



## 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/4 DR.3\*

17 October 2001

Original: French

### Item 3.1 of the agenda

#### **Amendment to the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 (31 C/4)**

submitted by TOGO

#### **Sciences**

#### **Supplementary strategic objective**

Encouraging scientific research with a view to:

- characterizing the contexts/systems of power in the regions where UNESCO takes action;
- identifying how those systems of power react to the findings of critical studies in order, *inter alia*, to determine how sensitive the systems are to UNESCO's concerns;
- predicting how those systems of power are likely to evolve and the implications for fulfilment of UNESCO's ideals; and
- defining pertinent, realistic strategies that enable the behaviour of those systems to be modified so that research findings can actually be adopted and put to effective use.

Even at best UNESCO's ethical and scientific concerns do not quite tally with the dominant interests of the world of political decision-makers and business. Yet successful use of the findings of research that is initiated and sponsored by UNESCO will depend to a significant extent on the characteristics of that world, or in other words the contexts or systems of power, be they national or international, and their functional machinery, and on how they evolve over time.

As a result, concern for the social utility of the findings of scientific research – and, therefore, for their effective adoption and application – requires that UNESCO should also encourage research with a view to:

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\* This proposal was received by the Secretariat on 25 September 2001.

- (a) characterizing the existing contexts/systems of economic and financial, technological, politico-ideological, military, media and other forms of power;
- (b) finding out how those systems react to new critical scientific knowledge – in order to determine how conducive or inimical those contexts/systems are to the pursuit of UNESCO's objectives;
- (c) predicting how those systems of power will evolve and anticipating the effects of that evolution on the achievement of UNESCO's ideals; and
- (d) identifying the possibilities of influencing the systems of power in order to improve the fulfilment of the Organization's aims – which will mean defining pertinent, realistic strategies whose implementation should enable those systems to change their behaviour and become genuine supporters and promoters of the same values, ideals and principles as those that the Organization defends.

Without this supplementary investment effort the social effectiveness of UNESCO's major financial commitments to scientific research may turn out to be a pipe dream, since there will always be lobbies placing barriers of different kinds in its way.

## **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY (2002-2007)**

1. On strategic objective 4  
(paragraphs 84 and 85)

Our country supports the proposal for standard-setting, policy formulation and awareness-raising regarding ethical issues. UNESCO's existing specialized committees and commissions should play a decisive role in ensuring that the principles and ethical standards defined by the concert of nations are respected. It is important to devise machinery that can prevent isolated individuals or institutions from conducting experiments that contravene those principles.

Our country would like to benefit from UNESCO's experience to set up a national body responsible for the ethics of science and technology. Such a structure will have an important part to play in raising awareness among decision-makers and in the introduction of legal instruments to ensure compliance with ethical standards.

- On the promotion and protection of human rights

Paragraphs 86-88 of document 31 C/4 mention the measures recommended by UNESCO for the promotion and protection of human rights and, in paragraph 87, of women's rights in particular. It would be advisable to add another paragraph dealing exclusively with children's rights since, as everyone knows, children are the most fragile link in human societies.

In UNESCO's programmes special emphasis should be laid on education, health and the fight against hunger and delinquency.

2. On strategic objective 5

Our country supports the idea that the sciences should refocus on acute and major societal needs and integrate human rights concerns. Issues related to renewable energies are important for tropical countries.