

Hundred and twenty-eighth session

128 EX/5  
PARIS, 18 November 1987  
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Item 7.2.1 of the provisional agenda

REQUEST FROM THE HOLY SEE TO BE AUTHORIZED TO ACCEDE TO  
THE CONVENTION ON THE MEANS OF PROHIBITING AND PREVENTING  
THE ILLICIT IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP  
OF CULTURAL PROPERTY, IN CONFORMITY WITH  
ARTICLE 20, PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE SAID CONVENTION

SUMMARY

The above item has been placed on the provisional agenda of the 128th session by the Director-General, pursuant to a request made by the Holy See in a letter dated 23 September 1987 (reproduced in the annex hereto).

Point for decision: paragraph 3.

1. Article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property provides that:

'This Convention shall be open to accession by all States not members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization which are invited to accede to it by the Executive Board of the Organization.'

2. The Holy See having addressed a request to be invited to accede to this Convention (the letter is reproduced in the annex to this document) the Executive Board is called upon to take a decision on such an invitation.
3. Should the Executive Board find it desirable to extend such an invitation, it may wish to adopt the following decision:

'The Executive Board,

1. Recalling that the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property was adopted by the General Conference at its sixteenth session,
2. Underlining the importance of the Convention as a means of strengthening co-operation among States for the protection of cultural property against the dangers of theft, clandestine excavation and illicit export,
3. Recalling 22 C/Resolution 11.4 whereby the General Conference invited all States which had not yet done so to become Parties to the Convention,
4. Noting the request of the Holy See to be invited to become a Party to the Convention,
5. Decides to invite the Holy See, pursuant to Article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to accede to the Convention.'

ANNEX

Sir,

I have received a dispatch from the Secretariat of State informing me of the intention of the Holy See to accede to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

In accordance with Article 20 of that Convention, States not members of Unesco must be invited to accede to the Convention by the Executive Board of Unesco.

I should be most grateful if the appropriate services of Unesco could let me know whether this communication is sufficient to obtain the invitation of the Executive Board or whether an official communication from the authorities of the Holy See is required.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mgr Lorenzo Frana  
Permanent Observer of the Holy See  
at Unesco

Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow  
Director-General of Unesco