

Hundred and seventy-second session

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**APPEALS BY MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THEIR PROPOSALS
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES WITH WHICH UNESCO
COULD BE ASSOCIATED IN 2006-2007**

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 2006-2007.

Decision proposed: paragraph 13.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. According to the procedure adopted in 159 EX/Decision 7.5 (159th session of the Executive Board, May 2000) for establishing the list of anniversaries proposed by Member States with which UNESCO could 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 were rejected by the Executive Board at its 171st session. This option applied solely to proposals submitted before 15 January 2005.

2. Four appeals have thus been submitted to the Secretariat by Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico and the Philippines. In addition, Italy has requested a substitution as announced at the 171st session of the Executive Board by the representative of Italy, with a view to replacing the “500th anniversary of the death of Christopher Columbus (Cristoforo Colombo)” by the “400th anniversary of the first performance of Claudio Monteverdi’s *Orfeo* (1607)”.

3. The Secretariat’s intersectoral selection committee has considered all the requests 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 award of the Nobel Prize in 1906 to Bertha von Suttner: writer, pacifist and human rights activist

5. In a letter to the Director-General dated 27 June 2005, the Permanent Delegation of Austria requested that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the award of the Nobel Prize to Bertha von Suttner, in 2006. This proposal was supported by Romania and the Czech Republic.

6. The Director-General considers that this request meets the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary:

The revised proposal establishes the universal significance of the life and work of Bertha von Suttner. The specific event emphasized in this case (the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 was for the first time awarded to a woman) is relevant both to the life of the person and to the values of UNESCO. A variety of events, which will take place in Austria and abroad, will commemorate Suttner's commitment to peace and human rights.

400th anniversary of the first performance of *Orfeo* by Claudio Monteverdi (1607)

7. In a letter to the Director-General dated 13 May 2005, the Permanent Delegation of Italy to UNESCO and the Italian National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the first performance of Claudio Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, in 2007. This proposal was also supported by the International Institute for Opera and Poetry in Verona.

8. The Director-General considers that this request meets the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary:

Claudio Monteverdi was a brilliant innovator and madrigalist who brought music into a new era, one of more daring harmony and greater emotional impact than had been fashionable in previous periods. *Orfeo*, Monteverdi's Orpheus-inspired first opera, premiered in 1607, is a remarkable opera with passages that ought to be as well known as Verdi's *La Traviata* or *Aida*. *Orfeo* combines the most avant-garde elements of music used in Monteverdi's time – monody, bits of madrigal writing, and innovative use of the instruments. Monteverdi enlarged the orchestra and became one of the first composers to increase its dramatic range by having the strings use tremolo and pizzicato.

UNESCO's association with this anniversary is the ultimate recognition by the international community of this daring and innovative musician whose musical works represent a very important treasure of the world's cultural heritage.

100th anniversary of the birth of Abdylas Maldybaev, composer and opera singer (1906-1978)

9. In a letter to the Director-General dated 3 June 2005, the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO requested that UNESCO be associated in 2006 with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abdylas Maldybaev.

10. The Director-General considers that this request meets the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary:

Abdylas Maldybaev was a famous composer, actor, opera singer and poet of Kyrgyzstan. He was one of the most prominent opera composers of his time and the author of the Kyrgyz national anthem. He succeeded in creating bridges between classical and traditional music in his country and was therefore one of the founding fathers of professional music in Kyrgyzstan. Abdylas Maldybaev is a very well known author and composer in Central Asia and his work deserves to be recognized internationally.

Maldybaev's contribution to the diversification of Kyrgyz traditional music through the integration of new elements, such as musical instruments, innovative forms and styles in the European musical tradition, was exemplary. Use of a unique musical tradition to create a new form that would attract a larger audience and contribute to international musical aesthetics is a good model to be followed for the promotion of cultural diversity in the world.

UNESCO's association with this celebration is not only justified but Abdylas Maldybaev's creative work in the field of music and opera deserves to be better known and recognized by music circles in the rest of the world.

200th anniversary of the birth of Benito Juárez (1806-1872)

11. In a letter to the Director-General dated 6 June 2005, the Permanent Delegation of Mexico to UNESCO requested that UNESCO be associated in 2006 with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Benito Juárez.

12. The Director-General considers that this request meets the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary:

Revered by Mexicans as one of their greatest historical figures, Juárez, with great moral courage and most of all, honesty, upheld the civil law and opposed class privileges and foreign interventions in his country. As President of Mexico, Juárez enforced the "Ley Juárez" against the privileges of the church and the army.

Benito Juárez, a pure Zapotec Indian, who was governor of Oaxaca, his place of birth, from 1847 to 1852, has been the first and only President of Mexico of full Indian origin. Among other remarkable achievements, Juárez was the first Mexican President, and one of the first in the Americas, to recognize the importance of education, and he therefore introduced laws granting free instruction and education to the people of his country.

III. DRAFT DECISION

13. 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 172 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. Encourages the Member States of all regions to make proposals with a view to ensuring an improved geographical distribution and gender balance, by selecting also eminent women, as far as possible, according to the criteria approved by the governing bodies;
4. Recommends to the General Conference:
 - (a) that UNESCO be also associated in 2006-2007 with the following celebrations:
 - (i) 100th anniversary of the award of the Nobel Prize to Bertha von Suttner (Austria)
 - (ii) 400th anniversary of the first performance of Claudio Monteverdi's *Orfeo* (Italy)
 - (iii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Abdylas Maldybaev (Kyrgyzstan)
 - (iv) 200th anniversary of the birth of Benito Juárez (Mexico)
 - (b) that the hereby completed list of anniversaries with whose celebration UNESCO will be associated in 2006-2007, which supplements the list contained in 171 EX/Decision 46 and 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):
 - (1) 100th anniversary of the birth of Jean Carzou (Garnik Zoulumian) (Armenia)
 - (2) 100th anniversary of the birth of Norair Sisakian (Armenia)
 - (3) 150th anniversary of the birth of Sigmund Freud (Austria)
 - (4) 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Austria)
 - (5) 100th anniversary of the award of the Nobel Prize to Bertha von Suttner (Austria)
 - (6) 100th anniversary of the birth of Letif Kerimov (Azerbaijan)
 - (7) 200th anniversary of the birth of Napoleon Orda (Belarus)
 - (8) 500th anniversary of the birth of Lambert Lombard (Belgium)
 - (9) 100th anniversary of the death of King Gbehenzin of Abomey (Benin)
 - (10) 100th anniversary of the death of Marin Drinov (Bulgaria)
 - (11) 100th anniversary of the birth of Emilian Stanev (Bulgaria)
 - (12) 150th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla (Croatia)
 - (13) 150th anniversary of the birth of Dragutin Gorjanovic Kramberger (Croatia)

- (14) 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Prelog (Croatia)
- (15) 100th anniversary of the birth of Alejandro Garcia Caturla (Cuba)
- (16) 100th anniversary of the birth of Jaroslav Ježek (Czech Republic)
- (17) 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Secondary School of Glassmaking in Kamenický Šenov (Czech Republic)
- (18) 300th anniversary of the death of Jiří Josef Kamel (Czech Republic)
- (19) 100th anniversary of the establishment of the city of Mbandaka and the Zoo and Botanical Garden of Eala (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- (20) 100th anniversary of the birth of Jorge Icaza (Ecuador)
- (21) 100th anniversary of the death of Paul Cézanne (France)
- (22) 300th anniversary of the birth of Georges-Louis Leclerc, known as (comte de) Buffon (France)
- (23) 50th anniversary of the death of Irène Joliot-Curie (France)
- (24) 1500th anniversary of the construction of the Jvari Church in Mtskheta (Georgia)
- (25) 900th anniversary of the construction of the Gelati Monastery (Georgia), architectural complex and cultural centre
- (26) 100th anniversary of the birth of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Germany)
- (27) 150th anniversary of the death of Heinrich Heine (Germany)
- (28) 50th anniversary of the death of Bertolt Brecht (Germany)
- (29) 100th anniversary of the beginning of Bartók's and Kodály's systematic field research to collect traditional folk music (Hungary)
- (30) 100th anniversary of the birth of Luchino Visconti (Italy)
- (31) 300th anniversary of the birth of Carlo Goldoni (Italy)
- (32) 400th anniversary of the first performance of Claudio Monteverdi's *Orfeo* (Italy)
- (33) 100th anniversary of the birth of Hideki Yukawa (Japan)
- (34) 500th anniversary of the death of Aisha al-Baounieh (Jordan)
- (35) 100th anniversary of the birth of Akhmet Zhubanov (Kazakhstan)
- (36) 100th anniversary of the birth of Akzhan Zhaksybekuly Mashani (Kazakhstan)

- (37) 100th anniversary of the birth of Abdylas Maldybaev (Kyrgyzstan)
- (38) 800th anniversary of the foundation of Cesis City (Latvia)
- (39) 50th anniversary of the First International Congress of Negro Writers and Artists (Mali)
- (40) 200th anniversary of the birth of Benito Juárez (Mexico)
- (41) 150th anniversary of the death of Danzanravjaa Dulduitiin (Mongolia)
- (42) 100th anniversary of University Evening Classes in West Africa (Nigeria)
- (43) 1300th anniversary of the birth of al-Khalil Bin Ahmed al-Farahidi (Oman)
- (44) 100th anniversary of the birth of Jerzy Giedroyć (Poland)
- (45) 150th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Conrad Korzeniowski (Poland)
- (46) 100th anniversary of the birth of Grigore Moisil (Romania)
- (47) 100th anniversary of the first flight of a heavier-than-air aircraft entirely propelled by an on-board engine, produced and earlier used by the Wright Brothers in their 1903 flight, performed by Traian Vuia (Romania)
- (48) 50th anniversary of the death of Constantin Brancusi (Brâncusi) (Romania)
- (49) 150th anniversary of the State Tretyakov Gallery (Russian Federation)
- (50) 200th anniversary of the foundation of “The Moscow Kremlin” State Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve (Russian Federation)
- (51) 250th anniversary of the foundation of the Russian Academy of Fine Arts (Russian Federation)
- (52) 100th anniversary of the birth of Léopold Sédar Senghor (Senegal)
- (53) 100th anniversary of the birth of Ladislav Hanus (Slovakia)
- (54) 100th anniversary of the birth of Ludovit Rajter (Slovakia)
- (55) 100th anniversary of the creation of the Committee for the Promotion of Studies and Scientific Research (Spain)
- (56) 100th anniversary of the birth of the Venerable Buddhadasa Bhikkhu (Thailand)
- (57) 600th anniversary of the death of Abderrahmen Ibn Khaldun (Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria and Afghanistan)
- (58) 800th anniversary of the birth of Mevlana Celaleddin-i Belhi-Rumi (Maulana Jalal-ud-Din Balkhi Rumi), (Turkey, Egypt and Afghanistan)
- (59) 100th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Bahriany (Ukraine)

- (60) 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Franko (Ukraine)
 - (61) 50th anniversary of the establishment of St Joseph's Kaengesa Seminary (United Republic of Tanzania)
 - (62) 2000th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Marg'ilon (Margilan) (Uzbekistan)
 - (63) 2750th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Samarqand (Samarkand) (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.