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REPORT OF COMMISSION V

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
PART I	
Item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007	1
Draft Resolutions which may be adopted <i>in extenso</i> by the General Conference	1
Recommendations of the Commission concerning other Draft Resolutions not retained for adoption <i>in extenso</i>	4
PART II	
Item 4.2 – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 (Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and information)	4
Resolutions proposed in document 32 C/5	4
Recommendations of the Commission concerning other draft resolutions not retained for adoption <i>in extenso</i>	8
Recommendations of the Executive Board	9
Budget	9
PART III	
Item 7.6 – Amendments to the Statutes of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)	10
PART IV	
Item 8.5 – Draft Recommendation on the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace	13
PART V	
Item 8.6 – Draft Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage	19
PART VI	
Reports submitted to the General Conference	24
PART VII	
Debate on item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007	24

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to 29 C/Resolution 87 (paras. 1.21 and 1.22) the Executive Board, at its 166th session, recommended to the General Conference the nomination of Mr Abdelwahab Bouhdiba (Tunisia) for the office of Chairperson of Commission V. At the second plenary meeting, on 29 September 2003 Mr Abdelwahab Bouhdiba was elected Chairperson of Commission V.

2. At its first meeting, on 6 October 2003, the Commission approved the proposals submitted by the Nominations Committee for the offices of Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur. The following were elected by acclamation:

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Frédérique Riehl (Switzerland)
 Mr. Ludovit Stanislav Molnar (Slovakia)
 Ms Maria Zulema Vélez Jara (Colombia)
 Mr Mohammed Sheya (United Republic of Tanzania)

Rapporteur: Mr Laurence Zwimpfer (New Zealand)

3. The Commission then adopted the timetable of work submitted in document 32 C/COM.V/1 Prov.

4. The Commission devoted five meetings, between 6 and 8 October 2003 to the examination of the items on its agenda.

5. The Commission adopted its report at its sixth meeting on 11 October 2003.

PART I

Item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007

6. At its first and second meetings, the Commission examined item 3.1 of the agenda. Representatives of 36 Member States, one observer and representatives of two non-governmental organizations took the floor.

Draft Resolutions which may be adopted *in extenso* by the General Conference

7. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt draft resolution 32 C/COM.I.II.III.IV.V/DR.1 (submitted by Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Barbados, supported by Seychelles, Dominica, Guyana, Bahamas) for the records of the General Conference.

8. The resolution reads as follows:

Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5)

**Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
further implementation and review of the Barbados Programme of Action
(Barbados+10)**

The General Conference,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in April-May 1994,

Recognizing that, within the context of the challenges of development, Small Island Developing States experience specific problems arising from small size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, vulnerability to climate change and climate variability, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack and depletion of natural resources, limited freshwater supply, heavy dependence on imports, waste management challenges, erosion of social and cultural values, and issues related to migration and social transformations,

Recognizing the great cultural diversity of small island states, including the multi-dimensional connections that link islands with each other and with the rest of the world,

Being aware of the significant efforts of Small Island Developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to continue to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral financial and trading system,

Recalling that UNESCO has had projects specifically focused on small islands for more than 30 years, with one house-wide review being prepared for the Barbados 1994 Conference, in the form of the 131-page “Island Agenda – An Overview of UNESCO’s Work on Island Environments, Territories and Societies”,

Recalling also the more recent measures taken by UNESCO to work closely with its Small Island Developing Member Countries and Associate Members in optimizing benefits from the programmes and projects of the Organization, including the cross-cutting themes of eradicating poverty and promoting information and communication technologies,

Recalling in this respect the steps taken by UNESCO to promote intersectoral, interregional cooperation in fields related to sustainable development in coastal areas and small islands, such as the establishment by the General Conference at its 28th session in 1995 of the Coastal Regions and Small Islands (CSI) platform,

Taking into account the consultation processes carried out by UNESCO during the period 1997-1999, including “Focus on the Pacific”, “Focus on the Caribbean” and “Indian Ocean Forum 2000”,

Recalling the discussions and decision by the Executive Board at its 159th session in May 2000 on the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (159 EX/Decision 7.1.1),

Taking note of the particular emphasis given to Small Island Developing States in the Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation adopted by the

World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, and the call for the United Nations General Assembly to consider convening an international meeting for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action,

Noting the decision of the United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/57/262 to convene an international meeting in 2004 in Mauritius, including a high-level segment, for a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Noting also the invitation extended by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session (CSD-11) (New York, 28 April-9 May 2003) to the international community, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies to support regional initiatives and to collaborate closely in partnership with the regional organizations and institutions to expedite preparations for the review,

Noting furthermore the invitation of CSD-11 to the international donor and development community and international organizations to provide information, on or before 31 January 2004, on their activities in support of the Barbados Programme of Action on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, as well as on recommendations for further action in support of the full implementation of the Programme of Action,

Welcoming the initial steps taken by UNESCO to respond to these invitations, including the identification of a UNESCO Focal Point for the Barbados+10 process and the participation of UNESCO in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Barbados+10 and the preparations for the Mauritius meeting of 2004, as well as the house-wide efforts to set up an interactive website designed to facilitate public access to information on the Organization's wide-ranging work related to sustainable living in Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the strong emphasis placed on the importance of the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States at the Ninth Consultation of National Commissions for UNESCO, Nadi, Fiji, 7-11 July 2003,

1. Urges Member States and Associate Members to:
 - (a) participate actively in the preparation, convening and follow-up of the international meeting in Mauritius in August-September 2004, designed to provide for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
 - (b) mobilize UNESCO's programmes and networks in their respective countries and regions, in order to further promote the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, including the use of existing media and new information and communication technologies to nurture stakeholder dialogue, regional and interregional understanding, and cohesive action;
2. Urges non-governmental organizations in official relations with UNESCO to:
 - (a) work in close partnership with government and other stakeholders for the preparation of the Mauritius meeting and its follow-up;

- (b) become actively involved in the civil society component of the international meeting in Mauritius and its preparatory process at national, regional and international levels;
3. Invites the Director-General to:
- (a) continue to undertake concrete measures for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action in the context of UNESCO's programmes and projects, giving special attention to the synergies of various kinds of interaction and cooperation – within and between societal sectors, within and between disciplines, within and between various stakeholder groups (government, civil society, youth, private sector, research and education communities), within and between regions, within and between institutions and organizations at various levels (local, national, subregional, regional, international);
 - (b) contribute to the full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, including appropriate efforts to compile, synthesize and diffuse experience on UNESCO's past, ongoing and future contribution to sustainable development in Small Island Developing States;
 - (c) report to the Executive Board at its 169th session on the status of and preparations for the international meeting in Mauritius (August-September 2004) and its expected outcomes;
 - (d) report to the General Conference at its 33rd session (2005) on the outcomes of and follow-up to the international meeting in Mauritius (August-September 2004), including suggestions for subsequent biennia and the preparation of document 34 C/4, Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013.

Recommendations of the Commission concerning other draft resolutions not retained for adoption *in extenso*

9. The Commission recommends to the General Conference to request the Director-General to take draft resolution 32 C/COM.V/DR.1 (submitted by Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, supported by the United States of America) into consideration when preparing the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5).

PART II

Item 4.2 – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 (Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and information)

10. At its second and third meetings, the Commission examined Item 4.2 “Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 (Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and information)”. The representatives of 53 Member States and of four non-governmental organizations took the floor.

Resolutions proposed in document 32 C/5

11. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05110 of document 32 C/5 concerning Subprogramme V.1.1 “Fostering actions to reduce digital divide and promote social inclusion” as amended by the Commission in the light of its discussion on:

- (i) the following draft resolutions:
 - 32 C/DR.9 (Cuba) for paragraph (a) (ii);¹
 - 32 C/DR.22 (Kenya) for paragraph (a)(iii);²
 - 32 C/DR.66 (Barbados) for paragraphs (a)(i), (ii) and (iii);
- (ii) the recommendations of the Executive Board (32 C/6).

12. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
 - (i) foster actions to reduce the digital divide, especially in developing countries, and promote social inclusion by enhancing the Information for All Programme as well as international strategic initiatives, such as the World Summit on the Information Society; and supporting the formulation of national and regional communication and information policies and strategies with a view to creating open and non-exclusive knowledge societies that are based on human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - (ii) strengthen capacities of communication and information professionals and institutions in particular through new training delivery methods and networking especially in developing countries and countries in transition and through fostering broader professional and academic exchanges;
 - (iii) foster community-centred development and change by devising strategies and projects to enhance information access, especially in the public domain and particularly for youth and disadvantaged groups, especially the physically, visually and hearing impaired through multimedia/telecentres, libraries, archives and similar information services, especially in developing countries;
 - (iv) promote and strengthen editorially independent public service broadcasting (PSB) as a unique service providing universal access to information and knowledge through quality and diverse content reflecting the needs and expectations of the various target audiences; provide assistance to national public radio and television in developing countries in using ICTs to enhance digital broadcasting services; and advise Member States on legal, regulatory, financial and other major issues related to PSB;
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$4,167,000 for programme costs, and \$73,900 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters

13. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05120 of document 32 C/5 concerning Subprogramme V.1.2 “Harnessing ICTs for

¹ The Commission agreed on the amendment proposed on the understanding that the Secretariat identifies extrabudgetary funds.

² The Commission agreed on the amendment proposed on the understanding that the Secretariat identifies extrabudgetary funds.

education” as modified by document 32 C/5 Add. and amended by the Commission in the light of the recommendations of the Executive Board (32 C/6).

14. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
 - (i) promote the objectives of Education for All through media and information channels;
 - (ii) encourage ICT-enhanced learning by supporting exploration, development and testing of multimedia learning methods targeting the needs of educational institutions in developing countries;
 - (iii) fostering the development of media and ICT literacy at all levels of the education process, formal and non-formal, with special emphasis on youth especially in developing countries;
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$2,200,100 for programme costs, and \$36,400 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

15. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05130 of document 32 C/5 concerning Subprogramme V.1.3 “Promoting the expression of cultural and linguistic diversity through communication and information” as modified by document 32 C/5 Add. and amended by the Commission in the light of its discussion on the recommendations of the Executive Board (32 C/6).

16. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
 - (i) promote the expression of pluralism and cultural diversity in the media and global information networks, including through the Programme for Creative Content designed to encourage the production and dissemination of culturally diverse and multilingual contents in the media;
 - (ii) support the preservation of documentary and audiovisual heritage across all media, including through the Memory of the World Programme; and encourage the adoption and application of provisions of the Draft International Charter for the Preservation of Digital Heritage;
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$3,608,500 for programme costs, and \$32,700 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

17. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05210 of document 32 C/5 concerning Subprogramme V.2.1 “Promoting freedom of expression and the independence and pluralism of the media” modified by document 32 C/5 Add. and amended by the Commission in the light of its discussion on:

- (i) the draft resolution 32 C/DR.55 (Islamic Republic of Iran) for paragraph (a)(i);³
- (ii) the recommendations of the Executive Board (32 C/6).

18. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
 - (i) promote freedom of expression and freedom of the press as a fundamental right, develop sensitization, the promotion of the protection of the rights of journalists and monitoring activities including the implementation of 29 C/Resolution 29 on combating the impunity of violence against journalists and media institutions;
 - (ii) enhance the visibility of the Organization’s activities to promote freedom of expression, *inter alia*, through the celebration of the World Press Freedom Day and the award of the World Press Freedom Prize;
 - (iii) encourage the development of independent media, especially in conflict and post-conflict areas; by supporting and providing technical assistance to non-partisan media; providing advisory services on media legislation; promoting the safety of journalists; and enhancing dialogue among media professionals;
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$2,690,200 for programme costs, and \$34,500 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

19. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05220 of document 32 C/5 concerning Subprogramme V.2.2 “Supporting development of communication media”.

20. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
 - (i) assist Member States, particularly the developing countries, in strengthening their communication capacities by developing independent and pluralistic media and improving media access to ICTs, in particular through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC);

³ The Commission agreed on the amendment proposed on the understanding that the Secretariat identifies extrabudgetary funds.

(ii) enhance the impact of communication and information for sustainable development by supporting public domain community media and information service providers in mobilizing different social groups on major development issues such as education, democratic governance, HIV/AIDS, food security, water and the environment;

(b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$1,782,400 for programme costs, and \$31,700 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

21. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 05500 of document 32 C/5 concerning projects relating to cross-cutting themes as amended by the Commission in the light of its discussion on document 32 C/DR.57 (Islamic Republic of Iran) for paragraph (a)(i).

22. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

(a) to implement the corresponding plan of action to execute to completion the projects related to the two cross-cutting themes *Eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty*, and *The contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society*, taking account of the needs of developing countries;

(b) to evaluate and monitor the implementation, as well as assess the impact of the various projects;

(c) to ensure intersectoral cooperation within UNESCO and coordination with other United Nations agencies and funds in order to enhance the coherence and learning process in the execution of approved projects;

(d) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$2,430,000 for programme costs.

Recommendations of the Commission concerning other draft resolutions not retained for adoption *in extenso*

23. The Commission informs the General Conference that the draft resolutions listed below were not retained for inclusion *in extenso* in the records of the General Conference:

- 32 C/DR.11 (Sudan) proposes to include in paragraph 05120, subparagraph (a)(ii) a specific reference to the creation of a regional virtual library of open distance-learning modules according to the virtual universities project, with special emphasis on rural men and women. A budget of \$85,000 is proposed for this activity.

Having examined this draft resolution, the Commission recommends to the General Conference to request the Director-General to provide seed funding for a feasibility study of the creation of a regional virtual library of open distance-learning modules under the cross-cutting projects “E-campus – Improving open distance learning” and “ICT-supported distance education of secondary schools in Asia and Africa”.

- 32 C/DR.16 (Uganda, supported by Madagascar, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, United Republic of Tanzania, Seychelles) proposes including all the elements addressing capacity-building in ICTs in Africa contained in Subprogramme V.2.1 “Harnessing ICTs for education”, paragraph 05120, and in projects related to the cross-cutting theme *The contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society*, paragraph 05500, into one priority project entitled “ICTs – Capacity-building in secondary teacher training colleges in Eastern and Southern Africa”. The total budget of \$1,280,000 is proposed to be financed from both extrabudgetary resources (\$550,000) and budgets of the relevant cross-cutting projects (\$730,000).

Having examined this draft resolution, the Commission recommends to the General Conference to request the Director-General to ensure, through the work plans, that the staff teams in charge of Subprogramme V.1.2 “Harnessing ICTs for Education” and relevant cross-cutting projects focus their activities significantly on capacity-building in ICTs in Africa.

- 32 C/DR.56 Rev. (Lithuania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia) proposes linking paragraphs 05110 and 05120 to the intersectoral project “Caucasus”.

Having examined this draft resolution, the Commission recommends to the General Conference to request the Director-General to continue paying special attention to the intersectoral project “Caucasus” by taking into account recommendations adopted by the Interregional Round Table “Dialogue among Civilizations: Caucasus”.

- 32 C/DR.76 (Sudan) proposes to add in paragraph 05210, subparagraph (a)(i), a reference to women in Africa encouraging their empowerment and ensuring equality of the right of freedom of expression for female journalists.

Having examined this draft resolution, the Commission recommends to the General Conference to request the Director-General to take into account the preoccupation expressed in this draft resolution within the framework of the activities foreseen for strengthening capacities of communication and information professionals foreseen in paragraph 05110, subparagraph (a)(ii).

Recommendations of the Executive Board

24. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it approve the recommendations of the Executive Board contained in paragraphs 84 to 94 of document 32 C/6 and invites the Director-General to take them into account in the preparation of document 32 C/5 Approved.

Budget

25. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it approve the budget provision of \$35,541,400 in paragraph 05001 Add. in 32 C/5 Add. under the real growth scenario for Major Programme V, it being understood that this amount is subject to adjustment in the light of the decision taken by the General Conference on the budget ceiling and by the joint meeting of the Programme Commissions and the Administrative Commission.

PART III

Item 7.6 – Amendments to the Statutes of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

26. At its fifth meeting, the Commission examined item 7.6 “Amendments to the Statutes of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)” (32 C/COM.V/DR.2). The representatives of 25 Member States and of one intergovernmental organization took the floor.

27. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution contained in document 32 C/COM.V/DR.2, as amended by the Commission. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Recalling 21 C/Resolution 4/21 concerning the International Programme for the Development of Communication (with annexes) adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 21st session in 1980,

Stressing the importance of the New Communication Strategy, unanimously adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 25th session in 1989, which requested the Organization “to encourage the free flow of information, at international as well as national levels, to promote its wider and better balanced dissemination, without any obstacle to the freedom of expression, and to strengthen communication capacities in the developing countries in order to increase their participation in the communication process”,

Noting with satisfaction that the International Programme for the Development of Communication became the main operational instrument of the New Communication Strategy, funding hundreds of projects in developing countries with the main objective of developing communication capacities, both human (through training) and structural (through technology upgrades),

Taking into account resolution A/RES/51/172 on “Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system”, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996, which, *inter alia*, “stresses the need to support two-way communication systems that enable dialogue and that allow communities to speak out, express their aspirations and concerns and participate in the decisions that relate to their development” and “recognizes the relevance for concerned actors, ... policy-makers and decision-makers ... to attribute increased importance to communication for development, and encourages them to include it ... as an integral component in the development of projects and programmes”,

Recalling 28 C/Resolution 4.6 on “Promotion of independent and pluralist media” adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 28th session in 1995, as well as resolutions 34 and 35 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 29th session in 1997 which “stressed the outstanding importance of and endorsed the declarations” of regional seminars to promote press freedom, and independent and pluralistic media (Windhoek, Almaty, Santiago, Sana’a and Sofia) and invited the members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication to take the Declarations into account when selecting the projects that will be financed by this programme,

Mindful of the resolutions “Information in the Service of Humanity” (55/136, 56/64, 57/130) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly respectively at its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions in 2000, 2001 and 2002, which urge all countries, organizations of the

United Nations system and all others concerned “to provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media”;

Bearing in mind that traditional media, especially radio, reinforced by innovative applications of ICTs, is capable of reaching the entire populations with knowledge and information, contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and therefore reiterates that media development continues to be of vital importance to many countries that have limited access to the advanced modes of news and information dissemination;

Stresses that the objective of IPDC is to contribute to sustainable development, democracy and good governance by fostering universal access to and distribution of information and knowledge through strengthening the capacities of the developing countries and countries in transition in the field of electronic media and print press;

Notes with satisfaction that the IPDC ongoing reform process, launched in the framework of UNESCO’s comprehensive reforms, has already enabled the improvement of a number of important aspects of the IPDC functioning and recalls the decisions approved by the Council on new procedures related to preparation, selection, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of IPDC projects, promotion of the best practices and projects achievements, as well as on proactive fund-raising policy;

Expresses its gratitude to the donor countries, which have already supported the Programme through their contributions to the IPDC Special Account as well as through funds-in-trust and contributions-in-kind;

Recommends to further concentrate the Programme on a limited number of well-defined innovative and catalytic projects taking into consideration, and in cooperation with, other projects of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and welcomes that the highest priority is given to national, regional and interregional projects in the following areas:

- Promotion of freedom of expression and media pluralism;
- Development of community media;
- Human resource development;
- Promotion of international partnership;

Refers to the decision adopted by the Intergovernmental Council at its 22nd session stating that “the IPDC Council should proceed with a revision of the IPDC Statutory documents and updating the rules and regulations of the programme”;

Decides to amend the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication as follows:

Article 2

1. The Council shall be composed of 39 Member States⁴ of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, elected by the General Conference, taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and appropriate rotation.
2. Unchanged.

⁴

See 28 C/Resolution 22 adopted by the General Conference at its 28th session.

3. Each retiring member shall be replaced by a member belonging to the same regional group.
4. Unchanged.
5. Unchanged.
6. The persons appointed by Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be specialists in the fields covered by the International Programme for the Development of Communication.

Article 3

1. The Council shall normally meet in regular plenary session once in two years. Extraordinary session may be specified in the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Article 5

Within the framework of the decisions of the General Conference concerning the International Programme for the Development of Communication, the Council shall be responsible for:

- (a) Policy-making, guiding the planning and implementation of the Programme;
- (b) Approving priorities of the Programme;
- (c) Reviewing and assessing achievements on the basis of implementation and evaluation reports on the projects and defining the basic areas requiring increased international cooperation;
- (d) Reviewing ways and means whereby Member States might participate more effectively in the International Programme for the Development of Communication;
- (e) Approving an appropriate system of financing for the Programme in order to secure the necessary resources for the benefit of those requesting assistance from the Programme;
- (f) Awarding of the IPDC-UNESCO Prize.

Article 6

1. At the beginning of its first session, and subsequently whenever the membership of the Council is changed by the General Conference in accordance with Article 2 above, the Council shall elect a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons, a Rapporteur and three other members; these shall form the Council's Bureau. The members of the Bureau who are representatives of Member States of UNESCO shall preferably be specialists in the fields covered by the International Programme for the Development of Communication. They shall remain in office until a new Bureau has been elected.
2. The Bureau shall discharge such duties as the Council may lay upon it. The Bureau shall assume full responsibility for project selection, approval and allocation of funds from the Special Account and plan the organization of work of the Council session. The Bureau shall act as jury for selecting the winner of the IPDC-UNESCO Prize for Rural Communication.

3. Unchanged.
4. Unchanged.

Article 7

1. Unchanged.
2. Unchanged.
3. The Council shall lay down the conditions under which other international governmental or non-governmental organizations, public and private foundations and other bodies concerned may be invited to participate in its proceedings without the right to vote. The Council shall also lay down the conditions under which certain particularly well-qualified persons may be consulted on matters within their competence.

Article 8

1. The Secretariat of the IPDC Intergovernmental Council shall be provided by the Director-General of UNESCO, who shall place at the Council's disposal the staff and other means required for its operation.
2. Unchanged.

Article 9

1. Unchanged.
2. Member States shall bear the expenses of the participation of their representatives in sessions of the Council, its Bureau and working groups with the exception of representatives of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) whose expenses shall be covered by an appropriation voted for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO.
3. Voluntary contributions to the International Programme for the Development of Communication shall be accepted to the established IPDC Special Account as well as funds-in-trust and contributions-in-kind for concrete projects and activities, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.

PART IV

Item 8.5 – Draft Recommendation on the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace

28. At its third and fourth meetings, the Commission examined item 8.5 “Draft Recommendation on the Promotion of and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace”.

29. The representatives of 45 Member States and two non-governmental organizations took the floor. At the end of the debate, the Commission decided by acclamation to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the Recommendation.

30. The Commission decided to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution contained in paragraph 15 of document 32 C/27,

including the Draft Recommendation as presented in Annex I of document 32 C/27. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Taking note of the report submitted by the Director-General in accordance with 31 C/Resolution 33,
2. Thanking the Director-General for his substantial efforts to further the consultation process in connection with the preparation of the revised draft recommendation on the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace,
3. Recognizing the importance of promoting multilingualism and equitable access to information and knowledge, especially in the public domain,
4. Reiterates its conviction that UNESCO should have a leading role in encouraging access to information for all, multilingualism and cultural diversity on the global information networks;
5. Decides to adopt the draft recommendation annexed to the report of the Director-General;
6. Invites the Director-General to undertake all necessary actions, in cooperation with the Member States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector for the implementation of this draft recommendation.

ANNEX I

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PROMOTION AND USE OF MULTILINGUALISM AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CYBERSPACE

PREAMBLE

The General Conference,

Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, and mindful of the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,⁵

Recognizing the “central and important role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communication and in the implementation of the relevant decisions in this area adopted by the General Conference of that Organization and of the relevant parts of the Assembly resolutions on the subject”,⁶

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms, “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

⁵ Articles 19 and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 27, and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966; United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National, Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992); the ACC Statement on Universal Access to Basic Communication and Information Services, issued in 1997; Article 25 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2000.

⁶ United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/201 (97th plenary meeting, 16 December 1980).

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending “such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”,⁷

Affirming the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 31st session and particularly its Articles 5, 6 and 8,

Referring to the resolutions of the General Conference of UNESCO⁸ with regard to the promotion of multilingualism and universal access to information in cyberspace,

Convinced that the development of new information and communication technologies (ICTs) provides opportunities to improve the free flow of ideas by word and image but also presents challenges for ensuring the participation of all in the global information society,

Noting that linguistic diversity in the global information networks and universal access to information in cyberspace are at the core of contemporary debates and can be a determining factor in the development of a knowledge-based society,

Taking into account international treaties and agreements on intellectual property, in order to facilitate the promotion of universal access to information,

Acknowledging the need for capacity-building, particularly for developing countries, in acquisition and application of the new technologies for the information-poor,

Recognizing that basic education and literacy are prerequisites for universal access to cyberspace,

Considering that different levels of economic development affect prospects for access to cyberspace and that specific policies and increased solidarity are required to redress current asymmetries and create a climate of mutual trust and understanding,

Adopts the present Recommendation:

DEVELOPMENT OF MULTILINGUAL CONTENT AND SYSTEMS

1. The public and private sectors and the civil society at local, national, regional and international levels should work to provide the necessary resources and take the necessary measures to alleviate language barriers and promote human interaction on the Internet by encouraging the creation and processing of, and access to, educational, cultural and scientific content in digital form, so as to ensure that all cultures can express themselves and have access to cyberspace in all languages, including indigenous ones.
2. Member States and international organizations should encourage and support capacity-building for the production of local and indigenous content on the Internet.
3. Member States should formulate appropriate national policies on the crucial issue of language survival in cyberspace, designed to promote the teaching of languages, including mother tongues, in cyberspace. International support and assistance to developing countries should be strengthened and extended to facilitate the development of freely accessible materials on language education in electronic form and to the enhancement of human capital skills in this area.
4. Member States, international organizations and information and communication technology industries should encourage collaborative participatory research and development on, and local

⁷ Article I, paragraph 2(a).

⁸ 29 C/Resolution 28, paragraph 2.A(h), 29 C/Resolution 36, 30 C/Resolution 37, 30 C/Resolution 41 and 31 C/Resolution 33.

adaptation of, operating systems, search engines and web browsers with extensive multilingual capabilities, online dictionaries and terminologies. They should support international cooperative efforts with regard to automated translation services accessible to all, as well as intelligent linguistic systems such as those performing multilingual information retrieval, summarizing/abstracting and speech understanding, while fully respecting the right of translation of authors.

5. UNESCO, in cooperation with other international organizations, should establish a collaborative online observatory on existing policies, regulations, technical recommendations, and best practices relating to multilingualism and multilingual resources and applications, including innovations in language computerization.

FACILITATING ACCESS TO NETWORKS AND SERVICES

6. Member States and international organizations should recognize and support universal access to the Internet as an instrument for promoting the realization of the human rights as defined in Articles 19 and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

7. Member States and international organizations should promote access to the Internet as a service of public interest through the adoption of appropriate policies in order to enhance the process of empowering citizenship and civil society, and by encouraging proper implementation of, and support to, such policies in developing countries, with due consideration of the needs of rural communities.

8. In particular, Member States and international organizations should establish mechanisms at the local, national, regional and international levels to facilitate universal access to the Internet through affordable telecommunications and Internet costs with special consideration given to the needs of public service and educational institutions, and of disadvantaged and disabled population groups. New incentives in this area should be designed towards this end including public-private partnerships to encourage investment and the lowering of financial barriers to the use of ICTs, such as taxes and customs duties on informatics equipment, software and services.

9. Member States should encourage Internet service providers (ISPs) to consider provision of concessionary rates for Internet access in public service institutions, such as schools, academic institutions, museums, archives and public libraries, as a transitional measure towards universal access to cyberspace.

10. Member States should encourage the development of information strategies and models that facilitate community access and reach out to all levels of society, including the setting up of community projects and fostering the emergence of local information and communication technology leaders and mentors. Strategies should also support cooperation on ICTs among public service institutions, as a means of reducing the cost of access to Internet services.

11. Interconnection on a negotiated cost-sharing basis in the spirit of international cooperation should be encouraged between national Internet peering points combining the traffic of private and non-profit ISPs in developing countries and peering points in other countries whether developing or industrialized.

12. Regional organizations and forums should encourage the establishment of inter- and intra-regional networks powered by high capacity regional backbones to connect each country within a global network in an open competitive environment.

13. Concerted efforts within the United Nations system should promote the sharing of information about and experience on the use of ICT-based networks and services in socio-economic development, including open source technologies, as well as policy formulation and capacity-building in developing countries.

14. Member States and international organizations should promote appropriate partnerships in the management of domain names, including multilingual domain names.

DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC DOMAIN CONTENT

15. Member States should recognize and enact the right of universal online access to public and government-held records including information relevant for citizens in a modern democratic society, giving due account to confidentiality, privacy and national security concerns, as well as to intellectual property rights to the extent that they apply to the use of such information. International organizations should recognize and promulgate the right for each State to have access to essential data relating to its social or economic situation.

16. Member States and international organizations should identify and promote repositories of information and knowledge in the public domain and make them accessible by all, thus shaping learning environments conducive to creativity and audience development. To this end, adequate funding should be provided for the preservation and digitization of public domain information.

17. Member States and international organizations should encourage cooperative arrangements which respect both public and private interests in order to ensure universal access to information in the public domain without geographical, economic, social or cultural discrimination.

18. Member States and international organizations should encourage open access solutions including the formulation of technical and methodological standards for information exchange, portability and interoperability, as well as online accessibility of public domain information on global information networks.

19. Member States and international organizations should promote and facilitate ICT literacy, including popularizing and building trust in ICT implementation and use. The development of “human capital” for the information society, including an open, integrated and intercultural education combined with skills training in ICTs, is of crucial importance. ICT training should not be limited to technical competence but should also include awareness of ethical principles and values.

20. Inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system should be reinforced with a view to building up a universally accessible body of knowledge, particularly for the benefit of developing countries and disadvantaged communities, from the massive amount of information produced through development projects and programmes.

21. UNESCO, in close cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations concerned, should undertake the compilation of an international inventory of legislation, regulations and policies on the generation and online dissemination of public domain information.

22. Definition and adoption of best practices and voluntary, self-regulatory, professional and ethical guidelines should be encouraged among information producers, users and service providers with due respect to freedom of expression.

REAFFIRMING THE EQUITABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF RIGHTS-HOLDERS AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST

23. Member States should undertake, in close cooperation with all interested parties, the updating of national copyright legislation and its adaptation to cyberspace, taking full account of the fair balance between the interests of authors, copyright and related rights-holders, and of the public embodied in international copyright and related rights conventions.

24. Member States and international organizations, when appropriate, should encourage rights-holders and the lawful beneficiaries of limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights

protection to ensure that such limitations and exceptions are applied in certain special cases that do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the rights-holders as required for in the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT).

25. Member States and international organizations should pay careful attention to the development of technological innovations and to their potential impact on access to information in the framework of copyright and related rights protection under international treaties and agreements.

* * *

The General Conference recommends that Member States apply the above provisions by taking whatever legislative or other steps are required to give effect within their respective territories and jurisdictions to the norms and principles set forth in this recommendation.

The General Conference recommends that Member States bring this recommendation to the attention of the authorities and services responsible for public and private works on ICT policies, strategies and infrastructures, including use of multilingualism on the Internet, the development of networks and services, expansion of public domain information on the Internet and intellectual property rights issues.

The General Conference recommends that Member States should report to it, on the dates and in a manner to be determined by it, on the action they have taken to give effect to this recommendation.

The foregoing is the authentic text of the recommendation duly adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization during its 32nd session, which was held in Paris and declared closed the day of 2003.

IN FAITH WHEREOF we have appended our signatures this day of 2003.

The President of the
General Conference

The Director-General

APPENDIX

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Recommendation:

- (a) **Backbone** is a high-capacity network that links together other networks of lower capacity;
- (b) **Copyright limitations and exceptions** are provisions in copyright and related rights laws restricting the right of the author or other rights-holders with regard to the exploitation of their work or object of related rights. The main forms of such limitations and exceptions are compulsory licenses, statutory licenses and fair use;
- (c) **Cyberspace** is the virtual world for digital or electronic communication associated with the global information infrastructure;
- (d) **Domain name** is the name given to an Internet address, which facilitates access to Internet resources by users (e.g. “unesco.org” in <http://www.unesco.org>);
- (e) **Intelligent linguistic systems** combine the rapid computational, data retrieval and manipulation power of today’s computers with the more abstract and subtle reasoning

skills and understanding of nuances that are implied but not necessarily explicitly stated in inter-human communication within and across languages, thus allowing the simulation of human communication to a high degree;

- (f) **Internet service provider (ISP)** is a supplier of Internet access services;
- (g) **Interoperability** is the ability of software and hardware on different machines from different vendors to share data;
- (h) **Open source technologies** are based on the premise of open source, a certification standard issued by the Open Source Initiative (OSI) that indicates that the source code (program instructions in their original form or programming language) of a computer program is made available free of charge to the general public;
- (i) **Peering** is a relationship between two or more ISPs in which the ISPs create a direct link between them and agree to forward each other's packets directly across this link instead of using the Internet backbone. When peering involves more than two ISPs, all traffic destined for any of the ISPs is first routed to a central exchange, called a peering point, and then forwarded to the final destination;
- (j) **Portability** refers to the ability of software to be used on a variety of computers without necessitating a particular machine or hardware;
- (k) **Public domain information** is publicly accessible information, the use of which does not infringe any legal right, or any obligation of confidentiality. It thus refers on the one hand to the realm of all works or objects of related rights, which can be exploited by everybody without any authorization, for instance because protection is not granted under national or international law, or because of the expiration of the term of protection. It refers on the other hand to public data and official information produced and voluntarily made available by governments or international organizations;
- (l) **Search engine** is a software application that searches documents for specified keywords and localizes or retrieves the documents where the keywords were found;
- (m) **Universal access to cyberspace** is equitable and affordable access by all citizens to information infrastructure (notably to the Internet) and to information and knowledge essential to collective and individual human development;
- (n) **Web browser** is a software application used to locate and display World Wide Web pages.

PART V

Item 8.6 – Draft Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage

31. At its fourth and fifth meetings, the Commission examined item 8.6, Draft Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage. The representatives of 44 Member States and of one non-governmental organization took the floor.

32. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution contained in paragraph 17 of document 32 C/28, including the Draft Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Taking note of document 32 C/28 submitted by the Director-General in accordance with 31 C/Resolution 34,
2. Thanking the Director-General for the broad consultations undertaken in connection with the preparation of the draft charter on the preservation of the digital heritage,
3. Recognizing that the preservation of the digital heritage of all regions and cultures is an urgent issue of worldwide concern,
4. Decides to adopt the draft charter annexed to the report of the Director-General;
5. Invites the Director-General to undertake all necessary actions, in cooperation with Member States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector for the implementation of this draft charter.

DRAFT CHARTER ON THE PRESERVATION OF DIGITAL HERITAGE

PREAMBLE

The General Conference,

Considering that the disappearance of heritage in whatever form constitutes an impoverishment of the heritage of all nations,

Recalling that the Constitution of UNESCO provides that the Organization will maintain, increase and diffuse knowledge, by assuring the conservation and protection of the world's inheritance of books, works of art and monuments of history and science, that its "Information for All" Programme provides a platform for discussions and action on information policies and the safeguarding of recorded knowledge, and that its "Memory of the World" Programme aims to ensure the preservation and universal accessibility of the world's documentary heritage,

Recognizing that such resources of information and creative expression are increasingly produced, distributed, accessed and maintained in digital form, creating a new legacy – the digital heritage,

Aware that access to this heritage will offer broadened opportunities for creation, communication and sharing of knowledge among all peoples,

Understanding that this digital heritage is at risk of being lost and that its preservation for the benefit of present and future generations is an urgent issue of worldwide concern,

Proclaims the following principles and *adopts* the present Charter.

THE DIGITAL HERITAGE AS A COMMON HERITAGE

Article 1 – Scope

The digital heritage consists of unique resources of human knowledge and expression. It embraces cultural, educational, scientific and administrative resources, as well as technical, legal, medical and other kinds of information created digitally, or converted into digital form

from existing analogue resources. Where resources are “born digital”, there is no other format but the digital object.

Digital materials include texts, databases, still and moving images, audio, graphics, software and web pages, among a wide and growing range of formats. They are frequently ephemeral, and require purposeful production, maintenance and management to be retained.

Many of these resources have lasting value and significance, and therefore constitute a heritage that should be protected and preserved for current and future generations. This ever-growing heritage may exist in any language, in any part of the world, and in any area of human knowledge or expression.

Article 2 – Access to the digital heritage

The purpose of preserving the digital heritage is to ensure that it remains accessible to the public. Accordingly, access to digital heritage materials, especially those in the public domain, should be free of unreasonable restrictions. At the same time, sensitive and personal information should be protected from any form of intrusion.

Member States may wish to cooperate with relevant organizations and institutions in encouraging a legal and practical environment which will maximize accessibility of the digital heritage. A fair balance between the legitimate rights of creators and other rights holders and the interests of the public to access digital heritage materials should be reaffirmed and promoted, in accordance with international norms and agreements.

GUARDING AGAINST LOSS OF HERITAGE

Article 3 – The threat of loss

The world’s digital heritage is at risk of being lost to posterity. Contributing factors include the rapid obsolescence of the hardware and software which brings it to life, uncertainties about resources, responsibility and methods for maintenance and preservation, and the lack of supportive legislation.

Attitudinal change has fallen behind technological change. Digital evolution has been too rapid and costly for governments and institutions to develop timely and informed preservation strategies. The threat to the economic, social, intellectual and cultural potential of the heritage – the building blocks of the future – has not been fully grasped.

Article 4 – Need for action

Unless the prevailing threats are addressed, the loss of the digital heritage will be rapid and inevitable. Member States will benefit by encouraging legal, economic and technical measures to safeguard the heritage. Awareness-raising and advocacy is urgent, alerting policy-makers and sensitizing the general public to both the potential of the digital media and the practicalities of preservation.

Article 5 – Digital continuity

Continuity of the digital heritage is fundamental. To preserve digital heritage, measures will need to be taken throughout the digital information life cycle, from creation to access. Long-

term preservation of digital heritage begins with the design of reliable systems and procedures which will produce authentic and stable digital objects.

MEASURES REQUIRED

Article 6 – Developing strategies and policies

Strategies and policies to preserve the digital heritage need to be developed, taking into account the level of urgency, local circumstances, available means and future projections. The cooperation of holders of copyright and related rights, and other stakeholders, in setting common standards and compatibilities, and resource sharing, will facilitate this.

Article 7 – Selecting what should be kept

As with all documentary heritage, selection principles may vary between countries, although the main criteria for deciding what digital materials to keep would be their significance and lasting cultural, scientific, evidential or other value. “Born digital” materials should clearly be given priority. Selection decisions and any subsequent reviews need to be carried out in an accountable manner, and be based on defined principles, policies, procedures and standards.

Article 8 – Protecting the digital heritage

Member States need appropriate legal and institutional frameworks to secure the protection of their digital heritage.

As a key element of national preservation policy, archive legislation and legal or voluntary deposit in libraries, archives, museums and other public repositories should embrace the digital heritage.

Access to legally deposited digital heritage materials, within reasonable restrictions, should be assured without causing prejudice to their normal exploitation.

Legal and technical frameworks for authenticity are crucial to prevent manipulation or intentional alteration of digital heritage. Both require that the content, functionality of files and documentation be maintained to the extent necessary to secure an authentic record.

Article 9 – Preserving cultural heritage

The digital heritage is inherently unlimited by time, geography, culture or format. It is culture-specific, but potentially accessible to every person in the world. Minorities may speak to majorities, the individual to a global audience.

The digital heritage of all regions, countries and communities should be preserved and made accessible, so as to assure over time representation of all peoples, nations, cultures and languages.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 10 – Roles and responsibilities

Member States may wish to designate one or more agencies to take coordinating responsibility for the preservation of the digital heritage, and to make available necessary

resources. The sharing of tasks and responsibilities may be based on existing roles and expertise.

Measures should be taken to:

- (a) urge hardware and software developers, creators, publishers, producers and distributors of digital materials as well as other private sector partners to cooperate with national libraries, archives, museums and other public heritage organizations in preserving the digital heritage;
- (b) develop training and research, and share experience and knowledge among the institutions and professional associations concerned;
- (c) encourage universities and other research organizations, both public and private, to ensure preservation of research data.

Article 11 – Partnerships and cooperation

Preservation of the digital heritage requires sustained efforts on the part of governments, creators, publishers, relevant industries and heritage institutions.

In the face of the current digital divide, it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity to enable all countries to ensure creation, dissemination, preservation and continued accessibility of their digital heritage.

Industries, publishers and mass communication media are urged to promote and share knowledge and technical expertise.

The stimulation of education and training programmes, resource-sharing arrangements, and dissemination of research results and best practices will democratize access to digital preservation techniques.

Article 12 – The role of UNESCO

UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:

- (a) take the principles set forth in this Charter into account in the functioning of its programmes and promote their implementation within the United Nations system and by intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations concerned with the preservation of the digital heritage;
- (b) serve as a reference point and a forum where Member States, intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating objectives, policies and projects in favour of the preservation of the digital heritage;
- (c) foster cooperation, awareness-raising and capacity-building, and propose standard ethical, legal and technical guidelines, to support the preservation of the digital heritage;
- (d) determine, on the basis of the experience gained over the next six years in implementing the present Charter and the Guidelines, whether there is a need for further standard-setting instruments for the promotion and preservation of the digital heritage.

PART VI

Reports submitted to the General Conference

33. The Commission recommends that the General Conference take note of the Report of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)” (32 C/REP.16) and the Reports on the Implementation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) (32 C/REP.17 and Add.).

PART VII

Debate on Item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007

34. At its first meeting, the Commission examined item 3.1 of the agenda. In introducing this item, the Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) invited the Commission to deliberate on various aspects of the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5) outlined in document 32 C/7 with a view to providing future-oriented indications concerning its elaboration, in particular as regards desirable programme priorities and orientations and their relations with the outcomes articulated in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 (31 C/4) but also with respect to other programming issues.

35. In particular, the Commission was invited, in the light of the results achieved during the 2002-2003 biennium, and the proposals contained in draft document 32 C/5, to comment on issues such as the relevance of document 31 C/4’s strategic objectives by programme area and of the two cross-cutting themes defined in document 31 C/4 for future action during the period 2006-2007; UNESCO’s contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in cooperation with the United Nations system and other partners; the definition of principal and other priorities for each of the two major programmes before the Commission; the identification of areas for future intersectoral activities and modalities for their implementation (which had been a particular praiseworthy feature of Major Programme V in document 32 C/5); the need to ensure the mainstreaming of the needs of Africa, the least developed countries, women and youth in all programme activities; the refinement and strengthening of a results-based approach allowing for improved monitoring, reporting and evaluation by the governing bodies (in particular through qualitative results and impact assessments as well as benchmark indicators); and the revision and updating of modalities of action by UNESCO.

36. Representatives of 35 Member States, one Observer and two non-governmental organizations took part in the debate. They unanimously reaffirmed the importance of the three strategic objectives 10, 11 and 12 of the Medium-Term Strategy (31 C/4) related to communication and information – namely, Promoting the free flow of ideas and universal access to information; Promoting the expression of pluralism and cultural diversity in the media and world information networks; and Access for all to information and communication technologies – and their relevance for future action in document 33 C/5.

37. The importance of freedom of expression as a fundamental human right was highlighted by several delegations, especially in the context of the new media and the Internet. A number of delegates noted that “fostering equitable access to information for knowledge for development” had been identified as the principal priority for Major Programme V in document 32 C/5, but they proposed that in document 33 C/5 the principal priority be changed to “promoting the free flow of ideas and universal access to information”. Several other delegates, however, supported retaining “universal access to information” as a key strategic objective. They considered that the principal priority in document 33 C/5 should continue to be focused on “access”. Yet others, commenting on

the fact that there would be no “freedom” without “access” underlined the fact that the issues of freedom of expression and of equitable and affordable access to information were interrelated. As pointed out by one delegate, “freedom of expression is at the very heart of access”.

38. The debate also highlighted other themes which should be taken into account in the preparation of document 33 C/5: freedom of expression in the Internet age; safety of journalists; development of guidelines for access to information; policies on public domain information; the role of libraries and archives in building knowledge societies (also proposed as a theme for new intersectoral cooperation); continuation of the Memory of the World Programme as a flagship activity; reflection and guidelines on the use of open source software; capacity-building in communication and information and training of media professionals; public service broadcasting; development of community multimedia centres; and development of diverse and multilingual local content.

39. Many delegates welcomed UNESCO’s contribution to the preparation of the World Summit on Information Society (Geneva, 2003 and Tunis, 2005), and especially the Organization’s welcome efforts to promote the concept of “knowledge societies” based on the following four principles: freedom of expression; equal access to education; universal access to information and cultural and linguistic diversity. Delegates unanimously agreed that follow-up activities to WSIS should be given a prominent attention in document 33 C/5. Some felt that UNESCO should continue to pursue its activities with respect to “infoethics”. One delegate felt that a joint statement by the two international intergovernmental programmes, IFAP and IPDC on issues relating to the building of knowledge societies to WSIS would be helpful to highlight their complementarity of purpose and action. One delegate referred to the emerging concepts of “learning societies” and of “creative societies” and suggested that they be linked to the Organization’s efforts related to knowledge societies.

40. In line with the Millennium Declaration, UNESCO will contribute to the international community’s efforts seeking to bridge the digital divide and to advance the development of open and inclusive knowledge societies. The Commission considered that, in an increasingly complex and competitive international environment, and given the multiplicity of actors involved, UNESCO should strive to increase and diversify cooperation with institutions at the international and regional levels while, at the same time, mobilize new partnerships. In this context, the need for enhancing IFAP and IPDC and achieving greater synergy between these two programmes was underlined, as was the need for joint action with other international initiatives, such as the United Nations ICT Task Force. The need for strengthening collaboration with non-governmental organizations and for developing closer links with the private sector was deemed essential, as was the development of South-South cooperation, networking and exchange of best practices. A number of speakers considered it important that in addressing digital divide issues support be given to initiatives such as the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Small Islands Developing States and NEPAD.

41. As highlighted by a number of speakers, Major Programme V “Communication and information” is by its very nature intersectoral. There was a general agreement that in document 33 C/5, UNESCO should continue to develop intersectoral projects in the framework of the two cross-cutting themes, namely *Eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty* and especially on *The contribution of ICTs to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of knowledge societies*. One delegate called for a greater involvement of Member States in the identification and elaboration of such projects included in the C/5 document. The need to continue the already existing intersectoral cooperation in areas such as “ICTs for education”, and the production of culturally diverse and multilingual contents was emphasized. Finally, the following themes were suggested for future intersectoral cooperation in document 33 C/5: the role

of libraries, archives and museums in the construction of knowledge societies; introduction of media concepts into school curricula; higher education including training of trainers; ICTs in science (including efforts to impede the brain drain).

42. Support was given to the continued mainstreaming of the needs of Africa, the least developed countries, women and youth in the Programme and Budget for 2006-2007. Reference was made to the international information network for youth as a good example of a successful mainstreaming approach with respect to youth.

43. Overall, delegates supported the continued emphasis on a results-based approach in document 33 C/5. Some speakers stressed the need for qualitative and quantitative performance indicators to evaluate the impact of the Organization's programmes. One delegate suggested that in the results formulation more emphasis be given to outputs. Some delegations also considered that this would require more effective mechanisms for monitoring and analysing programme design and implementation. It was noted that, as many of UNESCO's programmes in the Communications and information sector were focused on addressing the digital divide, the Organization could take a more active role in monitoring progress towards achieving the goal of universal access to information; such a role could go beyond reporting to include analysis and recommendations.