

9th Meeting of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNESCO's Memory of the World Program

Under the auspices of UNESCO and the Government of The Bahamas, the 9th Meeting of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNESCO's Memory of the World Program (MOWLAC) was held in the city of Nassau, October 15-17, 2008.

The meeting was attended by the following Committee members: Jaime Antunes da Silva (Brazil), Chair, Elizabeth Watson (Barbados), Vice-Chair; Gail Saunders (Bahamas); Ximena Cruzat (Chile); Virginia Chacón (Costa Rica), Rapporteur; Berarda Salabarría (Cuba); Margot Thomas (Saint Lucia); Isidro Fernández-Aballí (UNESCO), Secretary; and as a special guest, Rosa María Fernández de Zamora, member of the Program's International Advisory Committee; The absences of Ricardo Elizondo and Marcela Inch were justified.

The inaugural ceremony was presided by the Honorable Minister of Education, Mr. Carl Bethel, Minister, by the Honorable President of the National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO of The Bahamas, Mrs. Theresa Moxey Ingraham, by Mrs. Elma Garraway, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, by Dr. Davidson Hepburn, President Emeritus of the National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO of The Bahamas, by Isidro Fernández-Aballí, Permanent Secretary of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the MOW Program (MOWLAC), by Dr. Gail Saunders, Director-General of Heritage, by Mrs. Janice Knowles, Major Career Office of the Ministry of Education and Coordinator of the event's organization, and by Jaime Antunes, President of the MOWLAC Regional Committee.

1 – Welcome and approval of the Agenda

After the inauguration, Mr. Antunes began the Committee's work. First, the Committee members made their introductions and then the meeting's agenda was reviewed and approved. (See Attachment)

2 – Report on the meeting of the International Advisory Committee of UNESCO's MOW Program, in Canberra, Australia, by Elizabeth Watson.

Ms. Watson attended two meetings in Canberra, Australia. The first was the meeting of the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) at which she observed many similarities between that Committee and MOWLAC. She added that MOWCAP is very well organized and its Register Sub-Committee works quite well, keeping track of approved nominations and delivering the respective certificates. She added that the possibility was analyzed of a joint, inter-regional nomination on Indian indentureship. Regarding the International MOW Conference, she reported that representatives took part from all over the world, but that only she and Mrs. Alissandra Cummins were present from our region. She reported that the next meeting of the IAC will be in July 2009 in Barbados and that it would be good for members of MOWLAC to be present or to hold the meeting of this Committee at the same time or immediately afterward.

Mrs. Fernández de Zamora remarked that the International Committee Meeting would require obtaining translation for Spanish and to invite some members of the Region's National Committees.

Mrs. Chacón recalls that the 8th Meeting of MOWLAC agreed for the 2009 Meeting to be held in San José, Costa Rica, and that the Costa Rican UNESCO Commission and National Archives of Costa Rica will support this proposal.

Agreement 1: The 10th Meeting of MOWLAC will be held in 2009, under the auspices of the Costa Rican UNESCO Commission and the National Archives of Costa Rica, during the period from September to November.

Agreement 2: Request the Secretariat-General of UNESCO to provide the necessary funding for some members of MOWLAC and members of National Committees of the Region can attend the meeting of the International Committee of MOW, to be held in this region in Barbados in July 2009. Mr. Fernández-Aballí is commissioned to present and support this request (and to coordinate the national commissions to see if they can provide support).

3) Report on National Committees, by Mrs. Rosa María Fernández de Zamora, member del International Advisory Committee of the MOW/UNESCO Program.

She highlighted the importance of reinforcing the work done by the different National Committees of the MOW Program. She added that all three levels of registers (international, regional and national) are equally important, the only difference being that the level of influence is different. There are 158 registers in the International Register (50% of which are European).

Mrs. Salabarría commented on Cuba's enthusiasm about the Program, but felt that, prior to presenting nominations, documentary fonds and collections must be organized. Mr. Fernández-Aballí reiterated the need to expand the possibilities of the MOWLAC Website and make it into a better tool to communicate and publicize the Program, including the nominations that part of the Regional Register, including creating a Website to submit the next nominations.

Mrs. Watson felt that nominations that have not been reviewed or corrected should not be published on the Website. The importance of publicity and transparency were discussed, and the possibility of at least publishing nominations on the Website that have been accepted for the Register, and the title and sponsor of those pending approval.

Agreement 3: Mr. Fernández-Aballí is charged with asking the University of Colima, Mexico, about the possibility of expanding the MOWLAC Website to include the full nominations on the Regional Register, to receive new nominations on-line, and to publish nominations that have been reviewed by the Register Sub-Committee, among other functions.

4 - Reflections on MOWLAC (2007-2008), present and future prospects, by Mr. Jaime Antunes da Silva

He remarked with satisfaction that, for the first time, this Committee called for nominations formally in Spanish and in English throughout the region for 2008, and received eight nominations from Brazil (4), Cuba (1), Costa Rica (1), Netherlands Antilles (1), and Uruguay (1). However, this procedure may be improved, as may the communication among members of this Committee, using the Website more effectively and reinforcing the preparatory work by the Register Sub-Committee, which calls for proper orientation of National Committees. He insisted that National Committees must be strengthened and that, once they approve nominations in their registers, they should identify those that to be submitted for the Regional Register. In turn, the Regional Committee could recommend those projects that might potentially be part of the International Register. This will strengthen the National and Regional Committees. This should be a commitment by all members of the Regional Committee. He stressed that this does not preclude the possibility for Member States, through their representatives, to submit projects directly to the International Register. He also reiterated, as so rightly stated by Mrs. Fernández de Zamora, that the three registers are equally important.

5 – Reports on work and the current status of National Committees, by the representatives of the respective countries:

5.1 – Brazil. Mr. Antunes reported about the 2008 call for nominations by the National Committee, which elicited 27 proposals. After serious analysis, ten of these proposals were selected for the National Register, pursuant to a resolution issued by the Minister of Culture. They also recommended four of them for the Regional Register. Mr. Antunes clarified that at present Brazil holds national selections every year, and that the information on the National Committee is given as a Section of the Website of Brazil's National Archives. He added that the Website has all the nominations comprising the National Register and that all these fonds or collections are freely accessible to the public. They are currently conducting a national survey to ascertain the impact of recognition of these fonds and collections for the institution and its users. In the last two years, Brazil's National Committee has approved 20 nominations for its National Register, has two nominations on the Regional Register of MOWLAC and four for this year with two proposals for the International Register.

5.2 – Chile. Mrs. Cruzat commented that, during 2007 and 2008, activities have been pursued to raise awareness regarding heritage and to detect collections that might enter the National Register. She reported that the National Committee soon plans to visit seven archives, nationwide, one of which has a collection that may be of regional value. They are pursuing different projects: a) raising funds for visits to analyze and motivate archives; b) creation of the MOWChile Blog; c) dissemination of the information that UNESCO has regarding its nominations on the International Register; d) granting priority to locating collections of audiovisual documents.

5.3 – Costa Rica. Mrs. Chacón reported that, despite her insistence, she was unable to elicit any information from the National Committees of Central America and Panama. As for the National Committee of Costa Rica, she reported that it has met regularly and called for applications for the National Register in 2007 and in 2008, but has received no nominations. Some participants in the workshop given by Rosa María Fernández are known to be working on two or three nominations, but so far none has submitted an entry.

5.4 – Mexico. Mrs. Fernández de Zamora explained the reason why Mr. Ricardo Elizondo (Committee Member, Mexico) could not attend this meeting and explained that during 2007 the National Committee got two nominations approved on the International Register, one on the Regional Register and two on the National Register. In November 2007 she helped the Colombian National Archives with a Conference about MOW and other events to publicize the nominations registered. Further, she reported that the National Committee raised US\$ 24,000.00 in funding to improve their Website. Finally, the National Committee also raised US\$ 24,000.00 to disseminate UNESCO's Memory of the World Program among youth so they can know about and value the documentary heritage of humankind and promote its conservation. To support this, they will improve their Website, prepare brochures and videos and give lectures at universities and high schools in different cities of Mexico.

5.5 – Cuba. Mrs. Salabarría reported that the National Committee has met and submitted a nomination to the International Register and another to the Regional Register. She also reported that the UNESCO Chair for Training and Upgrading of Cuban Archivists has been created and a National Archivist Refresher Workshop, which was very interesting and well attended. She added that a major international course was organized and given in High-Level Studies in Film Preservation. They are working on the nomination of five collections for the National Register.

5.6 – Barbados. Mrs. Watson reported that, during the last year, the National Committee of Barbados has collaborated with other countries of the English-speaking Caribbean to present several collections to the International Register: a nomination by five Caribbean countries (Bahamas, Dominica, Belize, Saint Kitts, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago) jointly with United Kingdom, one from Belize, two from the Barbados, one from Saint Lucia, one from Curaçao and one from the Bahamas. There is also another nomination from the Dominican Republic with documents on Trujillo and human rights with regional and even international relevance. She reported that Barbados has no National Registrations, because they have given priority to International Nominations.

Agreement 4 – Mr. Fernández-Aballí is commissioned to investigate at the University of Colima, Mexico whether Websites can be opened for each National Committee, to more widely publicize their work and publish the registers of each National Committee.

5.7 – Bahamas. Mrs. Gail Saunders reports that their National Committee has just formed, with a membership including archivists, librarians and experts in heritage. They have worked on organizing for this meeting of the Regional Committee and have appreciated the support received from national authorities. She added that they have no National Register yet and have received no nominations. A nomination was prepared and sent to the International Register and they have participated in another regional nomination for the International Register. They are currently working to expand the National Committee.

5.8 – Saint Lucia. Mrs. Thomas reported that their National Committee met after the meeting of the Regional Committee in Rio de Janeiro and the members have some questions about how to create each country's register and the certificate, and proposed that this should be standardized. She expressed the need for consciousness-raising in each country about the MOW Program and told about Saint Lucia's nomination of the documents of the first Afro descendant to receive a Nobel Prize for academic merit. They are currently working on five nominations for the Regional Register, including a collection of original postcards about Saint Lucia. Finally, she reported that they will have their Website in the near future, and recommended that these sites be standardized. She also mentioned the training workshops on Conservation that have been given.

6 – Presentation, analysis and discussion of eight nominations proposed for the Regional Register:

6.1 Mrs. Ximena Cruzat presented an analysis of the proposal by the National Archives of the Netherlands Antilles: "First Catechism in the Papiamento Language", which she considers to be a unique, authentic, complete document. This document is the printed translation by a priest for his missionary work in 1837 and is a landmark in the establishment of Papiamento, which was used for literacy training as well. Mrs. Cruzat recommended it for the Regional Register and to nominate it for the International Register. However, she recommended the submitter be asked to complete some data: detailed description of the document's contents, number of pages, and clear explanation of who owns it, since the owner must submit and sign the application and the access conditions.

Agreement 5: Registration is approved for the First Catechism in the Papiamento Language from the Netherlands Antilles in the Regional Memory of the World Register for Latin America and the Caribbean, on a provisional basis, until the nomination clarifies the data as requested, for which the applicant will be given a three-month deadline. It is also recommended for nomination to the International Memory of the World Register. The Regional Committee Chairman will send these suggestions to the applicant.

6.2 - Mrs. Fernández and Mrs. Thomas presented an analysis of the proposal by the Núñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Man, of Cuba, called "In a Canoe from the Amazon to the Caribbean". This is a collection of documents from the expedition by canoe in 1988, which lasted a year, in order to relive the discovery by this route of the Caribbean and its Islands and relationship of the peoples of the Amazon and the Orinoco with the peoples of the Caribbean. The collection comprises photographs, slides, negatives, diaries and sketches by the expedition members, videos, DVDs, a banner by painter Oswaldo Guayasamín, canoes, etc. The documents are well conserved, but the applicant is recommended to expand the information on the expedition members, indicating who wrote the diaries, and complete the description of the documents, such as maps, illustrations, etc. (The original nomination was not received, and this analysis was made on the basis of an informal copy brought by Mrs. Salabarría).

Agreement 6: The fond entitled "In a Canoe from the Amazon to the Caribbean" is rejected because the nomination was not formally received. The applicant is urged to correct and complete the proposal, including a better explanation about the three-dimensional objects in the proposal. The Regional Committee Chairman will send these suggestions to the applicant.

6.3 – Mrs. Ximena Cruzat presented her analysis of the documentary "Fond of Carlos Chagas" (1897-1934), presented by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, of Brazil, which is a collection of 2.6 meters of textual documents, 250 photographs and an audiovisual, reflecting the career of Dr. Chagas, who discovered the origin of the disease that bears his name. The collection has impact on and involves benefits for health in a major part of the Americas. It is a unique, important collection. She suggested they improve the description of the contents, management of the fond, highlighting some documents and explaining about the Chagas disease, using a map and the explanations found on the Website of the World Health Organization.

Agreement 7: Registration is approved for the "Fond of Carlos Chagas", from Brazil, on a provisional basis, until the nomination clarifies the data as requested, for which the applicant will be given a three-month deadline. It is also recommended for nomination to the International Memory of the World Register. The Regional Committee Chairman will send these suggestions to the applicant.

6.4 – Mrs. Thomas presented the proposal of the "Fond of Oscar Niemeyer", submitted by the Oscar Niemeyer Foundation, of Brazil. The nomination involves the part of the fond with drawings, sketches and albums (original architectural designs) from 1938 to 2005. The bibliography on architect Niemeyer should be expanded, explaining his influence on contemporary world architecture, since he is considered one of the 20th century's best architects. Specific data should be given on the number of visitors and people using the fond, attaching photographs of the works constructed, improving the translation into English, in order to submit it for the International Register. (Areas of influence, disciples, names and illustrations should not be included in the application but in an appendix. The structure of the proposal should be improved.)

Agreement 8: Registration is approved for the "Fond of Oscar Niemeyer", from Brazil, on a provisional basis, until the nomination clarifies the data as requested, for which the applicant will be given a three-month deadline. It is also recommended for nomination to the International Memory of the World Register. The Regional Committee Chairman will send these suggestions to the applicant.

6.5 – Mrs. Salabarría studied and presented the project for "Press Archives and Periodical Publications from Uruguay", which she explained is not a nomination for the Regional Register, but an application for support from UNESCO for thousands of dollars to digitize these publications and put them on Internet.

Agreement 9: The project on Press Archives and Periodical Publications from Uruguay is not relevant because the Regional Committee does not judge this sort of projects.

6.6 – Mrs. Thomas presented her analysis of the proposal by the National Library of Brazil regarding the document of the "Royal Charter to Open Maritime Ports for Trade with Friendly Nations", of 28 January 1808. The importance of this document is that it brought an end to the colonial period, being signed by Prince Don Juan of Portugal, enabling Brazil to trade with neighboring Spanish colonies and with Europe. That is why it is of regional relevance. The original document is very well conserved and can be accessed using a digital reproduction. The applicant is suggested to explain the document's historical context better and its impact at the regional and world level, in order to submit it to the International Register.

Agreement 10: Registration is approved for the “Royal Charter to Open Maritime Ports for Trade with Friendly Nations”, from Brazil, on a provisional basis, until the nomination clarifies the data as requested, for which the applicant will be given a three-month deadline. It is also recommended for nomination to the International Memory of the World Register. The Regional Committee Chairman will send these suggestions to the applicant. Mrs. Thomas suggests for them to send her the document to review and improve its English translation.

6.7 Mrs. Watson presented her analysis of the proposed Collection of Music and Documents from University of Costa Rica Radio. She explained that it is a very brief, incomplete description, specifying no details about the contents, rarity or importance. She simply noted that the material is not well conserved or organized.

Agreement 11: The Collection of Music and Documents from University of Costa Rica Radio is rejected because it is considered incomplete and missing key information. The applicant is urged to redo the proposal and present it initially to the National Committee of Costa Rica. This agreement will be conveyed to the applicant by the Chairman of this Committee.

6.8 Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Fernández de Zamora and Mrs. Chacón presented their analysis of the Archives of the Indian Protection Service (SPI) from Brazil's Indian Museum. These archives are from an agency that has now vanished, which was responsible for making the indigenous people peaceful and settled, and using their manpower throughout the Amazon region. It contains textual documents and excellent photographs and films. It is considered a unique, rare, and complete collection. The rationale regarding the regional connotation or impact of the fond must be improved in the proposal.

Agreement 12: Registration is approved for the Archives of the Indian Protection Service on a provisional basis, until the nomination clarifies the data as requested, for which the applicant will be given a three-month deadline. The Regional Committee Chairman will send these suggestions to the applicant.

6.9 Mrs. Alissandra Cummins, from Barbados, a member of the International Advisory Committee of MOW, joined the meeting.

6.10. Mr. Isidro Fernández-Aballí stated that the Regional Committee, as usual, should give its opinions on the nominations submitted to the International Register (16), but the Regional Committee received only four of these nominations, which were the only ones submitted by members of the Regional Committee for this meeting. Mr. Antunes explained the procedure from previous years and stated that there is no other alternative than to study the summaries of the 12 remaining nominations to be able to send our opinion to UNESCO Paris.

6.11 Mrs. Watson and Thomas questioned whether it is incumbent on this Committee to analyze and issue opinions about nominations for the International Register. Mr. Fernández-Aballí clarified that this power is provided for in the Regulations for the Committee. However, he stated that, to carry out this advisory review properly, the members of this Regional Committee need to receive these nominations beforehand, as has been done in previous meetings of the Regional Committee. He added that it is important for the Regional Committee members to be abreast of all nominations from countries in their area of action.

6.12 Mr. Fernández-Aballí insisted that we must review the summaries of the nomination documents from Latin America and the Caribbean, which are published on the UNESCO Website, divide them up so each member can express his or her opinions, with which we will contribute to the International Committee, despite the limitations of these circumstances. Mrs. Chacón, Mrs. Fernández, Mrs. Cruzat and Mrs. Salabarría agreed that, if we are gathered for a meeting, we must fulfill our obligations under whatever circumstances arise, despite the justified absence of the rapporteur of the Register Sub-Committee of the International Advisory Committee, Mrs. Lourdes Blanco, who would, according to the agenda, have covered this point.

Bearing in mind that Mrs. Watson stated that the National Committee of Barbados collaborated in preparing seven nominations from the English-speaking Caribbean and one from the Dominican Republic, all for the International Register she was asked to help by presenting these proposals and others to the other members of the Committee.

7. Presentation of nominations for the International Register of MOW

7.1. Mrs. Watson began by presenting nomination 01 for the Fonds of the Federal Archives of Barbados (West Indies Federation) 1958-1962. The documents cover several territories in the Caribbean. There are textual documents, photographs, music and others. Individuals are highlighted, it is in good conditions in terms of conservation, and it is accessible to the public.

7.2. She continued by presenting nomination 016, Mosquito Shore Records from 1770 to 1865. These documents on the Mosquito Shore include Honduras, Nicaragua and Belize and the relationship between Spaniards and British in the zone. Part of the documents have conservation problems. It includes maps, photographs, textual documents and a special document on the crowning of King George by the inhabitants of the Mosquito Shore. It is of a regional nature and also involves the situation of the Miskito Indians, making it supranational.

7.3 She continued by presenting nomination 020 on The documentary heritage fonds on resistance and struggle for human rights in the Dominican Republic from 1930 to 1961. Trujillo was the role model for other Latin American dictators and his action had a great influence on the region and impact on the world. The documents include letters, books, photographs, oral testimonies by torture victims, and others. It is a very complete nomination on the Trujillo Dictatorship and violation of human rights.

7.4 Mrs. Salabarría continued by presenting nomination 041 on Original negatives from the newscast by ICAIC (Cuban Institute of the Art Industry and the Latin American Cinematographic Industry). 1960-1990. The Institute was created in 1960 and the fond consists of fiction films, documentaries, cartoons, reports and editions of the newscast that remind us not only of Cuba's memories but all of Latin America, especially, the dictatorships of the 1960s and 1970s. It also has films from other Latin American nations that were under dictatorships.

The documents consist of 1493 editions of the Newscast, plus magazines and documentaries from the newscast and other products, and almost 3000 35-mm black and white films from the newscast.

The technical conditions are described in terms of their state of conservation. They are unique and irreplaceable, in high demand, and considered a historic treasury. The contents describe realities in Cuba, Latin America, and the world, such as the reality of some African revolutions, as well as events in Asia and Europe, covering a total of 90 countries of the world.

7.5 Mrs. Gail Saunders continued with nomination 043, The journal of Charles Farguharson of San Salvador. He owned a cotton plantation, and the diary covers two years, 1831 and 1832, containing information on slavery. It is in good condition and is located in the Bahamas National Archives. Its world-class significance is because it is the only surviving journal of the slavery period on cotton plantations. Further, it portrays a system of inhuman oppression that was regional and transcends the region's boundaries. The island of San Salvador has special significance because it was where Christopher Columbus first landed in the New World. The journal is about 40 pages long. Mrs. Fernández de Zamora stressed that it is important because it reveals the viewpoint of the slave-owner.

7.6 Mrs. Thomas continued, presenting nomination 045 Sir William Arthur Lewis' Papers. Born in Saint Lucia, the first Afro-American to obtain the Nobel Prize in Economics and first Afro-American professor of the University of Manchester (UK). This is a collection of textual documents, photographs and others found at Princeton University (USA) since 1992,

submitted jointly by the National Archives of Saint Lucia and that US University. The documents involve economic and financial development in the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

7.7. Mrs. Rosa María Fernández presented nomination 046: Half a century of records on traditional Mexican music. This collection by Thomas Stanford, 1956-2005, is conserved in the National Fonoteca of Mexico. However, the collection belongs to Mr. Stanford. This collection of sound recordings of the music of native / mestizo communities, about 5 thousand recordings from 20 states of Mexico, and all sorts of celebrations and festivals. This is not so much indigenous music but mestizo music from different places in Latin America. This collection makes it possible to keep part of the Intangible Heritage, which will be lost forever if it is not recorded. It involves various different support media: reel tapes, DVDs, digitized, and others. Researchers are granted access. Its value is undeniable, and it represents an effort to conserve this Mexican and Latin American legacy. It is recommended to provide information on who Thomas Stanford is, with a small biography. This meets the requirements to be nominated, especially because there are similar precedents.

7.8. Mrs. Watson presented document 050: Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817 and 1834. This is a general record of the final period of slavery. The documents contain information on those who were subjected to slavery from the United Kingdom and from different countries of the region: Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Trinidad and Tobago. It also includes information on slave trade and other social realities of the period prior to abolition of slavery (in 1834) which sets parameters to visualize the changes after abolition. The other criteria are fully met in terms of rarity, originality and so on. Since the Caribbean was a region of experiments, these slave registration records were also kept in other parts of the world, which gives them international value.

7.9. Mrs. Watson continued, presenting the nomination of the Nita Barrow Collection by Barbados. This fond was generated by a unique women who participated in political and social activities. Born in 1916 died in 1995, she was a teacher and nurse. Her importance lay in her political and social work in such institutions as the United Nations, as the first Afro-Caribbean woman, and other entities with international impact including in South Africa. She worked with Mandela against apartheid. Her diplomatic work was significant. She took part in international agencies and in the YWCA, working for women's self-realization and growth. Her work is well recognized internationally and has received worldwide acclaim. She was an amateur painter, so the archives also include some of her works, such as postcards, which are included as documents.

Mrs. Fernández de Zamora explained that it is justified to include paintings in this collection.

Agreement 13: The MOWLAC Committee endorses and recommends for the International Memory of the World Register the following nominations, which were examined and analyzed by this Committee in 2007 and 2008 in Rio de Janeiro and Nassau, respectively:

1. Collection of the Center of Documentation and Research of the Ashkenazi Community in Mexico (16th to 20th Century). Presented in 2008. Country: Mexico
2. Fond of Novacap – New Capital of Brazil. Presented in 2008. Country: Brazil
3. Limite. Film presented in: 2008. Country: Brazil
4. First Catechism Written in Papiamentu Language. Presented in 2008. Country: Netherlands Antilles

Agreement 14: Regarding the following nominations, the MOWLAC Committee has seen only the summary published on UNESCO's Website and the brief presentation by members of this Committee and feels that these proposals are complete and well formulated:

1. Documentary Heritage on the Resistance and Struggle for Human Rights in the Dominican Republic, 1930-1961. Presented in 2008. Country: Dominican Republic.
2. Farquharson's Journal. Presented in 2008. Country: The Bahamas
3. Federal Archives Fonds. Documentary Heritage. Presented in 2008. Country: Barbados.
4. Mosquito Shore Records. Presented in 2008. Country: Belize
5. Nita Barrow Collection. Presented in 2008. Country: Barbados.
6. Original Negatives from the ICAIC Latin American newscast. Presented in 2008. Country: Cuba.
7. Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834. Presented in 2008. Countries: Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Trinidad & Tobago and United Kingdom
8. Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers. Presented in 2008. Country: Saint Lucia
9. Thomas Stanford Collection, a Half Century of Field Recordings of Traditional Mexican Music. Presented in 2008. Country: Mexico

Agreement 15 – The Regional Committee makes no judgment regarding the following three nominations submitted to the International Register of MOW, because no conclusion can be reached solely with the summary published on the UNESCO Website and these proposals are unknown to the members of the Regional Committee: :

1. Archives of Terror. Documentary Heritage. Proposed in 2008. Country: Paraguay
2. Ayacucho Library 1974-2006. Presented in 2008. Country: Venezuela
3. Book for the Baptism of Slaves (1636- 1670). Proposed in 2008. Country: Dominican Republic.

Agreement 16 – Notify the Register Sub-Committee of the International Advisory Committee of MOW and submitters of nominations to the International Register that, in order to make a thorough analysis, the full proposals must be received sufficiently in advance.

Mr. Fernández-Aballí will make sure to notify the proper parties of Agreements 13, 14, 15 and 16.

8. Election of the Officers of the MOWLAC Committee

Reelection of the current officers until 2009 is proposed and seconded by several members.

Agreement 17 – The Officers of the Regional Committee are unanimously approved, as follows: Chair, Jaime Antunes, of Brazil; First Vice-Chair, Elizabeth Watson, of Barbados; Second Vice-Chair, Marcela Inch, of Bolivia; and Rapporteur, Virginia Chacón, of Costa Rica.

9. Venue of the Committee's next meeting

9.1 Mrs. Chacón reports that the UNESCO Permanent Commission in Costa Rica and the Costa Rican National Archives have agreed to co-sponsor the MOWLAC meeting in 2009, in San José, Costa Rica, probably in late November or early December.

9.2 Mrs. Fernández and Mrs. Cruzat will investigate the possibility of holding this Committee's 2010 meeting in their countries.

Agreement 18. The Permanent Secretariat will notify all Committee members of the final date of the MOWLAC 2009 meeting, once it is settled, and the venue of the 2010 meeting.

Agreement 19. The Permanent Secretariat will send invitations for the five new members of the Regional Committee prior to 15 March 2009. They must assume their duties in the upcoming meeting of the Regional Committee (October 2009, San José, Costa Rica). He will also send out, prior to the above date, the next invitation to submit nominations for the Regional Register, which must be sent in electronic format and hard copy in both Spanish and English prior to 15 September 2009.

10. Miscellaneous matters

10.1 The standardized forms for submitting nominations will be reviewed and updated by Mr. Antunes, Mrs. Fernández de Zamora and Mrs. Watson, and will be sent in the next invitation. The revised forms must be available to the Permanent Secretariat before 15 February 2009.

10.2 Participants express their appreciation to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, especially to Minister of Education Mr. Carl Bethel, Dr. Gail Saunders and their support staff, for the magnificent organization and kind hospitality received, all of which ensured the success of this meeting. UNESCO was also thanked for its continual support of the Regional Committee's work.

At 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 17 October 2008, the meeting was adjourned.