

## ITEM 5

### Report

**9th Meeting of the Register Sub-committee  
of the Memory of the World Programme  
Paris, France  
Bonvin Building, room B-13.36  
17-19 November 2010**

#### **Present:**

**Chair:** Jan Bos

**Members:** Roslyn Russell, Ray Edmondson, Nada Itani, Danièle Neirinck, Rujaya Abhakorn,

**Rapporteur:** Lourdes Blanco.

**Observer:** Lothar Jordan, ICOM and MSC member

**UNESCO:** Joie Springer, Memory of the World Programme Officer, Maria Liouliou, Assistant Programme Specialist

#### **1. Opening of the meeting and Introductions**

Welcoming words from Programme Officer Joie Springer to both old and new members and observers, introducing Jan Bos as the new Chair of the Committee, who takes over from previous Chair Roslyn Russell, who is the new IAC Chair, as of 2009.

Jan Bos requested each member to provide a brief summary of his/her profile and relation to the MoW programme, and reminded all that given the high number of nominations, there was much work to be done during the three days. All present agreed and complied.

Joie Springer alluded to the developing dynamics of the Programme and that of the World Digital Library with which it should seek closer cooperation, as far as access and links were concerned. She also suggested Lourdes Blanco continue to act as Rapporteur.

#### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

Confirmation of the Agenda with small changes, relevant to the proposed revision of the nomination form, the subsequent follow-up RSC meeting, to be held in mid-February rather than January.

#### **3. Assessment of nominations received and formulation of RSC recommendations.**

The call for nominations produced 84 entries, the largest number of submittals to have been received since the programme started. Some interchange on whether to

increase members of the RSC committee, which is obliged to make evaluations of sometimes very extended nominations, during a short period of time, or to limit even more the number per country.

A point was made regarding the importance of using professional referees and the appropriate NGOs.

#### *Approvals*

45 nominations approved

1 was deemed part of Registry of Slaves of British Caribbean, already on the Register;

5 nominations were provisionally approved, though requiring changes as per recommendations.

#### *Undecided*

1 nomination resulted in a tie, since the RSC Chair is from the nominating country and the rules of procedure prohibit him from casting the deciding vote.

#### *Modify*

20 nominations were considered apt but required modifications.

#### *Not accepted*

11 nominations were considered unacceptable, either because the criteria were not met or because, given the subject matter, proposals were not adequately or convincingly drafted.

### **4. Review of Memory of the World Register Selection Criteria and Companion including improving evaluation procedures.**

Jan Bos introduced this topic as an old and ongoing need of the Programme. Authored by Ray Edmondson, with support from other members of the RSC and IAC, the ideas for the document are now two or three years old, with a current draft that is 15 pages long. Jan Bos requested Ray Edmondson to provide complementary information and criteria regarding how best to culminate this much required partner to the Guidelines, with input from different individuals. As it is, there are two versions, the second one longer than the first; committee members were invited to give their opinions. Jan Bos also requested additional details for the concurrent one, listed under number five, regarding ethics.

Highlighting the essential terms of the document, Ray Edmondson reminded members that an exceedingly "academic" or extended Companion might be essentially contrary to what is required, as an easy to read aid that can help nominators produce more specific and successful proposals.

Given the extension of the two versions of the document, members agreed to provide observations and notes through electronic mail.

### **5. Examination of proposed draft MOW/RSC Protocol and Ethics**

Ray Edmondson, also responsible for drafting the document relevant to protocol and ethics, commented briefly on each paragraph, requested input from RSC members,

duly noted. It was agreed that further observations would be provided and eventually finalized by the next meeting. The principal point of the Ethics document is relevant to the extent of involvement of the RSC members while retaining a measure of objectivity and stimulating successful nominations through the now much requested workshops and seminars.

#### 6. Other Items

##### (a) format, place, date of next meeting in January/February

It was agreed to have a February meeting in the presence of any member who could make it to Paris on the date and through audio-conference with all others, as in previous years.

##### (b) items for agenda of May IAC meeting in Manchester

Discussions focused on the preliminary programme which had been provided by the organizer with descriptions of items, dates and time.

##### (c) preparation of 4th International MOW Conference in Warsaw.

Review of topics, with tentative programme. Ms Russell announced that a meeting had been scheduled with the Polish organizers and Joie Springer for the following day to discuss the Conference programme and make additional inputs.

##### (d) any other business;

#### 7. Closure of meeting

**10th Meeting of the Register Sub-committee  
of the Memory of the World Programme  
Paris, France,  
15 February 2011  
Bonvin Building, room B-11.36**

**Members present:**

**At UNESCO:**

**Chair:** Jan Bos  
Danièle Neirinck

**UNESCO officers**

Joie Springer  
Maria Liouliou

**The other participants** through audioconference facilities:

Roslyn Russell, Ray Edmondson, Nada Itani, Rujaya Abhakorn, Lourdes Blanco.

This 10th meeting was intended to finalize the RSC recommendations to the IAC, especially those nominations which had required further clarifications and/or revisions.

The order of the discussion proceeded as follows:

- a. 11 items which had been reassessed and resulted in a changed recommendation.
- b. 17 nominations for which minor clarifications or additional details had been requested to support the favourable opinion expressed in the November meeting.
- c. 5 nominations which had a provisional recommendation.
- d. All others which had not been recommended for inscription and for which there had been no change.

The final result (Appendix1) was 55 items recommended for inscription on the international register, 4 items received provisional recommendation, and the remaining were not recommended for inscription due to unconvincing arguments, inadequate match against the criteria or irrelevant subject areas.

Members briefly examined the draft MoW Companion and agreed to furnish comments rapidly so that it could be tested in upcoming workshops prior to being discussed by the IAC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair after thanking the members for their contributions to the debates.