

Hundred and fifty-sixth Session

156 EX/14
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Item 3.5.2 of the provisional agenda

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSAL FORUM
OF CULTURES - BARCELONA 2004**

SUMMARY

In accordance with 29 C/Resolution 26 of the General Conference and 155 EX/Decision 3.5.2 of the Executive Board, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board a draft framework agreement between UNESCO and the organizers of the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004. The draft, which the Board is invited to approve, is contained in Annex I. This document also includes, in Annex II, the latest version of the plan of action drawn up by the organizers.

Decision required: paragraph 6.

1. The Director-General presented a report to the Executive Board at its 155th session on the follow-up to 29 C/Resolution 26, by which the General Conference had decided that UNESCO should be the main partner of the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004 (155 EX/12). The document reported on consultations undertaken after the 29th session of the General Conference between the Secretariat and the organizers of the Forum, on the establishment of a "consortium" in charge of managing and running the Forum, made up of the Spanish Government, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia and the City Council of Barcelona, and on the Director-General's contacts with the Spanish authorities and the International Exhibitions Bureau (IEB) to ensure that the Forum would be organized in compliance with the 1928 Convention regarding International Exhibitions, as he had been invited to do by the General Conference.

2. Following consideration of this document, the Executive Board adopted 155 EX/Decision 3.5.2, reproduced below:

“The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 29 C/Resolution 26 in which the General Conference decided that UNESCO would be the main partner of the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004 throughout the various phases of the project,
2. Taking note of the information transmitted to it in document 155 EX/12 on the immediate follow-up to that resolution,
3. Invites the Director-General to pursue his contacts with the organizers of the Forum and to submit to it at its 156th session the draft framework agreement referred to in paragraph 3 of 29 C/Resolution 26;
4. Also invites the Director-General and the organizers of the Forum to ensure, in liaison with the International Exhibitions Bureau, that the Forum is planned and prepared without infringing the provisions of the 1928 Convention regarding International Exhibitions”.

3. After the 155th session, the Director-General drew up, in conjunction with the organizers of the Forum, the draft framework agreement contained in Annex I of the present document. In accordance with 29 C/Resolution 26, the agreement aims to set “the modalities of UNESCO’s association with the Forum”.

4. At the same time, he requested the organizers to transmit to him the plan of action which, according to that resolution, should be submitted with the draft agreement to the Executive Board. This plan, as prepared by the organizers, is brought to the Board’s notice in Annex II to this document. It should be pointed out that the first phase of the plan (1999-2000) is a period of research and wide-ranging consultation, as requested in most of the statements on the subject by Board Members in the Programme and External Relations Commission at the Board’s 155th session. A more detailed schedule could be drawn up at the end of that period.

5. As invited by the General Conference and then the Executive Board, the Director-General has ensured, in conjunction with the International Exhibitions Bureau, “that the Forum is planned and prepared without infringing the provisions of the 1928 Convention regarding International Exhibitions” (para. 4 of the decision reproduced in para. 2 above). He will naturally continue to see to this, as will the organizers. He considers it worth pointing out here that the above-mentioned condition has been respected to date, and that the City Council of Barcelona and the Spanish authorities have already on several occasions declared their intention of respecting the Convention.

6. On the basis of this information, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 156 EX/14,
2. Recalling 29 C/Resolution 26 adopted by the General Conference and 155 EX/Decision 3.5.2, adopted by the Board at its previous session,

3. Reaffirming that, since the objectives of the Universal Forum of Cultures come very close to those of UNESCO, it is fitting for the Organization to be involved in their implementation, to which it may make a productive contribution,
4. Approves the proposed agreement contained in Annex I to this document;
5. Authorizes the Director-General to sign it and to take the necessary measures so that, on the basis of 29 C/Resolution 26, UNESCO may contribute fully to the success of the Forum.

ANNEX I

**DRAFT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT CONCERNING
THE UNIVERSAL FORUM OF CULTURES - BARCELONA 2004**

BETWEEN

The United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

AND

The Consortium Barcelona - 2004

Noting that the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004, an initiative of the city of Barcelona presented by Spain to the General Conference at its 29th session, seeks to facilitate dialogue between peoples, cultures and civilizations and to promote the values of tolerance and peace,

Considering that the project could make a significant contribution to building a culture of peace, a major objective of UNESCO and one endorsed by the international community,

Noting that the planning, organization and staging of the Forum will be under the direction of the Consortium Barcelona - 2004, made up of the City Council of Barcelona, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia and the Spanish Government,

Recalling that the General Conference decided at its 29th session “that UNESCO, in accordance with the proposal made by the organizers of the Forum, should be the main partner of the Forum throughout the various phases of the project” (29 C/Resolution 26),

Believing that UNESCO can make a decisive contribution to the success of the Forum through its missions, activities and links with institutions and professional circles throughout the world,

HAVE THEREFORE AGREED UPON THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

1. The present agreement is intended to establish a framework for cooperation between UNESCO and the Consortium Barcelona - 2004 (hereinafter referred to as “the Consortium”) for the preparation and holding of and follow-up to the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004; it sets out the modalities of UNESCO’s association with the Forum, within the framework of the Organization’s competence and the priorities for its activities determined by its Member States; it covers the period of the preparation and staging of and follow-up to the Forum.

2. UNESCO and the Consortium shall keep each other informed of all activities of common interest that either may undertake; each will propose that the other be represented in such activities in accordance with procedures to be laid down by the joint committee referred to in paragraph 8; they shall consult each other as necessary on the preparation and implementation of activities they consider should be conducted jointly.

3. In order to add to the Forum's impact, UNESCO shall endeavour to ensure the broad dissemination of information on the objectives and activities of the Forum and to give them the greatest possible multiplier effect internationally.
4. The parties shall ensure that all activities undertaken in connection with the Forum are given a character distinct from that of an international exhibition, bearing in mind the 1928 Convention regarding International Exhibitions.
5. The parties may, where necessary, conclude particular agreements between themselves or with other partners to implement specific activities involved in preparing for the Forum.
6. UNESCO shall, under the conditions stipulated in 29 C/Resolution 26, provide such technical services as may facilitate the achievement of the Forum's objectives, in particular by mobilizing the expertise at its disposal, by providing the organizers with appropriate information, by facilitating contact between the latter and the professional circles which are its partners, and by facilitating the participation of interested international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
7. The Consortium may be authorized by the Director-General of UNESCO to use the name, logo and seal of UNESCO under conditions and procedures to be proposed by the joint committee referred to in paragraph 8.
8. When the present agreement enters into force, UNESCO and the Consortium shall set up a joint cooperation committee in order effectively to coordinate their cooperation under the present agreement and resolution 26 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 29th session; the parties shall each designate one of their representatives on the joint committee as focal point.
9. Pursuant to 29 C/Resolution 26, the costs of the Forum shall be fully covered by the organizers and UNESCO's cooperation will have no budgetary implications for the Organization.
10. Each of the parties shall make available to the other appropriate facilities for the implementation of the present agreement.
11. The Director-General of UNESCO shall regularly inform the Executive Board of activities carried out under the present agreement and the aforesaid 29 C/Resolution 26; the Consortium shall likewise regularly report to its participating institutions; both parties shall exchange the information necessary to those ends.
12. This agreement shall become operative once it has been signed by both parties; it may thereafter be amended by their common consent. One year after the close of the Forum, the parties shall agree upon a date for expiry of the agreement.

ANNEX II

PLAN OF ACTION

Basic principle

The Universal Forum of Cultures is envisaged as a gathering place and a venue for reflection and the celebration of the plurality of humankind and its many different forms of expression. Its intention is thus to foster a culture of peace and cooperation, give impetus to sustainable and socially integrating development, and promote creativity as a manifestation of diversity.

The Forum sets out to be many things at once: an invitation to debate some of the major issues of the twenty-first century, a summons to all the cultures of the world to make their voices heard, and a planet-wide festival of the arts that will point up the wealth and diversity of each people.

It will accordingly be a major people's festival, a meeting place for civil society and an exceptional opportunity for fostering mutual acquaintance and enrichment between people of widely differing origins. Its goal right from the outset is to combine energies and proposals in favour of peace, dialogue and sustainable development. It is an invitation to the academic and scientific world, to the most representative civic organizations and to business and industry to become the Forum's main actors.

Faced with the challenge of organizing such a cultural summit for the first time, we believe that there are a number of factors in our favour. In the first place, there is a growing demand for cultural exchanges going hand-in-hand with the globalization of all human activities. We have a city and a country which, with the 1992 Olympic Games, demonstrated their ability to organize world-scale events and to do so with enthusiasm and popular involvement. We have an institutional agreement of considerable political significance and international repute, which enables us to act on behalf of the City Council of Barcelona, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia and the Spanish Government. We also enjoy the unanimous support of UNESCO, which lends the Forum its authority and international cultural standing.

The Forum

The first Universal Forum of Cultures will be inaugurated on 23 April 2004. It will coincide with World Book and Copyright Day proclaimed by UNESCO. It will close on 24 September on the occasion of the Feasts of the Merced, the patron saint of Barcelona.

The final phase of the Forum's activities will be spread over that 150-day period and will include thematic and policy debates, thematic exhibitions and the Festival of the Arts.

The Forum has already started, however. Before the year 2004, preparatory activities will take place in the form of meetings, lectures and symposia aimed at creating a worldwide network sympathetic to its goals. A first example of these preparatory activities is to be seen in the holding of the Study Days on the Media and the Image of the Other in Barcelona on 24 and

25 April 1999. These study days were organized on the basis of a theme of considerable importance in terms of intercultural dialogue, with the aim of contributing to the debate on the role of communication in identifying and constructing images of the Other.

Writers, journalists, communication specialists, thinkers, sociologists, anthropologists and other experts from all over the world have been invited to this first meeting, so that they can engage together in an initial exchange of ideas on this subject.

In addition to organizing events of this kind, right from its earliest years the Forum will also be a Virtual Forum, namely the Universal Forum of Cultures in cyberspace represented by the Internet, in which an ever-growing community of millions of people come together. The Forum's ambition is that virtual space will, for the first time in connection with a universal event, be as active a participant as the millions of people actually arriving in Barcelona from all over the world.

The aim of the Virtual Forum is to seek affinities on the Internet with people, associations, companies and institutions interested in the Forum. The idea is to transform such affinities into active participation and to lend impetus to the establishment of a network of Internet volunteers.

Themes for the Forum

The need for intercultural dialogue permeates all the Forum's activities and justifies the three main themes for debate, which have been chosen in the firm belief that they are relevant to the current concerns of humankind in a period of markedly accelerating change.

In proposing these three major themes, the Forum seeks to respond to the challenge of globalization by showing the other side of the picture: that of the cultural creativity of peoples and the complexity of human thinking.

The three themes are:

Cultures and peace (*the conditions of peace*): the Forum fully shares UNESCO's postulate that creating and encouraging the conditions for peace is the most effective way of avoiding war. Human rights education is the starting point for the Forum, which will seek to monitor conflicts with a cultural component by building bridges for dialogue between their protagonists and inviting them to take part in the Barcelona debates.

Cultures and sustainability (*the sustainable city*): urban development patterns are giving rise to the urgent, planet-wide need to ensure the sustainable management of large cities, home to over half of humanity. Without cities that are liveable in and without sustainable development, there can be no creating of conditions fostering togetherness, dialogue between people and peace.

Cultures and diversity (*cultural diversity*): the Forum will seek to facilitate communication between peoples and cultures. It is intent on combating the prejudices and stereotypes accompanying all forms of xenophobia and racism. There will be a debate on the challenges that globalization poses for culture, on the influences between East and West and between North and South, and on the future of minority cultures and the prospects for alternative cultures.

The Forum calls for wide-ranging collective reflection on these themes in a spirit of open-mindedness and without any doctrinaire pretensions, in an endeavour to foster a rewarding exchange between cultures, philosophical traditions and historical experiences with a determination to provide positive and viable answers to current problems.

With this in mind, the debates will be organized in accordance with imaginative methods and formats that permit new forms of democratic participation, with the help of the new information technologies.

Activities planned for the Forum

The Forum will bring together cultures from all over the world and afford them an opportunity of showing their creative capacity to others. It will call upon them to exchange experiences and to contrast their ideas and beliefs in a spirit of tolerance and respect that is mutually rewarding and stimulates cooperation.

The need for such dialogue means that **debates** will be one of the main formats of the Forum. Participants will be able to talk and engage in all kinds of dialogue on the various themes, including lectures, seminars, workshops, top-level policy meetings, and so on. In this regard, it would be an honour for the Forum to host in Barcelona a UNESCO World Conference in 2004, should this be part of the Organization's work plan.

There will be two other formats, the **World Festival of the Arts** and the **thematic exhibitions**, whose main purpose will be to illustrate the themes debated with historical, artistic and scientific displays.

The World Festival of the Arts will be held in Barcelona for a period of 150 days and will put on display the most varied range of cultures in all spheres of artistic creation, ranging from the work of established artists to that of artists who are struggling to emerge.

There will be festivals and performances of drama, cinema, painting, gastronomy, fashion and so on, representing a wide-ranging selection of art worldwide in a climate of stimulating creativity and competitiveness. Music, as one of the most universal of languages and a vector of communication between cultures, will occupy a prominent place and the Forum will be organizing a Festival of World Music among its many other activities.

The Forum will also in its closing stages include various thematic events highlighting the contacts and exchanges of many different kinds that have existed between cultures throughout history and in all sectors of human activity. These exhibitions will illustrate the difficulties involved in cultural exchanges and the conflicts and clashes that have occurred in this field, but will at the same time show how they have been a source of human, cultural, scientific and technological advancement for all cultures. For example, these exhibitions may deal with human rights education, the relationship between human beings and the natural elements, such as water, showing what all cultures have had to do in order to develop and advance. It is fitting to include here displays designed to illustrate the main thoroughfares of commercial and cultural exchanges, such as the Silk Road, the black Diaspora and the Roads of Faith as suggestive ways of illustrating the historical interrelationship of cultures.

The Forum's actors

Civil society will be the main protagonist of the Barcelona Forum in 2004. Its actors will not be States but will be composed of the different human communities interested in the issues raised by the Forum and standing ready to take part in it, along with institutions and bodies supporting the initiative.

The Forum will be open to all those accepting the spirit of dialogue and tolerance informing it. In particular, three main communities are proposed as the Forum's basic actors.

These are, first, the **education system**, and especially secondary and university education. The Forum will encourage the participation of young people, since they will be the actors of the future, but it will also encourage the presence of the academic and scientific communities which are the depositories of knowledge and are now organized on a worldwide scale on the basis of networks of universities already used to working together.

The second group would be made up of **voluntary organizations and NGOs** generally. The term is understood in its broadest sense, including not only humanitarian associations but the entire movement represented by non-governmental organizations. The NGOs represent the group that it is perhaps most difficult to circumscribe, since there are no clear-cut structures and, in many instances, the organizations involved are still quite young. However, the work they do and the range they cover make their presence essential in a forum for dialogue like the Universal Forum of Cultures.

The third group is composed of **business and industry**. In the global world of the twenty-first century, major companies clearly have a fundamental part to play in an event of this nature. In the first place, this is because they are expected to fund a substantial part of the activities connected with the Forum. A second - and more important - reason is that leading transnational corporations encounter in their own structure and internal life problems and challenges stemming from cultural diversity. To take just the diverse cultural origins of the suppliers, customers and management team of a transnational corporation, it is quite clearly in the latter's interest to promote in-house cultural dialogue.

Obviously, alongside these three main groups, the Forum will seek to establish practical alliances with other prominent actors concurring with its universal aims. For instance, in addition to UNESCO, its main partner, the Forum wishes to invite other organizations of the United Nations system conversant with its themes, regional organizations (the European Union, NAFTA, Mercosur, etc.), political and trade union organizations, social movements, religious denominations and other bodies, all sharing the Forum's goals.

Timetable

When the Forum's Organizing Consortium was established, an inter-institutional agreement was concluded on the drafting of a timetable divided into two main periods: 1999-2000 and 2001-2004. We could thus offer an initial timetable or chronological guide as follows:

November 1997 Approval of the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004 by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 29th session.

July 1998 International Tripartite Agreement between the Spanish Government, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia and the City Council of Barcelona on the establishment of a Consortium responsible for the preparation, organization and staging of the Forum.

September 1998 Inauguration of the Virtual Forum, i.e. the Universal Forum of Cultures on the Internet.

1999-2000 This is the period in which the Forum is engaged in defining its aims and in preparing a whole set of cultural projects for submission to the governing bodies of the Organizing Consortium at the end of the year 2000. The idea is to identify, during this period, all the projects and actors worldwide that are expected to take part in the Forum. The aim over these two years is to publicize the Forum internationally and to put together proposals for projects connected with the Forum's themes originating in all parts of the world.

The target would be to present, by the end of the year 2000, a list of projects with their action plans, actors, timetables and funding arrangements, with a view to enabling the three partners in the Consortium to decide which projects will ultimately be included in the programme for the First Universal Forum of Cultures.

For the purpose of preparing these projects, the Forum's management team has appointed an Advisory Commission composed of outstanding figures in the professional, scientific and intellectual fields.

The Forum likewise intends to establish, at the end of 1999, an International Supporting Commission composed of leading figures from cultural, academic, scientific and other sectors the world over. This Commission's basic task will be to contribute ideas and work in collaboration with the Forum throughout the preparatory stage.

2000 Presentation of the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004 by the Organizing Consortium and its main partner, UNESCO.

2001-2003 This is the period in which the Forum's different projects will be implemented. The main actors involved in the various projects selected

will be appointed. Schedules will be drawn up for construction work, financing plans, marketing policy and related activities.

At the same time, international campaigns to promote the Forum will be launched in an endeavour to ensure that the largest possible number of both actors and participants become involved in the various activities. Ways and means will be sought of helping actors from the less favoured countries to take part in the Forum.

2004

23 April to 24 September: Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004.

2004-2005

Follow-up to the Forum. Compilation of proposals arising out of the Forum's activities. These will probably take the form of a Barcelona Declaration and will be communicated to the various organizations concerned with and striving for dialogue, peace and sustainability, particularly those of the United Nations system.