Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme
13th session
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Agenda Item 3

MOST ACTION PLAN 2016-2021

This document is submitted for the consideration of the MOST Intergovernmental Council (IGC), pursuant to the decision adopted by the Bureau of the IGC at its meeting of 15-16 September 2016.

It presents a revised draft of the initial MOST Action Plan 2016-2021 which incorporates the results of additional consultations with Member States. The document provides a balanced overview of national, sub-regional, regional and global levels of implementation. It also includes estimated costs as well as indicative funds allocation from the Regular Programme, and targets for resource mobilization by Member States, under each strategic pillar of the Action Plan.

Action expected of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC): proposed decision in paragraph 36.

I. Introduction

1. The Comprehensive Strategy for the MOST Programme, 2016-2021, adopted by the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of MOST at its meeting in Paris on 27-28 January 2016 and subsequently endorsed by the Executive Board at its 199th session, establishes that the strategy should be operationalized through an Action Plan compiling content submitted by all Member States and updated periodically under the responsibility of the Bureau (para. 27 of the MOST Strategy).

2. Further to the decision of the Bureau, the Secretariat of MOST submitted a questionnaire to the IGC aimed at assisting Bureau Members to gather the basic information related to the preparation of the Action Plan. Subsequently, a first version of the MOST Action Plan 2016-2021 was prepared and circulated to members of MOST.

3. The document was examined at the meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council on 15-16 September 2016, which adopted four decisions concerning the MOST Action Plan. The Bureau:

    3.1. Requested the MOST Secretariat to conduct additional consultations with Member States to improve the 2016-2021 Action Plan for Implementation of the MOST Strategy. Member States shall submit their input to the Action Plan by 15 December 2016 and the revised draft of the Action Plan, taking account of such input and consisting of one single document, shall be submitted to the 13th Ordinary Session of the IGC.

    3.2. Recommended that the revised Action Plan should attain a balance between the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels of implementation. Furthermore, the Bureau requests that the revised document include estimated costs as well as indicative funds allocation from the Regular Programme, and targets for resource mobilization by Member States, under each strategic pillar of the Action Plan.

    3.3. Referring to its decision in January 2016, reiterated the usefulness of establishing a MOST Special Account and the importance of fundraising and resource mobilization to support implementation of the Action Plan.

    3.4. Recommended that the revised Action Plan, after approval at the 13th Ordinary Session of the IGC, may be used by the Social and Human Sciences Sector to develop its contribution to the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5).

4. Acting upon those decisions, the MOST Secretariat conducted additional consultations with Member States from 25 November to 20 December 2016, on the basis of which a revised draft of the Action Plan was prepared.

II. Proposed MOST Action Plan for the period 2016-2021

5. In the new context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the main objective of MOST is to enhance, by the end of 2021, the capabilities of Member States to generate evidence through high quality and autonomous research and make use of it in the formulation and choice of policies resulting from participatory policy-making processes

which may be relevant to UNESCO's fields of competence towards the attainment of the SDGs (para. 13 of the MOST Strategy).

6. The social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the targets on social inclusion, the eradication of extreme poverty, the reduction of inequalities, inclusive policies for cities, as well as inclusive and participatory decision-making, resonate with MOST's mandate to support Member States in managing contemporary social transformations.

7. Building on its experience and expertise, MOST will scale up and expand its operational activities aimed at strengthening public policy-making in Member States through scientific evidence, humanities-based knowledge, ethics, and human rights frameworks.

8. The MOST Action Plan 2016-2017 is fully aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 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*". It contributes mainly to targets 16.6 ("*Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels*") and 16.7 ("*Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels*").

10. Within the overall primary emphasis on SDG 16, the thematic focus of MOST includes particular emphasis on topics of high contemporary relevance, such as policies for social inclusion; the future of the planet; citizenship, good governance and peace-building; migration and displaced people; and the socially transformative dynamics of digital technologies (para. 22 of the MOST Strategy).

11. In addition, MOST will make a direct contribution to assisting Member States in the achievement of two other Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 10 "Reduce inequality within and among countries" (targets 10.3 and 10.7); and SDG 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" (target 11.3).

12. MOST will also provide indirect contributions to supporting Member States in the implementation of three other SDGs and a number of associated targets: SDG 4 "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning education for all" (target 4.7); SDG 3 "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; and SDG 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts". MP III will also contribute to supporting Member States in the achievement of SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", in particular of the targets 5.1, 5.5 and 5.c.

13. Acknowledging the complex nature of the policy-research relationship and recognizing the challenges that it poses to evidence-informed and participatory decision-making, MOST activities will be anchored in strengthening its own institutional capacities which will act as a cross-cutting and enabling factor for activities articulated around its three programmatic pillars, namely research, intergovernmental forums, and knowledge brokering.

14. Strengthening national institutional capacities for the MOST programme will help ensure the competences of MOST national committees, which need to link national research systems, policy makers and civil society, to facilitate evidence-informed and socially beneficial public policies (para. 3.1 of the MOST Strategy).

15. The Research pillar of MOST will focus on supporting the production of knowledge by networks and communities in the social sciences and the humanities, as well as their

interlinkages with other sciences, towards a systematic and organized body of knowledge acquired through scientific methods that can be relevant for policy-making in the context of the 2030 international development agenda (para. 20.1 of the MOST Strategy).

16. The Intergovernmental pillar of MOST will seek the decisive support of Member States. It includes MOST Ministerial Forums in those regions where they will be suitable and well-established meeting platforms that exist in other regions, the IGC itself, UNESCO governing bodies and other UN Forums (para. 20.2 of the MOST Strategy).

17. The Knowledge Brokering pillar of MOST will offer positive mechanisms for transferring research evidence into public policy and practice in different contexts. It adopts a broad and flexible approach to knowledge brokering (e.g. knowledge management, linkage agents, and capacity builders) and takes account of the coexistence of different models of interaction between science and public policy. It may combine policy support to help policymakers to develop policy options and capacity-building mechanisms that strengthen the capacities of national researchers, research institutions, research systems, policymakers and civil society (para. 20.3 of the MOST Strategy).

18. The MOST Action Plan 2016-2021 includes ongoing activities that started to be implemented in 2016. It also informs the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5). Performance indicators, targets and budget allocations for the MOST Action Plan are therefore provisional and incomplete, pending further refinement after the approval of the 39 C/5 by the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2017. The revised version of the MOST Action Plan will be examined and approved by the IGC.

19. MOST, as an intergovernmental science programme, has a cross-cutting function with respect to the whole of UNESCO's Major Programme in the social and human sciences. The MOST Action Plan 2016-2021 must therefore be aligned with the programmatic components and implementation modalities of the 39 C/5, the draft general structure of which is summarized in the following table:

Major Programme III – Social and Human Sciences		
37 C/4 Strategic Objectives	**Strategic Objective 6** Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures and promoting ethical principles	
39 C/5 Main Lines of Action	**MLA 1** Mobilizing knowledge and embedding rights and ethics to foster inclusive and equitable societies	**MLA 2** Fostering intercultural dialogue and engaging youth for peaceful and participatory societies
Expected Results	ER 1: Public policy-making in Member States strengthened through scientific evidence, humanities-based knowledge, ethics, and human rights frameworks ER 2: National institutional and human capacities strengthened at all levels to generate, manage and apply knowledge for inclusive, equitable development that is based on ethical values and human rights.	ER 3: Youth-led action enabled, from local to global, to address societal challenges and consolidate peace. ER 4: Member States' commitments to the global agendas in favour of inclusive, sustainable and peaceful societies demonstrated through targeted advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising initiatives.

20. To facilitate such alignment, ongoing activities in the biennium 2016-2017 are adopted in the MOST Action Plan as "baselines" and activities planned for 2018-2021 are presented as "targets". The MOST Action Plan 2016-2021 directly relates to three proposed Expected Results of the draft 39 C/5: ER 1, ER 2, and ER 4. Given that each ER is accompanied by a limited number of quadrennial "performance indicators", "baselines" and their associated "targets" expected to be reached by the end of the period, a concise overview of the consolidation of the Action Plan and the draft 39 C/5 is provided below:

39C/5 ER 1: Public policy-making in Member States strengthened through scientific evidence, humanities-based knowledge, ethics, and human rights frameworks

MOST Action Plan: The Research Pillar of MOST
Actions:
1. Organization of interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research projects and associated events (national, sub-regional, regional and global)
2. Strengthen collaboration with existing networks (ISSC, ICSU, CIPSH, CODESRIA, CLACSO, FLACSO, ACSS, IDEA, etc.)
3. Production and dissemination of MOST branded publications
4. Support to young professionals

Performance indicators	Baselines	Targets (at the end of the period 2018-2021, based on resources from the Regular Programme only)	Estimated Budget- Regular Programme 2018-2021 (USD)
PI 1. Number of Member States and local governments which have strengthened policy-making	70	At least 80 Member States and local governments report policy use of social and human sciences knowledge, of which at least 50% are gender responsive, of which 15 in Africa, and 10 in SIDS,	
PI 2. Number of national and international public policy debates and agendas enriched by social and human science knowledge outputs and by gender equality considerations	3	At least 3 international debates and agendas enriched by social and human science knowledge outputs	TBC
PI 3. Number of Member States engaged in research policy initiatives in response to UNESCO-promoted agendas to foster innovative transdisciplinary paradigms in the social and human sciences	0	At least 12 Member States reporting documented policy responses, of which at least 3 in Africa	TBC
			900,000

39C/5 ER 2: National institutional and human capacities strengthened at all levels to generate, manage and apply knowledge for inclusive, equitable development that is based on ethical values and human rights.			
MOST Action Plan: The knowledge brokering pillar of MOST Actions: 1. Organization of MOST Schools 2. Organization of Futures Literacy Labs (FLL) 3. Implementation of the UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab			
Performance indicators	**Baselines**	**Targets (at the end of the period 2018-2021, based on resources from the Regular Programme only)**	**Estimated Budget- Regular Programme 2018-2021 (USD)**
PI 1. Number of countries in which stakeholders' capacities to apply relevant UNESCO and UN normative frameworks and recommendations are strengthened	31	At least 25 countries assisted, of which 10 in Africa and 3 in SIDS	TBC
PI 2. Number of countries in which institutional mechanisms and models, as well as human capacities, to domestically generate and apply knowledge are strengthened	20	At least 37 countries assisted with strengthening of education, research, and governance systems, of which 18 in Africa and 6 in SIDS	TBC
PI 3. Number of new or improved capacity-building networks, tools and training courses developed, used and implemented	15	At least 20 capacity-building networks, tools or training courses, of which 5 for Africa and 2 for SIDS, which are gender responsive and target both women and men	TBC
			600,000

39C/5 ER 4: Member States' commitments to the global agendas in favour of inclusive, sustainable and peaceful societies demonstrated through targeted advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising initiatives.			
MOST Action Plan: The Intergovernmental Pillar of MOST Actions: 1. Organization of MOST Ministerial Forums 2. Organization of events and working groups with UN entities to address selected issues 3. Organization of MOST statutory meetings			
Performance indicators	**Baselines**	**Targets (at the end of the period 2018-2021, based on resources from the Regular Programme only)**	**Estimated Budget- Regular Programme 2018-2021 (USD)**
PI 1. Number of advocacy campaigns and awareness raising initiatives carried out with Member States and other stakeholders to leverage commitments and actions in favour of inclusion, peace and human rights	7	At least 18 global and regional initiatives carried out, at least 5 in Africa and 1 in SIDS, with the full participation of youth and women	
	3	At least 8 advocacy campaigns carried out with focus on Africa and SIDS, with at least one that is gender specific	TBC
	6	At least 8 high-level events, with at least 2 in Africa and 1 in SIDS where youth and women feature as key actors	
PI 2. Number of collaborative alliances and operational partnerships mobilized to leverage SHS soft power	15	Existing alliances and operational partnerships mobilized and at least 6 new ones established, at least 2 in Africa including with youth and women groups	TBC
			380,000

21. A diverse set of activities will be carried out for creating, capturing, analysing, sharing, brokering and disseminating knowledge and globally comparable data; enhancing the policy uptake of research; connecting stakeholders; and bolstering responsive, inclusive and participatory decision-making, and effective, accountable and transparent institutions in Member States.

22. Activities will be directly associated to the national and regional contextualization of the 2030 Agenda, the Agenda 2063 for Africa, UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021), the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), the Programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent -2015-2024) and the General and Regional Histories and Routes of Dialogue. Interventions will also assist the implementation of relevant provisions of the New Urban Agenda through knowledge informed national and city-level interventions tailored to country specific developmental challenges.

23. In the context of the MOST Action Plan, the leading role in promoting engagement with the MOST programme at the national level will be performed by MOST National Committees, established in Member States on the flexible basis offered by the operational guidelines included in the Comprehensive Strategy for the MOST Programme, 2016-2021, or by National Commissions for UNESCO where MOST National Committees do not exist (para. 19.2 of the MOST Strategy).

24. With a view to better coordinating the MOST Action Plan, the MOST Secretariat will ensure technical support to the Intergovernmental Council (IGC). The MOST Secretariat will systematically liaise with Member States, and in particular with MOST National Committees and Permanent Delegations. It will also ensure collaboration with other stakeholders, drawing on existing global, regional and national platforms of experts.

25. The MOST Secretariat will also support UNESCO Field Offices that are responsible for the design and implementation of MOST activities, mainly by providing coordination, technical advice and backstopping.

26. Key partnerships for delivering the expected results of the MOST Action Plan will be developed around a range of intergovernmental and international organizations and foundations as well as social and human sciences networks, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, high-level government officials convened through the MOST Ministerial Forums, the members of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR, UNESCO chairs and relevant Category II Centres, focal points of Silk Roads and General History of Africa, Slave Route National Committees, as well as institutions which offer a multidisciplinary, pluralistic and multicultural reflection on contemporary public policy, and also platforms such as the Global Migration Group, the Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

27. Monitoring mechanisms for the MOST Action Plan are designed to provide an early indication of the likelihood that expected results will be attained and provide an opportunity to make necessary changes in programme activities and approaches, as appropriate.

28. Measuring the policy impacts of social and human science knowledge products has been widely recognized as a challenging endeavour related to the complexity of the policy-making process itself. To that end, a set of proxy indicators – reflecting the policy uptake of knowledge, the benefits of knowledge brokering for policymaking, and the effects of

knowledge dissemination in debates and agendas framing policy decisions – will be adopted to measure the effect of knowledge flows drawn from a wide range of social and human sciences experts and development stakeholders mobilized by MOST in the context of collaboration with Member States.

29. Monitoring of activities under the MOST Action Plan will be undertaken by a variety of mechanisms, including biannual narrative and analytical reporting to the Executive Board and regular reporting to the statutory meetings of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of MOST and to its Bureau. In addition, the IGC itself reports through its President, on a biennial basis, to the General Conference.

30. In addition to these standard monitoring and evaluation processes, specific monitoring and evaluation plans, including as appropriate detailed Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks, will be established for extrabudgetary projects, as per UNESCO's regulations.

III. Resources

31. In view of the scale and diversity of activities envisioned in the MOST Action Plan, the commitment and engagement of Member States, through flexible mechanisms, is essential. The human and financial resources fully dedicated to MOST with UNESCO's regular programme and budget are very limited, and expected funds to support projected activities remain insufficient.

32. Based on UNESCO's experience of the implementation of MOST activities, and drawing on the consultations conducted with Member States, an estimated amount of 6,670,000 US Dollars will be necessary for full delivery of the Action Plan in the form presented in this document over the period 2018-2021, of which approximately 1,900,000 US Dollars is expected to be available from the 39 C/5. The funding gap to be filled by additional resources (cash and in-kind) may thus be estimated at 4,770,000 US Dollars. As the Action Plan is strengthened by contributions from further Member States, the funding gap will, mechanically, increase.

Strategic Areas of the MOST Action Plan	Estimated Total Costs (USD) 2018-2021	Estimated budget from Regular programme (RP) (USD) 2018-2021	% of total costs supported by RP	Funding Gap & targets for resource mobilization by MS (USD) 2018-2021
Research Pillar	3,230,000	900,000	27.8%	2,330,000
Intergovernmental Pillar (including statutory meetings)	840,000	380,000	45.2%	460,000
Knowledge Brokering Pillar	2,250,000	600,000	26.7%	1,650,000
Cross-cutting activity: strengthening national institutional capacities for the MOST programme	350,000	20,000	5.7%	330,000
TOTAL	**6,670,000**	**1,900,000**	**28.5%**	**4,770,000**

35. In order to mobilize the extrabudgetary resources to address the funding gap, it would be desirable to offer the option of contributing to a MOST Special Account, to strengthen coherence in the implementation and reporting on the MOST Action Plan. The initial funds, which according to UNESCO Financial Regulations need to be raised before the formal

establishment of a Special Account, may consist in voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities.

IV. Proposed decision

36. In light of the above, the MOST Intergovernmental Council (IGC) may wish to adopt the following decision:

The MOST Intergovernmental Council (IGC),

Taking note of the MOST Action Plan 2016-2021 as submitted by the secretariat after consultations with Member States (document MOST/IGC/2017/3);

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in attaining a balanced overview of national, sub-regional, regional and global levels of implementation, as well as in identifying estimated costs, potential funds allocations from the Regular Programme, and targets for resource mobilization by Member States, under each strategic pillar of the Action Plan;

2. *Endorses* the MOST Action Plan 2016-2021;

3. *Requests* the Director-General to explore the possibility of establishing a MOST Special Account;

4. *Invites* Member States to take into consideration the restricted budget framework of the Regular Programme and makes an appeal for additional support to the implementation of the MOST Action Plan 2016-2021, including through contributions towards the MOST Special Account;

5. *Invites* the Director-General to ensure consistency between the MOST Action Plan 2016-2021 and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5);

6. *Requests* the IGC President to summarize the MOST Action Plan 2016-2021 in her statutory report to the 39th session of the General Conference.

V. Annexes

Annex 1: Initiatives planned by Member States 2017- 2021

The Research Pillar of MOST [paragraph 20.1 of the strategy]
Initiatives planned by Member States

Group 1: North America & Western Europe
Canada: Prioritize the decision of policies based on scientific knowledge
Turkey: Investigation of refugees in the media in the perspective of intercultural dialogue (Investigation in Australia, England, France, Germany, Sweden and Turkey) / Cash Target: 30,000 USD; Organize International Symposium on migrants in International Migrants Day (18 December) with partnership of universities, civil societies and authorities/ Cash Target: 60,000 USD; to publish an edited volume -Syrian Migrants jointly supported by Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO/ / Cash Target: 10,000 USD.
Turkey subtotal cash target: 100,000 USD.

Group 2: Eastern & Central Europe
Czech Republic: Czech Academy of Sciences Strategy AV21 program; national grants and operation programmes for interdisciplinary and inter-institution partnerships; and continue research in urban anthropology and migration studies and share results; and publications on migration within the Strategies programs of the Czech Academy of Sciences AV21.
Russia: Social sciences conferences; MOST Master's Programme at Moscow State University, cooperation with MSU to promote models of cross-sectoral and inter-agency partnerships, and International Center for Civil Society Studies Lab for fundamental/applied research in economic, social and industrial development.
Serbia: Network of researchers and institutions focused on applied research with roundtables and discussions; partnerships with policymakers, scientific research institutions, civil society, business sector, international partners; capacity building to conduct policy-oriented social research within research institutions and civil society organisations; promote policy-oriented social research, encourage research specialization, and conduct M&E; organize meetings and roundtables for scientists and researchers to identifying innovative practices and monitor methodological innovation in applied research; encourage government to fund researchers and monitor production of social science work specifically targeting the SDGs; encourage policymakers to use results of social science research to make evidence-based decisions; and produce reports on MOST Committee activities and publish results of national and joint policy-based, applied and collaborative research.
Slovenia: Partnership between the Junior Sociologists Network (JSN) and the International Sociological Association (ISA); co-organise annual Slovenian Social Science Conferences; continue to publish volumes of "Intercultural aspects of social transformations", based on the VIII Slovenian Social Science Conference (co-organised by the Slovenian MOST National Committee); and establish sub-regional, international workshops and an international conference on human rights in science and education.
Slovakia: In cooperation with universities and scientific institutions in the field of social sciences and humanities to promote and present scientific research comparative outputs on the issues of social impacts of the post-transformation processes and the processes by extensive migration. Cash Target: 32,000 USD. Organization of two European sub-regional conferences: 1) Social Impact of Migrations – The case of the Balkan States/ Cash Target: 16,000 USD; and 2) Social Transformation experiences of Post-Socialist countries of Eastern Europe/ Cash Target: 16,000 USD.
Slovakia subtotal cash target: 32,000 USD.

Group 3: LAC
Cuba: Interdisciplinary and multi-institutional research groups; organize sessions to explain results of investigations to organizations which must apply the learnings (every 2 months); create a digital library for studies and research in the social sciences as they relate to Agenda 2030; collaborate on a thematic paper regarding the contributions of research to attainment of the SDGs; and incorporate MOST Committee into the national working group for the implementation of the SDGs.
GRULAC: Interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research groups to incorporate researchers from different domains and cover public health, economics, statistics, etc.; establish partnerships with successful countries in terms of life standards in order to analyse and enquire about their policies; try scale implementation; hold

briefing sessions to present the outcomes of completed research to executive bodies in charge of policy implementation; publish academic and scientific surveys, theses and investigation projects (social inclusion, childhood, youth, empowerment of women, migration, gender equality, end of poverty, peace); establish young parliamentary groups that will work on inclusive agendas focused on youth; establish women parliamentary groups that will work on inclusive agendas focused on the empowerment of girls and women, early childhood, maternity, migrant women, etc.; interview researchers, professors and policymakers on public social policies and publicize their views; and work to incorporate the MOST National Committee to the National Working Group for the Implementation of the SDGs.

Mexico: Research partnerships between Mexican experts and research institutions from countries with successful experiences in improving living standards through public policies.

Group 4: Asia- Pacific

Thailand: Partnerships with universities, civil society, MOE(+OHEC), NRCT, TRF and individual experts; and publish SDGs paper series.

Group 5A: Africa

Cameroon: Create a youth centre for production and diffusion of youth documentations

Kenya: Partnerships with universities, civil society, government ministries and experts; drive cooperation between government agencies, universities & private sector; publication of the 1st East African Meeting of Ministers of Social Development report; and support more studies in social development to link policy & academia.

South Africa: Partnerships with ISER, Rhodes University, SASPRI, and UJ-BCURE for a Social Policy and Social Policy Analysis training course for civil servants; and continue to publish policy briefs by Department of Social Development.

Tanzania: Establish a research fund on social transformation interdisciplinary research, possibly in partnership with COSTEC; establish an interdisciplinary think-tank of social scientists dedicated to analysing development policies; continue to organize Voice of Social Sciences conference; establish platforms interactions between think-tanks and policymakers, implementers and development practitioners at different levels (district, regional, national and international), including briefing sessions, roundtables, interactive websites, hotline/call centre for policy makers/planners and practitioners, producing policy briefs, and repackaging research outcomes to mainstream social transformation agenda; review Gender and Women development policy (2000) by June 2019 with a series of forums and publications; involve policy makers in translation of MOST guidelines to raise awareness; ensure the cultural agenda is included in policymaking; develop a national Women's Economic Empowerment strategy with inputs from wide range of stakeholders; research and/or publication grants focusing on strategic themes of social transformation; set up new research centres of research on social transformation; establish a Journal of social transformation, covering politics, migration, religion, natural resource management and the political economy; and develop a national Women's Economic Empowerment strategy.

Group 5B: Arab Countries

Bahrain: Apply the best studies to policy; coordinate with the Directorate of Planning and Projects; coordinate publications with the Directorate of Public Libraries; and Motivate researchers to publish in this field.

Egypt: Research and publish in partnership with sociology departments at universities, sociology research centres, human and social rights research centres; interdisciplinary work in the Social and Human Sciences and Applied Sciences; turn existing research into concrete policy; develop applied research that allows experimentation and innovation, especially on poverty and children in the streets; encourage interdisciplinary cooperation and engage civil society; encourage young researchers to publish their research; coordinate with public libraries to publish more research on social transformations; and organize seminars, conferences, etc.

Jordan: Continue partnerships with University of Jordan, University of Yarmouk, Balqa'a Applied University, Jordan German University in the field of social work; establish a Social Protection Sector (part of Jordan Vision 2025); develop legislation using a "community participation" approach; and publish a series on Jordan Vision 2025, specifically covering combatting poverty & increasing production.

Qatar: Establish interdisciplinary research and policy analysis centres for the social sciences and humanities; develop social sciences and humanities experimentation and policy analysis tools using new technologies; and publish policy briefs and analyses, to be shared with stakeholders and decision-makers.

Sudan: Continue partnerships with Ministry of Social Affairs, UNESCO, Al Zaim Al Azhari University, and other university-based social institutes; experimentation and policy analysis through a multidisciplinary approach, recent strategic frameworks, SWOT analysis and civil participation; and establish public awareness programs, seminars, discussion groups and workshops.

The intergovernmental forums pillar of MOST
[paragraph 20.2 of the strategy]

Initiatives planned by Member States

Group 1: North America & Western Europe

Turkey: To have joint meeting on migration in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris with experts from Turkey, Germany, Lebanon, Iraq and Greece/ Cash Target: 60,000 USD [budget covered by Turkish National Commission for UNESCO]; UNESCO Prize for MOST, to identify the theme for every years, to establish preparation committee and jury for the prize and to organize award ceremony / Cash Target: 20,000 USD. Turkey subtotal cash target: 80,000 USD.

Group 2: Eastern & Central Europe

Czech Republic: Organize more scientific research rather than political forums; and host a sub-regional conference in Prague (date undetermined).

Russia: Host a Forum of Ministers of Social Development in 4Q18; and continue to host annual conferences on issues within the social sphere.

Serbia: Cooperate with national committees from other Member States; and cooperate with international professional organizations.

Slovakia: Organize more scientific research rather than political forums to find a common, coordinated approach to science and research policy.

Slovenia: Coordinate with sub-regional MOST committees on international conferences on human rights in science & education in Eastern Europe; host a regional conference on social transformation and democracy (the experiences of post-socialist countries) – date undetermined; and Host a regional conference on The Balkan migration corridor as a social experience (date undetermined).

Group 3: LAC

Cuba: Publishing a thematic report with other member states reflecting the contributions of the social sciences to some of the SDGs

GRULAC: Organize half-yearly regional comprehensive intergovernmental forums, with the participation of organizations such as CEPAL, etc. as well as UN experts and other specialized agencies and programmes of the UN system; match the MOST Forums with Interregional Forums like CELAC, Mercosur, etc.; establish working groups with the UN Secretariat and other specialized agencies and programmes of the UN system in order to receive advice from experts on particular issues at national level; publish a thematic report based on outcomes of research in partnership with other Member States; and establish a web-based global library with the outcomes of research on the social sciences, including experience and policy results, giving priority to the SDG.

Mexico: Co-organization of regional biannual forums with other specialized agencies of the UN system with a view to facilitate expert advice on the implementation of public policies for social transformation.

Group 4: Asia- Pacific

Group 4: The 1st Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Asia-Pacific, to focus on "Building Inclusive Societies" and the subthemes "Ageing" "Women" and "Social Innovation" from 22-23 March 2017, preceded by a senior officials meeting, 20-21 March 2017, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Thailand: Establish a systematic and organized body of knowledge acquired through the scientific methods in the context of Agenda 2030

Malaysia: Hosting the 13th Ordinary session of the MOST IGC, from 16 -17 March 2017, preceded by a Bureau meeting, 14-15 March 2017, in Kuala Lumpur.

Group 5A: Africa

Cameroon: The 1st MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Central Africa, focusing on "Insecurity and Migration: Impact on Women and Youth", 24-26 October 2016.

Kenya: Support (financially and otherwise) the second MOST Eastern Africa meeting of Ministers of Social Development; participate in international, sub-regional & regional forums; support initiatives for post-2015 development agenda across Kenya and the region

Tanzania: Co-operate with other stakeholders to make sure that intergovernmental forums are successful;

organizing joint conference on social transformation in Tanzania, joint seminars, workshops, public dialogue and publications on issues that reflect UN celebrations as well current world issues; preparation of workshop and disseminating MOST articles

Group 5B: Arab Countries
Bahrain: Coordinate with Ministry of Education

Egypt: Host a MOST Inter-Ministerial Forum concerning handicapped children and children in the streets; reinforce cooperation between MOST national committees and UN agencies concerning children's needs, such as UNICEF; and national and regional conferences and international partnerships on the subject of lasting development

Jordan: Hold 9 community debates on legislation of childcare centers and community responsibility; and reinforce cooperation between Ministry of Social Development and UN agencies concerning children's needs, such as UNICEF, World Bank, as well as the Arab League.

Qatar: Establish an annual research forum for management of social transformations; and organize annual events/workshops/programs in collaboration with the UN Secretariat and MOST national committees

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The Knowledge brokering pillar of MOST
[paragraph 20.3 of the strategy]

Initiatives planned by Member States

Group 1: North America & Western Europe
Canada: Consultations have been undertaken; several existing initiatives could benefit of the creation of MOST schools.

Turkey: To organize MOST Schools regarding legal protections of migrants with national university (as part of UNITWIN Program) / Cash Target: 40,000 USD; to organize MOST Schools regarding MOST Contributions for 2030 Sustainable Development Goals/ Cash Target: 40,000 USD; to encourage the establishment of UNESCO-MOST Clubs in universities.
Turkey subtotal cash target: 80,000 USD.

Group 2: Eastern & Central Europe
Russia: ASI will facilitate development of young leaders in the social sphere; MSU will organize expert meetings to find new models of social development; held Foresight Fleet (summer 2016); National Technological Initiative will create conditions for Russia's global leadership in high-tech by 2030; hold the Terra Scientia youth forum: the International Centre for Civil Society Studies will elaborate methodology and assess implementation of social projects in collaboration with Inclusive Policy Labs, in order to increase efficiency of social projects and introduce methodology to key stakeholders; elaborate strategy with research institutions, business associations, charity funds, international experts

Serbia: Plans to organize summer schools to connect researchers with lecturers involved with MOST; organize workshops on sustainable development, based on Future Knowledge Lab methods; Encouraging funders to support projects targeted at reviewing existing policy documents and regulatory frameworks in the areas of social inclusion and social justice; establish and manage research network whose work is policy-based and applied; and organize roundtables and seminars for researchers, NGO policy practitioners and government decision-makers to improve capacities for social data literacy.

Slovakia: Will participate in MOST schools in the future and seek new forms and practical orientation. Cash Target: 3,000 USD.

Group 3: LAC
Cuba: Will hold annual MOST schools regarding national and regional priorities related to the SDGs and Agenda 2030

GRULAC: Will hold annual MOST schools regarding national and regional priorities related to the SDGs and Agenda 2030; establish national forums and workshops for youth from different regions of the country in order to exchange views and ideas for the elaboration of projects likely to be implemented locally; and establish national forums and workshops with participation of professors and policymakers from different regions to analyze social policies and exchange knowledge.

Mexico: Organization of workshops and events for young stakeholders from different parts of the country, involving university professors and policymakers with the aim to exchange experiences regarding social projects which may be implemented at the local level.

Group 4: Asia- Pacific

Thailand: MOST School for Thai and ASEAN young and early career researchers; continue experimentation and policy analysis efforts; interested in Inclusive Policy Lab; establish Thailand Youth Forum, an intra-regional Future Knowledge Laboratory for Thailand; include youth and from diverse background and cultural regions for inclusive dialogue; and establish a series of knowledge-policy interfacing and partnership-building forums and workshops

Group 5A: Africa

Cameroon: Organize a MOST School for innovative mechanisms for experimentation and policy analysis and a MOST School as follow-up to Ministerial Forum

Kenya: MOST Schools; develop a centre of excellence on Futures Literacy in conjunction with a local university (as part of the UNITWIN Programme); MOST/KNATCOM will share proposal with appropriate stakeholders for adoption of Inclusive Policy Labs

South Africa: Plans to develop a MOST School (February 2017) on interdisciplinary approaches to harnessing knowledge from the natural and social sciences

Tanzania: Build the capacity of universities to pursue social transformation in their research; coordinate programmes to raise awareness of MOST in different universities, colleges and other schools; creation of MOST groups in every region hosted by government or CSOs; preparation of national youth strategies for implementation of MOST programmes through youth networks like TAYOA and Youth awareness on the MOST programme through different platforms (using foresight); create awareness of existence of the Inclusive Policy lab among stakeholders, encouraging participation of policymakers and planners, examination of policy models and practices; and prepare capacity-building events and workshops about the Inclusive Policy Lab to policymakers.

Group 5B: Arab Countries

Bahrain: Coordinate MOST school with Ministry of Education; Coordinate FLL with Ministry of Education; and coordinate activities of the Inclusive Policy lab with Ministry of Education

Egypt: Create MOST schools with Egyptian and other Arab universities; use FLL to encourage publication of studies by young researchers, encourage and support young researchers to produce innovative processes that create social dialogue and acceptance, and use social media to reach young people;

Jordan: Maintenance of a document library including work in social development and studies on Jordanian/Syrian youth (using FLL); social policies are subject to the "community debate" approach

Qatar: Create at least 2 MOST institutes, focused on capacity-building for evidence-based decision-making; develop and implement annual FLL youth programme; develop and implement Inclusive Policy Lab and establish a publications clearinghouse, to link all MOST initiatives and be a hub for technical advice and capacity-building

Sudan: Adoption of the UN Youth Program; and involve media and technology institutions; utilization of activities of the Inclusive Policy Lab to provide technical advice through youth forums, capacity-building through school leadership programs, round-table discussions, youth training programs, and gender involvement programs