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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Hundred and eighty-first session

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181 EX/Decisions

PARIS, 30 May 2009

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 181st SESSION

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Including the meetings of the subsidiary bodies before the plenary meetings.

DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2010-2011 (35 C/5)

- 18 Consideration of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5) and recommendations of the Executive Board (35 C/5; 181 EX/INF.21; 181 EX/INF.22 Rev. (English only); 181 EX/INF.23; 181 EX/INF.25; 181 EX/INF.26; 181 EX/INF.28; 181 EX/67; 181 EX/68 Part I)**

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The Executive Board,

1. Having examined the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5) prepared by the Director-General,
2. Recalling 180 EX/Decision 21,
3. Reaffirming the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4) and its two global priorities – Africa and gender equality – its overarching and strategic programme objectives, as well as its intersectoral orientation, and further reaffirming the universal character of UNESCO's mandate,
4. Mindful of the impact of the current global financial, economic and social crisis on the financial capacities of Member States, in particular developing countries,
5. Urges Member States to focus on the crucial role and potential contribution of education, the natural sciences, the social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information in the efforts to overcome the present crisis, and to maintain and increase investments and international cooperation in these fields, thereby laying a foundation for recovery, sustainable development, social cohesion and stability;
6. Underlines the need to allocate resources to priority programme activities so as to enhance relevance, sustainability and impact, to implement programmes with the utmost efficiency, effectiveness and accountability, and to use resources judiciously;
7. Emphasizes that core resources for the regular programme and budget, because of their untied nature, are the bedrock of United Nations system activities, and that all core activities should therefore be funded from the regular programme and budget;
8. Underlines the principle that extrabudgetary activities should not be subsidized by resources from the regular budget, and that accordingly, a policy of full cost recovery should be implemented by UNESCO;
9. Notes with satisfaction that the Director-General has prepared draft document 35 C/5 in accordance with the programme priorities for the five major programmes as defined by the Executive Board in 180 EX/Decision 21;
10. Expresses its desire to see in draft document 35 C/5 an increase in the ratio between resources allocated to programmes as against those allocated to administration;

11. Welcomes the increased concentration of the programme on priority areas, and the visible emphasis given to the two global priorities of document 34 C/4, Africa and gender equality;
12. Highlights the importance of identifying in draft document 35 C/5 relevant activities by all major programmes benefiting Africa and gender equality, of reflecting this priority orientation in all relevant expected results and of providing adequate resource allocations therefor;
13. Expresses its satisfaction with the Priority Gender Equality Action Plan (181 EX/4 Add.2), and invites the Director-General to continue to develop it, and to ensure full alignment of the Plan with the gender-specific expected results in draft document 35 C/5;
14. Requests the Director-General, in the further development of the Priority Gender Equality Action Plan, to reflect the gender-specific needs of Member States;
15. Emphasizes the importance of pursuing through all major programmes action in favour of youth, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), as well as the most vulnerable segments of society, including indigenous peoples and countries in post-conflict and disaster situations;
16. Strongly underlines the need to strengthen South-South cooperation and triangular North-South-South cooperation in activities undertaken under all major programmes;
17. Appreciates the unique value of UNESCO's intergovernmental and international programmes in the natural sciences, the social and human sciences and communication and information, and requests the Director-General to provide these programmes with adequate resources for their functioning;
18. Underlines the importance of the opportunity afforded to UNESCO, within its specific mandate as a specialized agency of the United Nations, to stimulate intellectual cooperation and exchange;
19. Underlines the importance of the five established functions of UNESCO set forth in the Medium-Term Strategy 2008-2013, and the need to reinforce in the next biennium upstream policy advice and capacity development, and to focus on the production of high-quality publications under all major programmes;
20. Underlines the importance for the Organization to contribute actively to United Nations system-wide reform efforts in response to the needs of Member States at the country level, and to keep the governing bodies informed of developments;
21. Stresses the importance of strengthening UNESCO's field presence in order to ensure effective and high-quality delivery of the Organization's programme at the country and regional levels, including provisions for effective participation in United Nations regional directors' teams, and requests the Director-General to submit his comprehensive report on decentralization to the Executive Board at its 182nd session;
22. Requests the Director-General to modulate UNESCO's programme action in all its major programmes through dedicated regional strategies in response to specific national needs;
23. Stresses the value and relevance of UNESCO's role as a laboratory of ideas, in particular through its foresight activities, and the need to disseminate forward-looking and policy-relevant publications, including UNESCO world reports, which appeal both to decision-makers and to a larger audience;

Major Programme II – Natural sciences

45. Endorses the following biennial sectoral priorities and related main lines of action (MLAs) for Major Programme II:

Biennial sectoral priority 1: Policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development and poverty eradication

MLA 1: Enhancing the leverage of science through integrated science, technology and innovation (STI) policy

MLA 2: Reinforcing capacity-building in the sciences and strengthening science education, especially in Africa

Biennial sectoral priority 2: Sustainable management of freshwater, ocean and terrestrial resources, including renewable sources of energy, as well as disaster preparedness and mitigation

MLA 3: Promoting the sustainable management and conservation of freshwater, terrestrial resources and biodiversity

MLA 4: Strengthening the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and broadening the scope of its activities for the benefit of all Member States: improving governance and fostering intergovernmental cooperation to manage and protect oceans and coastal zones

46. Invites the Director-General to develop an overall fundraising strategy for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC);
47. Decides that the expected results of MLA 4 should reflect the special emphasis to be given to particularly vulnerable regions located in Africa, least developed countries (LDCs), and small island developing States (SIDS);
48. Underlines the need for UNESCO, in the implementation of its natural sciences programme, to ensure improved synergy and coordination with other United Nations agencies and international organizations;
49. Emphasizes the urgency and relevance of science education at all levels for all developing countries, particularly in Africa, and recognizes its role as an element of