



## Conférence générale

31<sup>e</sup> session  
Projet de résolution

## Генеральная конференция

31-я сессия  
Проект резолюции

dr

Paris 2001

## General Conference

31<sup>st</sup> session  
Draft resolution

## المؤتمر العام

الدورة الحادية والثلاثون  
مشروعات القرارات

## Conferencia General

31<sup>a</sup> reunión  
Proyecto de resolución

## 大会

第三十一届会议  
决议草案

31 C/DR.79\*  
(COM.V)  
18 October 2001  
Original: English

### Item 4.3 of the agenda

#### **Amendment to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2002-2003 (31 C/5)**

submitted by NETHERLANDS

#### **Part II.A – Major Programmes, Projects relating to cross-cutting themes**

Major Programme	V	- Communication and information
Programme	V.1	- Promoting equitable access to information and knowledge, especially in the public domain
Subprogramme	V.1.2	- Development of infostructure and building capabilities for increased participation in the knowledge society; (related to the main line of action 1, Promoting wider access to information in the public domain and Memory of the World, paragraph 05121)
Projects relating to Cross-cutting themes		-The contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society; (related to the project Preserving digital heritage under paragraph 05422)
Resolution (31 C/5, paragraph No.)		- 05120-05400
Budgetary implications indicated by the sponsor		- \$
Source of financing proposed by the sponsor		-

\* This proposal was received by the Secretariat on 31 August 2001.

The General Conference,

1. Considering that the world's cultural, educational, scientific, public and administrative resources, as well as technical and medical information, are increasingly produced, distributed and accessed only in digital form (born-digital materials),
2. Underlining that digital information is highly susceptible to technical obsolescence and physical decay and that maintaining ongoing access to digital information resources requires long-term commitment,
3. Noting the importance the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) places on libraries taking an active role in managing the digital information resources produced in their countries,<sup>1</sup>
4. Also noting with interest that the International Council on Archives (ICA) has emphasized the need to ensure continuing access to the content and functionality of authentic electronic records and has called upon National Archivists to provide leadership in this matter,<sup>2</sup>
5. Considering that the preparation of standard-setting instruments in the field of culture and information is an important and universally valued task of UNESCO, lying in the very hearts of its mandate,
6. Recalling that the preservation of the digital heritage constitutes an important aspect of UNESCO's Draft Medium Term Strategy for 2002-2007 (31 C/4) as stated in paragraphs 208, 209, 210 and 211 of the C/4 document, which includes the launching of an international campaign to safeguard endangered digital memory and the drafting of guidelines for the preservation of digital heritage and for preserving materials in digital form,
7. Also recalling UNESCO's determination, as expressed in the Draft Medium Term Strategy (31 C/4) under strategic objective 12, paragraph 171, to give encouragement to the formation or strengthening of existing networks of archives, libraries and other documentation services through institutional support and to the establishment of a world network of developers and users of digital information management and processing tools,
8. Welcoming the activities proposed in the cross-cutting project *Preserving our digital heritage* as described in paragraph 05422 of the Draft Programme and Budget 2002-2003 (C/5) to provide a framework for the identification, protection, conservation and transmission to future generations of the digital heritage, especially through the adoption of an international charter for the preservation of digital heritage,
9. Noting that the preservation of digital heritage and the adoption of an international charter on digital heritage has also been included in the Draft Programme and

---

<sup>1</sup> Annual Meeting of August 2000.

<sup>2</sup> 14th International Congress (Seville, Spain, September 2000).

Budget (C/5) under Major Programme V in the main line of action Promoting wider access to information in the public domain and Memory of the World (paragraph 05121), which reflects the close link between documentary heritage and digital heritage but at the same time introduces budgetary uncertainty on the allocation of budget to this activity,

10. Stressing that the cross-cutting themes must be integrated fully by all programmes and that their linkages must be highlighted as recommended by the Executive Board at its 161st session,
11. Invites the Director-General:
  - (a) to specify in **paragraph 05120** of the 31 C/5 document that part of the budget allocated in Major Programme V to the main line of action *Promoting wider access to information in the public domain and Memory of the World* (paragraph 05121) will be as well allocated to activities aiming at the preservation of digital heritage, and request the following amendment to paragraph 05120, adding to (ii): “...the world’s documentary heritage, **the preservation of digital heritage**, and ensuring...”;
  - (b) to indicate in **paragraph 05400** that the cross-cutting projects will firstly contribute to achieve the expected results included in the main lines of action of Major Programme V, and request the following amendment to paragraph 05400, adding at the end of (a) just before (i): “which are aimed at **reinforcing and carrying further the activities under Major Programme V by: (i) empowering...**”;
  - (c) to coherently present in future C/5 documents the efforts undertaken by UNESCO in the field of preservation of the digital memory of the world, by not only specifying the budgetary and formal links between the various activities proposed in the C/5 document, but also by clearly indicating the link between the relevant strategies in C/4 and the activities proposed in C/5;
  - (d) to prepare for the 164th session of the Executive Board a discussion paper containing elements of a draft charter on the preservation of digital heritage. This draft charter should be submitted for adoption to the General Conference at its 32nd session in 2003;
  - (e) to elaborate the principles for the preservation and continuing accessibility of the ever growing digital heritage of the world, in close cooperation with all actors involved including libraries, archives and museums;
  - (f) to promote the use of open standards, adherence to standards in the creation of materials, and the development of standard solutions in conjunction with the IT industry;

- (g) to raise awareness among governments and other information producers and holders of the need to safeguard the digital memory of the world as much as possible in its authentic form;
- (h) to encourage the Member States of UNESCO, governmental and non-governmental organizations and international, national and private institutions to ensure that preservation of their digital heritage be given high priority at the national policy level;
- (i) to encourage the Member States of UNESCO to eventually adapt national legislations and regulations for national deposit so as to ensure the preservation of and the permanent access to digitally produced materials;
- (j) to provide tools for Member States to establish systems for the monitoring of the state of preservation of digital collections;
- (k) to take steps to make sure that digital repositories are set up for documents, publications and archives of UNESCO and of other United Nations Agencies.