

Hundred and sixty-sixth Session

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Item 9.1 of the provisional agenda

**RECENT DECISIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF RELEVANCE TO THE WORK OF UNESCO**

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraph 3 of 103 EX/Decisions 6.1 and 6.2 and 124 EX/Decision 6.1, the Director-General informs the Executive Board of decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of interest to UNESCO that have been adopted or have taken place since the 164th session of the Board.

In accordance with 103 EX/Decisions 6.1 and 6.2, paragraph 4(b), the Director-General has decided to include in the agenda the sub-items indicated in the table of contents of this document. Other resolutions although of relevance to UNESCO but that do not require a decision by the Board are only listed in Annex II of this document for information.

Decision proposed: paragraphs 8, 12, 18, 22 and 26.

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INTRODUCTION

AN OVERVIEW OF THE 57th GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

1. The 57th regular session of the General Assembly will be remembered for the announcement made by the President of the United States of America regarding the return of his country to the membership of UNESCO after almost two decades of absence. The other major event during the session was the presentation of the new Secretary-General's reform programme in his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change". In the background, the situation involving the Security Council and Iraq, and the aftermath of 11 September continued to brew and overshadow the session, without affecting it in any direct way.

2. The regular session (September-December 2002) laboured, as usual, with a heavy agenda (170 items), adopting about 300 resolutions, several of them of direct relevance and importance to UNESCO priorities and programmes. These resolutions can be clarified roughly in three categories:

A. The first category – General Assembly resolutions of direct relevance and importance to UNESCO and on which the Board would need to be informed and afforded the chance to take a decision. Because there are no relevant agenda items in this session, these resolutions are inscribed as sub-items under 9.1 in this document. These are: United Nations Literacy Decade (resolution 57/166); United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage (resolution 57/158); United Nations Reform (resolution 57/300); the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition: 2004 (resolution 57/159) and Culture and Development (resolution 57/249).

B. The second category includes General Assembly resolutions relevant to UNESCO that could be considered under existing agenda items by the Board at this session. These are: under item 3.12 (Report of the Director-General on the follow-up to decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its previous sessions): General Assembly resolution 57/252 – Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater 2003; resolution 57/237 – Global biotechnology forum: Chile 2003; resolution 57/276 – Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; resolution 57/253 – World Summit on Sustainable Development; resolution 57/2 – United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for the Development of Africa; resolution 57/7 – Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and Support of Africa for the NEPAD; resolution 57/296 – Causes of conflicts and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

Under item 8.5 (Annual Report (2002) by the International Civil Service Commission: Report by the Director-General: resolution 57/285 – United Nations common system.

C. The third category includes resolutions of interest to UNESCO. A list of these resolutions is annexed for information.

3. During the 164th session, and while considering this item on "Recent Decisions" in the PX Commission, some delegations argued that it would be preferable if the report on "Recent Decisions" is subsumed under the item on the Report of the Director-General on the follow-up of decisions adopted by the Board or any other such general report by the Director-General.

4. This report remained as a separate item in accordance with previous decisions of the Board, as reflected in the Summary on the cover page of this document (103 EX/Decisions 6.1 and 6.2, and 124 EX/Decision 6.1). Subsuming "Recent Decisions" under a general item to reduce the Board's

agenda would result in adding several separate items to enable the Board to respond to resolutions of the General Assembly, thus defeating the very purpose of reducing the number of items on the Board's agenda. It should be noted here, that through the last four years, the report on "Recent Decisions" was greatly rationalized and streamlined, from a document of more than 60 pages in two parts to a single document of about 10 pages.

5. As customary, document 166 EX/37 has annexes that contain additional useful information. Annex I contains the most important appointments to the most senior posts in the United Nations as well as composition of major organs; Annex II contains a list of General Assembly resolutions of importance or relevance to UNESCO and Annex III contains a list of United Nations and International Days, Years and Decades (new and existing).

9.1.1 United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all (resolution 57/166)

6. In resolution 57/166 entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all", the General Assembly welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade which was prepared by UNESCO and submitted to the Assembly. This resolution concludes a long phase that commenced more than five years ago with a proposal by a number of Member States on a United Nations Literacy Decade, and ended by adopting an International Plan for such a decade. The next phase starting 2003 is actions to implement the Plan. To achieve this, the Assembly called for plans at the national level (where it matters most), resources from a variety of sources, involvement of civil society and professional groups, and coordination at the international level which is entrusted to UNESCO within the process of Education for All.

UNESCO action

7. To ensure effective implementation of the Plan for the Decade, UNESCO is following a two-pronged approach: (a) an awareness-raising/public information strategy on the one hand; and (b) a working strategy, "road map" on how UNESCO plans to play its role as coordinator of the Decade.

- (a) The awareness-raising public information campaign has as a centre piece, a launching ceremony for the Decade, which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 13 February to give it maximum visibility and impact. The objective of the campaign is to focus attention on the problem of literacy in order to raise public awareness around the world and commitment to its implementation, and to mobilize the necessary resources for national plans of action. The launching ceremony included two parts; the first part was the official launching addressed by the President of the General Assembly, the President of Mongolia (Chief Sponsor of the original resolution), the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of UNESCO, representatives of regional groups in the Assembly, a female literacy learner and a literacy teacher. The actual ceremony took place in Conference Room IV, accompanied by an inter-agency literacy exhibition organized by UNESCO. The launch ceremony and ribbon-cutting was attended by Mrs Nane Annan (Mrs Kofi Annan), the Director-General of UNESCO, other Heads of United Nations entities, Ambassadors to the United Nations, Goodwill Ambassadors, literacy NGOs, including youth groups and volunteers. The second part of the launching, an evening media event, was attended by the US First Lady, Mrs Laura Bush.
- (b) In paragraph 8 of resolution 57/166, the General Assembly decided that UNESCO "take a coordinating role in stimulating and catalysing the activities undertaken at the international level within the framework of the Decade in a manner that is complementary to, and coordinated with the ongoing process of Education for All".

This means that UNESCO would be the “motor” of the United Nations system and partner in the field of literacy, providing, through its expertise and experience, the leadership that would mobilize international technical and financial support to national efforts. The Secretariat is now finalizing such a strategy to convert the political will reflected in the General Assembly resolution into financial and technical support. The strategy will include inter-agency cooperation and coordination as well as cooperation with other actors and stakeholders. The strategy could also include modalities for follow-up, monitoring and reporting regularly both to the Board and to the General Assembly. The first report on the implementation of the International Plan of Action is required for the 59th General Assembly session (2004).

8. In the light of the above information, the Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling its decision 164 EX/Decision 7.1.1 and General Assembly resolution 56/116 on the United Nations Literacy Decade,
2. Takes note with deep appreciation of General Assembly resolution 57/166 on the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade in which UNESCO is designated coordinating agency for the Decade;
3. Encourages the Director-General to devise the necessary modalities and strategies to ensure that UNESCO effectively plays its lead role in the United Nations system for the Decade;
4. Requests the Director-General to report regularly on the implementation of the Plan and authorize him to prepare the report requested by resolution 57/166 for the General Assembly at its 59th session in 2004.

9.1.2 United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, 2002

9. In resolution 57/158 on the above title, adopted by consensus, the General Assembly, taking into account the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural Heritage in 2002, declared the year concluded but invited UNESCO, governments and relevant United Nations organizations to continue implementing activities to promote and protect the World Cultural Heritage, and reaffirmed the importance of developing international mechanisms for safeguarding and protecting the World Cultural Heritage, encouraging UNESCO to explore ways to intensify international cooperation in this regard.

10. General Assembly resolution 57/158 invites the Director-General to address and present to the Assembly at its 58th session (2003) an overview of the activities undertaken during the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage. According to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly Executive Heads of agencies can only address the plenary of the General Assembly if an explicit invitation is issued by the General Assembly – an occurrence that is very rare.

UNESCO action

11. Several activities have successfully crowned the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage during 2002 at international, national and local levels organized by Member States and UNESCO, among others: the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage (Venice, Italy, November 2002) which led in particular to emerging

new partnerships with the private sector and States Parties to the Convention; the adoption of the Budapest Declaration on World Heritage (June 2002); the holding of the Roundtable of Ministers of Culture on the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Mirror of Cultural Diversity (Turkey, September 2002); organizing the First Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on the Preparatory Project of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, September 2002); the First International Seminar on the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage (Kabul, May 2002); and the First International Meeting on the Draft Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage (Brussels, December 2002). In addition, and in response to General Assembly resolution 57/158, UNESCO will organize in Paris in March 2003 an inter-agency meeting on the follow-up to the Year discussing new avenues of cooperation in this regard.

12. In the light of the above information, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Takes note of General Assembly resolution 57/158 on the conclusion of the Year for Cultural Heritage;
2. Takes note also with appreciation of the invitation to the Director-General to address the Plenary of the General Assembly during its 58th session in 2003;
3. Encourages the Director-General to utilize this opportunity to maintain the momentum generated by the Year in raising awareness of, and attention to, safeguarding and protecting national and world cultural heritage.

9.1.3 United Nations Reforms

13. At the beginning of the 57th General Assembly session, the Secretary-General issued his new reform proposals "Strengthening of the United Nations: an Agenda for further change" (document A/57/387 – for full text refer to www.un.org). These new reform measures came five years after the Secretary-General's 1997 reforms which were reported to the Board. The Secretary-General's report includes 36 recommended measures in seven sections that could be summarized as follows: I. "An introduction" reviewing the achievements over the last five years; II. "Doing what matters" focusing on priorities; III. "Serving Member States" improving and streamlining management of meetings and documentation; IV. "Working better together" on improving coordination at Headquarters, regional and field levels and defining roles; V. "Allocating resources to priorities" on rationalizing budgeting and programming process in the United Nations; VI. "The Organization and people" on staff affairs and concerns; VII. "Managing change" on implementation which is entrusted to the Deputy Secretary-General.

14. The bulk of the proposed reform measures are of concern to the United Nations itself and its funds and programmes, mostly "housekeeping" measures to rationalize and streamline various processes. Four areas are, however, of particular interest to UNESCO (and other agencies). Under section IV "Working better together", the Secretary-General called for increased coordination at the field level and he will report in September 2003 on his detailed proposals. He also suggested that roles and responsibilities of United Nations entities should be clarified regarding the delivery of technical assistance. His report on this proposal will also be presented in September 2003. The other two areas of interest are the proposal regarding facilitating mobility of staff across the United Nations system, and reviewing the relationship with civil society organizations.

15. In resolution 57/300 the Assembly reacted in great detail to the Secretary-General's report, generally agreeing with his proposed measures in the field of "housekeeping" and welcoming his intention to report to it in September 2003 on field coordination and the "division of labour" in the provision of technical assistance.

UNESCO action

16. The two reports to be provided by the Secretary-General in September are of particular importance and relevance to UNESCO (and other agencies), as they might impact on their roles in future in the delivery of technical assistance specially at the field level. UNESCO is therefore paying close attention to the preparation of these reports, consulting closely with other agencies (FAO, WHO, ILO). UNESCO representatives in inter-agency machinery like the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB – former ACC) and its high-level committees on programme and management, in the United Nations Development Group and its subsidiary machinery, are following developments to ensure that its role and competence are taken into account in the eventual proposals to be included in the Secretary-General's reports.

17. It must be recalled that the Secretary-General has proposed in his reform programme of 1997 the establishment of a Ministerial Commission to review the "division of labour" across the United Nations system, a proposal that died quietly. It is now resurrected (in a much reduced scope) in his new reform proposals, focusing on delivery of technical assistance and on field coordination. The Board will be regularly informed with regard to the progress in these two areas.

18. In the light of the above information, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Takes note of General Assembly resolution 57/300 entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: and agenda for further change", containing the Secretary-General's new reform measures;
2. Requests the Director-General to closely follow the elaboration of the Secretary-General's proposals of importance to UNESCO, and to keep the Board informed.

9.1.4 2004, International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition

19. Within the framework of the adoption of resolution 57/195 entitled "The fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and the comprehensive implementation and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action", the General Assembly, welcoming 31 C/Resolution 28 of 2 November 2001 on the proclamation of 2004 as International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against slavery and its abolition, and in this context, noting the Organization's Slave Route project, decides to proclaim **2004 the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition**. In this resolution, the General Assembly does not entrust UNESCO with any specific actions.

UNESCO action

20. At the request of UNESCO's General Conference, the General Assembly of the United Nations, at its 57th session, proclaimed 2004 as the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition (December 2002), making reference, *inter alia*, to the UNESCO Slave Route project, recognized as a priority in the Durban Declaration and Programme

of Action. That was the context in which the members of the Task Force on UNESCO Activities relating to the Study of the Slave Trade and its Implications, established by the Director-General, met on 20 and 21 January 2003 in order to identify the major lines of the programme that the Director-General would be presenting to the General Conference at its 32nd session, in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of 31 C/Resolution 28, which calls for the preparation, on the basis of the proposals of Member States, of the draft programme for the event. The persistence even today of various forms of discrimination makes this commemoration especially relevant, notably as a way of sensitizing young people to the issue. The commemoration should accordingly be universal in scope, focusing not solely on the past but also enabling a lucid assessment of the present and an identification of sustainable approaches for the future.

21. UNESCO's efforts are focused on three major priorities, within an intersectoral, pluridisciplinary, inter-institutional approach anchored principally in the Slave Route project. The establishment of a communication strategy will be an important component of this process, which will be based, on the one hand, on scientific research and, on the other, on dialogue around a shared heritage. Special efforts will be made to develop inter-institutional partnerships, notably in Africa. The Director-General will submit to the General Conference at its 32nd session a detailed programme for the commemoration of the Year, to be prepared on the basis of proposals submitted by the Member States of UNESCO and in light of the Executive Board's debate on the commemoration at its current session.

22. In light of these observations on the celebration of 2004 as the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having noted with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 57/195 entitled "The fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action" in which it proclaims 2004 as the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition,
2. Recognizing the historic importance of this commemoration, the scope of which is universal because slavery was a wound inflicted on humanity as a whole,
3. Invites the Director-General to pursue his consultations with the Member States and with civil society in order to receive proposals with a view to the elaboration of a programme of activities for the celebration of the Year 2004;
4. Invites the Member States and the international community to participate actively in and to contribute to the commemoration activities organized for the Year 2004;
5. Also invites the Director-General to submit to the General Conference at its 32nd session a proposal on events to be held during the commemoration and on long-term programmes to be developed for "post-2004".

9.1.5 Culture and Development: World Day for Cultural Diversity

23. The General Assembly adopted resolution 57/249 on Culture and development under which it proclaimed 21 May of each year as World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, echoing the World Day for Cultural Development commemorated during the World Decade for Cultural Development. Among general recommendations contained in this resolution,

the General Assembly invites all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system and relevant non-governmental organizations to: (a) ensure in cooperation with UNESCO the implementation of the Action Plan of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity; (b) to raise public awareness of the value and importance of cultural diversity and, in particular, to encourage through education and the media, knowledge of the positive value of cultural diversity.

UNESCO action

24. As requested by the General Assembly of the United Nations, UNESCO submitted to the Assembly at its 57th session a report on the implementation of resolution 55/192 (Culture and development) presenting the Organization's strategy concerning the ties between culture and development and the progress it had made in establishing standards in the service of culture. In that connection, the Secretariat submitted to the General Assembly UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its Action Plan, adopted by the General Conference at its 31st session on 2 November 2001, and proposed that 21 May be proclaimed as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

25. In accordance with Article 12 of its Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (The role of UNESCO), the Organization must serve as a reference point and a forum with regard to these new challenges, thereby contributing to the elaboration of a global vision reflecting values which are unequivocally shared and translated into a common language. In pursuance of the Declaration's Action Plan, UNESCO has, since the adoption of the Declaration in 2001, contributed actively to its implementation, notably through efforts to raise awareness and to disseminate the principles of the Declaration and by organizing forums for reflection in conjunction with some of the major international conferences (World Social Forum II and III at Porto Alegre, Johannesburg summit, Francophone Summit in Lebanon, first meeting of the Ministers of culture of the Americas in Colombia).

26. In light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Welcoming with satisfaction resolution 57/249 (Culture and development) in which the United Nations General Assembly welcomes, inter alia, the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the main orientations of the accompanying Action Plan for its implementation,
2. Recalling that the adoption of UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its Action Plan constitutes a major contribution of the Organization to progress in the debate on the relations between culture and development,
3. Welcoming the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of 21 May as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development,
4. Noting with satisfaction the priority accorded to implementation of the Action Plan of the Declaration in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 and in the Approved Programme and Budget for 2002-2003,
5. Invites all the Member States of UNESCO to take an active part in the celebration of the Day on 21 May and also invites National Commissions, non-governmental organizations, decision-makers and authorities in the field of cultural policy, local

authorities, parliamentarians, Goodwill Ambassadors, national and local partners concerned and the media to participate broadly in this celebration;

6. Invites the Director-General to encourage and support all initiatives which are taken in this regard at the national, regional and international level.

ANNEX I

COMPOSITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MAJOR BODIES AND APPOINTMENTS TO KEY POSTS

1. Composition of the organs of the United Nations

The General Assembly, the main deliberative organ, is composed of representatives of the 191 Member States.

The President of its fifty-seventh session is **Mr Jan Kavan** of the Czech Republic.

The Security Council has 15 members. The five permanent members are China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

The 10 non-permanent members in 2003 are Angola, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Germany, Guinea, Mexico, Pakistan, Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has 54 members, elected for a three-year term by the General Assembly. In 2003, the composition of the Council is as follows: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Zimbabwe.

The President for 2003 is **Ambassador Gert Rosenthal** of Guatemala.

The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, is composed of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council to nine-year terms of office. The current composition of the Court is as follows: Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan), Nabil Elaraby (Egypt), Thomas Buergenthal (United States), Gilbert Guillaume (France), Rosalyn Higgins (United Kingdom), Pieter H. Kooijmans (Netherlands), Gonzalo Parra-Aranguren (Venezuela), Raymond Ranjeva (Madagascar), José Francisco Rezek (Brazil), Vladlen S. Vereshchetin (Russian Federation), Hisashi Owada (Japan), Bruno Sima (Germany), Peter Tomka (Slovakia), Shi Jiuyong (China) and Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone).

2. Elections and appointments to posts within the United Nations system

- **Mr Michael Steiner (Germany)** as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo (January 2002).
- **Ms Brigita Schmögnerova (Slovak Republic)** as Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (February 2002).
- **Mr James T. Morris (United States of America)** as Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) (February 2002).
- **Mr Winston A. Tubman (Liberia)** as Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (February 2002).

- **Mr Antonio Maria Costa (Italy)** as Director General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (March 2002).
- **Mr Anwarul K. Chowdhury (Bangladesh)** as High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (March 2002).
- **Mr Kamallesh Sharma (India)** as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor (May 2002).
- **Mr Nafis Sadik (Pakistan)** as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Asia (May 2002).
- **Mr Ibrahima Fall (Senegal)** as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (July 2002).
- **Mr Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania)** as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa (July 2002).
- **Mr Tun Myat (Myanmar)** as United Nations Security Coordinator (August 2002).
- **Mr Sergio Vieira de Mello (Brazil)** as Special High Commissioner for Human Rights (September 2002).
- **Ms Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka (Tanzania)** as Executive Director of UN-Habitat (September 2002).
- **Mr Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria)** as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chairman of the Joint Commission for the Angolan Peace Process (September 2002).
- **Mr Supachai Panitchpakdi (Thailand)** as Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) (September 2002).
- **Ms Eveline L. Herfkens (Netherlands)** as Executive Coordinator for Millennium Development Goals Campaign (October 2002).
- **Mr James Lemoyne (United States of America)** as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Colombia (November 2002).
- **Ms Aminata S. Djermakoye (Niger)** as Chief of Protocol (November 2002).
- **Mr Armando Duque González (Colombia)** as Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and **Mr Ion Gorita (Romania)** as Vice-Chairman of JIU (January 2003).
- **Ms Catherine Bertini (United States of America)** as Under-Secretary-General for Management (January 2003).
- **Ms Najat Al-Hajjaji (Libya)** as Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights (January 2003).

3. International Days, Decades and Years

2003 is the International Year of Freshwater (A/RES/55/196).

The observance of three new International Days, two International Years and one International Decade has been decided upon by the United Nations system:

- **21 May** as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (A/RES/57/249 of 20 December 2002).
- **29 May** as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (A/RES/57/129 of 11 December 2002).
- **11 December** as International Mountain Day (A/RES/57/245 of 20 December 2002).
- **2004** as the International Year of Rice (A/RES/57/162 of 16 December 2002).
- **2004** as the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition (A/RES/57/195 of 18 December 2002).
- **2005-2015** as the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (A/RES/57/254 of 20 December 2002).

4. Major conferences, summits and General Assembly Special Sessions foreseen for 2003 and later

The International Conference on Sport and Development, Magglingen, Switzerland 16-18 February 2003. The aim is to make all parties concerned aware of the possibilities that sport offers for development and the promotion of peace, to define a common ground and to launch strategies, initiatives and measures.

The Summit on Intellectual Property and the Knowledge Economy, Beijing, China, 24-26 April 2003. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) will organize this Summit.

Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, Ulan Bator, Mongolia, 18-20 June 2003. General Assembly resolution 56/96 decided to convene this International Conference in order to provide coherent and adequate support to the efforts of governments to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization.

The International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28-29 August 2003. In 2002 General Assembly resolution 56/180 decided to convene in 2003 an International Ministerial Conference which is the first of its kind and it will provide the international community with a unique opportunity to galvanize international solidarity and partnership to assist landlocked developing countries to effectively participate in the international trading system, through, among other things, establishing transit systems.

The World Summit on the Information Society will be held in two phases: **first phase in Geneva, 10-12 December 2003; second phase in Tunis 2005.** The Council of the International Telecommunication Union decided in July 2000 to proceed with the preparation of this World Summit in close cooperation with other interested United Nations Agencies. The aim of the Summit is to develop a common vision and understanding of the information society and to draw up a strategic plan of action for concerted development towards realizing this vision. The Summit will also seek to define an agenda covering the objectives to be achieved and resources to be mobilized. The General Assembly welcomed this decision by resolution 56/183 in December 2001.

ANNEX II

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS RELEVANT TO UNESCO

A/Res/57/166	United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all
A/Res/57/254	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
A/Res/57/206	Human rights education
A/Res/57/204	Human rights and cultural diversity
A/Res/57/211	Human rights and extreme poverty
A/Res/57/267	United Nations University
A/Res/57/252	Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003
A/Res/57/2	United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development
A/Res/57/6	International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010
A/Res/57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
A/Res/57/295	Information and communication technologies for development
A/Res/57/7	Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
A/Res/57/249	Culture and development
A/Res/57/237	Global biotechnology forum: Chile 2003
A/Res/57/270	Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
A/Res/57/245	International Year of Mountains, 2002
A/Res/57/285	United Nations common system
A/Res/57/141	Oceans and the law of the sea
A/Res/57/266	Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)
A/Res/57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
A/Res/57/182	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly

A/Res/57/258	World Climate Change Conference
A/Res/57/299	Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
A/Res/57/152	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development
A/Res/57/153	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
A/Res/57/120	Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees
A/Res/57/123	University of Jerusalem “Al-Quds” for Palestine refugees
A/Res/57/189	The girl child
A/Res/57/190	Rights of the child
A/Res/57/60	United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education
A/Res/57/158	United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, 2002
A/Res/57/296	Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
A/Res/57/300	Strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change
A/Res/57/106	Follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers
A/Res/57/113B	Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan
A/57/130A	Information in the service of humanity
A/Res/57/163	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
A/Res/57/180	Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system
A/Res/57/192	International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People
A/Res/57/195	The fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and the comprehensive implementation and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
A/Res/57/248	Year of Kyrgyz Statehood
A/Res/57/256	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
A/Res/57/274	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
A/Res/57/276	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

ANNEX III

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS, YEARS AND DECADES

International Days (observed by the United Nations system)

21 February	International Mother Language Day (UNESCO)
8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
21 March	World Poetry Day (UNESCO)
22 March	World Day for Water
23 March	World Meteorological Day (WMO)
24 March	World Tuberculosis Day (WHO)
7 April	World Health Day (WHO)
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day (UNESCO)
3 May	Sun Day (UNEP)
3 May	World Press Freedom Day (UNESCO)
15 May	International Day of Families
17 May	World Telecommunication Day (ITU)
21 May	World Day for Cultural Development (UNESCO)
21 May	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
25 May	Africa Day
29 May	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
31 May	World No-Tobacco Day (WHO)
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5 June	World Environment Day (UNEP)
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
20 June	World Refugee Day
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
26 June	United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
11 July	World Population Day (UNFPA)
1st Saturday July	International Day of Cooperatives
9 August	International Day of Indigenous People
12 August	International Youth Day
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (UNESCO)
8 September	International Literacy Day (UNESCO)
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
Last week September	World Maritime Day (IMO)
21 September	International Day of Peace
1 October	International Day of Older Persons
5 October	International Teachers' Day (UNESCO)
9 October	World Post Day (UPU)
16 October	World Food Day (FAO)
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day
24 October	World Development Information Day
1st Monday October	World Habitat Day
2nd Wednesday October	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

6 November	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in war and Armed Conflict
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development (UNESCO)
16 November	International Day for Tolerance (UNESCO)
20 November	Africa Industrialization Day
20 November	Universal Children's Day (UNICEF)
21 November	Philosophy Day (UNESCO)
21 November	World Television Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
1 December	World AIDS Day (WHO)
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3 December	International Day of Disabled Persons
5 December	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day (ICAO)
10 December	Human Rights Day
11 December	International Mountain Day
18 December	International Migrant's Day

International Years (proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly)

2003	International Year of Freshwater
2004	International Year of Rice
2004	International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition
2005	International Year of Microcredit

International Decades (proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly)

2001-2010	Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism
1993-2003	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
1994-2004	International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
1995-2004	United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education
1997-2006	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
2001-2010	International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World
2001-2010	Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa
2003-2012	United Nations Literacy Decade
2005-2015	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

Hundred and sixty-sixth Session

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Item 9.1 of the provisional agenda

**RECENT DECISIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF RELEVANCE TO THE WORK OF UNESCO**

**SUB-ITEM 9.1.6: UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF EDUCATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

ADDENDUM

SUMMARY

The Director-General has decided to include United Nations resolution 57/254 concerning the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in item 9.1 of the agenda as sub-item **9.1.6**.

Decision proposed: paragraph 4.

9.1.6 United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (Resolution 57/254)

1. One of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, 26 August-4 September 2002, was the United Nations resolution 57/254 entitled “United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” (UNDES). The General Assembly proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development to begin in January 2005 and designated the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as the lead agency for the promotion of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

The General Assembly decided to consider this issue during its fifty-eighth session in 2003 (September/December).

UNESCO action

2. A preliminary document on preparations for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development has been prepared by the Division for the Promotion of Quality Education in cooperation with all the Divisions of the Education Sector and UNESCO Sectors. Feedback from the UNESCO field offices, UNESCO Chairs concerned with sustainable development, UNESCO education institutes and NGOs with official status with UNESCO was taken into consideration while drafting the document.

3. To ensure effective implementation of a Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO is required to:

- (a) develop a draft international implementation scheme and establish its relationship with the various educational processes already in existence, especially the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum in April 2000 and the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD);
- (b) develop such an implementation scheme in consultation with the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;
- (c) provide recommendations for governments on how to promote and improve the integration of education for sustainable development in educational strategies and action plans at the appropriate level;
- (d) invite governments to consider the inclusion of measures to implement the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in their respective educational strategies and action plans by 2005, taking into account the international implementation scheme to be prepared by UNESCO.

4. In the light of the above information, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling resolution 57/254 “Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” adopted at the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly,

2. Takes note with deep appreciation of the designation of UNESCO as a lead agency for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly;
3. Invites the Director-General to take all necessary measures to ensure UNESCO's response to United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/254;
4. Invites in particular the Director-General to pursue his consultations with other United Nations agencies, with Member States and with civil society with a view to the elaboration of a draft international implementation scheme;
5. Requests the Director-General to submit to the General Conference at its 32nd session a proposal for a draft international implementation scheme for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development beginning in 2005;
6. Further requests the Director-General to prepare a short progress report on the implementation of resolution 57/254 to be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.