization and operational efficiencies.
- Assessment of each dimension against a set of indicators specifying if management decisions affect the dimension in the desired way.
- Aggregation of the results of the analysis of the dimensions into an analysis of the overall performance of the field network, as well as of each individual office.

22. The tool enables the prioritization of performance criteria and tradeoffs that are inherent to and unavoidable in managing an office. The relevance of indicators, reliability of collected data and the scope of the targets set for each of the indicators are of essence. The process of target setting is a key change management aspect as they require choices based on informed decisions such as the choice as to whether some targets need to be set uniformly or individually for each office to reflect the unique context the office is working in.

23. The regular BSC-based assessment of the offices constituting the field network will be an essential element of change management as it reveals management choices and their consequences over time at each organizational level. The BSC aggregates information suited to the needs of managers in varying operational contexts. Accumulation of data over time allows for trend analysis, enables learning, and gives managers an opportunity to improve performance based on feedback.

24. The introduction of the BSC is widely supported by the Organization's management at Headquarters and in the field. Member States have been informed about this initiative through informal meetings with chairpersons of the electoral groups and/or with electoral groups themselves.

25. The BSC is presently at a development stage as the indicators and targets are being further refined in broad consultation with field offices, programme sectors and central services concerned. Once all the parameters and data sources, i.e. both existing IT data tools and more qualitative data of performance related to advocacy, capacity building and advisory functions of the field offices are determined, the Secretariat will test the tool on a pilot basis before full implementation. Furthermore, operationalization of the tool would need to be considered. The Secretariat intends to start the full use of the new mechanism in the new programming and budgeting cycle 2018-2019 and to present comprehensive analyses of the performance of the field network to the Executive Board annually at each spring session.



26. Pending the full development of the tool, a model of the performance assessment of the field network was prepared and is included in the Annex.

27. The detailed and regular analysis of the performance of field offices using the BSC approach will inform proposals on the future architecture of the field network, along with the results of the audit of the entire network that the External Auditor intends to carry out in the second half of 2017.

### **Proposed Decision**

28. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board

1. Recalling 200 EX/Decision 5.III.A,
2. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part III (A) on the sustainability of the field network,
3. Reiterates the importance of the responsive and sustainable field network for the implementation of UNESCO's mandate;
4. Further recognizes that the national context of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 calls for UNESCO's presence close to Member States in particular in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/243 related to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
5. Takes note of the progress made in consolidation of capacities and efficiencies of the field network;
6. Welcomes the initiative to update the existing host country agreements and to engage in the establishment of new host country agreements, on a case by case basis, and calls upon host Member States to consider enhanced support of field offices in this context;
7. Further welcomes the achieved improvement measures to the field network in Africa and invites the Director-General to pursue these efforts in furthering their implementation;
8. Encourages the Director-General to pursue the development and implementation of the performance management tool for field offices and to make full use of it in assessing the functioning of field offices:
9. Requests the Director-General, to report to it at its 204th session on the results of the comprehensive analysis of the relevance and performance of the field network as a whole.

## ANNEX

### PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FIELD NETWORK

#### Methodology

1. Pending the availability of the full version of the BSC, the Secretariat used the prototype for a preliminary assessment of the performance of the field offices. This experimental initial assessment provided a snapshot of performance at a given time. During this exercise, nine dimensions (programme focus and implementation, operational efficiency, resource mobilization, planning capacity, internal controls, savings, partnerships, people alignment, national engagement) with a limited number of indicators have been taken into account.

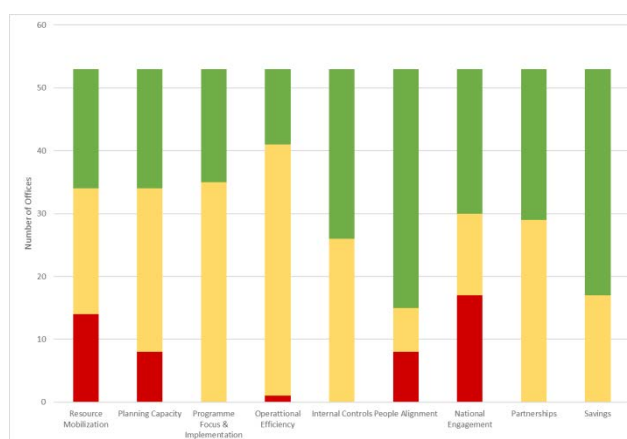
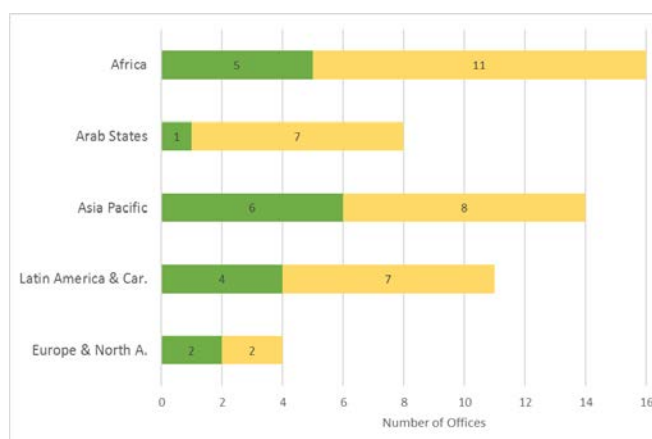
2. The data collection used existing data sources such as financial data, administrative dashboards, and human resources data. One or more indicators measure each dimension by comparing the actual value for each office to a specific target value. The results are color coded as follows:

- Targets are met.
- Targets are off track but largely under control.
- Targets are not met; area needs urgent attention and improvement.

#### Results

3. The initial assessment used 690 data points to review the performance of all 53 field offices categorized as regional bureaux, multisectoral regional offices and cluster, national and liaison offices. Of those, 34 per cent are rated “green” and 66 percent are rated “yellow” concerning their overall performance. However, a regional view (Graph 1) reveals significant differences, with 43 per cent of offices in Asia Pacific rated “green”, while only 13 per cent of offices in the Arab States received that rating. While no offices are rated “red”, four offices in Africa and the Arab States are considered “at risk” and will be reviewed in more detail.

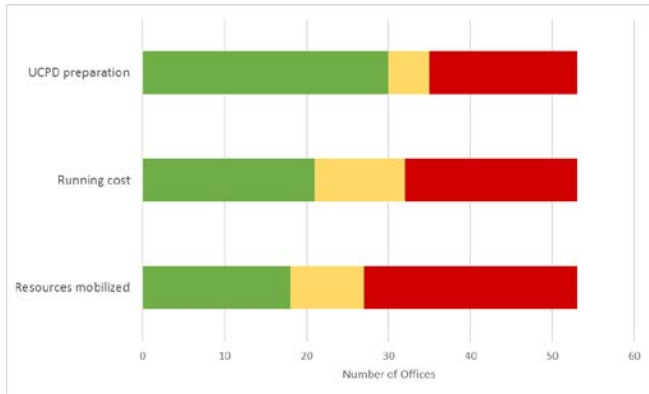
4. The review of offices along the dimensions of performance (Graph 2) reveals their ability to limit overall administrative costs and the potential for savings, strong internal management controls, and positive partnerships with national stakeholders and United Nations sister agencies. However, resource mobilization, the capacity to engage and undertake planning processes, and operational efficiency pose challenges for a significant number of offices.



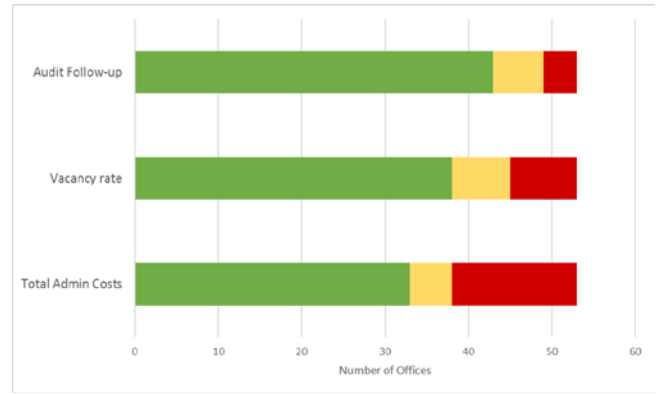
**Graph 1: Performance of offices by region**

**Graph 2: Key dimensions of performance**

5. At a more granular level, ranking performance by indicator shows that offices do well with regards to external audit follow-up, in filling vacant positions in the field, and in keeping administrative costs down in absolute terms (Graph 3). The most significant challenges are the consistent preparation of UNESCO country programme documents, the offices' running and security costs as a proportion of overall budgets, and the ability to secure extrabudgetary funds (Graph 4).



**Graph 3: Top challenges**



**Graph 4: Top strengths**

6. The initial assessment also reviewed performance based on an office typology (i.e. regional, cluster, national and liaison office). However, the results were not conclusive given two primary factors: (a) regional and cluster offices also serve as national office for the host country, thereby making a clear categorization difficult; and (b) the different setup in the Africa region makes comparison of office types across regions problematic.



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## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART III

### MANAGEMENT ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

#### **B. Invest for Efficient Delivery**

The purpose of this document is to inform the Members of the Executive Board on the progress achieved in the follow-up to the decision adopted by the Executive Board at their 200th session, on the initiatives funded and planned under the “Invest for Efficient Delivery” Plan.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 3.



**B. Invest for Efficient Delivery**

(Follow-up to 200 EX/Decision 5.III.B)

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1. Pursuant to 200 EX/Decision 5.III.B, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board this progress report on “Learning and Development” initiatives (Annex I) and on the “Knowledge Management and Information Technologies” initiatives (Annex II) for which funding was approved under the “Invest for Efficient Delivery” Fund.
2. Additional initiatives for approval by the Executive Board are also presented (Annex III). These initiatives would be funded from the unallocated budget under the “Invest for Efficient Delivery” Fund.

**Proposed decision**

3. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 200 EX/Decision 5.III.B,
2. Takes note of the progress report provided by the Director-General on the implementation of “Learning and Development” initiatives (Annex I) and on the “Knowledge Management and Information Technologies” initiatives (Annex II);
3. Invites the Director-General to further implement these initiatives;
4. Approves the additional initiatives (Annex III) for funding from the unallocated funds under the “Invest for Efficient Delivery” Fund and invites the Director-General to proceed with their implementation;
5. Requests the Director-General to submit an updated report on the implementation at its 201st session;
6. Reiterates its appeal to Member States to consider providing voluntary contributions to increase the budget of this important investment fund.

## ANNEX I

Pursuant to 199 EX/Decision 5.II.D, the Director General submits to the Executive Board the progress report on the implementation of the learning and development initiatives for which funding has been approved under the “Invest for Efficient Delivery” Plan.

As of 31 January 2017, progress continues to be made on the following Learning Initiatives:

1. Improve Resource Mobilization;
2. Enhance Professional Competencies for Programme Delivery;
3. Strengthen the Management and Accountability Culture;
4. Enhance Programme Delivery at Country Level with the United Nations System;
5. Strengthen Leadership Skills;
6. Maximize use of Internal Tools for Increased Productivity;
7. Strengthen UNESCO’s Decentralized Evaluation.

The content of all Learning Initiatives is aligned to ensure appropriate integration within and across them, and in the way they contribute to the Strategic Results Framework (See Annex I of 199 EX/5 Part II), as indicated below.

Work has continued on in-house consultations and coordination with subject matter experts for learning initiatives, with recourse to external providers to provide or develop learning content where this is more effective and efficient. Positive feedback has been given on the learning modules which have been piloted.

The larger part of the expenditure on learning and development under Invest for Efficient Delivery will occur at the stage of the technical development of the e-learning modules. In the interest of efficiency, discussions have taken place with four United Nations agencies to obtain permission to “piggy-back” on their joint United Nations Long-Term Agreement which they have recently signed with companies offering instructional designers and e-learning development. This will provide a wider pool of eight selected suppliers to be called upon. The agreement is expected to be in place during the first quarter (Q1) of 2017, and the suppliers have an average lead time of three weeks for module development.

### 1. **Improve Resource Mobilization**

#### ***Contributing to Strategic Result “Improved and sharpened resource mobilization processes and strategies”***

**Progress:** Following in-house consultations, the structure of the curriculum for the e-learning modules has been finalized and will cover the current context for resource mobilization which is now sharply defined by the Integrated Budget Framework and the Structured Financing Dialogues; how to mobilize resources with regard both to the main steps involved and the roles and responsibilities of the main actors within UNESCO; a specific section on UNESCO’s main partners being government, EU, United Nations, private sector and development banks; as well as a component on policies, procedures and funding modalities. To date, building on the extensive consultations between the Secretariat and the Member States in 2016, guidance material is being developed to introduce and illustrate new concepts linked to the integrated budget framework such as the “funding gap”, and the concrete application within UNESCO of the Structured Financing Dialogue principles, namely: alignment, predictability, flexibility, donor diversification and transparency, and

training content on the main categories of donor to UNESCO is being assembled according to a common format.

Budget: A budget commitment of 11% of the total amount has been allocated.

Planning: The design and development of content for some e-learning modules is progressing, whilst the content for other modules is being updated to respond to learning needs linked to new ways of doing business such as the Integrated Budget Framework and Structured Financing Dialogues, which have important implications for planning and engagement with donors at UNESCO.

## **2. Enhance Professional Competencies for Programme Delivery**

### ***Contributing to Strategic Result “Improved program/project management & risk mitigation”***

Progress: This Learning Initiative is divided into three sub-components. Progress on each is as follows:

- (a) *Programme/project management:* Focus groups and in-depth one-to-one interviews have been carried out with programme staff across a range of levels, sectors and geographical locations. The purpose of this exercise was to refine the training needs analysis that was carried out earlier on in the project phase, in order to target more directly specific learning needs. The outcomes reinforced the need for the appropriate balance of generic, professional skills (e.g. project planning), and more specific knowledge, such as budget planning.
- (b) *Interpersonal and communication skills:* Licences have been purchased for a 12-month period to give access to soft skills modules from a leading training provider. Most of the modules are available in several languages. They became available at the end of 2016, and initial feedback is encouraging. In addition, content design for adapting and updating classroom-based materials is under way. The approach to the development and content of the communication skills package has been refined through the focus groups and one-to-one interviews mentioned above, and further in-house consultations, with a particular requirement for emphasis on communicating on results and with donors.
- (c) *Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming:* Work is in progress on updating the Gender e-learning modules. An internal review has identified all required changes, with input sought from key sector Gender Focal Points. The content development for sector-specific modules is also under way. The content is structured around foundation and programme-specific modules.

Budget: A budget commitment of 5% of the total amount has been allocated.

Planning: In some areas, the content design is taking longer than originally anticipated. However, based on lessons learnt from the development of e-learning modules in other topics, it is anticipated that this time will be gained later on in the process. It is anticipated that the final content will be ready for development into e-learning modules during early Q2 2017.

## **3. Strengthen the Management and Accountability Culture**

### ***Contributing to Strategic Result “Streamlined and realigned structures that are more effective and accountable”***

Progress: Work is in progress on updating and adapting the bespoke materials designed for classroom-based workshops on management skills. Many of the e-learning modules

purchased under license, as mentioned above under the second initiative, cover management-related topics, such as coaching. Learner feedback from the licensed modules is being used to shape the content and approach for the customized modules, where applicable.

In terms of the human resources management framework, training on selection skills for supervisors has taken place. A two-day workshop on competency-based interviewing was piloted in November 2016. This was followed by a Train-the-Trainer workshop, which will enable the workshop to be rolled out more widely across the Organization. The workshop is supplemented by an e-learning module on competency-based interview questions, which will also be a pre-requisite for attendance at subsequent workshops (whether face-to-face or by Skype). Content on other topics is being finalized and developed into modules.

Consultations with BFM have taken place to further develop the structure for the “learning pathway” for the financial management modules. Where appropriate, external resources are used to complement existing content.

**Budget:** A budget commitment of 6% of the total amount has been allocated.

**Planning:** The work is broadly on schedule, with the next stage being to finalize the content for the management skills and to develop the remaining e-learning modules for the HR topics, anticipated for Q2 2017. As with other Learning Initiatives, business process owners are providing input on content for the financial accountability.

#### **4. Enhance Programme Delivery at Country Level within the United Nations System**

##### ***Contributing to Strategic Result “Realigned programming in support of Agenda 2030”***

**Progress:** Six Head/Director of Field Offices have attended the United Nations Country Team Leadership programme organized by the United Nations Staff College in October and December 2016. Very positive feedback has been received on the skills and competencies acquired to better contribute towards the work in the various countries.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the new generation of UNDAFs reflecting the 2030 Agenda and the UNDG commitments, UNESCO aims to be better integrated within the UNCTs and at the country level, in particular when it comes to common country programming and “Delivering as One”. BSP has therefore been developing with the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) a training course for UNESCO staff on United Nations Country Programming in the Context of Agenda 2030. The proposed capacity-building initiative will run in the broader context of UNESCO’s efforts to strengthen its country-specific contribution including within UNDAFs. The UNSSC was chosen as partner in undertaking this training due to its extensive experience in instructional design and providing cost-effective formal and informal learning opportunities, face-to-face and e-learning courses to the United Nations staff and other stakeholders. This is the first major capacity development initiative for UNESCO staff on United Nations country programming in the new global context after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

**Budget:** A budget commitment of 12% of the total amount has been allocated.

**Planning:** Three participants will be proposed for each of the UNCT Leadership programmes in 2017, and by the end of the year at least an additional 12 Heads and Directors of Field Offices will have participated in the programme. This will make a total of 30 Heads and Directors trained to work in United Nations country teams. Excluding those who will retire before the end of 2019, there remains 10 colleagues to be trained in 2018 if the budget is still available. The United Nations Staff College imposes a maximum number of participants from any one organization on each programme.



The customization and delivery of a UNSSC face-to-face course on “UN Country Programming in the Context of Agenda 2030” will be rolled out to UNESCO staff in three regions (in Addis Ababa for Africa and the Arab States region; in Santiago for Latin America and the Caribbean; and in Bangkok for Asia and the Pacific), from October to December 2017. For the delivery of these face-to-face trainings, a team will be composed of UNSSC specialists in instructional design, learning management, delivery and facilitation, as well as UNESCO resource persons and technical leads with responsibilities in integrated technical support, programme, leadership and other functional streams. They will be engaged to contribute to the delivery of UNESCO-specific sessions, share insights, examples and experience in UNESCO participation in United Nations mechanisms, common programming exercises, UNDAF/DaO/SOP processes. An evaluation will be conducted following the trainings. An e-learning course on this issue will also be developed

## 5. **Strengthen Leadership Skills**

***Contributing to Strategic Result “Streamlined and realigned structures that are more effective and accountable”***

Progress: Licences have been purchased for leadership content to be hosted on the learning management system. This content is being linked to the learning modules mentioned in 5.1 above, to create curricula based around a specific topic. Where applicable, related worksheets are being developed to foster reflective thinking on leadership challenges. Further workshops led by external facilitators are being prepared, including strategic vision and change management. In addition, a targeted programme for women, aimed at improving gender balance at senior levels, is under development.

Budget: A budget commitment of 14% of the total amount has been allocated.

Planning: Three workshops are being planned for the year as well as development of additional e-learning modules and videos on leadership themes.

## 6. **Maximize use of Internal Tools for Increased Productivity**

***Contributing to Strategic Result “Improved operational modalities & streamlined work processes”***

Progress: Work is in progress on developing learning modules for the corporate IT tools, starting with the Duo applications. Business process owners and KMI are being consulted as necessary to ensure content accuracy. As described in 199 EX/5 Part II Annex II, the business processes and procedures related to each of these tools will be covered under the relevant learning initiatives. However, the video tutorials are being designed to incorporate suitable basic information and advice to facilitate the use of tools.

Budget: A budget commitment of 11% of the total amount has been allocated.

Planning: Two pilot tutorials have been developed. At the time of writing, the volume of feedback is not yet sufficient to comment. The intention is to complete the modules on the Duo applications by Q3 2017.

## 7. **Strengthen UNESCO’s Decentralized Evaluation**

***Contributing to Strategic Result “Improved program/project management and Risk mitigation”***

Progress: The proposal to strengthen the decentralized evaluation function consists of the following three main components: (a) an IOS help desk function through which targeted technical assistance is provided to evaluation focal points; (b) online e-learning modules on

evaluation made available to all UNESCO staff; and (c) customized workshop-based training for evaluation focal points in all geographical regions.

- Approximately 65 evaluation focal points have been designated across the five Programme Sectors, field offices and category 1 institutes.
- Three e-learning modules are under development covering the following topics: key terms and concepts in monitoring and evaluation, the evaluation function at UNESCO and the key phases in managing an evaluation.
- An external trainer has been contracted to assist IOS in the delivery of the workshop-based training in ten locations. The core set of training material is under development and will be customized to each training.

Budget: US \$50,000 has been spent for the workshop-based training. Approximately \$150,000 of the \$200,000 total budget has been committed.

Planning: While the project has experienced delay with regard to the development of the e-learning modules, the plan is for these to be ready by April/May 2017. Once operational, the e-learning modules will benefit all UNESCO staff members. The planning for the workshop-based training is proceeding on schedule. The first training is to be piloted in Paris, tentatively scheduled for March 2017, and the remaining training events are planned to take place between April and October 2017. The workshop-based training will benefit approximately 300 staff members and evaluation focal points.

## ANNEX II

### KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

#### Project 1: Redesign Core Systems

***Contributing to Strategic Result 6: Improved program/project management and Risk mitigation*** (as per document 199 EX/5 Part II, Annex I)

#### Progress:

- Assessment by an external party (Capgemini) concluded in a roadmap for the implementation including a benefits analysis, risk assessment, solution direction and an overall planning and estimated effort required.
- Visioning workshop with representatives from programme sectors and central services conducted, focusing on key requirements and decisions in four main areas: integrated budget framework, project/activity management standardization and decentralization, reporting and standardisation of performance indicators and process simplification.
- Based on the solution direction identified a Request for Proposal (RFP) procedure was done for the blueprint and implementation phase leading to the selection of the contractor and a negotiated contract for the blueprint phase.
- The financial (FABS) and HRM (STEPS) systems have been successfully merged into one single operational system, which has resulted in improved master data control and consistency, reduced maintenance, staff workload and equipment costs, as well as less technical complexity which facilitates implementation of new functionalities.

Budget: \$985,378 out of the total budget of \$3,414,000 has been spent, including \$172,000 for the assessment, \$114,000 for the merge of the systems and \$680,000 for the blueprint. The remaining funds are to be used for the implementation of the new core system solution. Given the size and complexity of the project, the budget may be insufficient, as in addition to the external support for the technical implementation, further funding may be needed to ensure sufficient business participation, including the possible need for an external project manager, in the project.

Planning: The Request for Proposal (RFP) was launched in July 2016 and the proposals received in September 2016. The selection of the vendor was finalized at the end of November 2016 with some delay due to various technical and procedural compliance issues (with the UNESCO regulatory framework). This impacted the planning timeline as the work on the blueprint had to be scheduled for the second quarter of 2017, bearing in mind the need for UNESCO staff to intensively engage with the external consultants and given the heavy workload of required staff in the first three months of the year 2017 (financial year-end close, elaboration of the draft 39 C/5, etc.), it was decided to postpone the blueprint phase to April-June 2017. In the meantime, further work on process improvements and clarification of requirements is under way. This implies, however, that the solution implementation will have to continue beyond end 2017.

According to the adjusted roadmap, the implementation will thus be divided into 2 distinct phases:

#### First Phase (2017):

- Ongoing work on business process improvement and clarification of requirements
- Develop business blueprint





**Project 4: Enhance Transparency Portal**

***Contributing to Strategic Result 2: Improved & sharpened resource mobilization processes and strategies*** (as per document 199 EX/5 Part II, Annex I)

Progress:

- Development of the Enhanced Transparency Portal was completed in November 2016, notably including information to support the Structured Financing Dialogues, better visualization of financial flows, direct access to Expected Results monitoring information, and more frequent publication frequency.
- Following an internal launch of a few weeks (during which additional feedback was received for further enhancements), the Portal was launched publically on 19 December 2016.
- It is possible to further enhance and enrich the portal and these improvements have been identified for implementation in 2017. These include greater adherence to the IATI standard, more monitoring information and enriched project pages.

Budget: The current phase of the transparency project, funded by extrabudgetary contribution from Sweden, has been finalized. Further development and enhancements are planned for 2017 with the budget allocated under the Invest for Efficient Delivery Programme (\$200,000). In order to align with the Redesign Core Systems project is expected to be continued into 2018.

Planning: Following the extrabudgetary contribution by Sweden, the project was reorganized in two phases, allowing the have a first operational version delivered earlier than initially planned (December 2016 instead of April 2017), with additional enhancements to be implemented in 2017. The updated high-level planning is as follows:

	2016												2017											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Project set-up																								
Input gathering																								
Analysis and design of version 1																								
Define functional requirements																								
Improve XML mechanism																								
Enhance portal																								
Testing/user acceptance																								
Finalize documentation																								

**Project 5: Strengthening knowledge sharing and collaboration in the field**

***Contributing to Strategic Result 3: Realigned programming in support of Agenda 2030*** (as per document 199 EX/5 Part II, Annex I)

Progress:

- The pilot phase in Africa, implemented in 2014-2015, reviewed and lessons learned analysed; two surveys conducted in May-June 2016, targeting Africa and the other regions respectively, in order to benchmark the current situation and to allow for measuring the project’s progress and impact; the rollout approach refined and regional workshop content developed, focusing on concrete collaborative programme initiatives aligned with regional priorities as a result of the workshops.
- 218 staff from 49 UNESCO Offices trained in six regional workshops, including those in Cairo (August 2016), Harare (September 2016), Beirut (October 2016), Montevideo (November 2016), Bangkok (December 2016) and Yaoundé (January 2017).

- Training and promotional materials produced, including 10 Records Management animations, Records Management and Institutional Memory for Beginner’s e-learning module, and four promotional videos.
- The CONNECT-U Toolkit recast and integration with the intranet initiated.
- The project has already resulted in increased usage of online collaboration tools to support field offices’ intranets, virtual communities of practice and projects, both internally and with external partners, bringing considerable efficiency gains, greater outreach and increased visibility.
- Among the main lessons learnt is the need to ensure an appropriate follow-up so as to sustain the momentum and, ultimately, to change the working culture across the Organization.

**Budget:** The implementation rate of the project amounts to 49.2%, with the current expenditure of \$215,780 out of the total approved budget of \$438,000. The remaining funds will be used for ensuring the necessary follow-up by region/office and improving the CONNECT-U Toolkit.

**Planning:** The project is largely on track and the updated high-level project planning is as follows:

	2016												2017											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Review of the pilot phase and planning																								
Survey, benchmarking and detailed rollout planning																								
Rollout to field offices in four regions																								
CONNECT-U Toolkit recast and intranet integration																								
Review and follow-up by region																								
General project review/lessons learnt																								

**Project 6: Improve document and multimedia management**

***Contributing to Strategic Result 5: Improved operational modalities & streamlined work processes*** (as per document 199 EX/5 Part II, Annex I)

**Progress:**

- Preparatory work with external company specialized in digital repositories finalized which included a better understanding of the digital asset lifecycle, an analysis of the current system landscape, a solution direction and market analysis.
- The functional requirements have been finalized.
- Request for Expression of Interest launched in November 2016, which allowed to attract attention to our project with 35 potential bidders.
- Request for pProposals published mid-December 2016 and closing on 17 February 2017.
- Study to define the needs for the bridge between the future Documents, Conference and Production Management System (DCPMS) and the new platform ongoing.
- Introductory training on recent developments of library catalogues planned to be delivered to 11 staff members from different sectors.

**Budget:** So far, \$48,715 out of \$547,000 has been committed, covering the preparation of the technical documentation of the current solution, the consultant services for the preparation of the Request for Proposals and the introductory training of the team.





## ANNEX III

### PROPOSED NEW INITIATIVES UNDER THE INVEST FOR EFFICIENT DELIVERY FUND

#### Background

Under the Invest for Efficient Delivery Fund, an amount of \$1.15 million remains unallocated (as at 31 December 2016). As previously requested by the Executive Board, additional proposals are presented herewith for its endorsement.

These additional initiatives complement the current projects under way, and also fall within the project logic, theory of change and strategic results framework that were already presented to the Executive Board in document 199 EX/5 Part II.

#### **Project 1: Measuring the performance of UNESCO's Field Network**

**Contributing to Strategic Result 4: Sharpened delivery modalities and appropriate mechanisms/tools** (as per document 199 EX/5 Part II, Annex I)

#### **Rationale**

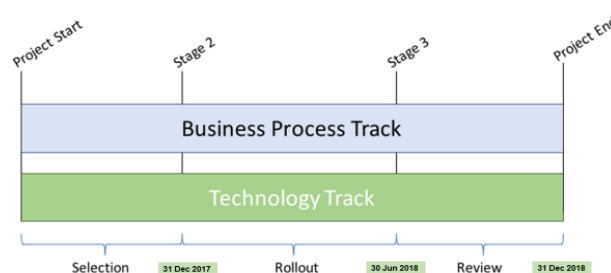
1. The sustainability of the field network depends to a large extent on the performance of the offices which it constitutes. Therefore, the Secretariat intends to introduce a performance assessment methodology to provide objective and measurable data enabling strategic review and decision-making as regards the network as a whole and/or of individual offices. To this end, the Secretariat initiated the development of a tool using a Balanced Scorecard in December 2016. This proposal builds on this initial work.

#### **Objective**

2. The objectives of this proposal is to roll-out the use of the Balanced Scorecard to provide managers at all levels with real-time, multi-year information on field offices' performance in the pursuit of results.

#### **Rollout Process**

3. The power of a Balanced Scorecard is to visualize the consequences of management decisions, and thereby help changing managers' behavior. The rollout of a balanced scorecard would follow a two-track approach with active engagement and leadership across multiple headquarters units:



➤ **Technology track supported by KMI:**

Development of solutions to automate the balanced scorecard harvesting data from existing corporate systems.

➤ **Business process track supported by programme sectors and central services:** The improvement and selection of indicators, increased sophistication in the aggregation of data, the integration of target setting and data collection into existing business processes, and creating an environment for learning and improvement.

4. It is proposed that the rollout of the tool be carried out in three stages over the period of May 2017 to December 2018:

**Stage 1 – Selection** (to be completed by 31 December 2017)

- (a) Technology track: Configuration choices (e.g. custom views), and building of interfaces;
- (b) Business process track: Definition of baselines, targets and indicators following a full needs assessment.

**Stage 2 – Rollout** (to be completed by 30 June 2018)

- (a) Technology track: Primary user acceptance testing stage in terms of data feeds, access and security, and the display of information.
- (b) Business process track: Training of users, integration of key features into annual planning processes and user feedback

**Stage 3 – Review** (to be completed by 31 December 2018)

- (a) Business process track: Adjustments based on testing and use: including reconfirmation of the logic model, updates related to eventual modifications in the operating model of field offices, and modifications of indicators based on actual experience. Following this stage, it is expected that the Balanced Scorecard will operate unaltered in order to accumulate sufficient data for trend analysis.

**Change Management**

5. The successful rollout of a balanced scorecard requires substantial staff time across the Organization and changes to existing business processes. The change management should accompany the process throughout its rollout timeline and should focus on:

- (i) Transparency in terms of clarity and management decision-making regarding the various aspects of the Field Network performance
- (ii) Real participation of field offices and Headquarters units is essential, particularly in determining targets and achieving full “buy-in”.
- (iii) Perception of the Balanced Scorecard as a way of allowing managers to identify relevant comparators for themselves

**Draft Budget**

Item	Estimated Cost (\$)
Full assessment and survey of offices to establish baselines and targets	10,000
Development of solutions to automate the Balanced Scorecard harvesting data from existing corporate systems	85,500
Preparation of synthesis reports using Balanced Scorecard data (in case of changes or for ad-hoc reporting needs)	5,000
Project management and facilitation of business process reviews	30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130,500</b>

## **Project 2: Enterprise Risk Management**

### ***Contributing to Strategic Result 6: Improved program/project management and Risk mitigation*** (as per document 199 EX/5 Part II, Annex I)

#### **I. Deployment of ERM**

##### ***Background***

1. UNESCO applies a number of good risk management practices, including: (i) programme managers assessing delivery risks as part of planning and budgeting, (ii) managers across the organization assessing and attesting annually to the effectiveness of internal controls under their responsibility and (iii) several management committees identifying and addressing a range of risks against predefined risk tolerances. In addition, UNESCO has established a Risk Management Committee chaired by the Deputy Director-General; disseminated a Risk Management Training Handbook; conducted a training session for Heads of Field Offices; identified and discussed key corporate risks at all recent Senior Management Team retreats.

2. However, when benchmarked against standardized maturity models, UNESCO ERM practices need to transition to a more formalized and systematic approach.

3. The Director-General has determined Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) as a priority to strengthen the overall accountability framework. Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) is a structured, consistent and continuous process across an Organization for identifying, assessing, communicating and responding appropriately to opportunities and threats that affect the achievement of the Organization's objectives.

##### ***Implementation of effective risk management***

4. The ISO risk management standards state that effective risk management requires adequate resources to support the following necessary elements:

- people, skills, experience and competence
- processes, procedures and tools
- information and knowledge management systems and
- training programmes.

5. UNESCO's startup investment for ERM has been very low when compared to other organizations. The JIU review of ERM in the United Nations (JIU/REP/2010/4) assessed the cost of ERM implementation across the participating organizations, and noted for example, that UNESCO relied on existing staff structures while most other organizations reported specific resource allocation (amounting up to \$3.1 million) for ERM implementation.

6. UNESCO's current staff-time allocation to ERM continues to be too low. This limited resource allocation in light of many competing priorities has consequences.

7. This exercise requires specialized external resources to accelerate the current levels of advancement in this domain and assist the internal Risk Management Committee by further elaborating and introducing a systematic approach to identify, assess, manage and communicate corporate risks.

8. The main ERM principles to be delivered upon are:

- Risk management should not be procedural, but rather initiate change and seek to increase performance. It should enable moving from ex-post crisis management to anticipating risks and opportunities.
- Risk management to be embedded in the programme management cycle. The risk framework should be relevant i.e., linked to results and developed in the context of the accountability framework. The overall risk framework should seek to make responsible officers risk aware and more accountable when taking decisions.
- The approach to be flexible and simple, focusing on the risks that can be managed.
- The corporate risk register to list risk information from all sources (including legal and security) that have been escalated by risk focal points.
- Risk responses to be actionable with clear ownership and agreed time-bound mitigation plans. Mitigation plans requiring a substantial investment of resources should be subject to project management principles such as budgets, milestones and performance metrics.
- Communication to Member States and donors to take place regularly, once a risk management process along with mitigation plans and a monitoring mechanism is in place.

9. Budget requirements for a fully-fledged ERM with the help of external expertise and for work to be completed by end of 2017 amount to \$427,500.

#### **ERM Budget requirements**

Item	Estimated Cost (\$)
Risk Register	30,000
Training package	45,000
Manual of ERM procedures	25,000
Training of focal points at Headquarters and field offices	100,000
IT register System	150,000
Communication plan and information	42,500
Technical assistance	35,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>427,500</b>

## **II. Fraud Risk Assessments**

### ***Background***

10. The United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) issued in April 2016 a report on “Fraud prevention, detection and response in United Nations system organizations”.

11. In order to provide a structured approach to realizing the objectives of the report, JIU developed the Fraud Management Framework comprising eight pillars that address prevention, detection and response to fraud in the United Nations system.

12. Pillar 2 is related to Fraud Risk Assessments (FRA) and aims at “understanding the nature and scale of the problem”:

*“Fraud risk assessments assist in systematically identifying where and how fraud may occur and help devising proper controls to mitigate fraud-related risks. They include identifying relevant fraud risk factors; identifying potential fraud schemes and prioritizing them based on risks; determining fraud risk appetite; mapping existing controls to potential fraud schemes and identify gaps; and testing the effectiveness of fraud prevention and detection controls. Fraud risk assessments combined with a systematic feedback and lessons learned from past or on-going fraud cases are essential in realizing an organization’s exposure to fraud.”<sup>3</sup>*

13. Recommendation 5 pertains to the performance of an organization-wide FRA:

*“The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, if they have not already done so, conduct a comprehensive corporate fraud risk assessment, as an integral part of their enterprise risk management system or as a separate exercise, addressing fraud risks at all levels of their respective organization, including headquarters and field offices, as well as internal and external fraud risks. Such assessments shall be conducted at least biennially at the corporate level, and more frequently, based on need, at the operational level.”<sup>4</sup>*

14. This document intends to present strategies to perform an organization-wide Fraud Risk Assessment (FRA), pursuant to the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

#### **Implementation of JIU recommendation on FRA**

15. The JIU report recommends a comprehensive fraud risk assessment covering all operations, all offices and all types of potential fraud. The recommendation includes a periodic update, at least every two years.

16. UNESCO in its response to the JIU report accepted the recommendation and stressed that the scope of this exercise would depend on availability of resources.

17. The FRA exercise requires specialized external resources both to ensure independent assessment and continuous availability of experts dedicated to this exercise.

18. The FRA includes workshops involving sectors and programmes. This participative approach has the additional benefit to develop consciousness that staff members bear the primary responsibility to prevent and detect fraud. This exercise conveys the tone-at-the-top and the zero-tolerance policy, as well as makes the internal anti-fraud mechanisms known to personal facing suspicion in their activities. As a result, the FRA is a complementary approach to the fraud awareness trainings already started by IOS in 2016.

19. The FRA deliverables include:

- (a) Methodology, work plan and customized tools,
- (b) Workshops in sectors and field offices,
- (c) Fraud risk mapping,
- (d) Data analysis in conjunction with audit,
- (e) Investigative plan to address high-risk areas,
- (f) Pro-active investigation or special review reports.

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<sup>3</sup> JIU/REP/2016/4, vi.

<sup>4</sup> JIU/REP/2016/4, xi.

20. Budget requirements are presented based on a fully-fledged FRA with the help of an external consultant for a duration of six months. This mission would include three field missions with the assistance of an IOS investigator.

21. The total budget for this FRA exercise is estimated at \$168,772.

***Efficiency and effectiveness gains***

- Increased effectiveness of programmes through reduction of fraud-related loss
- Increased effectiveness of the internal control framework
- Enhanced ability of staff deployed in high-risk areas and activities as a first-line of defense
- Increased recovery of misused or defrauded funds

**FRA Budget requirements**

<b>Budget requirements FRA</b>	<b>USD</b>		
	<b>Unit price</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Phase 1: Risk mapping - Organization wide</b>			
Lead consultant	1 000,0	60	\$60 000
Travel - consultant	2 000,0	2	\$4 000
			<b>\$64 000</b>
<b>Phase 2: Data analytics - testing and validation</b>			
Lead consultant	1 000,0	20	\$20 000
Travel - consultant	2 000,0	2	\$4 000
			<b>\$24 000</b>
<b>Phase 3: Special review (high risk areas)</b>			
Lead consultant	1 000,0	20	\$20 000
Travel (1 staff + 1 consultant)	2 000,0	2	\$4 000
DSA staff	250,0	10	\$2 500
Termination fees & other transport	212,0	2	\$424
			<b>\$26 924</b>
3* special review	\$26 924	3	<b>\$80 772</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$168 772</b>

**Project 3: Request for budget increase for the I4ED project Redesign Core Systems**

Requested additional budget: **\$450,000**

Important progress has been made on the project Redesign Core Systems that is intended to significantly improve the way UNESCO manages its programme delivery. The work so far has provided valuable insights on how significant changes can be made to the current processes and systems to enhance both the Organization's delivery and reporting capabilities. It is also clear from this work that in order to implement these solutions a lot of effort is needed from stakeholders in terms of defining the detailed solutions in the blueprint phase and that its implementation will require a tremendous organizational change management effort.





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part III (C)

PARIS, 24 March 2017  
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## FOLLOW UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART III

### MANAGEMENT ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

#### C. Review of cost-recovery policy

The Executive Board at its 200th session (200 EX/Decision 5.III.F) requested the Director-General to present at its 201st session a revised cost-recovery policy (CRP), a comparative document on proportionality policy in other United Nations organizations, and the management rate based on the cost-recovery policy conceptual framework.

The Executive Board further requested the Director-General to report to it at its 201st session on the reserves of the Special Account for Management Costs, which includes the proposed levels of reserves, as referred to in Article 3(i) and 3(ii) of the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for Management Costs, as well as on any residual balance, as referred to in Article 3(iii) of the Regulations (200 EX/19, Annex XI).

The principles endorsed by the Executive Board at its 200th session, the reduced Management Rate, implications of the new policy as well as the reserve status of the Special Account on Management Costs, are further explained.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 27.





## C. Review of cost-recovery policy (Follow-up to 200 EX/Decision 5.III.F)

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### Background

1. At its 200th session, the Executive Board welcomed the conceptual framework presented by the Director-General in the review of cost-recovery policy and in 200 EX/Decision 5.III.F:

- Noted that the framework was aligned with developments in United Nations organizations, as well as with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) recommendation on funding non-programme costs based on full cost recovery, proportionally, from both regular programme and all extrabudgetary resources;
- Emphasized the importance of the application of full budgeting principles and full cost recovery;
- Endorsed the principle of cost classification by function and the principle of proportionality for calculating management cost;
- Took note of the risks associated with the revised cost-recovery policy, in particular, that fluctuations in extrabudgetary funding might lead to instability of funding to cover functions defined as “management functions” or to frequent changes to the management rate; also noted that these risks were partially mitigated through the level of Funds-in-Trust Overhead Costs Account (FITOCA) reserves.
- Requested the Director-General to present to it at its 201st session a revised cost-recovery policy, a comparative document on proportionality policy in other United Nations organizations, and the management rate based on the cost-recovery policy conceptual framework.

### Cost classification under the new policy

2. The cost classification endorsed at the 200th session was based on the “function” or “nature of support”, built on the categories presented at the 190 EX/19 Annex II, and met five criteria including alignment with the operational model and with the strategic plan results, within an integrated budget framework. The cost classification is aligned to Finance and Budget Network’s under UN High Level Committee on Management (UN HLCM) agreement on common cost classification, allowing comparability of costs and improving consistency in the financial results reporting to Member States.

3. Costs are classified in 3 main categories described in the section below:

**Programme Delivery:** All costs (including related support staff and operational costs) that are an integral part of effective programme delivery and directly contribute to achievement of programme results. This category will have the following two sub categories:

- (a) Programmes – functions that directly contribute to delivery of the results contained in country/regional/global programme documents or other programming arrangements.
- (b) Programme Coordination and Support – functions of a policy-advisory, technical and implementation nature that are needed for achievement of the objectives of programmes/projects in the focus areas of the Organization. These inputs are essential to the delivery of programme results, and are not included in specific programme components or projects in country, regional, or global programme documents. These functions do not meet the criteria for “Management” and/or “Special Purpose”.

**Management** – Functions whose nature of support is cross-cutting and whose primary purpose is to promote the identity, direction and well-being of the Organization. The costs of these functions are indirectly linked to the projects and meet all the following criteria:

- Nature of support is overall wellbeing/institutional. These functions provide support for a well-managed, accountable organization through key activities such as planning, organizing, motivating and controlling.
- Supports Programme as well as other functions both at Headquarters and in the field.
- Can't be allocated using appropriate and traceable cost drivers – can't easily be "charged back" as services.

**Special Purpose** – covering activities and associated costs of a cross-cutting nature that (a) are contributions for funding of joint United Nations mechanism, are mandated by the United Nations General Assembly (i.e., not within the direct management control of the Organization); (b) are mandated by the UNESCO General Conference and not attributable to programme results or management activities of the organization (c) involve material capital investments; or (d) do not represent a cost related to the management activities of the Organization.

4. For the purpose of this policy, this cost classification regroups certain functions compared to the Parts I – V in the 39 C/5 budget document. Part II (A) (Programmes) is unaffected, but changes to other parts are as follows:

- a. For Part II (B) (Programme Support), the Bureau of Strategic Planning, Programme Monitoring and Budget Preparation (BSP) will be classified under "Management".
- b. Management of support services (MSS) under Part III (Corporate Services) in the budget will be classified under "Programme Support and Coordination".
- c. Direction under current Part I (General Policy and Direction) will be classified under "Management", after adjusting for those costs that fall under the definition of "Special Purpose".
- d. Functions that will be classified as "Special Purpose" include Loan Repayments (Part IV); functions of the Governing Bodies (Part I); and Participation in the Joint UN Machinery (Part I).
- e. Costs of "Medical Benefit Fund" currently included under Human Resources Management (Part III) but related to institutional arrangements, predominantly supporting retirees, will be classified as "Special Purpose".
- f. For the 39 C/5 Contributions to the After Service Health Insurance<sup>5</sup> (ASHI) reserve (separate part) will be classified under "Special Purpose", noting that ASHI liability of staff on extrabudgetary projects is included in their standard cost.

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<sup>5</sup> Included in the PA costing on extrabudgetary projects, in the future ASHI liability of Regular Programme staff may be included in the standard cost instead of being shown separately.

5. The table below summarizes current organizational functions under the approved cost classification categories:

<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Program Coordination and Support</b>
Education	Coordination & monitoring of Action to benefit Africa
Natural Sciences (Incl. IOC)	Gender Equality
Social & Human Sciences	Post Conflict & Post Disaster situations
Culture	Knowledge Management
Communication and Information	Ext relations & public Information
UNESCO Institute for Statistics	Management of Support Services
Management of Field Offices	Participation Programme & Fellowships

<b>Special Purpose</b>	<b>Management Cost</b>
Governing Bodies	Direction
Participation in JUNM	Human Resources Management
ASHI Liability	Bureau of Financial Management
Part IV - Loan repayment	Bureau of Strategic Planning
MBF (currently under HRM)	Mgmt of Information Services & comms

6. Part V provides a budget for anticipated cost increases, which are transferred during the biennium to the budgets of other parts on the approval of Executive Board. In line with the results based budgeting approach, transfers will form part of the costs of the functions in each cost category.

#### Methodology for calculating Management Rate

7. As endorsed by the Executive Board, the Management Rate (currently known as Programme Support Cost – PSC) will be calculated based on the principle of proportionality and derived using the methodology outlined below:

**Step 1** – For functions classified as “management”, identify “Management costs” funded from all sources (Regular Programme, FITOCA Special Account, OPF revenue generating funds and technical funds). Management cost calculations will be presented in C/5 budget documents and will be charged proportionality to Regular Programme and Extrabudgetary funds. The table below details how the related management functions and their total costs would be calculated for the 39 C/5:

	Amts in USD 000's					
	RP 39C5 Exp plan	FITOCA	OPF	Total	Not in MGMT.	Revised Mgmt
Governing Bodies		244		244	244	
Direction	19 789	1 345		21 135	0	21 135
Human Resources Management	28 877	647		29 525	13 700	15 825
Bureau of Financial Management	12 372	4 025	657	17 054	-	17 054
Mgmt of Information Services & comms	6 288	357	722	7 368	-	7 368
Bureau of Strategic Planning	4 990	6 789		11 780	0	11 780
Field Coordination and Support		447		447	447	
Knowledge Management		1 545		1 545	1 545	
Gender Equality		336		336	336	
Mgmt of Field Offices		164		164	164	
Field Office FITOCA		4 400		4 400	4 400	
Major Programmes		2 331		2 331	2 331	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72 317</b>	<b>22 632</b>	<b>1 379</b>	<b>96 328</b>	<b>23 167</b>	<b>73 161</b>

Functions such as Major Programmes, Organization-wide knowledge management, coordination and monitoring of action to benefit Gender Equality, External Relations and Public Information; and Management of Field Offices have part of their costs historically covered from FITOCA. These functions are classified as Programme and as a result their costs should be covered as direct costs.

The revised Management Cost excludes \$13.7M contribution to the Medical Benefits Fund (MBF) and claims processing as noted in paragraph 4 (e) above as these costs are classified as “Special Purpose”.

The outcome of the exercise for the 39 C/5 is that Management Costs are calculated at \$73.1M.

**Step 2** – Distribute Management costs between Regular Programme and Extrabudgetary funds proportionally using historical data (average for last 2 years or last biennium, for example). The amount to be funded from the Regular Programme will be identified in the C/5 budget proposals.

<b>Step 2: Calculate Share of RP</b>		
	Amts in USD 000's	
RP budget, incl AA	530,000	54%
Extra budgetary - Disbursements	445,645	46%
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>975,645</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Management Cost (as per Step 1)</b>	<b>73,161</b>	<b>100%</b>
RP share of Mgmt Cost	39,743	54%
<b>To be covered from ExB</b>	<b>33,418</b>	46%

The outcome of the exercise for the 39 C/5 is that, based upon 37 C/5 expenditures, Management Costs should be shared proportionally with the Regular Programme bearing 54% and Extrabudgetary sources 46% of \$73.1M.

**Step 3** – Calculate the Management Rate by applying the amount to be funded from Extrabudgetary as a percentage of the historical direct costs disbursement of Extrabudgetary funds.

	Amts in USD 000's
Share of EXB	33 418
EXB direct cost, excluding PSC (2014-15)	410 500
<b>Management rate on EXB</b>	<b>8%</b>

### Management Rate for 39 C/5

8. Based on the total Management cost for 39 C/5, the Management Rate to be charged on all extrabudgetary resources, including revenue generating (OPF) funds, will be 8%. The new cost-recovery policy will therefore implement the Executive Board decision 195 EX/Decision 5.IV.C, to adjust and reduce the PSC rate by charging more costs as direct, and taking into account the practices at other United Nations organizations.

9. If the new Management Rate (ex-PSC) of 8% is applied to all projects without derogation, the management income from Extrabudgetary projects, together with Regular Programme share, will cover the total Management cost of \$73.1M in the 39 C/5.

### Derogations/Exceptions

10. The calculation of the Management Rate is based on the principle that the rate will be charged to all funding sources. A number of extrabudgetary projects currently have a rate lower than 8%, including some Conventions and Special Accounts. Until the new rate is applied to these projects and accounts, the difference between the lower rate and the Management Rate will be covered from the Regular Programme.

11. If current derogations remain, the estimated reduction to management income of about \$6.2M will be covered from the Regular Programme. As a result, of the total Management cost of \$73.1 M (reference to Paragraph 7 above), the amount to be covered from Regular Programme will be adjusted to \$45.9M (against \$39.7M calculated in step 2) with \$27.2M to be met from extrabudgetary funds.

12. Project Support Costs (PSC) income for the Brazil office is currently treated under a separate mechanism, which takes into account the government decrees that determines the extent to which United Nations organizations can charge costs on projects funded by the Brazilian government. The phased implementation of the revised cost-recovery policy to UBO will take into account the sustainability of the office, its unique investment capacity and government decrees.

### Impact of the new cost-recovery policy on the 39 C/5

13. While there is no impact on total budgets for individual sectors, application of the revised cost-recovery policy redistributes costs between Regular Programme and Revenue Generating Accounts (OPF), mainly the Special Account for Management Costs (previously FITOCA). The integrated budget table showing the re-distribution of costs for the Regular Programme across budget lines, following application of the new policy, is presented in Annex I of this document.

14. Based on the principle of proportionality, the cost-recovery policy will increase the share of Management costs to be covered from extrabudgetary funds (EXB) and as a result will release funds for redistribution in the 39 C/5 Regular Programme budget. The distribution of costs under current budget envelope and new policy is summarized in the table below and indicates that \$3.2M will be released in the Regular Programme to be redistributed in 39 C/5, calculated as the difference between the \$72.3M currently funded from Regular Programme and the \$69.1M to be funded under the new policy:

#### Existing RP and OPF

#### Revised RP and OPF

Amts in USD 000's

	Existing RP and OPF			Total	Revised RP and OPF				
	RP 39C5 Exp plan	FITOCA	OPF		Direct RP	Mgmt cost RP	TOTAL RP	EXB	TOTAL
Governing Bodies		244		244	244		244		244
Direction	19,789	1,345		21,135	-	13,272	13,272	7,863	21,135
Human Resources Management	28,877	647		29,525	13,700	9,938	23,638	5,887	29,525
Bureau of Financial Management	12,372	4,025	657	17,054	-	10,710	10,710	6,345	17,054
Mgmt of Information Services & comms	6,288	357	722	7,368	-	4,627	4,627	2,741	7,368
Bureau of Strategic Planning	4,990	6,789		11,780	-	7,397	7,397	4,382	11,780
Field Coordination and Support		447		447	447		447	-	447
Knowledge Management		1,545		1,545	1,545		1,545	-	1,545
Gender Equality		336		336	336		336	-	336
Mgmt of Field Offices		164		164	164		164	-	164
Field Office FITOCA		4,400		4,400	4,400		4,400	-	4,400
Major Programmes		2,331		2,331	2,331		2,331	-	2,331
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72,317</b>	<b>22,632</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>96,328</b>	<b>23,167</b>	<b>45,943</b>	<b>69,110</b>	<b>27,218</b>	<b>96,328</b>

15. The cost of Management of field offices is, as before, defined as a Programme cost in the C/5. The current practice of allocating 40% of FITOCA generated to the respective field offices and the use of these funds is the subject of comment in the External Auditors Report in 200 EX/20 Part I and 200 EX/20.INF. While the auditor's report stated that "these allocations do not comply with the general principles of the cost-recovery policy", the need for funding resource mobilization efforts in field offices cannot be underestimated. The revised cost-recovery policy addresses the recommendation by clarifying that Field Office management costs are to be charged as direct costs. In the revised cost-recovery calculations, the equivalent of historical FITOCA allocations have been provided for transition costs and resource mobilization efforts in the field.

### **Implementation of the policy**

16. The proposed policy envisages changes to the treatment of interest income, subject to consultation with Member States. Current practice is that 1/3rd of interest earned on projects is retained by the Organization. It is proposed that, with the reduction in Management Rate, the full amount of interest income earned on project funds are retained to offset Management Costs. Based on current simulations, this will release additional Regular Programme resources to be allocated for programme delivery.

17. The new Management costs would be covered from the income generated by charging an average of 8% to all extrabudgetary funds. As in the current policy, differential rates will have to be explored from resource mobilization strategy perspective. Some donors (European Commission (EC), UN Delivering as One programme, etc.) have established a rate of 7%. Current policies ensure the attractiveness of multi donor mechanisms such as "Special Accounts" through a lower rate. Consideration will be given to differential rates such that the average rate achieved will not be lower than that necessary to cover the Management costs to be proportionally charged to extrabudgetary projects.

18. The new cost-recovery policy applies across all sources of funding. Currently there are a range of rates between 0% and 13% applied to Extrabudgetary and Revenue Generating Funds. In cases where PSC rates are specified, implementation of revised rates for Special Accounts may require changes in the financial regulations or discussions through the Governing Bodies. The Funds-in-trust projects are governed by individual project agreements and it is recommended that the new Management Rate is applied to agreements that are entered into after the effective date of the new policy.

19. A full policy document and operational guide will be developed following the decision of Executive Board.

### **Reserves of the Special Account for Management Costs**

20. The financial regulations of the Special Account for Management Cost approved by the Executive Board (200 EX/19, Annex XI) has the following clauses on treatment of reserves:

- (i) The Special Account shall hold reserves equal to at least 18 months of the Management Cost that is expected to be funded from all extrabudgetary sources.
- (ii) In case of reserves being higher than this threshold, such increase will first go towards building and maintaining a reserve equal to 1% of the extrabudgetary funding in order to mitigate risks related to extrabudgetary programme implementation.
- (iii) Any residual balance will then be applied based on the guidance provided by the Executive Board and approved by the General Conference.

The Executive Board requested the Director-General to report to it at its 201st session on the reserves of the Special Account for Management Costs, which includes the proposed levels of

reserves, as referred to in Article 3(i) and 3(ii) of the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for Management Costs published in 200 EX/19 Annex XI, as well as on any residual balance, as referred to in Article 3(iii) of the Regulations.

21. As of December 2016, the Reserves in the general account of the Special Account for Management Costs (previously FITOCA), after adjustments for amounts due for distribution to the field<sup>6</sup>, is \$33.5M. The reserve requirement as per article 3(i) and 3(ii) of the Financial Regulations would be \$27.1M, leaving a residual balance of \$6.4M as of December 2016. Based on the 2016 average monthly increase in reserves, it is estimated that the reserve balance would increase by around \$5.7M in 2017. The projected residual balance as of December 2017 would be around \$12.1M as summarized in the table below.

### Reserve Calculations as per Financial regulations

Amts in USD 000's	
FITOCA general reserve as of Dec'16	35,700
Less: To be allotted to Field in 2017 (estimate)	(2,200)
<i>Net reserves available as of Dec'16</i>	<i>33,500</i>
18 months of management cost on EXB as per the proposed cost recovery policy	25,100
1% Implementation risk reserve	2,000
<i>Reserve required</i>	<i>27,100</i>
<b>Residual available as of Dec'16</b>	<b>6,400</b>
Expected increase in reserves in 2017 (~\$475K pm)	5,700
<b>Estimated residual reserve at the end of Dec'17</b>	<b>12,100</b>

### Implications for C/5 Budget Appropriations

22. The financial regulations of the Special Account for Management Costs envisages (200 EX/19 Annex XI Article 4 – Governance) that: The General Conference will approve a biennial proposal for the cost of management functions under the C/5 budgeting process (Article (4.1)); and the Director-General, shall be responsible for the management and the administration of the funds under this Special Account in line with the approval given by the General Conference (Article (4.2)).

23. The financial regulations of the Special Account for Management Costs envisages (200 EX/19 Annex XI Article 5 – Income) that the income of the Special Account includes: (a) amounts generated from programme support costs charged on extrabudgetary; and (b) such amounts approved by the General Conference for Management Costs under the regular budget of the Organization as determined in the C/5.

24. The financial regulations of the Special Account for Management Costs envisages (200 EX/19 Annex XI Article 4 – Governance) that the Director-General shall seek guidance from the Executive Board on the use and application of residual balances in the Special Account as stated in Article 4.3.

25. Following the approval of the policy, the budget resolution to be presented for 39 C/5 will need to address (i) the amounts to be transferred from Regular Programme to the Special Account for Management Cost; (ii) budget transfers from part V for Management Costs (iii) authority for transfers between appropriation lines of Management Costs. (iv) authority to increase the approved budget for Management Costs, and (v) the allocation of the residual balance of the Special account for Management Cost.

<sup>6</sup> Income generated by the executing Field office is distributed in the following year. Based on past trends, this is estimated at \$2.2M.

## **Proportionality in United Nations organizations**

26. The conceptual framework of the proposed cost-recovery policy presented at the 200th session was based on desk review of policies of other United Nations organizations. The Executive Board requested the Director-General to present at its 201st session a comparative document on proportionality policy in other United Nations organizations. Accordingly, United Nations organizations were approached through the Finance and Budget Network of the UN High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), requesting their inputs on a short questionnaire on proportionality. Of the 12 responses, 6 Organizations, including one specialized agency, stated that proportionality principles had been adopted in their budgeting and cost-recovery policies, 2 stated that the QCPR recommendation of proportionality would be considered as and when policy reviews were to be carried out and, the other organizations applied the principle as they are entirely voluntary funded. The table summarizing the comparative analysis of the proportionality in the United Nations organizations, based on the responses received is presented in document 201 EX/5 INF.

## **Action expected of the Executive Board**

27. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 200 EX/5 Part III.F,
2. Recalling 200 EX/SR.8 endorsing the principle of cost classification by function and the principle of proportionality for calculating management cost,
3. Welcomes the efforts by the Director-General in the review of the cost-recovery policy, proposed cost classification and methodology for the calculation of Management rate;
4. Approves the cost-recovery principles as presented in the document 201 EX/5 Part III, and the average management rate of 8% to be applied to all eligible extrabudgetary funding, including revenue generating accounts, to be effective 1st January 2018, and requests the Director-General to develop necessary policy and guidelines;
5. Requests the Director-General to develop and present at its 202nd session the differential rate policy for the management rate such that the average rate achieved will not be lower than that necessary to cover the management costs charged to extrabudgetary projects;
6. Requests the Director-General to present an annex in future C/5s, showing the total Management Cost and its allocation between Regular Programme and extrabudgetary funds;
7. Encourages the Director-General to continue consultation on the full retention of interest income with a view to present for decision of the Executive Board at its 202nd session;
8. Takes note that as a result of the new policy, the distribution of costs for the Regular Programme across budget appropriation lines will change to reflect the allocation of \$3.2M of funds released from management costs within the Regular Programme budget envelope;
9. Takes note that the residual balance of the Special Account for Management Costs (previously FITOCA), after adjustments for reserve requirement as per article 3(i) and 3(ii) of the Financial Regulations would be \$6.4M as of December 2016, and that it is estimated that the residual balance would increase by around \$5.7M to a projected \$12.1M in December 2017;



10. Decides that the recommendation to the General Conference of the application of the projected residual balance of \$12.1M will be addressed in the decisions adopted on the 39 C/5 draft budget for the biennium 2018-2019 by the Executive Board at its 201st session.

## ANNEX

Annex I - Impact of the cost recovery policy on the Draft 39 C/5 (Regular Budget, FITOCA and Revenue generating funds)*								
Scenario based on Regular Budget of \$518M (expenditure plan)								
(in \$ thousand)								
Part	Original Draft 39 C/5				Draft 39 C/5 if the new cost recovery policy is applied			
	Regular Budget (assessed contribution and FITOCA Reserve)	FITOCA (Programme support cost recovery)	Revenue-generating Funds	Total	Regular Budget (assessed contribution and FITOCA Reserve)	New cost recovery funds	Revenue-generating Funds	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>PART I - GENERAL POLICY AND DIRECTION</b>								
<b>A. Governing bodies</b>	9 653	244	-	9 897	9 897	-	-	9 897
<b>B. Direction</b>								
1. Directorate	8 493	-	-	8 493	5 334	3 160	-	8 493
2. Internal Oversight	6 062	952	-	7 014	4 405	2 610	-	7 014
3. International Standards and Legal Affairs	4 489	-	-	4 489	2 819	1 670	-	4 489
4. Ethics	745	393	-	1 138	715	423	-	1 138
<b>Total, LB</b>	<b>19 789</b>	<b>1 345</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21 135</b>	<b>13 272</b>	<b>7 863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21 135</b>
<b>C. Participation in the Joint Machinery of the United Nations System</b>	20 995	-	-	20 995	20 995	-	-	20 995
<b>TOTAL, PART I</b>	<b>50 436</b>	<b>1 590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52 026</b>	<b>44 163</b>	<b>7 863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52 026</b>
<b>PART II - PROGRAMMES AND PROGRAMME-RELATED SERVICES</b>								
<b>A. Programmes</b>								
<b>I EDUCATION</b>	67 237	565	-	67 802	67 802	-	-	67 802
<b>UNESCO education institutes</b>								
UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)	4 048	-	-	4 048	4 048	-	-	4 048
UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)	4 280	-	-	4 280	4 280	-	-	4 280
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)	1 567	-	-	1 567	1 567	-	-	1 567
UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE)	718	-	-	718	718	-	-	718
UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA)	1 981	-	-	1 981	1 981	-	-	1 981
UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC)	1 733	-	-	1 733	1 733	-	-	1 733
UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGEP)	493	-	-	493	493	-	-	493
<b>Total, UNESCO education institutes</b>	<b>14 820</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14 820</b>	<b>14 820</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14 820</b>
<b>TOTAL, MAJOR PROGRAMME I</b>	<b>82 057</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>82 622</b>	<b>82 622</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>82 622</b>
<b>II NATURAL SCIENCES</b>	37 184	336	-	37 520	37 520	-	-	37 520
UNESCO science institutes - Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)	819	-	-	819	819	-	-	819
<b>TOTAL, MAJOR PROGRAMME II</b>	<b>38 003</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38 339</b>	<b>38 339</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38 339</b>
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION</b>	10 681	-	-	10 681	10 681	-	-	10 681
<b>III SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES</b>	25 162	286	-	25 448	25 448	-	-	25 448
<b>IV CULTURE</b>	44 722	858	-	45 580	45 580	-	-	45 580
<b>V COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION</b>	23 552	286	-	23 838	23 838	-	-	23 838
UNESCO Institute for Statistics	8 123	-	-	8 123	8 123	-	-	8 123
Management of Field Offices	80 403	4 564	142	85 109	84 967	-	142	85 109
<b>Total, IIA</b>	<b>312 703</b>	<b>6 895</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>319 740</b>	<b>319 598</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>319 740</b>
<b>B. Programme-related services</b>								
1. Coordination and monitoring of action to benefit Africa	4 105	-	-	4 105	4 105	-	-	4 105
2. Coordination and monitoring of action to implement Priority Gender Equality	1 564	336	-	1 900	1 900	-	-	1 900
3. Strategic planning	4 990	6 789	-	11 780	7 397	4 382	-	11 780
4. Organization-wide knowledge management	8 171	1 545	-	9 716	9 716	-	-	9 716
5. External relations and public information	19 464	-	2 931	22 395	19 464	-	2 931	22 395
6. Field Support and Coordination	1 605	447	-	2 052	2 052	-	-	2 052
<b>Total, IIB</b>	<b>39 898</b>	<b>9 117</b>	<b>2 931</b>	<b>51 946</b>	<b>44 633</b>	<b>4 382</b>	<b>2 931</b>	<b>51 946</b>
<b>C. Participation Programme and Fellowships</b>	13 210	-	-	13 210	13 210	-	-	13 210
<b>TOTAL, PART II</b>	<b>365 811</b>	<b>16 012</b>	<b>3 072</b>	<b>384 896</b>	<b>377 441</b>	<b>4 382</b>	<b>3 072</b>	<b>384 896</b>
<b>PART III - CORPORATE SERVICES</b>								
<b>A. Human resources management</b>	28 877	648	-	29 525	23 638	5 887	-	29 525
<b>B. Financial management</b>	12 372	4 025	657	17 054	10 710	6 345	-	17 054
<b>C. Management of support services</b>	27 394	-	33 264	60 658	27 394	-	33 264	60 658
<b>D. ICT infrastructure and operation</b>	6 288	357	722	7 368	4 627	2 741	-	7 368
<b>E. Management of security and safety</b>	9 847	-	3 834	13 681	9 847	-	3 834	13 681
<b>TOTAL, PART III</b>	<b>84 779</b>	<b>5 030</b>	<b>38 477</b>	<b>128 286</b>	<b>76 216</b>	<b>14 973</b>	<b>37 098</b>	<b>128 286</b>
<b>TOTAL, PARTS I - III</b>	<b>501 027</b>	<b>22 632</b>	<b>41 549</b>	<b>565 208</b>	<b>497 820</b>	<b>27 218</b>	<b>40 170</b>	<b>565 208</b>
Reserve for Staffing Adjustments (post classification and agreed separations)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserve for After Service Health Insurance longterm liability (ASHI)	3 282	-	-	3 282	3 282	-	-	3 282
<b>PART IV - LOAN REPAYMENTS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS PREMISES &amp; THE IBE BUILDING</b>	12 186	-	-	12 186	12 186	-	-	12 186
<b>PART V - ANTICIPATED COST INCREASES AND CONTINGENCIES</b>	4 712	-	-	4 712	4 712	-	-	4 712
<b>TOTAL, PARTS I - V</b>	<b>521 207</b>	<b>22 632</b>	<b>41 549</b>	<b>585 388</b>	<b>518 000</b>	<b>27 218</b>	<b>40 170</b>	<b>585 388</b>
Absorption required under Regular Budget	(3 207)							

\* Note: The new cost recovery policy will not have any impact on the Voluntary Contribution and Gap of the Draft 39 C/5, therefore these funds are excluded from the above table. Annex I is a demonstration of impact based on the most realistic budget scenario where the Regular Budget/Expenditure Plan is \$518M.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part IV

PARIS, 24 March 2017  
Original: English

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART IV

### HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to inform the Members of the Executive Board on the progress achieved in the follow-up to the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions.

Part IV of this document contains information on the following human resources issues:

- A. Geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat**
- B. Progress of the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) working group and its recommendations**
- C. Annual report (2016) by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC): Report by the Director-General**





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part IV (A)

PARIS, 23 March 2017  
Original: English

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART IV

### HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

#### **A. Geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat**

Pursuant to 197 EX/Decision 5.V.A and 199 EX/Decision 5.III.A, the Director-General submits a report on the situation of the geographical distribution and the gender balance of the staff in the Secretariat, including elements on the breakdown by sector for information purposes.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 25.



**A. Geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat**  
(Follow-up to 197 EX/Decision 5.V.A, 199 EX/Decision 5.III.A)

**Section I: Geographical distribution of staff**

1. Pursuant to 199 EX/Decision 5.III.A, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board a report on the situation of the geographical distribution of the staff in the Secretariat.
2. Geographical distribution applies to international professional staff occupying geographical posts. Geographical posts are the established posts financed from UNESCO's regular programme, excluding language posts (see [Note on the calculation of the geographical quotas](#)).

**Overall situation between January 2016 and January 2017**

3. As of January 2017, UNESCO counts 195 Member States of which 160 (82%) are represented within the Secretariat.
4. Table 1 shows that 72 (37%) Member States are normally represented; 18 (9%) are over-represented, 70 (36%) are under-represented and 35 (18%) are non-represented. A detailed list of the geographical distribution situation by country is shown in Annexes I and II.
5. Between January 2016 and January 2017, the situation has significantly improved, with an increase by 7 of the total number of Member States represented (from 153 (78%) to 160 (82%)), thanks to the Young Professional Programme. Similar remarks can also be made regarding the number of countries normally represented which rose by 8 (from 64 to 72); countries under-represented and non-represented decreased respectively from 72 to 70 and from 42 to 35. The number of countries over-represented slightly increased from 17 to 18.

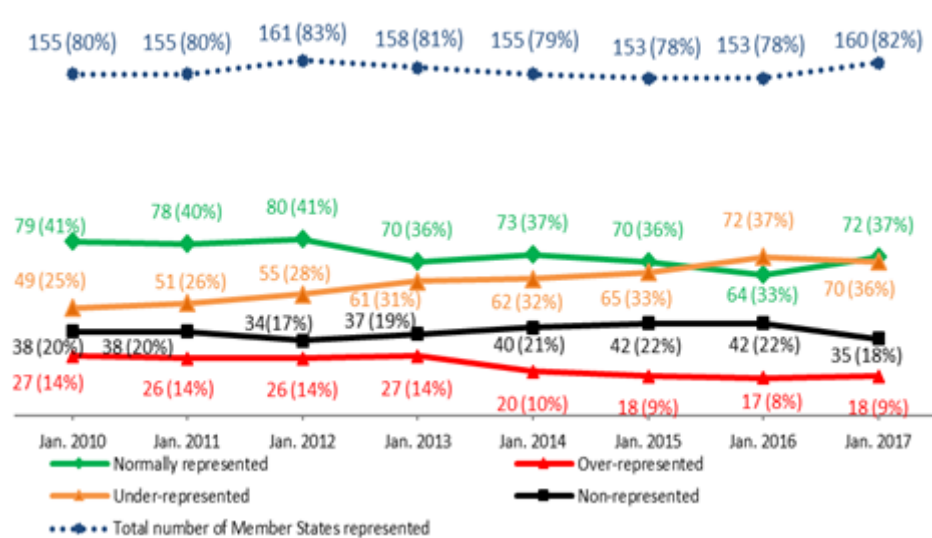
**Table 1:**  
**Evolution of the Geographical Distribution Situation**  
**between January 2016 and January 2017**

Status of representation	Number of Member States		Variation of the number of Member States 2016-2017
	January 2016	January 2017	
Normally represented	64 (33%)	72 (37%)	+8
Over-represented	17 (8%)	18 (9%)	+1
Under-represented	72 (37%)	70 (36%)	-2
<b>Total number of Member States represented</b>	<b>153 (78%)</b>	<b>160 (82%)</b>	<b>+7</b>
Non-represented	42 (22%)	35 (18%)	-7
<b>Total number of Member States</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>-</b>

### Progress against the 85% target of Member States represented – Evolution between January 2010 and January 2017

6. The Human Resource Strategy (2011-2016) set a target of 85% Member States represented by 2016. The same target has been set for the new HR Strategy 2017-2022. Since 2010, the level of representation has fluctuated from the initial baseline of 80%, initially upwards until 2012, then downwards from 2012 to 2015, as a result of the budgetary constraints: a low level of external recruitment combined with departures of staff on agreed separations. Since 2016, the situation is improving, and in January 2017, the representation of Member States has increased to 82%, a significant improvement from the 78% representation in January 2016. This is due to the recruitment of 16 Young Professionals (YPP) in 2016, of which 7 from non-represented countries.

**Table 2**  
**Evolution of the geographical distribution situation**  
**(from January 2010 to January 2017)**



### The Young Professionals Programme and other measures to improve the geographical distribution

7. The Young Professionals Programme (YPP) is one of the most effective mechanisms to improve the geographical representation of Member States. It has been in operation for many years in UNESCO, but was put on hold in 2012, due to the budgetary situation and the lack of available posts. The YPP was re-launched in 2015, with 16 geographical posts at P-1/P-2 level reserved for candidates from non- and under-represented Member States. Following a call for applications to National Commissions for UNESCO, and a selection process led by the Bureau of Human Resources Management with the receiving sectors/bureaux, 16 candidates were selected for the Programme, of whom seven from non-represented countries and nine from under-represented countries, distributed among the six regional groups. From the 16 candidates, 11 are women and five men. The Young Professionals were assigned in majority to the programme sectors.

8. Other initiatives implemented in 2016 to enlarge the pool of potential applicants from non- and under-represented countries for external recruitments include sponsored trainee schemes (the People's Republic of China and Singapore), outreach missions<sup>1</sup> and job/career fairs.<sup>2</sup> Ad hoc briefings were also being held with targeted National Commissions and Permanent Delegations on the best modalities to collect and submit qualified applications.

<sup>1</sup> Notably to Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of China and Oman.

<sup>2</sup> ENA (Programme for International Students)

9. Since end-2016, with a view to enhance candidates outreach, UNESCO's vacancies are advertised on UNJobfinder, one of the most visited websites for candidates job search in international organizations. Advertisements through Terra Firma, an international recruitment advertising specialist firm, have also been conducted on an ad hoc basis.

10. The November 2015 amendment by the General Conference of Staff Regulation 4.4. on the advertisement of posts will also support the improvement of geographical distribution, as it allows external candidates to compete for all posts advertised in the Secretariat at the same time as serving staff (prior to this change, posts other than Director posts had to be advertised internally first).

11. The Action Plan for the improvement of geographical distribution ended in 2016. As part of the Human Resource Strategy which will be submitted to General Conference at its 39th session, the Secretariat has developed a new Action Plan covering the period 2017-2022, which sets out concrete measures for the improvement of the geographical distribution in the Secretariat, also at senior levels.

### Geographical distribution by regional group

12. The principle of individual quotas for each Member State is the sole official criterion of the Organization. The presentation of the situation by regional group in this report is for indicative purposes only. The index for regional groups is calculated by adding the value of the minimum and maximum ranges for each Member State belonging to the regional group.

13. As shown in Table 3, all Regional Groups have increased, except for Group V (b). Groups III and V (a) have increased by 7 and 8 units respectively. There are four Groups below the minimum index: Groups II, III and IV; Group V(b) which decreased by 3 units, is also now below the minimum index. Group I and Group V(a) remain within index.

**Table 3**  
**Evolution of the geographical distribution by regional group since January 2016**

Regional groups*	Index January 2017		January 2016	January 2017	Variation between Jan. 2016 and Jan. 2017	Status as of January 2017
	Mini	Max				
Group I	170	284	220 (37%)	226 (37%)	+6	Within index
Group II	62	113	54 (9%)	56 (9%)	+2	Below minimum index
Group III	83	157	58 (10%)	65 (11%)	+7	Below minimum index
Group IV	156	277	115 (20%)	119 (20%)	+4	Below minimum index
Group V(a)	97	191	92 (16%)	100 (16%)	+8	Within index
Group V(b)	46	82	47 (8%)	44 (7%)	-3	Below minimum index
<b>Total</b>			<b>586</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>+24</b>	

(\*) **Electoral groups:** Group I: Europe and North America; Group II: Eastern Europe; Group III: GRULAC; Group IV: ASPAC; Group V(a): Africa and Group V(b): Arab States

14. Table 4 shows that there are non- and under-represented countries in all regional groups, including those that are within index. Group IV has the highest number of non- and under-represented Member States (28), followed by Group V(a) with 23 and Group III with 20. Group II and V(b) count 12 non- or under-represented Member States, while Group I has 10.

**Table 4**  
**Number of non- and under-represented Member States within each regional group as of January 2017**

Regional groups*	Total number of Member States	Number and % of non- and under-represented Member States
Group I	27	10 (37%)
Group II	25	12 (48%)
Group III	33	20 (61%)
Group IV	44	28 (64%)
Group V(a)	47	23 (49%)
Group V(b)	19	12 (63%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>105 (54%)</b>

(\*) Electoral groups: Group I: Europe and North America; Group II: Eastern Europe; Group III: GRULAC; Group IV: ASPAC; Group V(a): Africa and Group V(b): Arab States

### Representation at Director level and above by regional group

15. The number of Directors on geographical posts increased from 58 to 59 (+1) between January 2016 and January 2017. Over that period, Group IV and V(a) increased by 2 Director staff, while Group I reduced by 2 and Group V(b) by 1. The number of Directors remained stable in Group II and III.

**Table 5**  
**Geographical distribution by regional group (\*) of staff at Director and above level**

Regional groups	Directors and above levels		Variation between Jan. 2016 and Jan. 2017
	January 2016	January 2017	
Group I	25 (43%)	23 (39%)	-2
Group II	2 (3%)	2 (3%)	-
Group III	9 (16%)	9 (15%)	-
Group IV	9 (16%)	11 (19%)	+2
Group V(a)	7 (12%)	9 (15%)	+2
Group V(b)	6 (10%)	5 (9%)	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>+1</b>

(\*) Electoral groups: Group I: Europe and North America; Group II: Eastern Europe; Group III: GRULAC; Group IV: ASPAC; Group V(a): Africa and Group V(b): Arab States

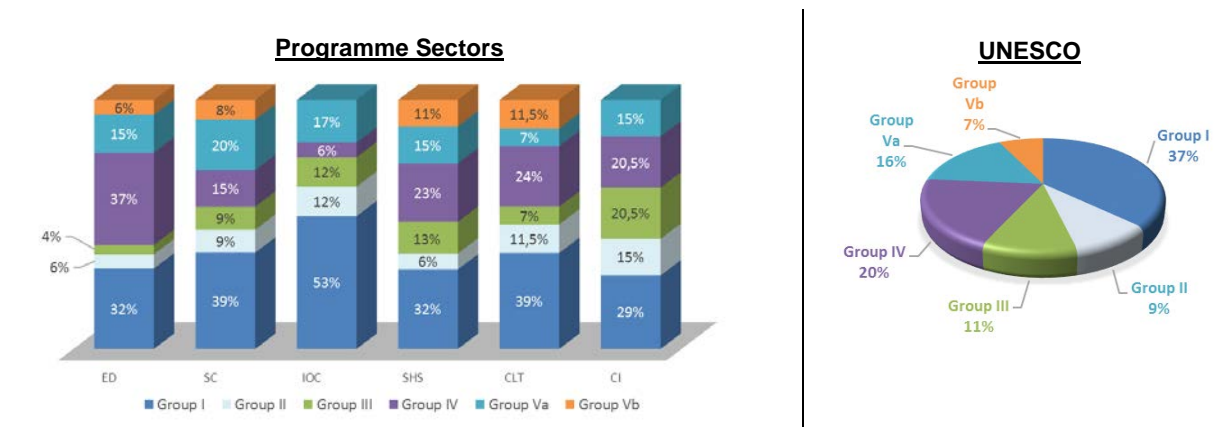
### Geographical distribution of the regional groups within Programme sectors

16. The information below is presented for information purposes only, and following the Executive Board decision, inviting the Director-General to include in her report, “*elements on the breakdown by sector, for informational purposes, regarding the situation of the geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff in the Secretariat*”. As shown in Table 6, the geographical distribution in the Programme sectors is as follows:



17. Overall, the representation by regional group within Programme sectors reflects the geographical distribution of regional groups in UNESCO as a whole, with some variations across Sectors; Group I has the largest representation in all Sectors, except in the Education Sector, where Group IV is higher.

**Table 6**  
**Geographical distribution by regional group (\*) in Programme Sectors (Headquarters and Field)**



(\*) Electoral groups: Group I: Europe and North America; Group II: Eastern Europe; Group III: Latin America and the Caribbean; Group IV: ASPAC; Group V (a): Africa and Group V(b): Arab States.

## Section II: Gender balance of staff

18. This section of the report presents an update on the gender balance in the Secretariat, and a progress report on the UNESCO Action Plan for Gender Parity<sup>3</sup> which aimed at achieving 50% representation of women at senior management level (D-1 and above) by 2015. A new Action Plan has been developed for 2017-2022 as part of the Human Resource Strategy, to be submitted at the 39th General Conference.

19. The population covered in this part of the report is larger than in the geographical distribution report, since the gender data cover all staff with fixed-term appointments irrespective of the source of funding of their posts; while geographical distribution data is restricted to staff on geographical posts which are regular programme posts (RP). Therefore, the gender data includes posts financed by extrabudgetary funds, such as those in category 1 institutes.

### Progress report: Gender balance at Director level and above

20. Progress has continued to be made in 2016, with a 3 percentage points increase in the number of women Directors from 44% to 47%, getting closer to the 50% target. This is due mostly to the hiring of new women Directors, and the retirements of men Directors. To note that while men are a majority at ADG level, women are a majority at D-2 level, with 73% D-2 posts held by women.

<sup>3</sup> In 179 EX/5 Part I (VI).

**Table 7**  
**Situation of the gender balance at Director level by grade**  
**between January 2016 and January 2017 (Regular programme and extrabudgetary funds)**

	January 2016					January 2017					Difference	
	F	% F	M	%M	Total	F	% F	M	%M	Total		%F
DDG	-	-	1	100%	1	-	-	1	100%	1	-	-
ADG	2	33%	4	67%	6	2	25%	6	75%	8	-8%	
D-2	12	67%	6	33%	18	11	73%	4	27%	15	6%	
D-1	17	38%	28	62%	45	20	43%	26	57%	46	5%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3%</b>	

### Gender balance at Professional level and above

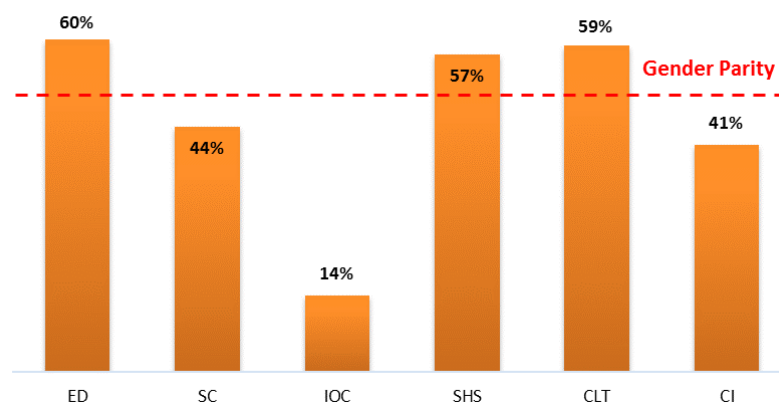
21. As of January 2017, parity is achieved at the Professional and above level (P/D). Women representation is particularly high at the junior levels, with 61% at P-1/P-2 level and 52% at P-3 level. At P-4 and P-5 levels, women represent 47% and 34%, respectively.

**Table 8**  
**Situation of the gender balance at Professional level by grade**  
**Regular programme and extrabudgetary funds (January 2016- January 2017)**

	January 2016					January 2017					Difference	
	F	% F	M	%M	Total	F	% F	M	%M	Total		%F
DDG	-	-	1	100%	1	-	-	1	100%	1	-	-
ADG	2	33%	4	67%	6	2	25%	6	75%	8	-8%	
D-2	12	67%	6	33%	18	11	73%	4	27%	15	6%	
D-1	17	38%	28	62%	45	20	43%	26	57%	46	5%	
<b>Total D</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3%</b>	
P-5	44	36%	79	64%	123	46	34%	88	66%	134	-2%	
P-4	113	48%	122	52%	235	108	47%	122	53%	230	-1%	
P-3	166	52%	153	48%	319	166	52%	152	48%	318	-	
P-2/P-1	137	62%	85	38%	222	142	61%	89	39%	231	-1%	
<b>Total P</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total D/P</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>-1%</b>	

22. As of January 2017, parity is achieved in ED (60%) CLT (59%) and SHS (57%). SC and CI are 44 % and 41 % respectively, while IOC is 14 %.

**Table 9**  
**Gender Parity at Professional and Director levels (P/D) in Programme Sectors\***  
**Regular programme and extrabudgetary funds (January 2017)**



\*not including category 1 institutes and centres

## CONCLUSION

23. A total of 160 Member States are represented within the Secretariat (82% of the Member States). Sustained efforts will continue to be required over the next biennia to reach the 85% target, in cooperation with Member States, National Commissions, in particular as concerns the outreach activities. The new Action Plan for the improvement of the geographical distribution, which is an integral part of the Human Resource Strategy for 2017-2022, sets out various measures in this area.

24. As of January 2017, gender parity has been achieved in the Professional and above category (P/D) (50%). At the senior management level, decisive progress has been made, with 47% women Directors by January 2017, nearing the 50% target. The retirement of nine men Directors by end-2017 will provide an opportunity to continue to enhance the gender balance, while the parity goal will continue to be pursued. A new Action Plan has been developed, in close cooperation with the Division for Gender Equality, as a part of the new Human Resource Strategy for 2017-2022.

### Proposed decision

25. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 5.V.A and 199 EX/Decision 5.III.A,
2. Takes note of the information provided by the Director-General regarding the situation of the geographical distribution and the gender balance of the staff as of January 2017;
3. Invites the Director-General to submit to the Executive Board an information note on the situation of the geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat and on the achievement of gender parity at the senior level at its 204th session;
4. Invites the Director-General to submit to the General Conference at its 39th session a full report on the geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat, along with the remedial measures being undertaken to redress the imbalance.

## ANNEX I

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION BY MEMBER STATES AND BY GRADE  
(JANUARY 2017)

	Member States	Sigle	DDG	ADG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	P1	Total	Max.	Min.	Situation
1	Afghanistan	AFG							2			2	4	2	=
2	Albania	ALB				1		1				2	4	2	=
3	Algeria	DZA					1			3		4	4	3	=
4	Andorra	AND						1				1	4	2	-
5	Angola	AGO											4	2	O
6	Antigua and Barbuda	ATG								1		1	4	2	-
7	Argentina	ARG					2	1	1	2		6	7	4	=
8	Armenia	ARM											4	2	O
9	Australia	AUS			1	1	1	1	2	1		7	11	7	=
10	Austria	AUT					1	2		1		4	6	4	=
11	Azerbaijan	AZE							1			1	4	2	-
12	Bahamas	BHS							1			1	4	2	-
13	Bahrain	BHR											4	2	O
14	Bangladesh	BGD							2	1		3	5	3	=
15	Barbados	BRB							1			1	4	2	-
16	Belarus	BLR					1					1	4	2	-
17	Belgium	BEL			1		3	1	3			8	6	4	+
18	Belize	BLZ								1		1	4	2	-
19	Benin	BEN						1	1	2		4	4	2	=
20	Bhutan	BTN							1			1	4	2	-
21	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	BOL							2			2	4	2	=
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH							1	1		2	4	2	=
23	Botswana	BWA							1			1	4	2	-
24	Brazil	BRA				2		1	2	2		7	17	10	-
25	Brunei Darussalam	BRN											4	2	O
26	Bulgaria	BGR					2	2	2	1		7	4	2	+
27	Burkina Faso	BFA				1	2		2			5	4	2	+
28	Burundi	BDI						3		1		4	4	2	=
29	Cabo Verde	CPV											4	2	O
30	Cambodia	KHM					1			1		2	4	2	=
31	Cameroon	CMR				1		2	2	1		6	4	2	+
32	Canada	CAN				1	3	6	1	3		14	13	8	+
33	Central African Republic	CAF											4	2	O
34	Chad	TCD											4	2	O
35	Chile	CHL						1	1			2	5	3	-
36	China	CHN		1		1	3	3	1	2		11	39	23	-
37	Colombia	COL						3	1			4	5	3	=
38	Comoros	COM					1					1	4	2	-
39	Congo	COG		1				1	2			4	4	2	=
40	Cook Islands	COK						1				1	4	2	-
41	Costa Rica	CRI				1		1				2	4	2	=
42	Côte d'Ivoire	CIV						1	1	1		3	4	2	=
43	Croatia	HRV						1	1			2	4	2	=
44	Cuba	CUB					1	2		1		4	4	2	=
45	Cyprus	CYP							1	1		2	4	2	=
46	Czechia	CZE					1		1	1		3	5	3	=

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Annex I – page 2

Member States		Sigle	DDG	ADG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	P1	Total	Max.	Min.	Situation
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PRK					1	1				2	4	2	=
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	COD						1	1	1		3	4	2	=
49	Denmark	DNK				1	3	3				7	5	3	+
50	Djibouti	DJI					1	1				2	4	2	=
51	Dominica	DMA								1		1	4	2	-
52	Dominican Republic	DOM								1		1	4	2	-
53	Ecuador	ECU					1		1	1		3	4	2	=
54	Egypt	EGY						1				1	5	3	-
55	El Salvador	SLV											4	2	O
56	Equatorial Guinea	GNQ											4	2	O
57	Eritrea	ERI							1			1	4	2	-
58	Estonia	EST					1					1	4	2	-
59	Ethiopia	ETH	1					1	2	1	1	6	4	3	+
60	Fiji	FJI						1				1	4	2	-
61	Finland	FIN					1	3				4	5	3	=
62	France	FRA		1	1	3	7	12	16	8		48	20	12	+
63	Gabon	GAB								1		1	4	2	-
64	Gambia	GMB			1		2			2		5	4	2	+
65	Georgia	GEO							1			1	4	2	-
66	Germany	DEU			2		4	6	7	1		20	24	15	=
67	Ghana	GHA					1					1	4	2	-
68	Greece	GRC							3	2		5	5	3	=
69	Grenada	GRD						1				1	4	2	-
70	Guatemala	GTM		1								1	4	2	-
71	Guinea	GIN						1				1	4	2	-
72	Guinea-Bissau	GNB						1				1	4	2	-
73	Guyana	GUY											4	2	O
74	Haiti	HTI											4	2	O
75	Honduras	HND						1		1		2	4	2	=
76	Hungary	HUN					1			1		2	4	2	=
77	Iceland	ISL											4	2	O
78	India	IND				3	3	4		1		11	15	9	=
79	Indonesia	IDN							2			2	7	4	-
80	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	IRN								1		1	6	3	-
81	Iraq	IRQ							1			1	4	3	-
82	Ireland	IRL					4		2			6	5	3	+
83	Israel	ISR						2	1			3	5	3	=
84	Italy	ITA				3	8	5	5	1		22	16	10	+
85	Jamaica	JAM							1	1		2	4	2	=
86	Japan	JPN				1	4	8	15	1		29	35	21	=
87	Jordan	JOR		1		1		1		1		4	4	2	=
88	Kazakhstan	KAZ							1			1	4	3	-
89	Kenya	KEN						1				1	4	2	-
90	Kiribati	KIR											4	2	O
91	Kuwait	KWT											4	3	O
92	Kyrgyzstan	KGZ							1			1	4	2	-
93	Lao People's Democratic Republic	LAO						1	1			2	4	2	=
94	Latvia	LVA							2			2	4	2	=
95	Lebanon	LBN					2	3	1			6	4	2	+
96	Lesotho	LSO											4	2	O
97	Liberia	LBR								1		1	4	2	-
98	Libya	LBY								1		1	4	2	-

Member States		Sigle	DDG	ADG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	P1	Total	Max.	Min.	Situation
99	Lithuania	LTU						1	2			3	4	2	=
100	Luxembourg	LUX								1		1	4	2	-
101	Madagascar	MDG					1		1			2	4	2	=
102	Malawi	MWI					1					1	4	2	-
103	Malaysia	MYS						2	2			4	5	3	=
104	Maldives	MDV								1		1	4	2	-
105	Mali	MLI						1	1			2	4	2	=
106	Malta	MLT											4	2	O
107	Marshall Islands	MHL											4	2	O
108	Mauritania	MRT											4	2	O
109	Mauritius	MUS					1	1	1			3	4	2	=
110	Mexico	MEX				2	2		3	2		9	9	5	=
111	Micronesia (Federated States of)	FSM											4	2	O
112	Monaco	MCO											4	2	O
113	Mongolia	MNG				1			1			2	4	2	=
114	Montenegro	MNE								1		1	4	2	-
115	Morocco	MAR						4	2	1		7	4	2	+
116	Mozambique	MOZ				2	2					4	4	2	=
117	Myanmar	MMR						1				1	4	2	-
118	Namibia	NAM							1	1		2	4	2	=
119	Nauru	NRU											4	2	O
120	Nepal	NPL						3	2	1		6	4	2	+
121	Netherlands	NLD				3	1	2	2	1		9	8	5	+
122	New Zealand	NZL					1		1	1		3	4	3	=
123	Nicaragua	NIC				1			1			2	4	2	=
124	Niger	NER					2		1	1		4	4	2	=
125	Nigeria	NGA						1	2			3	6	3	=
126	Niue	NIU											4	2	O
127	Norway	NOR				1		3	1			5	6	4	=
128	Oman	OMN				1					1	2	4	2	=
129	Pakistan	PAK					1	1	1	1		4	5	3	=
130	Palau	PLW											4	2	O
131	Palestine	PSE							1			1	4	2	-
132	Panama	PAN							1			1	4	2	-
133	Papua New Guinea	PNG						1				1	4	2	-
134	Paraguay	PRY									1	1	4	2	-
135	Peru	PER						1				1	4	3	-
136	Philippines	PHL					1	1		2		4	5	3	=
137	Poland	POL					1		2			3	6	4	-
138	Portugal	PRT						1	1	1		3	5	3	=
139	Qatar	QAT								1		1	4	3	-
140	Republic of Korea	KOR			1	1	1		5	1		9	10	6	=
141	Republic of Moldova	MDA						1		1		2	4	2	=
142	Romania	ROU						2	2	1		5	4	3	+
143	Russian Federation	RUS		1			2	2	1	1		7	14	9	-
144	Rwanda	RWA				1						1	4	2	-
145	Saint Kitts and Nevis	KNA						1	1			2	4	2	=
146	Saint Lucia	LCA				1				2		3	4	2	=
147	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VCT											4	2	O
148	Samoa	WSM											4	2	O
149	San Marino	SMR							1			1	4	2	-
150	Sao Tome and Principe	STP							1			1	4	2	-

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Annex I – page 4

Member States		Sigle	DDG	ADG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	P1	Total	Max.	Min.	Situation
151	Saudi Arabia	SAU				1				1		2	7	4	-
152	Senegal	SEN					1	1	2			4	4	2	=
153	Serbia	SRB						1				1	4	2	-
154	Seychelles	SYC						2	1			3	4	2	=
155	Sierra Leone	SLE						1				1	4	2	-
156	Singapore	SGP								1		1	5	3	-
157	Slovakia	SVK							1			1	4	2	-
158	Slovenia	SVN								1		1	4	2	-
159	Solomon Islands	SLB											4	2	O
160	Somalia	SOM						1				1	4	2	-
161	South Africa	ZAF			1			2	1	1		5	5	3	=
162	South Sudan	SSD											4	2	O
163	Spain	ESP					6	3	3	3		15	12	7	+
164	Sri Lanka	LKA											4	2	O
165	Sudan	SDN					1					1	4	2	-
166	Suriname	SUR											4	2	O
167	Swaziland	SWZ						1				1	4	2	-
168	Sweden	SWE						2				2	7	4	-
169	Switzerland	CHE		1			1		1			3	7	4	-
170	Syrian Arab Republic	SYR					2		1			3	4	2	=
171	Tajikistan	TJK											4	2	O
172	Thailand	THA								1		1	5	3	-
173	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	MKD					1	1				2	4	2	=
174	Timor-Leste	TLS											4	2	O
175	Togo	TGO					1	1				2	4	2	=
176	Tonga	TON											4	2	O
177	Trinidad and Tobago	TTO						1		1		2	4	2	=
178	Tunisia	TUN			1		1	1	5	1		9	4	2	+
179	Turkey	TUR			1			1		1		3	7	4	-
180	Turkmenistan	TKM							1			1	4	2	-
181	Tuvalu	TUV											4	2	O
182	Uganda	UGA							3			3	4	2	=
183	Ukraine	UKR							3	1		4	4	3	=
184	United Arab Emirates	ARE											6	3	O
185	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	GBR			2		7	1	5	1	1	17	18	11	=
186	United Republic of Tanzania	TZA						1				1	4	2	-
187	United States of America	USA				2	5	7	8	1		23	76	46	-
188	Uruguay	URY							1			1	4	2	-
189	Uzbekistan	UZB						1	1			2	4	2	=
190	Vanuatu	VUT											4	2	O
191	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	VEN				1						1	6	3	-
192	Viet Nam	VNM						1	2	1		4	4	3	=
193	Yemen	YEM							1			1	4	2	-
194	Zambia	ZMB							1	1		2	4	2	=
195	Zimbabwe	ZWE							2	1		3	4	2	=
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>610</b>			

**ANNEX II**  
**(JANUARY 2017)**

Over-represented		In Balance		Under-represented		Non-represented	
Group I	Belgium Canada Denmark France Ireland Italy Netherlands Spain	Group I	Austria Cyprus Finland Germany Greece Israel Norway Portugal United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Group I	Andorra Luxembourg San Marino Sweden Switzerland Turkey United States of America	Group I	Iceland Malta Monaco
						Group II	Armenia Tajikistan
Group II	Bulgaria Romania	Group II	Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Czechia Hungary Latvia Lithuania Republic of Moldova The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Ukraine Uzbekistan	Group II	Azerbaijan Belarus Estonia Georgia Montenegro Poland Russian Federation Serbia Slovakia Slovenia	Group III	El Salvador Guyana Haiti Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname
Group IV	Nepal						
Group Va	Burkina Faso Cameroon Ethiopia Gambia						
Group Vb	Lebanon Morocco Tunisia	Group III	Argentina Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Colombia Costa Rica Cuba Ecuador Honduras Jamaica Mexico Nicaragua Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Trinidad and Tobago	Group III	Antigua and Barbuda Bahamas Barbados Belize Brazil Chile Dominica Dominican Republic Grenada Guatemala Panama Paraguay Peru Uruguay Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Group IV	Brunei Darussalam Kiribati Marshall Islands Micronesia (Federated States of) Nauru Niue Palau Samoa Solomon Islands Sri Lanka Timor-Leste Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu
		Group IV	Afghanistan Australia Bangladesh Cambodia	Group IV	Bhutan China Cook Islands Fiji Indonesia Iran (Islamic Republic of) Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan	Group Va	Angola Cabo Verde Central African Republic Chad Equatorial Guinea Lesotho South Sudan



Over-represented	In Balance		Under-represented		Non-represented
		Democratic People's Republic of Korea India Japan Lao People's Democratic Republic Malaysia Mongolia New Zealand Pakistan Philippines Republic of Korea Viet Nam		Maldives Myanmar Papua New Guinea Singapore Thailand Turkmenistan	Group Vb Bahrain Kuwait Mauritania United Arab Emirates
	Group Va	Benin Burundi Congo Côte d'Ivoire Democratic Republic of the Congo Djibouti Madagascar Mali Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Niger Nigeria Senegal Seychelles South Africa Togo Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Group Va	Botswana Comoros Eritrea Gabon Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Kenya Liberia Malawi Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Sierra Leone Somalia Swaziland United Republic of Tanzania	
	Group Vb	Algeria Jordan Oman Syrian Arab Republic	Group Vb	Egypt Iraq Libya Palestine Qatar Saudi Arabia Sudan Yemen	
<b>18</b>		<b>72</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>35</b>

**Total: 195**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part IV (B)

PARIS, 22 March 2017  
Original: English

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART IV

### HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

**B. Progress of the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) working group and its recommendations**

At its 199th session, the Executive Board requested the Director-General to report back to the Executive Board during its Spring 2017 session on the further progress of the ASHI working group and present its recommendations for possible implementation at UNESCO.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 22.



## **B. Progress of the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) working group and its recommendations**

(Follow-up to 199 EX/Decision 5.III.B)

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1. At its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) requested the Secretary General to undertake a survey of current health-care plans for active and retired staff within the United Nations system, explore all the options for increasing efficiency and containing costs and report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session (68/244).
2. At its 70th session, the UNGA considered the Report of the Secretary-General on managing health insurance liabilities (A/70/590; 04/12/2015) that provided an overview and analysis of health insurance covering officials and former officials, and their family members, across the United Nations system.
3. The Report of the Secretary-General was largely informed by the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on ASHI. The Working Group comprises representatives of eighteen United Nations system agencies: FAO, IAEA, ILO, ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNHQ, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNJSPF, UNOG, UNWOMEN, WFP, WHO, WIPO and WTO. Representatives of the Staff Federations CCISUA, FAFICS and FICSA also participate in the work of the Working Group.
4. The Working Group undertook a quantitative and qualitative analysis across the United Nations system to gather information about the health insurance plans. The survey gave a comprehensive view of the current health schemes as well as the after-service health insurance including the liability and funding.
5. The Report of the Secretary-General was reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The conclusions and recommendations contained in the Committee's report (A/70/7/Add.42) were endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution of 1 April 2016 on special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/RES/70/248 B).
6. The Working Group submitted seven recommendations (document- A/70/590) to the General Assembly for consideration (the full report is available at [http://www.un.org/ga/search/viewm\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/590](http://www.un.org/ga/search/viewm_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/590))

### **Recommendation 1: Collective negotiations with third-party administrators**

7. United Nations system organizations should negotiate with third-party administrators in order to optimize pricing for administrative services and network access. To support collective negotiation, United Nations system organizations should explore the feasibility of establishing and maintaining a common database that captures demographic and plan information, summarized claims data, terms and conditions of third-party administrations agreements, staff costs and summarized fraud information.

### **Recommendation 2: Collective negotiations with healthcare providers**

8. The self-administered plans (ILO, WHO, United Nations Staff Mutual Insurance Society) have successfully conducted collective negotiations with health care providers in the Geneva area. Self-administered plans should continue to identify areas where collective negotiations with healthcare providers could result in material savings and/or operational improvements. The organizations concerned should develop common standard processes, enabling them to negotiate collectively with health-care providers and provider networks in order to obtain best access to, and best pricing for, quality health-care, and to minimize pricing volatility.

9. Those organizations should consider establishing a common database and provide additional information in relation to health-care provider practices, terms and conditions of agreements, fraud information and quality assessments.

**Recommendation 3: Underwriting reviews and negotiations with insurers**

10. To provide a robust basis for challenging the terms and conditions of insurers, organizations with externally insured plans should perform periodic underwriting reviews, the results of which should be shared within the United Nations system for benchmarking purposes.

**Recommendation 4: National Health Insurance schemes**

11. The Working Group proposes to continue to support organizations that will further explore the value of national health insurance schemes in the context of United Nations system health insurance plans in a framework whereby those plans would act as supplementary plans to level up the present terms and conditions provided to active and retired staff. The Working Group proposes that organizations approach/engage Member States about broadening the eligibility of officials for primary coverage under those schemes. This mainly concerns retirees and their eligible dependents, but might also be extended to the active population in certain situations.

12. Organizations should evaluate the appropriateness, practicality and financial effects of incorporating into their health insurance plan the requirement to enrol in a national insurance scheme with national contributions to the national plan being borne by the organization plan.

**Recommendation 5: Broadening of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund mandate**

13. Although the role of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, including the Investment Management Division, should not be broadened, the Fund could, pursuant to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, be requested to share its best practice approach and its methods for centralization and administration of a complex multiple-employer plan with United Nations system organizations choosing to jointly provide ASHI coverage.

**Recommendation 6: Standardizing of the general ASHI liability valuation methodology and application of key valuation factors**

14. In the context of completing its work under pillar C, the Working Group should coordinate its efforts with the Task Force on Accounting Standards to harmonize the general ASHI liability principles to establish factors and actuarial assumptions no later than end of 2017, for implementation in the 2018 actuarial valuations.

**Recommendation 7: Adequate funding of the ASHI liability**

15. The Working Group recommends that organizations adequately fund their ASHI liability and build reserves at a minimum to fund the additional cost accrued during the current periods, represented by service cost plus the corresponding interest costs. For those organizations that are still following a pay-as-you-go approach in relation to their ASHI liabilities, this would mean a move to a pay-as-you-accrue approach, reflecting the true cost of current operations.

16. In addition, organizations could consider embedding a funding mechanism into the standard staff costs used for budgeting.

17. Organizations managing extrabudgetary funds should ensure that no account with an unfunded ASHI liability is closed before the liability is cleared through the application of available funds to the recognized liability.

18. Member States and other contributing stakeholders could also consider providing organizations, where required, a one-off payment or specific time-limited funding methods to cover historic shortfalls in ASHI funding.

**Recommendation 8: Investment of reserves**

19. The Working Group recommends that organizations of the United Nations system explore opportunities through the Working Group on Common Treasury Services for cooperation in leveraging existing arrangements with external asset managers to maximize returns and minimize management fees.

20. The General Assembly endorsed the above recommendations and requested the Secretary-General to maintain the Working Group to study further options for increasing efficiency and containing costs, and put forward specific proposals regarding those matters to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

21. The Working Group met several times last year and this year and UNESCO participated at these meetings. At this stage it is too early to make any specific recommendations for UNESCO as the work of the Working Group is still ongoing.

**Proposed decision**

22. The Executive Board may wish to take note of the follow-up report of the Working Group on after-service health insurance:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 191 EX/Decision 29 and 199 EX/Dec.5.III.B,
2. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part IV (B),
3. Requests the Director-General to report back to the Executive Board during its 202nd session (Autumn 2017) on the further progress of the ASHI working group and present its recommendations for possible implementation at UNESCO.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part IV (C)

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART IV

### HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

#### **C. Annual report (2016) by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC): Report by the Director-General**

Article 17 of the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) provides that "(ICSC) shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly, including information on the implementation of its decisions and recommendations. The report shall be transmitted to the governing organs of the other organizations, through their executive heads, and to staff representatives".

In 114 EX/Decision 8.5, the Executive Board approved a proposal, by the Director-General to submit all future ICSC annual reports to the Executive Board at the spring session following the publication of the report. This decision was subsequently endorsed by the General Conference in 22 C/Resolution 37.

Furthermore, the General Conference invited the Director-General, in 38 C/Resolution 88, to inform the Executive Board about measures adopted, either by the General Assembly or the ICSC, before the General Conference's 39th session.

The present document submits the ICSC's annual report for 2016 to the Executive Board for information and describes measures affecting the conditions of service of UNESCO staff members which were implemented following ICSC recommendations/decisions and/or decisions taken by the General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/71/264 of December 2016.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 9.



**C. Annual report (2016) by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC): Report by the Director-General**

(Follow-up to 114 EX/Decision 8.5, 22 C/Resolution 37, 38 C/Resolution 88)

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**Introduction**

1. ICSC's annual report for 2016 contains measures that affect the conditions of service of United Nations common system staff, including UNESCO staff. The General Assembly examined this report and its recommendations at its 71th session and adopted resolution 71/264 (Annex I) which contains its decisions on the report.

**Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff**

**Separation payments**

2. The ICSC recommended to introduce separation payments for fixed term staff separating from the organization upon expiration of contract, after 10 or more years of continuing service. The General Assembly requested ICSC to undertake a comprehensive analysis, in consultation with relevant stake-holders, on the effect of establishing such end-of-service severance pay, including updated financial implications and the distinctions between temporary, fixed term and continuing contracts, and to report at the General Assembly seventy-third session (2018) in order for a decision to be taken on the recommendation and, if appropriate, on the implementation date.

**Framework for human resources management**

3. At its fifty-first session, in 2000, the Commission adopted a framework for human resources management<sup>1)</sup> reflecting the principles of the independence of the international civil service, the need for the organizations to recruit staff with the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and giving due regard to the importance to the recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. In 2010, the ICSC decided to review the framework with the purpose of assessing whether it remained relevant. In its 2016 report, the Commission approved a revised framework for human resources management<sup>2)</sup> which is described as (a) staff-centred; (b) strategic; and (c) results-based. The framework highlights the strategic role of human resources management in helping to maximize present and future human resources capacity to meet organizational goals. Furthermore, the new framework is designed as a "living and interlinked" document. The General Assembly welcomed the ICSC work and took note of its decisions.

**Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories**

**Base/floor salary scale**

4. The comparator civil service's (US federal civil service) pay rose by 1% in 2016. In addition, minor changes were introduced in the United States tax schedule at federal level. The Commission, therefore, decided to recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that the unified base/floor salary scale for the professional and higher categories should be increased by 1.02 % through the standard consolidation method of increasing base salary and commensurately reducing post adjustment multiplier points (that is, on a "no loss, no gain" basis) with effect from 1 January 2017. This measure equally applies to pay protection points approved by the General Assembly in its resolution A/70/244 for the purposes of pay protection for staff whose steps under the previous scale were higher than those foreseen in the new salary scale.

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Fifty-fifth Session, A/55/30, para. 19*

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly the United Nations, Seventy-first Session, A/71/30, annex II*

## **Follow up action**

5. The new salary scale (Annex II) was implemented in UNESCO on 1 January 2016. The adjustment will result in a slight increase of the level of the repatriation grant and of the termination indemnities.

## **Evolution of the United Nations/United States net remuneration margin**

6. The margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C., for the calendar year 2016 was estimated at 114.1. The General Assembly recalled its decision contained in resolution 70/244 that, if the margin trigger levels of 113 or 117 are breached, the Commission should take appropriate action through the post adjustment system. In order to ensure that the margin does not fall below 113, the ICSC has increased the post adjustment for New York by 2.04% as of 1 February 2017. In order to maintain purchasing power parity of salaries with New York, the base of post-adjustment system, post adjustment indices for all duty stations have been scaled up accordingly (that is by 2.04%)

## **Other matters**

### **General Service salary methodologies**

7. The General Assembly requested the ICSC in its next review of the General Service salary methodologies under the Flemming principle, to consider the possibility of further increases in the weight of the local national civil services among the retained employers.

### **Implementation of the common system compensation package**

8. UNESCO has successfully implemented, within the established timeframe, the changes to the compensation package for the Professional and above categories, approved by the General Assembly in 2015<sup>3</sup> and reported on to the Executive Board on its 199th session<sup>4</sup>. The amendments to Staff Rules and the HR Manual were announced in Administrative Circulars published on 29/06/2016 and on 21/12/2016; whilst the required enhancements were made to the ERP system (SAP) within a tight timeline. In addition, UNESCO tested the system changes for other agencies using the standard SAP solution.

## **Proposed decision**

9. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 38 C/Resolution 88, 114 EX/Decision 8.5 and 22 C/Resolution 37,
2. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part IV (C),
3. Takes note of its content;
4. Invites the Director-General to continue to ensure UNESCO's participation in the work of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and to take into account its recommendations and the decisions of the General Assembly.

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution A/70/244.

<sup>4</sup> 199 EX/5 Part 3 C.



## ANNEX I

### RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 23 DECEMBER 2016 [on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/71/709)]

#### 71/264. UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [44/198](#) of 21 December 1989, [51/216](#) of 18 December 1996, [52/216](#) of 22 December 1997, [53/209](#) of 18 December 1998, [55/223](#) of 23 December 2000, [56/244](#) of 24 December 2001, [57/285](#) of 20 December 2002, [58/251](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/268](#) of 23 December 2004, [60/248](#) of 23 December 2005, [61/239](#) of 22 December 2006, [62/227](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/251](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/231](#) of 22 December 2009, [65/248](#) of 24 December 2010, [66/235 A](#) of 24 December 2011, [66/235 B](#) of 21 June 2012, [67/257](#) of 12 April 2013, [68/253](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/251](#) of 29 December 2014 and [70/244](#) of 23 December 2015 and its decision 67/551 of 24 December 2012,

*Having considered* the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2016;<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming its commitment* to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the International Civil Service Commission;
2. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission for 2016<sup>1</sup>
3. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in approving conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission;<sup>2</sup>
4. *Recalls* articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission, and reaffirms the central role of the Commission in regulating and coordinating conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system;

#### I

#### Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff

##### A. Framework for human resources management

1. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the Commission regarding the revised human resources management framework;
2. *Takes note* of the conclusions and decisions of the Commission contained in paragraph 28 of its report;

##### B. Separation payments

1. *Recalls* the recommendation of the Commission on the establishment of end-of-service severance pay for staff serving under a fixed-term contract and separating from the Organization upon the expiration of that contract after 10 or more years of continuous service;

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<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/71/30).

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 3357 (XXIX), annex.

2. *Regrets* that no decision was taken on the issue of end-of-service severance pay for fixed-term staff during the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly;
3. *Recognizes* that a decision must be taken, and requests the Commission to undertake a comprehensive analysis, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, of the effect of the adoption of the above-mentioned recommendation, including the updated financial implications and the distinctions between temporary, fixed-term and continuing contracts, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session in order for a decision to be taken on the recommendation and, as appropriate, the implementation date;

## II

### **Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories**

#### **A. Base/floor salary scale**

*Recalling* its resolution [44/198](#), by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service),

*Recalling also* its resolution [70/244](#), in which it approved a unified base/floor salary scale and decided that the scale should be updated to reflect any adjustments in base/floor salaries that might be approved before its implementation,

*Approves*, with effect from 1 January 2017, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 122 of its report, the revised unified base/floor salary scale for staff in the Professional and higher categories, as contained in annex V to that report;

#### **B. Evolution of the margin and margin management around the desirable midpoint**

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 51/216 and the standing mandate from the General Assembly, in which the Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of the United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the comparator civil service employees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as “the margin”),

1. Reaffirms that the range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the comparator civil service should continue to apply, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the desirable midpoint of 115 over a period of time;
2. Notes that the margin between net remuneration of the United Nations staff in grades P-1 to D-2 in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C., for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016 is 114.5;
3. Requests the Commission to include information on the margin, as well as on the development of the margin over time, in an annex to its annual reports;
4. Recalls its decision contained in resolution 70/244 that, if the margin trigger levels of 113 or 117 are breached, the Commission should take appropriate action through the operation of the post adjustment system;
5. Notes the decision of the Commission to continue monitoring the level of the margin and to take the necessary corrective action under the operation of the post adjustment system should the trigger levels of 113 or 117 be breached;

### III

#### Other matters

##### **A. General Service salary survey methodologies**

*Requests* the Commission, during its next review of the General Service salary survey methodologies under the Flemming principle, to consider the possibility of further increases in the weight of the local national civil services among the retained employers, taking into account that the United Nations is a civil service organization, as well as past experiences of the Commission from the previous round of surveys;

##### **B. Equitable geographical representation and the goal of 50/50 gender balance**

*Recalls* paragraphs 54 and 55 of its resolution 70/244 and the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 160 of its report, and in this regard requests the Commission to continue to provide information to the General Assembly, at its seventy-second session, on the progress made by organizations of the United Nations common system in the implementation of existing gender policies and measures towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance and strengthening geographical diversity within the common system.

*68th plenary meeting  
23 December 2016*

**ANNEX II**

Salary scale for the Professional and higher categories showing annual gross salaries and net equivalents after application of staff assessment  
(Effective 1 January 2017)

(United States dollars)

Level		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DDG	Gross	192236												
	Net	142376												
ADG	Gross	174373												
	Net	130586												
D2	Gross	139 500	142 544	145 589	148 637	151 788	155 018	158 248	161 479	164 709	167 939			
	Net	107 150	109 281	111 412	113 546	115 680	117 812	119 944	122 076	124 208	126 340			
D1	Gross	124 807	127 483	130 160	132 837	135 506	138 183	140 857	143 529	146 207	148 880	151 648	154 483	157 320
	Net	96 865	98 738	100 612	102 486	104 354	106 228	108 100	109 970	111 845	113 716	115 588	117 459	119 331
P5	Gross	107 459	109 734	112 011	114 284	116 561	118 834	121 113	123 387	125 663	127 937	130 214	132 486	134 764
	Net	84 721	86 314	87 908	89 499	91 093	92 684	94 279	95 871	97 464	99 056	100 650	102 240	103 835
P4	Gross	88 351	90 374	92 396	94 418	96 441	98 462	100 529	102 724	104 919	107 114	109 314	111 504	113 701
	Net	70 647	72 184	73 721	75 258	76 795	78 331	79 870	81 407	82 943	84 480	86 020	87 553	89 091
P3	Gross	72 478	74 349	76 221	78 091	79 964	81 836	83 707	85 582	87 451	89 324	91 199	93 068	94 942
	Net	58 583	60 005	61 428	62 849	64 273	65 695	67 117	68 542	69 963	71 386	72 811	74 232	75 656
P2	Gross	55 955	57 629	59 303	60 976	62 651	64 328	66 003	67 674	69 350	71 022	72 696	74 374	76 045
	Net	46 026	47 298	48 570	49 842	51 115	52 389	53 662	54 932	56 206	57 477	58 749	60 024	61 294
P1	Gross	43 371	44 672	45 973	47 275	48 575	49 877	51 287	52 708	54 129	55 551	56 971	58 391	59 812
	Net	35 998	37 078	38 158	39 238	40 317	41 398	42 478	43 558	44 638	45 719	46 798	47 877	48 957



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

# 201 EX/5 Part IV (C) Corr.

PARIS, 21 April 2017  
English, Russian and Spanish  
only

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART IV

### HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES

- C. **Annual report (2016) by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC): Report by the Director-General**

### CORRIGENDUM

On the second page, paragraph 5 should read as follows:

*“The new salary scale (Annex II) was implemented in UNESCO on 1 January 2017. The adjustment will result in a slight increase of the level of the repatriation grant and of the termination indemnities.”*





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

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## **FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

### **PART IV**

### **HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES**

### **ADDENDUM**

### **COMMENTS BY THE UNESCO STAFF UNION (STU)**

Pursuant to Item 9.2.E.7 of the UNESCO Human Resources Manual, the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) submits its comments on the reports by the Director-General.



## A. Geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat

The UNESCO Staff Union (STU) is satisfied with the **improvement in geographical distribution** and better representation of Member States.

The relaunch of the Young Professionals Programme is good, but STU still believes that the calls for applications for the Programme should be disseminated more broadly than just National Commissions and diplomacy circles, in order to target specialized communities and the best experts in every field. Efforts should also be made in order to guarantee that such a programme could be beneficial to field offices, which is not the case today.

We would nonetheless like to draw the attention of Member States to the fact that, while external recruitment can lead to the improvement of geographical distribution, it can also lead to blocking the career development of staff: a staff member of an underrepresented State can be stuck for years at the same grade, with no career prospects, superseded in the recruitment procedure by an external candidate.

In this connection, we would like to remind Member States that, in a report published in 2012, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations system called on specialized agencies to work towards striking a balance between external recruitment and internal appointment/promotion.

With regard to **gender balance**, STU welcomes the fact that the gender parity goal has been achieved at the Professional level and above. However, we regret the uneven distribution at the P-4 and P-5 levels, where there are far more men than women. Two-thirds of the staff at the P-5 level are men, while the majority of women still hold P-1/P-2 category posts.

This should also not mask the **overwhelming majority of G category posts held by women** and the **injustice done to female colleagues on temporary assistance contracts**, which do not enjoy the same rights to maternity and nursing leave or family allowances.

## B. Progress of the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) working group and its recommendations

STU took note of the eight recommendations on **After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI)** made by the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and submitted to the consideration of the General Assembly. It is essential that retirees benefit from this system and STU regrets that its implementation has not yet been finalized. It is high time for action and STU is concerned to read once again that “the work of the Working Group is still ongoing”.

More immediately, we are concerned about the impact of the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT) judgments of 8 February on the Medical Benefits Fund (MBF) as a whole.

According to judgment 3761, the decision to amend the MBF Rules, established by Administrative Circular AC/HR/43 of 21 October 2014, did not comply with the provisions allowing amendments as stated in Article 7.1 of the MBF Rules, and is therefore **unlawful and must be rescinded. As a result, the amendments to the Rules are null and void.** In addition, as a result of this judgment, Information Circular IC/HR/73 of 3 November 2014, calling for nominations for the election of members of the new Advisory Board, was also considered to be **unlawful**. The Advisory Board therefore no longer exists and the MBF is without a governing body.

We expect the Administration to provide **clear answers** concerning the enforcement of the ILOAT judgments and their **repercussions on the participants**.

**C. Annual report (2016) by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC): Report by the Director-General**

The new salary scale for the Professional and higher categories was implemented at UNESCO on 1 January 2017, and a number of staff members, in their first pay slip of the year, noted **a decline in some elements of their salary**. Some staff members, in accordance with paragraph 7 (a) of the Statutes of the Appeals Board, requested the Director-General to reverse that administrative decision.

Moreover, there was no mention in this document of the implementation on 1 January 2018 of a raise in the **statutory retirement age** from 62 to 65 years. According to our information, this decision could be postponed to a later date. We are awaiting clarification from the Administration on this point.

\* \* \* \* \*

In general, STU is surprised at how few substantive issues relating to human resources are being addressed by the Executive Board at its 201st session. In our view, **the situation of UNESCO staff deserves more attention**, since many problems remain unresolved. Examples include:

- **lack of career development prospects**, compounded by the **almost systematic recruitment of external candidates** for more than a year;
- **large-scale use of temporary assistance**: more than half of the Organization's personnel consists of temporary staff, resulting in loss of institutional memory, discrimination between staff, and undermining of the independence of the international civil service;
- **lack of a proper training budget**;
- **long delay in the reform of the recruitment policy**;
- **lack of mobility or disability policies**;
- **failure to take into account the malaise of staff** (lack of a policy on stress management and burnout prevention, deterioration of the restaurant services and the premises, hygiene problems);
- **lack of internal justice**, owing to the unavailability of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Appeals Board;
- **delays in the payment of pension benefits**.

And the list goes on. **Must we wait for the next Administration to hope for progress to be made?**





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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# Executive Board

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### **FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

**PART IV (A), (B) AND (C)**

**HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES**

**ADDENDUM 2**

**COMMENTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION OF UNESCO (ISAU)**

#### **SUMMARY**

Pursuant to item 9.2.E.7 of the UNESCO Human Resources Manual, the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) submits its comments on the reports by the Director-General



## **A Geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat – Document 201 EX/5 Part IV (A)**

1. ISAU takes note of the efforts exerted to enhance geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat.
2. However, with regard to geographical distribution, ISAU wishes to remark that despite the progress achieved (with the number of represented Member States having risen from 153 to 160, i.e. 7 more States between January 2016 and January 2017, the result expected in the Human Resources Management Strategy: Action Plan 2011-2016 has not been attained since the representation rate in January 2017 was only 82% against an objective of 85%.
3. Furthermore, ISAU regrets that the same objective of 85% has been maintained in the Human Resources Management Strategy for 2017-2022 even though the Administration ought to be more ambitious and seek to improve geographical distribution significantly with the Secretariat. ISAU therefore urges the Administration to set itself a more ambitious objective of 90% of Member States represented by 2022.
4. In paragraph 17, the report refers to representation by regional group within programme sectors as follows: “Overall, the representation by regional group within programme sectors reflects the geographical distribution of regional groups in UNESCO as a whole, with some variations across sectors; Group I has the largest representation in all sectors, except in the Education Sector, where Group IV is higher.” ISAU regrets to note that Group I is heavily over-represented in the Culture and Science Sectors and in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).
5. The lack of clear and comparable information is a serious obstacle to the readability of the data and hampers follow-up to and revision of recruitment and promotion policies. ISAU would also like to see the report contain an analysis of the representation of regional groups both at Headquarters and in the field. The equilibrium being sought should be reflected at both those levels.
6. It should be noted that the reality of geographical distribution is somewhat skewed by the fact that the report only deals with staff members on geographical posts under the regular programme. In order better to reflect the issues involved in recruitment (and hence in geographical distribution), it is important that all posts, including those financed from extrabudgetary funds (such as posts at category 1 institutes) be taken into account in calculating geographical distribution, as was the case for staff broken down by sex in this report. It should be stressed that this improvement was also skewed by the inclusion in the statistics of the recruitment of Young Professionals.
7. With regard to gender parity among staff members in the Professional and above category, ISAU appreciates the efforts exerted over the past year, but recommends that the Administration show greater determination to achieve a genuine equilibrium at all grades. Women remain distinctly under-represented at all levels (ADG – 25%; D1 – 43%; P5 – 34%), even though they are over-represented at D2 (73%, but out of a field of no more than 15). ISAU therefore urges that efforts be made at the P-4 and P-5 levels and in IOC.
8. Paragraph 22 of the report indicates: “As of January 2017, parity is achieved in ED (60%), CLT (59%) and SHS (59%). SC and CI are 44% and 41% respectively, while IOC is 14%.” ISAU wishes to state that parity does not mean that women should be more represented than men; parity is equilibrium between women and men at all grades and in all sectors. ISAU therefore invites the Administration to make greater efforts to attain such equilibrium.
9. ISAU reiterates its request that internal staff be given preference in recruitment. All too often, external candidates are still receiving preferential treatment over internal candidates who not only have the requisite qualifications, but also in-house experience.

10. According preferential treatment to external recruitment should in no case affect the recruitment/promotion of internal candidates.

11. ISAU therefore invites the Administration to give careful consideration to the above remarks in the draft decision that it may wish to submit to the Executive Board.

**B. Progress of the after-service health insurance (ASHI) working group and its recommendations (Follow-up to 199 EX/Decision 5 (III, B) – Document 201 EX/5 Part IV (B)).**

12. It is crucial for all staff members, both active and retired, to have good health insurance cover. In order to recruit and retain the best worldwide, United Nations agencies need to have an **ethical, comprehensive and flexible** health insurance system whose benefits and services effectively promote the well-being of the staff, especially for staff members working under difficult or even hardship conditions.

**13. Recommendations 1, 2 and 3**

In order to ensure good social cover of active and retired staff members, United Nations system organizations need, above all:

- To have a global view of the issue;
- To harmonize their collective negotiations and the choice of health service providers or health administrators. The current scatter of the various service providers that we have today is not desirable for the good governance of the health insurance funds of the various organizations.

14. As indicated in the report of the working group (document A/70/590), most United Nations organizations do not hold collective negotiations with insurers, third-party administrators or health care providers, and thus have not brought their own size to bear in seeking to obtain the best possible conditions of insurance or service. Similarly, there is no mechanism which enables organizations to exchange and analyse information effectively with a view to achieving savings or efficiency gains.

**15. Recommendation 4**

The idea of making after-service health cover dependent on national health insurance schemes and making United Nations system arrangements supplementary to national schemes is, in our view, illusory, and shows a complete lack of realism regarding the difficulties, in particular, the financial difficulties facing some national health schemes (for instance the deficit of the health insurance system in France). It would therefore be unacceptable to pursue this idea further. ISAU is strongly opposed to such an option, which does not take into account the critical situation of national schemes. Furthermore, this measure would be unfair to nationals of developing countries which do not have suitable social security systems.

**16. Recommendation 5**

After-service health insurance is a key element of the conditions of employment. ISAU therefore believes that broadening the terms of reference of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) to include after-service health insurance is not feasible, given that the introduction of such a measure would be likely to compromise the smooth functioning of UNJSPF and its long-term viability.

17. ISAU believes, from a legal point of view, that any significant changes to health insurance, including those that would apply to retirees to their detriment, would constitute a violation of their acquired rights and make the organizations vulnerable to lawsuits. ISAU recalls, in this connection,

that the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT) has recently found in favour of appellants who were seeking the cancellation of an administrative circular modifying the statutes of the Medical Benefits Funds (MBF).

**C. 201 EX/5 Part IV (C) – Annual report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC): Report by the Director-General**

18. ISAU welcomes the initiatives taken by ICSC relating to the conditions of employment applicable to both categories of staff. Regarding the introduction of separation payments for fixed-term staff separating from the Organization upon expiration of contract, after 10 or more years of continuing service, ISAU would like to have more details on the financial implications and the conditions under which they would be applied, as requested of ICSC by the General Assembly.

19. With regard to the revised framework for human resources management, ISAU will seek to ensure that these new measures are applied strictly.

20. ISAU recalls that the Flemming principle requires that the salaries of United Nations staff, at the local level, shall be among the most favourable at the duty station concerned. The General Assembly asks ICSC to envisage “the possibility of increasing the weight of the local civil service among the employers selected”. ISAU wishes to say that introduction of the local civil service should be considered if, and only if, that civil service has one of the most favourable systems of remuneration. Otherwise, such a step would inevitably lead to a fall in salaries for staff concerned by this survey.

21. ISAU sincerely hopes that these points will be taken into account before any decision is taken.

22. ISAU welcomes the successful implementation of the modifications to the whole range of United Nations common system benefits for staff in the Professional and above category.