Item 3.5 of the provisional agenda

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIMS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 25 C/Resolution 3.4, the Director-General reports to the General Conference on progress in the implementation of the aims and programmes of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

Decision required: paragraph 35.


2. Pursuant to 25 C/Resolution 3.4, the Director-General reports to the General Conference on 'progress in the implementation of the aims and programmes of the World Decade for Cultural Development'.
3. The two reports have the same subject and cover the same period of implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade. This report by the Director-General summarizes the main components of the report submitted to the Economic and Social Council and describes activities carried out since the latter was drafted. It deals successively with action by UNESCO, the other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, the Member States and the intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations. Lastly, the Director-General's report addresses the mid-term review of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

1. MEASURES TAKEN BY UNESCO

4. Within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development, specific activities were included in the programme for 1990-1991, some of which were to be carried out jointly with other organizations in the system.

5. The following activities were related to the first main objective of the Decade (acknowledging the cultural dimension of development):

- studies on the cultural dimension of development, the effects of social change on economic and cultural life and the conditions necessary for greater participation by marginalized groups, including migrants and disadvantaged communities, in development and cultural life;

- two interregional symposia on the interaction between cultural factors and economic and social development, in Thailand (July 1990) and in Venezuela (Caracas, December 1990);

- methodological and prospective studies on the interaction between cultural development, cultural identities and multicultural societies (Budapest, 1991), and a study on culture, the economy and the community in Europe;

- an international meeting of experts organized by the Secretariat at the Headquarters of the Organization on the intersectoral programme for the elaboration of methodologies for acknowledging the cultural dimension in development projects (16-18 September 1991).

6. UNESCO has also pursued activities relating to the second main objective of the Decade (affirming and enriching cultural identities):

- preservation of the cultural heritage, both physical (international safeguarding campaigns, strengthening
of national and international legal instruments), and non-physical (traditions, values and works of the mind); training of heritage specialists;

preparation by the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture of a regional project in Asia designed to ensure that cultural factors are taken into account in the management of tropical forest resources (in co-operation with UNESCO and FAO);

implementation of other joint projects designed to preserve and promote, with the involvement of the media, different forms of artistic creation in various parts of the world (the Arctic, southern Africa and the Caribbean).

7. The third main objective of the Decade (broadening participation in cultural life) has also given rise to a series of activities:

International Forum on 'Culture and Democracy', organized jointly with the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (Prague, 4-6 September 1991);

studies and projects on the changing status of women, young people and the family against the background of economic and social change throughout the world, the aim being to strengthen their participation in development;

on the basis of the Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (Nairobi, 1985) and the System-Wide Medium-Term Plan for Women and Development (1990-1995), the training of women in the use of new communication technologies and the production of video documents illustrating their cultural role;

in 1990, the Conference of Non-Governmental Youth Organizations (75 non-governmental organizations represented), convened with the aim of spelling out more clearly the role which young people could play in the Decade (transmission of dominant cultural models and creation of new values); expansion of the notion of culture, in order to reflect the various cultural forms created by young people);

activities and projects designed to stimulate creation and creativity (awakening of the child's intelligence, institution of UNESCO Crafts Prizes and development of a methodological guide to crafts);

progressive implementation, between 1990 and 1995, of the provisions of the Belgrade Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist and the creation of an international information system on the
subject (in co-operation with a number of intergovernmental organizations and various non-governmental organizations in the fields of the arts).

8. At the same time, the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development, which held its second regular session in February 1990 and its first extraordinary session in February 1991, played a part in UNESCO's contribution to the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

9. On the basis of the revised version of the Director-General's report on the possible setting up of an International Programme for the World Decade for Cultural Development, in pursuance of 25 C/Resolution 3.4, the Intergovernmental Committee, while emphasizing that the programme should 'be financed with extra-budgetary resources', recommended that the Executive Board 'examine and adopt the proposed programme, while taking into account (its) recommendations'. After examining the Director-General's report, the Executive Board, at its 135th session, approved the proposal aimed at setting up an International Programme for the Decade, and invited the Director-General to make proposals in this regard within the framework of document 26 C/5, with a view to their transmission for consideration and for a decision at the General Conference. In the light of the options submitted by the Director-General in the Draft Programme and Budget for 1992-1994 with regard to the possible setting up of this programme (26 C/5, paragraphs 03012-03014), the Executive Board, in 136 EX/Decision 4.1 (26 C/6), 'draws the attention of the General Conference to the options proposed' and 'to the fact that a number of members of the Executive Board expressed their preference for option 4' (setting up of the programme on an experimental basis for a limited period from 1992 to 1993, and reappraisal of the question at the twenty-seventh session of the General Conference).

10. Furthermore, the Executive Board recommended that the Director-General propose to the General Conference at its twenty-sixth session that 31 May be proclaimed 'World Day for Cultural Development' (Day of All the World's Cultures) (135 EX/Decision 5.3.3). In view of the fact that WHO celebrates each year on that date World No Tobacco Day, the Director-General believes it would be advisable to suggest another date for World Day for Cultural Development, which could be celebrated on 21 May.

11. In addition, the Intergovernmental Committee made various recommendations concerning the possible preparation of a world report on 'Culture and Development' (cf. 26 C/93, paras. 18-19), including the recommendation that the Executive Board invite the Director-General to take a number of measures in that
connection. Although the Executive Board at its 135th session did not take any decision in this regard in response to the Committee's recommendation, the Director-General presented the Board with proposals on the subject - as he had undertaken to do - in his report on the Organization's activities since the 136th session (137 EX/INF.3, Part II).

12. Lastly, UNESCO has mobilized international co-operation for a number of large-scale intercultural 'Decade' projects: 'Integral Study of the Silk Roads', 'Revival of the Library of Alexandria', 'Commemoration of the Five Hundredth Anniversary of the Encounter between Two Worlds' and 'Baroque World'. UNESCO is also responsible for setting up the United Nations Pavilion at the 1992 Universal Exhibition (Seville, Spain). Several projects already initiated or under review have been the subject of international expert symposia (The Baroque World, The Slave Route, etc.).

13. Within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development, UNESCO has established, in close co-operation with the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, a UNESCO Prize for the Promotion of the Arts to be awarded for outstanding creative achievements by young artists in the fields of visual arts (painting, sculpture and graphics) as well as performing arts (music, dance and theatre). The prize has been created by the generosity of Mr Kaii Higashiyama (the Higashiyama Fund), a Japanese artist of great renown who has expressed his desire to promote artistic creation among young artists.

II. MEASURES TAKEN BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

14. Following the proclamation of the World Decade for Cultural Development, several programmes and organizations announced their intention to incorporate, from 1989 onwards, specific activities relating to the Decade in their biennial programmes. That, in fact, was the approach recommended by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) in 1988 and confirmed by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fifth session when, in resolution 45/189 it recommended that all the organs of the United Nations system 'consider including activities relating to the Decade in the programme for the biennium 1992-1993, and [requested] them to co-ordinate those activities'.

15. Several organizations of the United Nations system have consequently undertaken or continued efforts to take human and social factors into account in their spheres of competence.
16. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has taken measures relating to the first two objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development, by advocating a more comprehensive approach to development problems and strategies.

17. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) considers that all its activities are designed to promote cultural development, particularly the preparation of model legislation in the copyright field, in co-operation with developing countries.

18. The World Health Organization (WHO) is endeavouring to integrate cultural and social dimensions into its primary health care strategies and its objective of 'Health for All by the Year 2000'.

19. The United Nations University (UNU) has recently undertaken a programme on 'Culture and development', which will focus on the first objective of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

20. The World Bank, pursuant to consultations with UNESCO, has taken initiatives to ensure that references to cultural identity are expressly included in projects approved by the Bank. Pilot projects of this type will be launched in the African subregions. For example, the World Bank and UNESCO carried out a joint mission to Guinea and Togo in order to examine ways in which socio-cultural factors could be taken into account in the projects under consideration. Similarly, the World Bank and UNDP are studying the possibility of including cultural parameters in the terms of reference of projects.

21. UNDP, for its part, has already supported more than 100 projects relating to various aspects of the World Decade for Cultural Development, notably in connection with the safeguarding of the physical and non-physical cultural heritage. It has also specifically supported the link which UNESCO has established between cultural heritage and development in a rapidly changing socio-economic environment. Lastly, in its fifth programming cycle, it has stressed human development viewed from the point of view of individual diversity and cultural freedom.

22. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), takes cultural aspects into consideration in normal assistance programmes for refugee communities, particularly with regard to social services and educational activities.

23. In addition, a seminar on the Decade was organized at United Nations Headquarters (30 May 1991) by the NGO Committee for Sustainable Development, in co-operation with UNESCO and the United Nations Department of Information.
III. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

24. In Africa, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has been striving to ensure that the Africa region is closely involved in the World Decade for Cultural Development. The International Centre for the Bantu Civilizations (CICIBA) has co-operated with UNESCO and the Commission of the European Communities on projects for the incorporation of the cultural dimension in the various areas of economic and social development. The Economic Community of Central African States is preparing a subregional symposium on the acknowledgement of the Bantu cultures as reference points and factors in the economic integration of the subregion.

25. As regards the Islamic countries, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) is preparing programmes of activities for the Decade in co-operation with UNESCO. In addition, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) may contribute to the implementation of the Arabia Plan once it has been adopted by the General Conference.

26. At the interregional level, the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) have signed the Fourth Lomé Convention, in which acknowledgement of the cultural dimension of development is reaffirmed by a special chapter on cultural co-operation.

27. In Europe, recent events in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe would seem conducive to pan-European co-operation, which is being fostered in a significant and timely manner by the programmes of European organizations such as the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities. The activities of the Council of Europe, particularly with regard to the assessment of national cultural policies, the training of cultural administrators, and economic and cultural interdependence, are contributing in no small fashion to the attainment of the objectives of the Decade.

IV. MEASURES TAKEN BY THE MEMBER STATES

A. At national level

28. Sixty-three Member States have informed UNESCO of the establishment of their National Committees for the Decade, many of which have been very active. A meeting of European National Committees for the World Decade for Cultural Development was held in Oslo (Norway) from 2 to
5 May 1991. Other Member States have organized seminars on the Decade in order to inform and foster greater awareness among senior civil servants in ministries responsible for various aspects of development. Some 400 projects were submitted to UNESCO by approximately 100 States in 1990-1991, i.e. almost three times as many as were submitted in 1988-1989. Of those projects, 94 were given financial support amounting to a total of $1 million. Among the others, 153 benefited from the Decade 'seal', which helps them to raise funds from other sources.

29. Many of the projects proposed at national level include activities which normally form part of cultural programmes and policies implemented by States. Furthermore, most of these initiatives were taken either directly by the cultural administrations or institutions, or at the request of the National Committees for the Decade or the National Commissions for UNESCO. Two Member States and one non-Member State have held workshops, seminars and expert meetings on various aspects of the cultural dimension of development. The number and variety of the projects submitted by the Member States, at national level or within the framework of regional co-operation, testify to the interest that has been generated by the Decade.

B. At regional level

30. In Africa, the Conference of African Ministers of Culture, organized by OAU, held its third session from 14 to 18 May 1990 in Yaoundé (Cameroon), to discuss the organization of an 'African Cultural Space'. The Conference took note of numerous regional or interregional activities and events.

31. The third Conference of Ministers of Culture and Senior Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Mexico in September 1990. In the final declaration, stress was laid on the need for active regional co-operation in the following areas: research on cultural policies, the safeguarding of the heritage, communication, the cultural industries, cultural tourism and the artistic heritage. Elsewhere, a Subregional Conference of Ministers of Culture of the States of Central America took place in November 1990 in Panama to review problems of regional co-operation in the fields of culture and communication.

32. The Arab States are also continuing their joint effort to implement the 'Comprehensive Plan for Arab Culture Today and Tomorrow', adopted by ALECSO in 1985 as their contribution to the World Decade for Cultural Development.

33. In Asia and the Pacific, the National Committees for the Decade met in Bali, Indonesia, in June 1990. Organized with the support of UNESCO by the Indonesian
National Commission for UNESCO, the meeting brought together 40 participants from 16 Member States of the region.

V. MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

34. In pursuance of resolutions 44/238 and 45/189 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO formulated specific proposals regarding a mid-term review of the World Decade for Cultural Development, in accordance with the provisions laid down by the General Conference in 25 C/Resolution 3.4 (para. 6(d)). The joint proposals by the Secretary-General and the Director-General are set out in detail in paragraphs 86-89 of their report on progress achieved in the World Decade for Cultural Development during the period 1990-1991 (A/46/160-E/1991/66), which is at the disposal of delegates to the present session of the General Conference.

35. After examining the report by the Director-General on progress in the implementation of the aims and programmes of the World Decade for Cultural Development, the General Conference may wish to adopt the following draft resolution:

The General Conference,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly with regard to the World Decade for Cultural Development, and more particularly resolution 41/187 whereby the Decade was proclaimed and placed under the auspices of the United Nations and of UNESCO, and resolution 45/189, regarding a mid-term review of the Decade,

Recalling 22 C/Resolution 11.20, 23 C/Resolution 11.10, 24 C/Resolution 11.12 and 25 C/Resolution 3.4 adopted by the General Conference in regard to the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Taking into consideration the relevant recommendations formulated by the Executive Board, particularly in 134 EX/Decision 4.3.2, 135 EX/Decision 5.3.3 and 136 EX/Decision 4.1,

Taking note with satisfaction of the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development (26 C/93),

1. Thanks the Director-General for the constant support which he has lent to the implementation of the activities of the Decade and more
particularly to the major intercultural projects;

2. Takes note with interest of the report by the Director-General on progress in the implementation of the aims and programmes of the Decade (26 C/94);

3. Emphasizes the quality of the work accomplished by the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development;

4. Decides to proclaim, within the framework of the Decade, a World Day for Cultural Development to be celebrated each year on 21 May;

5. Invites the Member States to participate actively in the implementation of the Decade, in the celebration of the World Day for Cultural Development and in the mid-term review of the Decade;

6. Invites the Director-General:

   (a) to pursue his efforts with a view to encouraging the implementation of the Decade by continuing to provide appropriate support, within the framework of the regular programme and the Participation Programme, to the activities proposed by the Member States and the international governmental and non-governmental organizations and to the work of the Intergovernmental Committee;

   (b) to take such steps as he may deem appropriate in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to ensure the preparation of the mid-term review of the Decade in accordance with the decision to be taken in this regard by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

   (c) to strengthen co-operation with the organs and programmes of the United Nations system, with a view to their increased participation in the execution of the Plan of Action for the Decade and particularly in the framework of the implementation of the International Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (1991-2000);
(d) to encourage joint inter-agency projects along those lines, with a view to fostering greater awareness of the cultural dimension of development.