

Governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO

The General Conference,

I

Recalling 37 C/Resolution 96, in particular the acknowledgement of the need to optimize the governance of intergovernmental programmes, committees and conventions by harnessing the potential for greater synergy, harmonization, efficiency and impact while bearing in mind requirements regarding the quality of the work and the specific mandate, constituency and functioning of individual governing bodies,

Having examined documents 38 C/23, including its annex, 197 EX/28.INF and 38 C/63,

Also recalling 197 EX/Decision 28 and 44,

Reaffirming the need for a holistic and comprehensive reform of UNESCO, particularly its governing bodies, in order to ensure greater effectiveness and efficiency in the governance of the Organization,

Recognizing the intergovernmental nature of UNESCO,

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended working group on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO;
2. *Also decides* that the open-ended working group will:
 - (a) convene open-ended meetings, thus allowing enhanced participation of all Member States of UNESCO, and invite Member States to submit their views and proposals on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO;
 - (b) hold its first meeting no later than the end of January 2016;
 - (c) designate its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons at its first meeting;
 - (d) define, also at its first meeting, the agenda and a detailed timetable of its work;
 - (e) examine the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO on the basis of the views and proposals received from Member States, the External Auditor's audit report on the governance of UNESCO, relevant evaluations and audits by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) as well as previous decisions and resolutions related to governance;
 - (f) develop concrete follow-up proposals to be examined by the General Conference at its 39th session;
 - (g) report to the Executive Board at its 202nd session with a view to enabling the Executive Board to make its recommendations to the General Conference at its 39th session;
3. *Requests* the Director-General to start the implementation of recommendations 1, 11 and 13 of the External Auditor's report, as recommended by the Executive Board at its 197th session;
4. *Also requests* the Director-General to organize, on an experimental basis, a two-yearly meeting of chairpersons and directors of Category 1 institutes in the Education Sector, in line with recommendation 6 (i) of the External Auditor's report contained in document 38 C/23;
5. *Invites* all intergovernmental programmes, committees and organs of the conventions to inscribe, in 2016 if feasible, an item on their agenda concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor's report contained in document 38 C/23, to improve their governance by concrete measures, and to report on their proposals to the Chairperson of the open-ended working group;
6. *Invites* the Director-General to assist the open-ended working group by providing appropriate secretariat support;

II

7. *Also requests* the Director-General to ensure that each item and sub-item placed on the General Conference agenda by the Secretariat, General Conference and Executive Board contain a draft resolution.

Resolution adopted on the report of the APX Commission at the 13th plenary meeting, on 13 November 2015.