

**Hundred and seventy-first session**

171 EX/10  
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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

**REACTIVATION AND STRENGTHENING OF  
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN THE FIELDS OF BIOLOGY,  
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND TROPICAL ECOLOGY**

**SUMMARY**

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 171st session of the Executive Board at the request of Venezuela.

An explanatory note together with a proposed decision is attached.

Decision proposed: paragraph 9.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

### Introduction

1. This document sets out a proposal for the reactivation and strengthening, under the auspices of UNESCO, of the international centres of excellence in Venezuela in the fields of biology, molecular biology and tropical ecology.
2. Given the importance of science, as emphasized by Member States at the World Conference on Science (Budapest, 1999), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and the 32nd session of the UNESCO General Conference (Paris, 2003);
3. Considering the strategies and recommendations contained in document 161 EX/41, 161 EX/Decision 3.2.4, document 162 EX/18 and 30 C/Resolution 83 on the formulation of natural sciences programmes for human and institutional capacity-building in science and technology;
4. Aware of the importance of regional and international cooperation to the development of science and technology in the Latin America region and the Andean subregion;
5. With the aim of strengthening the creation of capacities related to UNESCO's activities and action in molecular biology and tropical ecology for the training of professionals and the exchange of practical experience in these fields;
6. Having regard to the advisability of using such appropriate facilities for training in countries of the South as are conducive to the joint training of the human resources required in Latin America and the Caribbean;
7. In the national scientific field, consideration has been given to the role to be played by international bodies in the current century in taking-up future challenges and in meeting the needs of future generations. As a result of the agreements with the Organization and on the initiative of the Venezuelan State, UNESCO centres of excellence are currently operating, developing specialist programmes in areas of utmost importance to human development and, from their very foundation, promoting education and science in the fields for which they have been established. The training of and interaction among young researchers in Latin America and the Caribbean and the gathering and exchange of bibliographical information are the outcome of an effective form of cooperation and of UNESCO's multiple outreach through these centres;
8. Having regard to the track record and effectiveness of the activities of the Latin American Centre for Biology (UNESCO-CLAB), the International Centre for Tropical Ecology (UNESCO-CIET) and the Simon Bolivar International Centre for Scientific Cooperation (UNESCO-CICCSB), UNESCO centres of excellence based in Venezuela;

### Proposed draft decision

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

The Executive Board,

1. Considering the strategies and recommendations contained in document 161 EX/41, 161 EX/Decision 3.2.4, document 162 EX/18 and 30 C/Resolution 83 concerning the formulation of natural sciences programmes for human and institutional capacity-building in science and technology,

2. Emphasizing the need to strengthen UNESCO's activities through the educational and training activities of the centres of excellence established in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,
3. Recalling the crucial responsibility entrusted to UNESCO in the fields of education, science and technology for the growth and development of the Latin America and the Caribbean region,
4. Thanks the Director-General for the unreserved consideration that would be given to the reactivation of financial contributions to the UNESCO centres of excellence based in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;
5. Thanks the Member States concerned for their support for this initiative which will benefit the regional and international scientific community in each of the centres' specific fields, thereby strengthening the Latin American integration process.