

**Meeting on the follow up and implementation
of the recommendations adopted at the 39th session of the General Conference
on the governance, procedures and working methods of governance, procedures and
methods of work of the governing bodies of UNESCO**

Informal Summary

Welcoming all participants, the President of the General Conference, Chairperson of the meeting, recalled that the recommendations contained in 39 C/Resolution 87 are the result of the work of the Working Group (WG) established by the General Conference at its 38th session (Resolution 38 C/101). This working group met six times during the biennium 2016-2017, and established two sub-groups which, in turn, held seven meetings. At its 39th session, the General Conference examined the report submitted by the WG, containing 134 recommendations, and endorsed 131 of them. The recommendations can be grouped into three main categories: recommendations related to the General Conference; recommendations related to the Executive Board; and recommendations related to other International and Intergovernmental Bodies of UNESCO (IIBs).

In this regard, the Chair indicated that the implementation of the recommendations addressed to the governing bodies of UNESCO, General Conference and Executive Board, will be completed before the end of this year 2019. Regarding the General Conference, it was noted that proposals for the organization of its 40th session take into account those recommendations related to the Conference. This document would be examined by the Executive Board at its coming session and, with the changes considered relevant by the Board, would be dispatched to all Member States. Regarding the Executive Board, a large number of the 33 recommendations addressed to it have already been implemented during the year 2018 and will continue to be in future sessions.

The Chair underlined that the more complex and very important question of the recommendations addressed to the 35 IIBs, each of them sovereign and governed by their own norms and statutes, were examined in their respective meetings on different dates and with a variable frequency. The chairpersons of each of these organs were requested on 7 July 2018, in accordance with the terms of 39 C/Resolution 87, to include an item on the agendas of their respective meetings on the recommendations made by the General Conference and to report to the President of the General Conference after examination of these items. Taking in to account the respective calendars of these bodies, two meetings will be devoted to the implementation of recommendations by the IIBs. The 19 responses provided by the IIBs are available on the web page of the General Conference.

She indicated that this meeting was the opportunity for the Chairpersons of IIBs to present the status of implementation of the recommendations of the General Conference pertinent to the organs they chair but also the difficulties they faced in this exercise.

It was finally recalled that, under the last item on the provisional agenda of the meeting (39 C/WG/2019/2 Prov.Rev.) the Working Group would devote some time to determine its future agenda. A debate followed concerning the right moment of the day to tackle this issue. It was finally decided to follow the agenda proposed and to examine this item at the end of the day.

Presentation by Mr Gert Oosthuizen, Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS).

The Chairperson presented his report on the way the CIGEPS ensured that an appropriate follow-up would be given to 39 C/Resolution 87.

He underlined that the Chairperson and the Bureau of CIGEPS were entrusted with the analysis of the recommendations and report to the Working Group on governance, on proposed review of working methods and relevant measures notably: accelerating and shortening of sessions, grouping meetings together with meetings in the framework of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, the introduction of teleconferences of the Bureau; and the shortening of meeting agendas.

Consequently, the CIGEPS decided to undertake a thorough revision of its Statutes and established a working group for this purpose. This revision would also offer an opportunity to clarify the contribution to be made by CIGEPS to the broader United Nations sport for development and peace architecture.

This working group agreed to a simplified process for the revision of the Statutes taking into account the examples of other committees such as those of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Management of Social Transformation programme (MOST).

The Chairperson underlined that the revision of the statutes aimed at addressing improvement of governance, evolution of membership, linkages with the International Conferences of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS), reference to the overarching UN policy frameworks. Consequently, the revised Statutes will clarify the mission of CIGEPS; simplify its working methods; specify the responsibility of the Bureau; make specific reference to MINEPS as well as to UN priorities and goals, clarify and simplify consultative membership of CIGEPS for UN bodies, inter-governmental partners and various groups of sport stakeholders.

The Chairperson indicated that he trusted the Revised Statutes would be approved by CIGEPS end of March 2019 and would be submitted to the Executive Board at its 207th session for onward transmission to the General Conference for adoption.

Presentation by Mr Hitesh Patel Rapporteur of the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport (2005), replacing Mr Mohammed Saleh Al Konbaz, Chairperson

Recalling that the Anti-Doping Convention aims at ensuring the protection of sport integrity, ethics and values, the Rapporteur underlined that it was also protecting public health from the dangers of doping and that it the only global normative instrument – almost universal with 187 signatories – addressing this issue from the perspective of public authorities. He recalled also that it is through the Convention that governments formalize anti-doping rules, policies and measures ensuring an equitable playing field.

He indicated that, as outlined by the 2017 evaluation of the Convention and in alignment with the recommendations included in 39 C/Resolution 87, the governance of the Convention needs to be strengthened by reinforcing leadership and facilitating substantial discussions supporting the implementation of the Convention.

In this regard, governance of the Conference of Parties (COP) is addressed with concrete measures which require amendments to its Rules of Procedure such as reviewing the profile of the Bureau members to ensure high-level competencies aligned with the development of the Convention; as well as Bureau members' terms of office, their duties and mandate

Cost-effective working methods of the Conference of Parties' Bureau are also addressed and a set of principles was also adopted.

The Format of the COP is also restructured and meetings extended to respond to the wish of States Parties to include specialized content and thematic debates and to the need to adapt the implementation of the Convention to new challenges. The COP will be also open to all stakeholders involved in the fight against doping in sport, in addition to UNESCO Member States and observers.

Furthermore, the Rapporteur indicated that several other concrete measures are taken to align with the recommendations on governance, among them the development of operational Guidelines and a framework of consequences for non-compliance through a Working Group composed of representatives of States Parties under the supervision of the Bureau, the establishment of a high-level panel of legal experts as well as the creation of a direct link to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through the *Kazan Action Plan III: Protecting the Integrity of Sport*.

Finally, efforts are being made to harmonize and enhance the synergies with CIGEPS.

A speaker underlined the importance of promoting UNESCO's action related to sport within Member States and another the need to respect a consensual approach and inclusive participation in the work of the Convention.

Some Member States mentioned specific recommendations of particular strategic importance, while UNESCO is entering the third pillar of the strategic transformation that involves the IIBs leading to a new and more focused C/4 and C/5. In this regard, recommendations concerning integration, harmonization, coherence and adaptation of IIBs to the achievement of UNESCO's objectives, its Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and its Programme and Budget (C/5), taking into account particularities and requirements of the mandates of each, were strongly recalled. The need of support from the Secretariat to ensure that reflection on UNESCO's priorities is taken on board by the IIBs was also mentioned. The updating of the respective mandates to the agreed priorities of the C/5, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the strengthening of the dialogue between Member States and the IIBs, including through more strategic and results-oriented reports to the General Conference, the organization of orientation sessions for new members of IIBs, the sharing and application of good practices as referred to in the appendix to 39 C/Resolution 87 were also mentioned as part of these priorities.

In response to these interventions, the Rapporteur of the Convention against Doping in Sport, indicated that sport as a tool for social policy should be a matter covered by several national authorities and not only delegated to only one Ministry. Reaffirming that consultations and preparation of statutory meetings were conducted in an open and inclusive process on the basis of consensus, the Rapporteur indicated that he will be happy to answer in writing to detailed questions on the implementation of specific recommendations.

Presentation of H.E. Ms Anna Brandt, Chairperson of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

The Chairperson indicated that – as newly elected Chair – she was, together with the IPDC Secretariat, fully committed to working towards implementation of the governance recommendations by the General Conference.

She indicated that an External evaluation of IPDC was carried out recently and underlined the importance of this exercise funded on extrabudgetary funds that should be followed by other IIBs.

Furthermore, she underlined that a large number of measures already in place respond to major specific recommendations to the IPDC. These include: the alignment with the C/5 priorities; organization of open-ended informal meetings; online publication of documents six weeks before statutory meetings; Bureau meetings open to observers; gender neutral language used in documents, orientation sessions for new bureau members and open to all; use of languages for inclusivity and effectiveness; developing clear, objective criteria for approval of projects; examining the roles of Bureau and Council in selection of projects as well as more balanced consideration of priorities.

In addition, the Chairperson recalled that several Council members are already applying several recommendations, on a voluntary basis, such as voluntary term-limits of two consecutive mandates and backstopping of experts as well ensuring proper communication and follow-up.

Finally, she indicated that the IPDC Bureau meeting of April-May 2018 studied governance's recommendations and prepared specific documents on governance along with proposed draft decisions for the Council's consideration. Consequently, a specific item on the follow-up to the recommendations was included in the agenda of the 31st session of the IPDC held in November 2018. However, unfortunately, the Council ran out of time and was not able to discuss or take a decision under this agenda item. The Chairperson indicated that a first informal meeting with IPDC Council members and observers was organized in February 2019 to discuss this matter.

The Chairperson also thanked GRULAC for having circulated a proposal for the follow-up to the recommendations on governance.

While recognizing the process of implementation of some of the major recommendations, several Members States strongly regretted that the last session of the IPDC did not had time to finish with the examination of all the items on its Agenda, and notably items concerning Governance matters. The need to adopt a road map in this regard was underlined and an extraordinary meeting of the Council or the establishment of a working group on the implementation of the recommendations were suggested. In this regard, it was also mentioned that the proposal by GRULAC for the follow-up to the recommendations on governance should be taken as a basis for discussion. Other interventions also mentioned that the preparation of the agenda of the next meeting will have to be closely examined. Furthermore, the intergovernmental character of the IIBs was strongly recalled. The subject of discussion on the criteria for the approval of projects was also raised.

A speaker stressed the need to produce a general table in which all the IIBs could show their respective status of implementation of recommendations.

The Chairperson of IPDC expressed her regrets that the last session could not achieve its work and listed some concrete proposals which were already made during an informal meeting in February 2019 to avoid such situation in the future. These include: lightening of the agendas of forthcoming meetings in order to avoid over-charged programmes, inclusion of governance follow-up as one of the first items of the agenda, improvement of the communication among Council members, as well as between the Bureau and the Council. She also indicated that Bureau meetings were open to all in a spirit to improve transparency and communication flow. A summary of the decisions by the Bureau will also be send to Council members. In addition, Council members can contact the Secretariat to request access to the project submission platform. Finally, she also suggested mentioned that it was suggested to all Council members to continue these informal consultations to better prepare the future meetings. She confirmed that the intergovernmental nature of the bureau was respected. She indicated that statutes mentioned that bureau members should preferably be specialists and that it is practice for Member States to backstop their experts. Concerning the establishment of a working group as it exists for IFAP, the Chairperson indicated that the Council did not approved this proposal.

The Chairperson indicated that with the help of the Member States she was confident that progress will be enhanced to fully address governance matters in an inclusive manner.

Furthermore, the Chairperson indicated that governance recommendations related to all IIBs, must be implemented in a holistic manner requiring coordination within the Secretariat, notably for what concerned harmonization of agendas and timetables as well as virtual working environment for all IIBs, roles, compositions and procedures of Bureaus, elections of Bureau members, input by IIBs to the C/4 and C/5, feedback mechanism for substantive dialogue between Member States and IIBs, balanced resource allocation, enhance coordination in scheduling of IIB meetings and sharing of best practices from IIBs.

Presentation by. H. E. Ms Anna Bossman, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana to France, representative of the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council of the Information for All Programme (IFAP)

Ambassador Bossman indicated that the current strategic plan of IFAP provides a clear alignment with IFAP's relevance and synergy with SDGs, WSIS+10 and UNESCO C/4. In addition, she underlined that the 2018-2019 results framework that has been drafted and discussed by the IFAP Bureau during its latest meeting beginning of March 2019 is coherent with approved C/5 priorities and responsive to current global developments.

Furthermore, the Chairperson informed that a special open-ended working group had been established to review the Statutes of IFAP, as well as suggested changes to the IFAP Rules of Procedures. This process closely involves the Member States as well as the Legal Adviser.

She indicated that elements of a visibility and outreach plan, that will make due reference to information sharing, communication and collaboration between bureaus, intergovernmental councils and committees and Member States is also currently being discussed. IFAP is already cooperating with COMEST on the Ethical Implications of Artificial Intelligence and with IPDC on the Implementation of the UNESCO Internet Universality Indicators.

Finally, IFAP will review its reporting to the Executive Board, taking into account the Results Framework and examples of other IIBs as per specific recommendation 89.

Presentation by H.E. Ms Lorena Sol De Pool, Chairperson of the 12th meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention

The Chairperson of the 12th meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention recalled that as a historic response to the destruction of Palmyra and highly important cultural sites, in countries ravaged by armed conflict, the Security Council of the United Nations, passed a resolution, which declared that destruction of cultural property would qualify as a war crime, giving the 1954 Convention and its Second Protocol a very high profile and renovated importance.

She informed that, while the Committee deals with issues which by their nature are highly political, all the Members of the Committee work together in a highly professional and technical way, thus avoiding politicization of its decisions. Furthermore, the Committee makes every possible effort to ensure that each grouping of Member States for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board is represented in the Committee and the Bureau, respectively, provided that this grouping(s) was (were) elected to the Committee. She added that the 13th meeting of the Committee considered the item of the equitable distribution of seats on the Committee and that forthcoming 8th Meeting of the Parties will take a decision on this issue in 2019.

The Chairperson indicated also that the Committee applies in practice term-limits of two consecutive mandates for membership in the Bureau, that the Committee and Bureau

meetings are opened to observers to ensure to the fullest degree possible their involvement in the implementation of decisions and recommendations and, in particular, in the evaluation of requests for the granting of enhanced protection and those for the granting of international assistance from the Second Protocol Fund.

Turning to specific issues, the Chairperson noted that the Secretariat of the Hague Convention, at this moment, has three permanent posts, among which a P5 post which will be abolished in the coming months. The Chairperson expressed deep concern with the abolishing of this post, currently occupied by the only expert on the Convention, both at Headquarters and in the field. She stressed that this will weaken and greatly affect the governance of the Convention. She mentioned to point out this particular issue based on the principle that all conventions must have an expert on a permanent post. She therefore requested the Director-General and the ADG Culture to reconsider this decision.

Regarding the issue of ratifications, the Chairperson informed that a ratification strategy of the Second Protocol was considered by the 7th Meeting of the Parties in November 2017 and is now being implemented. In this context, she welcomed the initiative of the Swiss Government to host in April 2019 a commemorative conference on the 20th anniversary of the Second Protocol, which will discuss ways of increasing ratification.

Concerning recommendations aiming at the review of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol, the Chairperson informed that those Guidelines are periodically reviewed once the Committee has tackled new issues such as the adoption of the facultative sign to mark cultural property under enhanced protection. She indicated to be confident that this process, similar to the development of practice of other Cultural Conventions Committees, will continue. Furthermore, the Chairperson underlined that the Secretariat of the 1999 Second Protocol started: (1) reviewing the reporting system by revising the format of the electronic questionnaire, in order to streamline it with those of the other Conventions related to heritage and to improve the statistical analysis of national reports to be made for the next cycle (2017-2020), (2) developing a model of the report to help the States to complete this questionnaire for the next quadrennial report; (3) elaborating an analytical report identifying States' best practices and presenting a report analyzing the challenges met by the High Contracting Parties and; (4) formulating actions to address them, referring as appropriate to the High Contracting Parties' best practices.

The Chairperson indicated that these actions would be presented at the 14th meeting of the Committee in December 2019.

Presentation by H.E. Mr. Abulfaz Garayev, Chairperson of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee

The Chairperson recalled that since 2016 an item concerning governance has been included on the agenda of all sessions of the governing bodies of the World Heritage Convention

He indicated in this regard that most of those recommendations related to efficiency including mandate, composition, structure, rules of procedure, methods of work of the governing bodies of the 1972 Convention have been implemented or are ongoing.

Indeed, coherence of mandates have been ensured with the C/5 priorities and Global issues such as Sustainable Development and Climate Change have been properly addressed. Furthermore, the recommendation to enhance effective information-sharing is implemented through the constant enhancement of the World Heritage Centre website, which is the most visited of the Organization.

In terms of methods of work, the governing bodies of the 1972 Convention are also fully in line with the recommendations to prepare and disseminate working documents and information Documents. Consultations are facilitated to ensure inclusive decision-making, through, among others, working groups during committee sessions.

The Chairperson indicated that for what concerns harmonization most of the corresponding recommendations are implemented or ongoing, in conformity with the Rules of Procedures and in alignment with overarching priorities of UNESCO.

The general recommendation to create substantive dialogue between Member States and the governing bodies via notably the institutionalization of information and orientation sessions for Committee Members and States Parties, is fully implemented as this is a long practice.

However, the Chair underlined that implementation of recommendations concerning structure and composition of the governing bodies of the 1972 Convention would entail a revision of the Rules of Procedure or in certain cases a revision of the Convention itself, which in the past was not considered as a viable option.

It was moreover noted that the need to reduce and manage politicization of nominations and state of conservation decisions is addressed via notably an intersessional ad-hoc working group.

The Chairperson gave some examples of concrete actions to harmonize rules of procedure and infusing more coherence in the decision-making of the governing bodies of the Convention, notably a major revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties.

Strengthening of the capacity-building and common training on all cultural conventions is also addressed by the World Heritage Committee.

The Chairperson stressed furthermore that special attention was given to visibility and impact, to fundraising, which is ensured with the Roadmap for the Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and via the Resource Mobilization and Communication Strategy outline adopted recently by the Committee

In concluding, the Chairperson indicated that on several occasions the open-ended working group had specifically recognized the good practices and appropriate working methods of the governing bodies of the 1972 Convention, including the work of the intersessional ad-hoc working group of the Committee which was specifically addressed as a good model.

He reiterated the willingness and commitment to pursue the reflection and the efforts towards implementation of all relevant recommendations.

Presentation by H.E. Mr Mounir Anastas, Vice-Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)

The Vice-Chairperson pointed out that since 2016 an item concerning governance has been included on the agenda of all sessions of the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention and that issues related to governance are also dealt with by an informal open-ended ad hoc working group established in 2016.

Regarding general recommendations, it was underlined that the governing bodies continue to develop the implementation of the Convention in response to current global issues as sustainable development. Furthermore, the Committee has approved a funding priority to

incorporate intangible cultural heritage into formal and non-formal education, in cooperation with the Education Sector.

In terms of methods, it was noted that the work was fully in line with the recommendations concerning preparation and dissemination of working documents in respecting statutory deadlines, using hyper-links and by developing the website of the Convention which is as an effective tool for information sharing and knowledge management.

He noted however, that some of the recommendations concerning structure and composition of the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention would require a revision of the Rules of Procedure and that these issues will be discussed by forthcoming statutory meetings.

The Vice-Chairperson noted that, in order to facilitate transparency, orientation sessions for new committee members and information and exchange sessions to inform States Parties on the preparation of key statutory events have been organized. Information and outcomes on Bureau meetings are also systematically relayed to the States Parties.

The Vice-Chairperson underlined that the recommendation concerning the need to reduce and manage politicization of nominations is taken very seriously by the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention and that an overall reflection on the listing mechanisms has been launched by the Committee in this regard until 2022.

The Chairperson noted that if the number of specific recommendations for the UNESCO Culture Conventions relevant for 2003 Convention is somewhat lower, there are no less important.

Concerning specific recommendation, it was noted that in terms of resource management an important decision was made to increase the ceiling for the amount which the Bureau can approve for international assistance requests in 2016, and the governing bodies approved in 2018 the creation of three extrabudgetary fixed-term posts to be funded by the Fund.

Moreover, it was indicated that the reports for the governing bodies prepared by the Secretariat are fully aligned with the results framework of the C/5 and the performance indicators of Expected Results; thus contributing to enhance transparency and accountability.

The Vice-Chairperson also indicated that the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention have been paying special attention to the global capacity-building programme initiated in 2003 and that since its inception, more than 80 countries have benefitted from this programme. He stressed that the future continuation of the programme is highly dependent on extrabudgetary support.

He also underlined about the adoption of the overall results framework which is a tool to measure the impact of the 2003 Convention at various levels through clearly identified objectives, indicators and benchmarks, as well as by means of a results-oriented monitoring system.

He mentioned also the reform of the periodic reporting mechanism which has also been launched by aligning it to this overall results framework.

In concluding, he indicated that the 2003 Convention was almost universally ratified. He also indicated that out of 26 recommendations considered to be particularly relevant, 19 of them are either closed or ongoing and that no efforts in addressing the remaining recommendations will be spare.

Presentation by Mr Luis Armando Soto Boutin, Vice-Chairperson of the 12th Intergovernmental Committee for the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)

The Vice-Chairperson indicated that the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on governance was examined by the 12th session of the Intergovernmental Committee in December 2018. He underlined that the 2005 Convention governing bodies have implemented 27 out of the 34 recommendations. Of these, 9 of its methods have been identified by the working group on governance as best practice among which Recommendation which advocates term limits of two consecutive mandates for members of the Bureau of the Committee as provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

He underlined that the recommendation aimed at bringing the work of the Convention in line with the Organization's Programme and Budget is implemented since 2013, the year in which the Committee adopted its first work plan based on the UNESCO Programme and Budget (C/5). The Vice-Chairperson also indicated that since 2017, the Committee's work plan has also included the performance indicators and targets set out in the C/5 and indicates the way its work contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Vice-Chairperson indicated that the sub-group on governance has regarded as best practice the open-ended and informal consultations on draft decisions ahead of the meetings of the governing bodies, the capacity development programme to implement the 2005 Convention as well as the visibility of the Convention generated through the periodic reports and the publication of the Global Reports to monitor the impact of the 2005 Convention. He furthermore underlined that these methods are also recognized as best practice in the report of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) published recently which highlights the Convention's results based framework and that through the work of the 2005 Convention governing bodies, UNESCO'S role is seen as particularly positive.

Furthermore, the Vice-Chairperson indicated that recently the IGC invited all Parties to implement Recommendation concerning the need to reduce and manage politicization of nominations and decisions, and to apply this recommendation to the quadrennial periodic reports that should be written in a language consistent with the United Nations Charter and the 2005 Convention. The issue of non-politicization was also integrated in the operational guidelines on the preparation of periodic reports that were adopted by the 12IGC last December.

He also informed the meeting that the 12th session of the Intergovernmental Committee identified a few recommendations that would require amendments to the current Rules of Procedures, among which the recommendation regarding the deadline for submission of candidate nominations to the Committee or the recommendation concerning the role and composition of the Bureau. He noted that these issues will be discussed at the forthcoming Conference of Parties in June.

While some speakers noted the efforts and progress of the 2005 Convention in implementing the recommendations on governance, notably concerning upstream dialogue and the adoption of an overall result framework - the latter being recognized as a good practice that should be shared and replicated- others expressed concern about recent very late dissemination of important documents during the last session of the Bureau which was considered as undermining inclusive and active decision-making. It was also underlined that the mandates of the Bureau and of the Council should be firmly respected.

Some interventions welcomed the implementation of a more balanced approach in terms of equitable financial and human resource allocation for all cultural conventions recalling that each should have at least 3 permanent posts. In this regard, they expressed deep concern on

the non-implementation of this recommendation for several conventions -notably the 1954 and the 1970 Conventions since the restructuring of the Culture Sector. They requested clarifications in this regard.

A Member State requested clarification regarding the fact that no implementation reporting was foreseen for the 2001 and 1970 Conventions.

Information was provided given to the Working Group on the timeline of reporting of some of the Culture Conventions that have not held their statutory meetings yet and that are thus unable to report on implementation of recommendations by the General Conference.

The Vice-Chairperson of the 2005 Convention recognized that in some case the lack of staff was real but that in other cases the recommendation to maintain human resource allocation was fully implemented. He also indicated that sharing of best practices was ensured through dynamic dialogue and reinforcement of synergies between Cultural Conventions.

Presentation by Mr Nicholas Burnett, Chairperson of the Governing Board of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)

The Chairperson of the IIEP Board presented the status of implementation of the relevant recommendations pertaining to the IIEP Governing Board. Concerning general recommendations, he underlined that efficiency was addressed through clear criteria for selection of the Technical Board, shortening of meetings and organization of virtual meetings, production of fewer and shorten documents, preparation and early transmission of Strategic Note on key Board issues as well as annual review of Risk Management Strategy.

Furthermore, it was noted that alignment with UNESCO priorities was ensured together with a new reporting format to the General Conference. Moreover, factsheet on functioning of IIEP and its Governing Board is shared with new Board Members.

Concerning coherence, coordination and synergies, best practices have been recognized through regular sharing of good governance practices with UIS and other Category 1 Education Institutes

Regarding specific recommendations, the Chairperson indicated that improved transparency, communication and cooperation is implemented via report of the IIEP's Management on cooperation with other ED Institutes, annual reports published in English and French on IIEP's website and shared with all Permanent Delegations. Furthermore, annual meetings with regional groups at UNESCO are organized and external evaluations are published on IIEP's website.

The Chairperson also indicated that IIEP's Governing Board insisted on the maintain of functional autonomy which should be considered as essential. However, frequent recent challenges have to be noted for what regards functional autonomy notably concerning the Selection of Director, the proposed restrictions on established posts as well as the lack of consultation on key decisions. However, functional autonomy is critically important for IIEP to respond quickly to Member States, remain an agile centre of excellence, attract significant and diverse funders, top specialized technical expertise and strengthen the overall reputation of UNESCO.

Regarding harmonization of statutes, the Chairperson underlined that harmonization is not uniformity and that the fact that different entities needs different statutes should be recognized. Therefore, high standards for Institutes should not be standardization. In the meantime, set high standards for Board membership and streamlining Board meetings and reporting is

ensured, as well as strong Board financial, risks and programmatic oversight, alignment with SDGs and C/5 and results orientation and transparency .

Finally the Chairperson recalled that UNESCO's financial allocation to IIEP is only 10% of its budget and that unearmarked funding was vital for IIEP to carry out its mandate.

In concluding, the Chairperson indicated that the IIEP's Board was committed to continuing to work towards implementation of the governance recommendations, which are - for most of them- welcomed and in line with IIEP practices.

Presentation by Mr Askar Abdrakhmanov, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Kazakhstan to UNESCO and Representative of the Chairperson of the Council of the International Bureau of Education (IBE)

The Representative of the Chairperson recalled that the Council of the International Bureau of Education consists of 12 member states elected by the General Conference with a mandate valid for two consecutive General Conference sessions and that its meetings are held annually in December in Geneva. He recalled also that Kazakhstan was elected to the post of the President of the Council in 2017.

The Representative indicated that the Council and the Bureau of the IBE are gradually addressing the recommendations of the General Conference on governance and that the Council's report on the status of implementations of these recommendations is available online at the UNESCO's webpage.

He underlined that Recommendations specifically concerning enhancing and simplifying administrative procedures, early distribution of documentation, maintaining regularly updated and user-friendly webpages, transparency of meetings, size of the Bureau, early election of Bureau members after General Conference, gender neutral language in working documents, functional autonomy of education-related category 1 institutes have already be implemented by the Council.

He also stressed that a number of recommendations still need to be addressed, among which notably the voluntary two terms limit, deadline for submission of candidatures, holding of orientation sessions for newly elected members of the Council and the Bureau.

He however underlined that challenge of resources is to be taken into account notably for what concerns Recommendation on languages use. Concerning the intergovernmental or expert nature of the governing bodies, a proposal is to create a mixed council, half of it elected by Member States and half of it appointed as experts in their personal capacities. The Representative indicated that the Council has not taken a position on this issue yet.

He concluded by assuring the readiness of the Council was ready to address all the recommendations of the General Conference on governance.

Several speakers welcomed the valuable feedback provide by the Chairperson of the IIEP Governing Board while requesting more clarity on what was understood as functional autonomy and notably on its operationalization. The importance to recognize and retain the functional autonomy as well as the specificity of category 1 institutes was underlined. It was also mentioned that conflict of interest should be dealt with also in connection with the strategic transformation. Some others requested additional information on the future of the IBE regretting that it does not have the interest it deserves.

The Chairperson of the IIEP Board indicated that autonomy should be understood within the functioning of the Institute, which is different from independence but an autonomy to control

important functions in order to deliver activities in the best way and provide rapid and agile responses to Member States.

Presentation by Ms Malak Zaalouk, Chairperson of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

The Chairperson of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) highlighted the following measures undertaken by Institute in the framework of the implementation of recommendations on governance:

A more systematic and coherent presentation of the work of UIL to improve transparency and information dissemination is applied through UIL's annual work plans aligned to the UNESCO Programme and Budget.

Enhanced visibility and interaction with Member States ensured through appropriate feedback mechanisms via the organization of information meetings for Permanent Delegations on a regular basis to allow an insight into UIL's current and future activities.

Regarding dissemination of information on selection, procedures and key decisions, it was indicated that UIL's Annual Report includes a comprehensive summary of its activities and provides a full picture of the implementation of the Governing Board's decision with regard to programme and budget. These annual reports are regularly shared with Member States.

Concerning improvement of information-sharing, the Chairperson indicated that UIL's website – which is continuously updated - provides a comprehensive account of the full variety of UIL's work, in line with its programme focus on support to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. UIL's publications are also shared with Member States.

The Chairperson underlined the importance of maintaining of the functional autonomy of Education Category 1 Institutes which is key for the Institute's work and a crucial condition for its overall agility.

Regarding mapping of assets/ contributions of Category 1 Institutes to the implementation of SDG 4 in order to enhance synergies and impacts, the Chairperson recalled UIL's mandate to promote lifelong learning and its contribution to supporting Member States in achieving the SDG 4.

As far as timely harmonization and updating of statutes and procedures is concerned, the Chairperson indicated that the harmonization of the Governing Board's statutes and procedures has been done successfully.

To promote balanced support to Category 1 Institutes, the Chairperson underlined that an increase of the UNESCO allocation was requested by UIL for the next General Conference.

Regarding close cooperation of Education Category 1 Institutes, the Chairperson informed that UIL maintains close working relations with most Institutes, specifically with UIS, and IIEP.

In conclusion, the Chairperson reiterated that UIL is fully committed to further strengthening and expanding its role of knowledge production and sharing, policy support and capacity development, as well as providing a platform for South-South and international cooperation with regard to SDG 4 and the contribution of lifelong learning to the 2030 Agenda.

Presentation by Mr Dankert Vedeler, Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

The Vice-Chairperson of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) insisted on the specificity of the Institute, a UNESCO flagship, whose work benefiting Member states, United Nations system, INOs and civil society covers all UNESCO's sectors is closely aligned with UNESCO governance system and C/5.

The Vice-Chairperson underlined the alignment of UIS with the recommendation concerning the composition, rotation and transparency policies of Governing Board and Bureau, the use of gender neutral language since 2012, the regular reporting to UNESCO's three organs.

He indicated that the following concrete actions had been undertaken with a view to furthering the implementation of the relevant recommendations: Inputs to C/4 and C/5, resource mobilization to allow sustainable funding, information dissemination to enhance visibility and dialogue with Member States and sharing of best practises.

Finally, the Vice-Chairperson recalled that UIS was providing data and indicators for monitoring SDG 4 concerning Education, SDG 9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Societies as well as SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Some Member States referred to cross-cutting issues indicating that workplans should contain direct cross-references to the C/5. The result- based reporting to the General Conference was also welcomed. They also noted the need to provide inputs in a constructive manner for the C/5 and C/4 preparation.

Presentation by Ms Brigitte Vlaswinkel, Chairperson, International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) and Mr Guy Martini, Chairperson, UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp)

The Chairperson of the **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)** noted that UNESCO was the only United Nations organization with a mandate to support research and capacity building in earth sciences and that the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme was UNESCO's flagship programme for Earth sciences.

Recalling that the IGCP focuses mostly on scientific research and capability building in the earth sciences and the UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) promotes and manages our Earth heritage and sustains local communities. IGCP is co-chaired by two chairpersons: IGCP Council has six members and UGGp Council has 12 members as listed.

The IGCP Councils respect as much as possible their composition following the six Electoral Groups. The Chairperson indicated that both councils were appointed by the Director-General for the first time in 2016 and half of both councils were renewed in 2018, therefore recommendation concerning rotation is implemented.

One of the objectives of the IGCP is to support research to develop more effective and sustainable methods to find and exploit natural resources of minerals, energy and groundwater as well as to support projects on knowledge transfer. Recently, the annual Council meeting decided to accept only new projects with a view of making concrete contributions to the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The purpose of our annual Council meetings are to advise the Director-General of UNESCO on the strategy, planning and implementation of the IGCP.

The Chairperson recalled that the Working Group on governance recognized the merging of the two programmes as a model, the composition and constant renewal of the IGCP Councils

and the good relationship between councils and secretariat was recognized as a good practice as well as the benefits of the involvement and extensive support of local communities, the IUGS and Global Geoparks Network. He also mentioned that work will continue in close cooperation to bring further synergies between the two pillars.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) advises the Director-General of UNESCO on the strategy, planning and implementation of UNESCO Global Geoparks and specifically on raising and allocating funds as well as developing cooperation among the UNESCO Global Geoparks and other relevant programmes.

Its Chairperson underlined the role of the UGGp in assessing revalidated and new UNESCO Global Geopark nominations received from Member States in conformity with the operational guidelines and the responsibility on the decisions making of forwarding new applications to the UNESCO Executive Board for endorsement. The role of the Bureau in preparing statutory documentation in cooperation with UNESCO' Secretariat has been also underlined.

The UGGp will make all decisions regarding the revalidation of existing UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The decisions of the Council regarding Geopark revalidations should be announced at the closing ceremony of the International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks or a Regional Geoparks Conference.

While some members of the Working Group welcomed the very positive impact of UGG in the field with no cost for UNESCO and through its autonomous operating mechanics, others called for improvement of governance of the IGGP notably through clearer common criteria of evaluation and revalidation of each park, the availability of all reports in a timely manner and more inclusive and effective decision making. They also underlined the need to have assurances that the improvements will not add heavy constraint and procedures, while keeping transparency and taking into account major current challenges like climate change. It was also mentioned that, to comply with recommendation concerning cooperation North-South and South-South, some regions should be more well represented within experts, notably Arab States and Africa which have very good experts.

The Chairperson of the UGGp confirmed that no additional costs were supported by UNESCO in the functioning of the programme. The world Geopark network brings to UNESCO €140,000 every year and covers meeting councils, of the 60 validation and revalidation missions every year, regional networks and represents €2 to €3 million per year. He also confirmed that the evaluator reports can be consulted since 2019 online and that more than 100 experts work in the Geopark are available for free to conduct evaluation missions.

Presentation by H.E. Ms Phyllis Kandie, Chairperson of the Headquarters Committee

The Chairperson of the Headquarters Committee indicated that the Committee has been considering areas to improve its governance and working methods on a continuous basis since 2011, when it decided to review its working methods. Subsequently, the committee took several decisions to perform its functions with greater efficiency, as, among others, the use of screens to facilitate the examination and adoption of draft decisions, the dissemination of working documents in a timely manner to allow a better preparation of Committee members.

With regard to the recommendations to enhance the visibility, effectiveness and information dissemination, annual information meetings are being organized to better inform on the activities of the Committee and with a view to foster dialogue and gather feedback from Permanent Delegations. A leaflet providing statutory information concerning the Committee - including those related to its functioning and methods of work- have been prepared and

highlights key developments of the Committee over several years. This is particularly useful in briefing new Committee members.

Furthermore, she noted that the website of the Headquarters Committee is in the process of being migrated to a new platform and will be updated to enhance information-dissemination.

Regarding recommendations concerning the Bureau composition and working methods, she informed that historically, the principle of rotation amongst Bureau members (one from each electoral group) has been observed. This principle of rotation is also observed in electing the chairperson of the Committee. To foster transparency, the Bureau meetings are open to observers and the reports are sent to all committee members. Bureau Members are also encouraged to liaise with regional groups on the agenda and actions of the Committee. This consultation is also encouraged with regard to the election of new members to the Bureau. Finally, the Headquarters Committee holds a meeting to elects its new Bureau after elections at the General Conference, thereby ensuring continuity in the work of the Committee.

The Chairperson pointed out that the Headquarters Committee seeks to achieve recommendations on coherence, coordination and synergies amongst UNESCO committees, by presenting its report on its activities to the Executive Board and the General Conference, in determining the dates of its meetings taking into consideration other planned meetings in order to avoid overlaps, in conveying a Bureau meeting before each regular session of the Committee. She also recalled that the Chairperson of the Committee is a member of the Bureau of the General Conference and that this provides an opportunity to create further synergies and coordination.

Responding to the importance of coherence with the C/5 and the need to be responsive to the current global priorities such as the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Headquarters Committee has been examining ways of greening UNESCO and focusing on Environmental management and ensuring the sustainable management of the Headquarters buildings.

The Chairperson recalled that the Headquarters Committee is composed of twenty-four Member States coming from all UNESCO electoral groups thus aligning with recommendations on the need to have the right size and foster inclusivity within IIBs. Furthermore, the Committee renews half its membership every General Conference thereby providing an opportunity for promoting diversity and inclusivity. Further, Committee meetings are open to observers.

The Chairperson concluded by underlining that members of the Committee highlighted the importance of learning from the good practices of other IIBs and to strengthen collaboration among them.

Presentation by Mr Peter M. Haugan, Chairperson of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. (IOC)

The Chairperson of the IOC indicated that since 2017, the Assembly and the Executive Council examined items related to governance as per recommendation of the General Conference. In this regard, he underlined that work on optimizing governance processes was not new to IOC. In this regard, an evaluation process called 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean' is ongoing and a full audit of the Commission in April of by the UNESCO External Auditor was completed in 2016.

It is in this framework, the auditor noted with satisfaction with the full alignment with the UNESCO Objectives in total compliance with the governance specificity through alignment of governing bodies meetings' cycle with those of UNESCO.

The IOC Executive Council endorsed an Implementation Plan of the Recommendations of the UNESCO open-ended working group on Governance. The Implementation Plan examined in detail all 27 recommendations and best practices and not only the two IOC-specific related ones. All of them were warmly welcomed by Member States as ways of further improving the Commission's efficiency. Regional consultations within electoral groups also allowed for consolidating the approach, with full transparency and inclusiveness.

The Resolution also invited the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group to continue the reflection on the best practices to further enhance the efficiency of the IOC governing bodies' meetings' and requested the IOC Executive Secretary to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Recommendations to the in 2019.

In this context, the intersessional group is currently examining inter-sessions the following issues, to be presented to the Assembly in June 2019: a draft document introducing new referencing of IOC Governing Bodies documentation with a view of making it more user-friendly; Draft Guidelines for the IOC Officers; a proposal by the IOC Officers' to improve communication regarding their annual meetings devoted to the preparation of the Governing Bodies' meeting agenda. It was also recalled that IOC was ready to promote the Guidebook for members of UNESCO's IIBs which is currently being finalized.

Lastly, the Chairperson indicated that the IOC Executive Council last year endorsed the draft Revised Financial Regulations for the IOC Special Account, to align it with the best practices as recommended, and that will be brought to the UNESCO Executive Board in the autumn.

The Chairperson indicated that the reflection on the best practices will continue to further enhance the efficiency of the IOC governance in cooperation with other UNESCO IIBs.

Presentation by H.E. Thierno Hamet Baba Ly, Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council of International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

The IHP President reported that the reports presented to the 2016 and 2018 sessions of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (IGC) referred to the recommendations concerning governance, objectives and time-frames for its actions. He also indicated that since 2016, IHP has integrated elements related to the recommendations of the Working Group, such as the use of working languages in statutory meetings (Bureau and Council), from the beginning of 2017.

The Chairperson pointed out that the Co-Chairs of the Governance Working Group presented their work to several sessions of the IHP Bureau, as well as the Council, before the adoption of the amended IHP Statutes.

He indicated that the amended statutes reflect 19 of the 23 general recommendations of the working group, as well as the majority of the specific recommendations to IHP.

However, the Chairperson noted that an intersessional dialogue would require the presence of experts from Member States, which represents a financial challenge for some of them. Nevertheless, this will be partially resolved by bringing together Member States after the General Conference session to elect the members of the IHP Bureau.

It was also underlined that virtual meetings and teleconferences are organized between the IHP Secretary, Section Chiefs and regional hydrologists. IHP also organizes regional meetings of IHP National Committees, involving headquarters and relevant colleagues in the field.

The six official languages of the United Nations are used during sessions of the IHP Council. The possibility of holding annual sessions of the IHP Intergovernmental Council has been explored, despite the prohibitive costs involved.

The President indicated that the amendments to the Statutes provides, *inter alia*, for: renaming IHP into the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, changing the composition of the IHP Bureau, ensuring to the extent possible and where relevant, gender equality in the governance of IHP and introducing a more gender-neutral language.

He further informed that the revised Statutes of the IHP Intergovernmental Council will be submitted to the 206th session of the Executive Council in 2019 and thereafter, if the Board so recommends, the amendments to the Statutes will be submitted to the 40th session of the General Conference for approval.

Two participants congratulated the IHP on the implementation of a majority of recommendations on Governance and encourage the ongoing work towards full implementation. They welcome the Comprehensive work of the bureau done in an inclusive manner which has been exemplary. They suggested to others IIBs to follow the good practices, noting that this was the first IIB to respond to the recommendations of the CG and that revised statutes will be presented at the next session of the General Conference.

At the end of the presentations by the representatives of the IIBs, following a request made in the morning by several members of the Working Group, the President of the General Conference proceeded to summarize the main highlights of the day's presentations and debates, as follows:

The following recommendations of major strategic importance were generally emphasized:

- The integration, harmonization, coherence, and adaptation of UNESCO's international and intergovernmental bodies (IIBs) with regard to the Organization's objectives, its medium-term strategy (C/4 document), and its programme and budget (C/5 document), taking into account the particularities and requirements of individual mandates; mention was also made of support from the Secretariat to ensure that the reflection on UNESCO's priorities is also informed by the IIBs
- Updating of the corresponding mandates with regard to the approved priorities of the C/5 document, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement
- Strengthening of the dialogue between Member States and IIBs, through means including the presentation of more strategic and results-oriented reports at the General Conference
- The organization of orientation sessions for new IIB members
- The sharing and application of good practices as referred to in the appendix to 39 C/Resolution 87
- Cross-cutting issues to be addressed in a holistic manner, subject to coordination by the Secretariat

With regard to institutes, Member States noted with appreciation the linking of work plans with Sector plans, the idea that follow-up reports to the General Conference should be results-oriented, and the idea that category 1 centres should actively contribute to the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents.

Some IIBs are still in the process of implementing recommendations, and Member States expressed their concern about this. Member States also expressed their wish to have this issue addressed as a priority.

It was recalled that the IIBs were intergovernmental in nature, a principle which also applies to the representatives, in terms of experts, within the bureaux. Also reiterated was the importance of respecting the responsibilities of representatives of electoral groups in bureaux, as described in appendix 2 of the Resolution.

Also raised was the issue of compliance with recommendations 62 and 69 concerning the preparation and transmission of statutory documents for the committees and bureaux, as well as the issue of recommendation 64 on informal consultations.

The need for a harmonized approach among conventions in the field of culture was underscored. It was also noted that, in the case of some conventions, there had not been full implementation of the recommendations regarding a more balanced allocation of human and financial resources among all the conventions.

Finally, I would like to inform you that at the September meeting, the Secretariat will submit to you, as indicated in 39 C/Resolution 87, a progress report on all the issues reflected in the recommendations endorsed by the General Conference. As part of the holistic approach to cross-cutting issues requiring coordination by the Secretariat, this will include the preparation of a table showing the implementation status of the recommendations applicable to each IIB, and the preparation of a guide to good practices as indicated in recommendation 129.

I think I have covered the salient points raised by Member States today. Of course, a more detailed account will be sent to you and to the committee chairs as soon as possible.

Following this summary, the Working Group examined the last item on the agenda of the meeting, pertaining to the future work of the Working Group in 2019.

The President of the General Conference announced that another meeting would take place in September 2019 (probably on Monday, 30 September) devoted to those IIBs who were unable to make their presentations at today's meeting.

In September too, probably in a separate meeting, the Working Group would hold its last meeting in 2019 in order to examine the Interim Report by the Secretariat which would be subsequently submitted to the Executive Board and to the General Conference as per the terms of Resolution 39 C/87.

She also recalled that, according to Recommendation 134, the Working Group should take some time to examine the two outstanding recommendations on its report: recommendations 52 and 53. She proposed to convene a meeting in June for this purpose, and suggested that, in a spirit of inclusiveness and transparency, the Group could also devote some time to examine any other issue pertaining to governance that Member States might wish to propose at this occasion. This last suggestion was received with mixed feelings by the room, with interventions both in favour and against opening the meeting to the examination of other issues. It was finally decided that the next meeting of the group would be devoted to discussing the outstanding recommendations.

In concluding, the President of the General Conference underlined the importance of the rich presentations that had been made to the Group during the day and thanked warmly the representatives of the different IIBs for their work and availability.