



United Nations
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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The President of the General Conference

To all Permanent Delegates to
UNESCO

Ref.: GBS/SCG/2020/008

30 June 2020

Sir, Madam,

The Working Group on governance, procedures, and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO (hereinafter 'Working Group on Governance') was established by the General Conference at its 38th session as an open-ended group with the mandate of reviewing the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO ([38 C/Resolution 101](#)), building on the recommendations of the Executive Board ([197 EX/Decision 28 and 44](#)).

The Working Group met numerous times throughout the 2016-2017 biennium and presented its report (document [39 C/20](#)) to the General Conference at its 39th session (2017). Through [39 C/Resolution 87](#), the General Conference endorsed 131 out of 134 recommendations made by the Group.

Recommendation 131 states that a mid-term progress report on the implementation of the recommendations should be submitted by the Secretariat in 2019 to the Working Group on Governance, to the Executive Board and to the General Conference at its 40th session and a final report should be submitted in 2021 by the Secretariat to the Executive Board and the General Conference at its 41st session.

Accordingly, a mid-term progress report was submitted by the Director-General to the Working Group, to the Executive Board and to the General Conference at its 40th session (documents [40 C/29](#) and [40 C/INF.16](#)). Following its examination, the General Conference adopted [40 C/Resolution 95](#).

The General Conference expressed its satisfaction with the state of implementation of the recommendations and encouraged Member States, the Executive Board, all international and intergovernmental bodies and the Director-General to pursue their efforts, as appropriate, to implement fully the recommendations. Full implementation of almost all recommendations is expected by mid-2021 and the final state of implementation will be reflected in the Director-General's final report, which will be submitted to the Executive Board and to the General Conference at its 41st session.

As you will recall, the General Conference examined, at its 40th session, three proposed amendments to the Constitution of UNESCO. One of them, addressed to Article V, was adopted by the Conference (40 C/Resolution 83). After lengthy debates, the General Conference decided to adjourn the examination of the items related to the two other proposed amendments (addressed, respectively, to Article V and Article VI of the Constitution) to its 41st session.

During these debates, it was frequently mentioned that further dialogue on both items was required prior to their examination by the General Conference in 2021 and that the Working Group on Governance, given its inclusive, open-ended nature, would be the appropriate forum for such a dialogue among all Member States wishing to participate.

In this regard, it was my intention to convene, earlier in the year, a meeting of the Working Group on Governance. You will recall that I had invited you to a meeting on 12 March 2020 and given the fragility of the then prevailing situation related to COVID 19, it became necessary to postpone that meeting to a later date.

It is thus with great pleasure that I invite you now to attend a meeting of the Working Group on Governance on **Monday, 20 July 2020, at 10 a.m. in Room XI**. You will find attached the provisional agenda and timetable of work of the meeting. Interpretation English/French will be provided and the meeting will be webcasted. You are kindly invited to respect all sanitary measures currently in order - strict physical distancing, mask wearing and hygienic measures. The Secretariat will ensure optimal hygienic conditions in the meeting room.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Altay Cengizer

