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**DRAFT RESOLUTIONS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS
TO THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET
FOR 2002-2003 (31 C/5)**

OUTLINE

This document presents a summary of the amendments proposed by Member States under Major Programme V of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2002-2003 that are examined by Commission V, and the Director-General's observations on these amendments.

**MAJOR PROGRAMME V
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION**

Main trends

The draft resolutions considered admissible under Major Programme V reflect the priority that Member States accord to the topic of the information society and the construction of a knowledge society, both in terms of access and increased participation. Special attention is also given to building capabilities in information and communication technologies (ICTs) and promoting freedom of the media and the press.

N.B.: It should be noted that:

*Although **draft resolution 5 (Cuba)** refers formally to Major Programme IV and is being examined in Commission IV, it is also proposed for examination in Commission V, as it concerns the preservation of audiovisual heritage.*

*Although **draft resolution 21 (Kenya)** refers formally to Major Programme V and is being examined in Commission V, it is also proposed for examination in Commission III, as it concerns the development of a marine information centre.*

***Draft resolution 60 (Peru)** concerning the development of criteria for evaluation, for monitoring of implementation and for impact assessment of projects pertaining to the eradication of poverty and the need for intersectoral cooperation and coordination with other United Nations agencies and funds is also being examined in Commissions I, II, III and IV.*

Programme V.1 Promoting equitable access to information and knowledge, especially in the public domain

1. Draft resolution 53 (Cameroon and Senegal) proposes to include in the proposed resolution concerning Subprogramme V.1.1 “Formulating principles, policies and strategies to widen access to information and knowledge”, paragraph 05110, subparagraph (a)(ii), a specific reference to Africa in the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003; Tunis, 2005). A budget of \$75,000 (to be financed from extrabudgetary resources) is required for the organization of an African regional conference preparing the Summit.

The Director-General recognizes the importance of involving all Member States in the preparation of UNESCO’s input to the World Summit on the Information Society. He, therefore, has foreseen the organization of regional pre-conferences in all regions, including Africa, and has earmarked the necessary funds to this effect.

In keeping with the objectives set out in draft document 31 C/4 (paragraph 31), the Director-General will endeavour to respond to the specific needs of the African region throughout the programme, and especially when organizing consultations for the Summit.

Hence, he does not believe it necessary to refer explicitly to Africa in the proposed resolution contained in paragraph 05110.

[31 C/5, para. 05110]

2. Draft resolution 21 (Kenya) suggests an addition to the proposed resolution concerning Subprogramme V.1.2 “Development of infrastructure and building capabilities for increased participation in the knowledge society”, paragraph 05120, subparagraph (iii), authorizing the Director-General to “assist in the development of a marine information centre for countries in the Western Indian Ocean Region”. The budgetary implications amount to \$150,000.

The Director-General observes the close relation that this proposal has with the work of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) as reflected in Major Programme II, paragraph 02250. He considers that the development of such an information centre should be closely related to the creation of the UNESCO/IOC ocean sub-portal proposed in paragraph 05425 (“Projects related to cross-cutting themes/The contribution of ICTs to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society/UNESCO Knowledge Portal”). Technical and financial support for the creation of this virtual centre could be envisaged from the regular budget as well as through extrabudgetary resources.

Therefore, the Director-General feels that it is not necessary to amend the proposed resolution.

[31 C/5, para. 05120]

3. Draft resolution 5 (Cuba) seeks to amend the proposed resolution concerning Subprogramme IV.2.1 “Safeguarding and revitalization of the tangible and intangible heritage”, paragraph 04210, by adding a new subparagraph (iv) authorizing the Director-General to “promote, support and develop the preservation of the audiovisual heritage”. The proposed budget amounts to \$50,000.

The Director-General recognizes the need for action to preserve the audiovisual heritage and supports measures to strengthen ties and cooperation between the film industry and the archival profession. He wishes to point out that this proposal referring to paragraph 04210, is closely related to the action envisaged under Major Programme V, paragraph 05120(i), concerning the preservation and dissemination of the world’s documentary heritage.

Although the organization of a seminar in the Latin America and the Caribbean region will serve to sensitize key players to the urgency of the situation in this matter, training must be supplemented by a legislative framework and the acquisition of equipment to reinforce future development. Moreover, both financial and institutional backing would be required for the preparation of a regional preservation plan.

Therefore, should the General Conference approve this proposal, it should also decide on the programme under which it should be implemented and the means by which the activities will be financed.

[31 C/5, para. 05120]

4. Draft resolution 65 (Hungary) seeks to amend the proposed resolution contained in paragraph 05120 by adding two new subparagraphs concerning the safeguarding of the digital heritage with particular emphasis on the digital heritage of UNESCO and other United Nations agencies. The budgetary implications amount to \$200,000.

The Director-General appreciates the offer of the Hungarian authorities to cooperate in international efforts to safeguard the digital heritage.

He observes the close relation that this proposal has with the project “Preserving our digital heritage” relating to the cross-cutting theme “The contribution of ICTs to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society” (paragraph 05422). The activities proposed in the explanatory note to the draft resolution (“Conferences, studies, international cooperation, etc.”) would be carried out in close cooperation with this project, provided that extrabudgetary funds can be identified.

Therefore, the General Conference may wish to consider the adoption of the proposed subparagraphs.

[31 C/5, para. 05120]

Programme V.2 Promoting freedom of expression and strengthening communication capacities

5. Draft resolution 14 (Islamic Republic of Iran) seeks to amend the proposed resolution concerning Subprogramme V.2.1 “Freedom of expression, democracy and peace”, paragraph 05210, by adding in subparagraph (a)(ii) after “media organizations”, the words “conducting comparative studies on national legislations in the field of media and providing advisory services based on the results of those studies”. The budgetary implications amount to \$50,000.

The Director-General supports the contents of this proposal, which is fully in line with UNESCO’s main objectives in the area of promoting freedom of expression and freedom of the press. Conducting comparative studies in the field of national media legislation and providing advisory services on this topic form part of the Organization’s mandate and would indeed contribute to creating the conditions for the functioning of the media in a free and democratic setting.

Should the General Conference decide to approve this proposal, it should also decide on the amount to be approved and identify the main lines of action or the chapters in document 31 C/5 from which that amount should be drawn.

[31 C/5, para. 05210]

6. Draft resolution 15 (Islamic Republic of Iran) aims at modifying the proposed resolution concerning Subprogramme V.2.2 “Strengthening communication capacities”, paragraph 05220, by adding to the second subparagraph (a)(ii), the words “and by supporting the establishment of new training centres”. It is proposed, in the Explanatory Note, that a subregional communication training centre for Central and West Asian countries be established, which would have budgetary implications of \$65,000.

The Director-General recognizes the importance of improving training of communication specialists. He wishes to point out that UNESCO has in the past years supported the establishment of several training centres for journalists worldwide. Building upon this past experience, emphasis is now being placed on the pooling of knowledge and networking among training institutions, rather than the setting up of new ones.

Therefore, while sharing the concern of the sponsors of this draft resolution, he considers that the objectives pursued in this proposal could be best taken into account within the framework of UNESCO’s programme in support of existing regional training institutions, such as the Asian Media and Information Centre (AMIC).

However, should the General Conference decide to approve this proposal, it should also decide on the amount to be approved and identify the main lines of action or the chapters in document 31 C/5 from which that amount should be drawn.

[31 C/5, para. 05220]

Projects relating to cross-cutting themes

7. Draft resolution 60 (Peru)¹ seeks to modify the proposed resolutions related to the cross-cutting theme “Eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty”, under all major programmes and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), paragraphs 01400, 02400, 03400, 04400, 05400 and 06400, by adding two new subparagraphs proposing that UNESCO (i) develop criteria for the evaluation and monitoring as well as for impact assessment of projects pertaining to the eradication of poverty, and (ii) ensure intersectoral cooperation and coordination with other United Nations agencies and Funds in order to enhance the coherence and learning process in the execution of approved projects. The budgetary implications of this draft resolution to be financed by extrabudgetary sources would amount to \$200,000.

The Director-General fully supports this proposal, which is in line with the objectives and principles of the proposed strategy for “Eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty” outlined in the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (paragraphs 173 to 196).

[31 C/5, para. 05400]

8. Draft resolution 74 (Benin) aims at including in the proposed resolution on projects related to cross-cutting themes, paragraph 05400, a new subparagraph concerning the “access to and use of informatics tools by LDCs, particularly LDCs in Africa”, thereby contributing to reducing the digital divide.

While fully appreciating the concerns expressed in this draft resolution, the Director-General observes that a variety of measures to narrow this gap and foster access of developing countries to ICTs are already contained in the proposed resolutions referred to in paragraphs 05110 (Formulating principles, policies and strategies to widen access to information and knowledge), 05120 (Development of infostructure and building capabilities for increased participation in the knowledge society) and 05220 (Strengthening of communication capacities).

Furthermore, in line with the principles outlined in paragraph 31 of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy, UNESCO is committed to fostering the development of LDCs as part of the overall mainstreaming of Africa throughout all programmes and increasing their access to ICTs. Therefore, the Director-General wishes to assure the sponsors of the Draft Resolution that due account will be taken of the specific needs of LDCs, particularly those in the Africa region, in the implementation of the activities and projects foreseen in document 31 C/5.

However, he has no major objection, should the General Conference so decide, to the addition of the proposed subparagraph to paragraph 05400.

[31 C/5, para. 05400]

¹ This draft resolution will also be examined in Commissions I, II, III and IV.