Hundred and sixty-seventh Session

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APPEALS BY MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THEIR PROPOSALS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2004-2005 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 159 EX/Decision 7.5, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board revised proposals from Member States for the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2004-2005.

Decision proposed: paragraph 16.
I. INTRODUCTION

1. According to the procedure adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session (159 EX/Decision 7.5) (May 2000) for establishing the list of anniversaries proposed by Member States with which UNESCO might be associated, Member States have had a statutory period of two months since the last session of the Executive Board in order to reformulate, should they so desire, the requests concerning anniversaries that have been rejected by the Executive Board. This option applied solely to proposals submitted before 15 February 2003.

2. Seven appeals have thus been submitted to the Secretariat by Croatia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Tajikistan, Thailand and Ukraine. In addition, prompted by a concern for geographical balance, Italy has requested a substitution as announced at the 166th session of the Executive Board by the representative of Italy, with a view to replacing the “300th anniversary of the death of Luca Giordano” by the “50th anniversary of the death of Enrico Fermi”, which was already included among the initial proposals submitted by Italy.

3. The intersectoral selection committee in the Secretariat has considered these appeals, and the Executive Board is now called upon to examine the list of reformulated proposals deemed admissible inasmuch as they comply with the following selection criteria, established by 159 EX/Decision 7.5:

(a) each proposed anniversary should be indisputably linked to the Organization’s ideals and missions in the fields of education, science, culture, social and human sciences or communication and should promote closer relations among peoples, tolerance, and the ideals of peace, cultural dialogue and mutual understanding among peoples;

(b) commemorations of the birth, independence or institutional regime of a State will not be eligible for consideration; similarly, the anniversaries of military events will be excluded;

(c) the anniversary should concern personalities of genuinely universal stature, and works or events of genuinely worldwide or at least regional significance in order to reflect the ideals, the values, the cultural diversity and the universality of the Organization;

(d) the anniversary should be a fiftieth anniversary, a centenary, or a multiple thereof; some flexibility should nevertheless be used in applying this criterion;

(e) the anniversary should be the occasion for nationwide events which are already planned and for the organization of which certain resources have been allocated in the Member State or group of Member States directly concerned;

(f) any anniversary proposal involving more than one State should be submitted by all.

4. The Director-General submits to the Executive Board, for its decision, the reformulated proposals contained in section II, which contains a description of each anniversary selected, together with relevant historical and biographical information.
II. REFORMULATED PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES CONSIDERED ADMISSIBLE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

100th anniversary of the birth of Abylkhan Kasteev

5. In a letter to the Director-General dated 4 June 2003, the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UNESCO, on behalf of the Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO, requested that UNESCO be associated with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abylkhan Kasteev, in 2004.

6. The Director-General considers that this request meets the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session:

   (i) It is a centenary;

   (ii) The work of the painter Abylkhan Kasteev (1904-1973) constitutes a major contribution to twentieth-century art in Central Asia. He is the founder of the national professional school of painting, and his work represents a “Golden Treasury” of Kazakh art. His participation in various international exhibitions has helped to make his art known throughout the countries bordering on the region, where many young artists today draw inspiration from him. Retrospective exhibitions in several countries of the region and at UNESCO Headquarters are scheduled within the framework of this celebration.

7. The Director-General proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration, in 2004, of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abylkhan Kasteev.

500th anniversary of the death of Stefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great)

8. In a letter to the Director-General dated 13 June 2003, the Romanian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO transmitted the proposal of the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO, supported by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO, requesting that UNESCO be associated with the 500th anniversary of the death of Stefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great), in 2004.

9. The Director-General considers that this request meets the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session:

   (i) It is a multiple of a centenary;

   (ii) Stefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great) (1434-1504) who acceded to the throne of Moldavia in 1457 brought considerable cultural development to the country throughout his fifty years’ reign, as it was a period of great ecclesiastical building and endowment. The churches of North Moldavia were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993.

10. The Director-General proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration, in 2004, of the 500th anniversary of the death of Stefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great).

150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Horbachevsky

11. In a letter to the Director-General dated 12 February 2003, the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to UNESCO, on behalf of the Ukrainian National Commission for UNESCO and with the support of the Austrian, Czech and Hungarian Commissions for UNESCO, requested that UNESCO be associated with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Horbachevsky, in 2004.
12. The Director-General considers that this request meets the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session:
   
   (i) It is a multiple of fifty years;
   
   (ii) Ivan Horbachevsky (1854-1942) was an eminent scientist in the field of organic chemistry in the region. His research work undertaken in Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Ukraine, his contribution to the dissemination of research findings in the field of education and his efforts to open up opportunities of access to higher learning for less advantaged students, as well as his work as Minister for Health (the first in history) have led the intersectoral selection committee to reconsider Ukraine’s proposal to associate UNESCO with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Horbachevsky.

13. The Director-General proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration, in 2004, of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Horbachevsky.

50th anniversary of the death of Enrico Fermi

14. In a letter to the Director-General dated 21 May 2003, the Italian National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO be associated with the “50th anniversary of the death of Enrico Fermi”, in 2004, this celebration to replace that of the “300th anniversary of the death of Luca Giordano” initially selected.

15. The Director-General considers that this request meets the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session:
   
   (i) It is a fiftieth anniversary;
   
   (ii) Enrico Fermi (1901-1954) was a highly important scientist. The results of the research undertaken by the 1938 Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics, in particular in the use of nuclear energy, during a controversial period of Europe’s history which forced him into exile, have ensured his standing as the embodiment of scientific rigour combined with moral integrity.

III. DRAFT DECISION

16. At the close of its discussion, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

   The Executive Board,

   1. Having examined document 167 EX/41,

   2. Noting that the revised proposals sent by Member States to the Director-General now comply with the criteria approved by 159 EX/Decision 7.5,

   3. Recommends to the General Conference:

      (a) that UNESCO be also associated with the following celebrations in 2004-2005:

      (i) 100th anniversary of the birth of Abylkhan Kasteev
(ii) 500th anniversary of the death of Stefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great)

(iii) 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Horbachevsky

(iv) 50th anniversary of the death of Enrico Fermi;

(b) that the hereby completed list of anniversaries with whose celebration UNESCO will be associated in 2004-2005, which is set out below, be definitively closed, according to the procedure adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session (159 EX/Decision 7.5):

(i) 1,600th anniversary of the creation of the Armenian alphabet (Armenia)
(ii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Yusif Mamedeliyev (Azerbaijan)
(iii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Lyubomir Pipkov (Bulgaria)
(iv) 100th anniversary of the birth of Atanas Dalchev (Bulgaria)
(v) 100th anniversary of the birth of Pablo Neruda (Chile)
(vi) 100th anniversary of the birth of Alejo Carpentier Valmont (Cuba)
(vii) 150th anniversary of the birth of Leoš Janáček and the 100th anniversary of the first performance of Jenůfa (Czech Republic)
(viii) 100th anniversary of the death of Antonín Dvořák (Czech Republic)
(ix) 200th anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen (Denmark)
(x) 100th anniversary of the death of Mahmud Sami Al Barudi (Egypt)
(xi) 100th anniversary of the birth of Yahya Haqqi (Egypt)
(xii) 200th anniversary of the birth of George Sand (France)
(xiii) 200th anniversary of the birth of Victor Schoelcher (France)
(xiv) 100th anniversary of the death of Jules Verne (France)
(xv) 300th anniversary of the translation of the “Thousand and One Nights” by Antoine Galland (France and Germany)
(xvi) 200th anniversary of the death of Immanuel Kant (Germany)
(xvii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Attila Jozsef (Hungary)
(xviii) 700th anniversary of the birth of Leon Battista Alberti (Italy)
(xix) 600th anniversary of the birth of Leon Battista Alberti (Italy)
(xx) 50th anniversary of the death of Enrico Fermi (Italy)
(xxi) 100th anniversary of the birth of Alkei Khakan Margulan (Kazakhstan)
(xxii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Abylkhan Kasteev (Kazakhstan)
(xxiii) 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Crafts and Arts Islamic School in Tripoli (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)
(xxiv) 100th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian publication in the Latin alphabet (Lithuania)
(xxv) 700th anniversary of the birth of Ibn Battuta (Morocco)
(xxvi) 100th anniversary of the birth of Witold Gombrowicz (Poland)
(xxvii) 50th anniversary of the death of George Enescu (Romania)
(xxviii) 500th anniversary of the death of Stefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great) (Romania and Republic of Moldova)
(xxix) 1,000th anniversary of the founding of the city of Kazan and 200th anniversary of the Kazan State University (Russian Federation)
(xxx) 250th anniversary of the Moscow Lomonosov State University (Russian Federation)
(xxxi) 100th anniversary of the birth of Mikhaïl A. Sholokhov (Russian Federation)
(xxxii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Ladislav Novomeský (Slovakia)
(xxxiii) 250th anniversary of the birth of Jurij Vega (Slovenia)
(xxxiv) 2,700th anniversary of Kulob-city (Tajikistan)
( xxxv) 200th anniversary of the birth of King Mongkut, Rama IV (Thailand)
( xxxvi) 100th anniversary of the birth of Kulap Saipradit (Thailand)
( xxxvii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Sergiy Vsekhsviatsky (Ukraine)
( xxxviii) 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Horbachevsky (Ukraine)
( xxxix) 100th anniversary of the birth of Serge Lifar (Ukraine)
( xl) 100th anniversary of the establishment of St Mary’s Rubya Seminary
( United Republic of Tanzania)
( xli) 1,100th anniversary of the creation of Enlightenment Centre of Qaffol ash-Shoshiy in Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
( xlii) 2,700th anniversary of Qarshi (Uzbekistan)
( xliii) 1,000th anniversary of the Academy of Ma’mun in Khorezm
( Uzbekistan);

(c) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations will be financed
under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that
programme.