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**PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES FOR THE CELEBRATION
OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2008-2009 WITH WHICH
UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED**

OUTLINE

Source: 176 EX/Decision 47 and 177 EX/Decision 58.

Background: At its 159th session the Executive Board, by 159 EX/Decision 7.5, adopted the criteria and procedure for examining proposals for the celebration of anniversaries in the Member States with which UNESCO could be associated. Pursuant to that decision, the Director-General submitted to the Executive Board at its 176th and 177th sessions 67 proposals, which the Board endorsed and recommended to the General Conference.

Purpose: The Director-General submits to the General Conference for approval, on the one hand, the recommendations made by the Executive Board on the anniversary celebrations with which UNESCO could be associated in 2008-2009 and, on the other, amendments to the criteria and procedure for examining proposals for the celebration of anniversaries.

Decision required: Paragraph 4.

1. In accordance with the procedure adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session (159 EX/Decision 7.5) with regard to the proposals of Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated, the Board, at its 176th session, initially recommended to the General Conference for approval 55 anniversaries proposed by Member States (176 EX/Decision 47).

2. At its 177th session, the Executive Board examined appeals submitted by Member States in accordance with the above procedure and recommended that the General Conference include 13 additional anniversaries, comprising a substitution request, in the list of anniversaries to be celebrated by UNESCO in 2008-2009 (177 EX/Decision 58). The final list of anniversary celebrations with which UNESCO could be associated in 2008-2009 is set out below.

3. In addition, to ensure a more balanced distribution of celebrations among the different regions and a better selection of the proposals submitted, the Executive Board, in 176 EX/Decision 47, recommended that the General Conference amend the criteria and the procedure for consideration of proposals concerning the celebration of anniversaries, that proposals be limited normally to four per Member State for each biennium and that eminent personalities be nominated posthumously only.

4. The General Conference may wish to adopt the following resolution:

The General Conference,

Having examined document 34 C/14,

Encourages the Member States of all regions to make proposals with a view to ensuring an improved geographical distribution and gender balance, by also selecting eminent women, as far as possible, according to the criteria approved by the governing bodies;

Decides that UNESCO will be associated with the celebrations of the following 67 anniversaries in 2008-2009 (listed in the French alphabetical order of Member States):

1. 150th anniversary of active life of Sayyed Jamal-ud-Din Afghani, philosopher (1858) (Afghanistan);
2. 850th anniversary of the death of Abu-l-Majd Majdud Sana'i of Ghazna, poet and philosopher (circa 1080-1158) (Afghanistan);
3. 250th anniversary of the birth of Friedrich Schiller, poet (1759-1805) (Germany);
4. 150th anniversary of the death of Bettina von Arnim, writer (1785-1859) (Germany);
5. 150th anniversary of the birth of Max Planck, physicist (1858-1947) (Germany);
6. 100th anniversary of the birth of Atahualpa Yupanqui, music composer (1908-1992) (Argentina);
7. 100th anniversary of the birth of Victor Hambardzumyan, astronomer and astrophysicist (1908-1996) (Armenia supported by the Russian Federation);
8. 100th anniversary of the birth of William Saroyan, writer (1908-1981) (Armenia);
9. 200th anniversary of the death of Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) (Austria);
10. 100th anniversary of the first opera in the East: "Leyli and Majnun" (1908) (Azerbaijan);
11. 100th anniversary of Musa Aliyev, geologist (1908-1985) (Azerbaijan);
12. 100th anniversary of the birth of Mir Jalal Pashayev, writer (1908-1978) (Azerbaijan);
13. 100th anniversary of the birth of Sattar Bahlulzade, artist (1909-1974) (Azerbaijan);
14. 100th anniversary of the birth of Ebrahim al-Arrayed, poet (1908-2002) (Bahrain);

15. 600th anniversary of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Białowieża Forest Reserve (Belarus);
16. 200th anniversary of the birth of Vincent Dunin-Martsinkevich, poet, playwright and actor (1808-1884) (Belarus);
17. 100th anniversary of the death of King Toffa I (1874-1908) (Benin);
18. 100th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Vaptsarov, poet (1909-1942) (Bulgaria);
19. 100th anniversary of the birth of Lubomir Krastanov, scientist (1908-1977) (Bulgaria);
20. 100th anniversary of the birth of Rostislav Kaishev, scientist and linguist (1908-2002) (Bulgaria);
21. 100th anniversary of the birth of Marin Goleminov, musician (1908-2000) (Bulgaria);
22. 50th anniversary of the intellectual career of professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo (1922-2006) (Burkina Faso);
23. 50th anniversary of the intellectual career of Georges Niangoran-Bouah, ethnosociologist/anthropologist (1935-2002) (Côte d'Ivoire);
24. 500th anniversary of the birth of Marin Držić, playwright and lyricist (1508-1567) (Croatia);
25. 500th anniversary of the death of Ivan Duknović (Iohannes Dalmata), sculptor and architect (1440-1509) (Croatia);
26. 100th anniversary of the creation of the National Library José Martí's magazine (1909) (Cuba);
27. 1000th anniversary of the foundation of the Harar Jugol – the Fortified Historic Town – and the celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium (Ethiopia);
28. 200th anniversary of the birth of N.V. Gogol, writer (1809-1852) (Russian Federation and Ukraine);
29. 100th anniversary of the birth of Lev D. Landau, physicist (1908-1968) (Russian Federation and Ukraine);
30. 1150th anniversary of the foundation of the City of Veliky Novgorod (Russian Federation);
31. 100th anniversary of the death of Henri Becquerel, physicist (1852-1908) (France);
32. 100th anniversary of the birth of Olivier Messiaen, composer (1908-1992) (France);
33. 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, professor (1809-1852) (France);
34. 150th anniversary of the birth of Emile Durkheim, sociologist (1858-1917) (France);

35. 150th anniversary of the birth of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, linguist (1858-1922) (Israel);
36. 400th anniversary of the birth of Evangelista Torricelli, scientist (1608-1647) (Italy);
37. 100th anniversary of the birth of Cesare Pavese, writer (1908-1950) (Italy);
38. 500th anniversary of the birth of Andrea Palladio, architect (1508-1580) (Italy);
39. 400th anniversary of Galileo's Discoveries (1609) (Italy);
40. 500th anniversary of the epos "Kyz Zhibek" (1508) (Kazakhstan);
41. 50th anniversary of Al Arabi Magazine (1958) (Kuwait);
42. 100th anniversary of the foundation of King's College, Lagos (1909) (Nigeria);
43. 2200th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Toshkent (Uzbekistan);
44. 400th anniversary of the publication of the Royal Commentaries of the Incas by Garcilaso de la Vega (1609) (Peru);
45. 100th anniversary of the creation of the University of the Philippines (1908) (Philippines);
46. 50th anniversary of the beginning of Jerzy Grotowski's artistic work by the creation of the Laboratory Theatre (1959) (Poland);
47. 950th anniversary of the birth of Imam Mohammad Ghazali, philosopher (1058-1111) (Islamic Republic of Iran);
48. 400th anniversary of the death of Sheikh-e Bahae, calligrapher, mathematician, astronomer, doctor, architect and poet (1531-1609) (Islamic Republic of Iran);
49. 100th anniversary of the death of Josef Hlávka, architect (1831-1908) (Czech Republic supported by Austria);
50. 50th anniversary of the death of Bohuslav Martinů, composer (1890-1959) (Czech Republic);
51. 400th anniversary of the death of Jehuda Löw ben Bezalel, writer and philosopher (1520(1512?)-1609) (Czech Republic);
52. 200th anniversary of the birth of the Orthodox Archbishop Andrei Şaguna (1808-1873) (Romania);
53. 100th anniversary of the birth of Eugène Ionesco, dramatist and writer (1908-1994) (Romania);
54. 100th anniversary of the birth of Şerban Ţiţeica, physicist and educationalist (1908-1986) (Romania);
55. 300th anniversary of the death of Nicolae Spătaru Milescu, diplomat, philologist, philosopher, geographer, ethnographer, theologian and writer (1636-1708) (Romania, with the support of the Republic of Moldova);

56. 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, poet (1759-1796) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
57. 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, naturalist (1809-1882) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
58. 400th anniversary of the birth of John Milton, poet (1608-1674) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
59. 100th anniversary of the birth of Ljubica Marić, composer (1909-2003) (Serbia);
60. 100th anniversary of the birth of Margita Figuli, writer (1909-1995) (Slovakia);
61. 100th anniversary of the birth of Eugen Suchoň, music composer (1908-1993) (Slovakia);
62. 500th anniversary of the birth of Primož Trubar, ecclesiastic and writer (1508-1586) (Slovenia);
63. 1150th anniversary of the birth of Abu Abdullah Rudaki, poet (858-941) (Tajikistan with the support of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan);
64. 200th anniversary of His Royal Highness Krom Luang Wongsa Dhiraj Snid, scholar and poet (1808-1871) (Thailand);
65. 1000th anniversary of the birth of Kasgarli Mahmud, linguist (1008-1101) (Turkey);
66. 400th anniversary of the birth of Katip Çelebi, scholar (1609-1657) (Turkey);
67. 100th anniversary of the birth of Maria Primachenko, painter (1909-1997) (Ukraine);

Also decides:

- (a) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations will be financed under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that programme;
- (b) that the list of anniversaries with whose celebration UNESCO will be associated in 2008-2009 be hereby closed;
- (c) that proposals for anniversaries of eminent personalities, nominated posthumously only, and events with which Member States would like to associate UNESCO shall normally be limited to four per Member State for each biennium, and that the selection criteria and procedures for consideration of the proposals concerning the celebration of anniversaries adopted by the Executive Board at its 154th and 159th sessions and amended at its 166th session be amended accordingly, with effect from the next biennium.

Paragraph II(c) of the approved text shall be amended to read as follows:

“the anniversary should concern personalities of genuinely universal stature, nominated posthumously only, and works or events of genuinely worldwide or at least regional significance in order to reflect the ideals, the values, the cultural diversity and the universality of the Organization.”

Paragraph III A(c) of that same text shall be amended to read as follows:

“The intersectoral committee shall ensure, insofar as possible, a geographical balance when it draws up the list so that anniversaries from every region are included. Thus, to improve the distribution of celebrations among the various regions and the selection of proposals submitted, the proposals for anniversaries shall normally be limited to four per Member State for each biennium.”