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INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to 29 C/Resolution 87 (paras. 1.21 and 1.22) the Executive Board, at its 171st session, recommended to the General Conference the nomination of Mr Julius Oszlanyi (Slovakia) for the office of Chairperson of Commission III. At the second plenary meeting, on 4 October 2005, Mr Julius Oszlanyi was elected Chairperson of Commission III.

2. At its first meeting, on 7 October 2005 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: United States of America (Mr Gene Whitney)
Uruguay (Mr Fernando Lema)
Islamic Republic of Iran (Mr Seyed Mohammad Tavakol Kosari)
Sudan (Ms Fatima Abd El Mahmoud)

Rapporteur: Kenya (Mr Jude M. Mathooko)

3. The Commission then unanimously adopted the timetable of work as amended, included in document 33 C/COM.III/1 Rev.

4. The Commission devoted nine meetings between 7 and 12 October 2005 to the examination of the items on its agenda. The agenda was structured into three parts: Part I focused on Major Programme III (Social and Human Sciences); Part II was dedicated to the Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) and to the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5); and Part III related to Major Programme II (Natural Sciences).

5. The Commission adopted its report at its tenth meeting on 17 October 2005.

6. Mr Herwig Schopper, Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), gave a statement on behalf of the Chairpersons of the six international scientific programmes (IBSP, IOC, IGCP, IHP, MAB and MOST). The Joint Statement of the Chairpersons of the six scientific programmes to the 33rd session of the General Conference is attached as an annex to this report.

PART I – MAJOR PROGRAMME III – SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Debate 1

Item 4.2 – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007

7. At its first, second and third meetings, the Commission examined item 4.2 – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007, Major Programme III – Social and Human Sciences.

8. The representatives of 31 Member States and of one non-governmental organization took the floor on this item.

Recommendations of the Executive Board contained in document 33 C/6

9. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it approve the recommendations of the Executive Board as contained in the relevant paragraphs of document 33 C/6, as well as in document 33 C/6 Add.

Draft resolutions proposed in document 33 C/5

10. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 03110 Rev. of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Programme III.1 (Ethics of science and philosophy), Subprogramme III.1.1 (Ethics of science), as amended orally by the United States of America and by:

(i) the following draft resolutions:

33 C/DR.42¹ (submitted by Kenya) for paragraph (a)(viii);
33 C/DR.53² (submitted by Kenya) adding a new paragraph (a)(ix);

(ii) the amendment recommended by the Executive Board contained in paragraph 59 of document 33 C/6.

11. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

(a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:

(i) reaffirm UNESCO as lead agency in the field of bioethics at the international level, by pursuing its mission as an intellectual forum – in particular through its International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and its Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) – and to exercise its role as secretariat of the Interagency Committee on Bioethics;

(ii) implement universal principles based on shared ethical values to guide scientific and technological development and social transformation, by undertaking structured and coordinated follow-up actions for the implementation of the UNESCO declarations in the field of bioethics (the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data, and, if adopted, the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights);

(iii) assist Member States in developing and implementing national policy frameworks in the field of bioethics, by providing access to appropriate tools (such as the Global Ethics Observatory), initiating and strengthening

¹ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution, in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 17 of document 33 C/8 COM.III concerning in particular the budgetary implications.

² The Commission agreed on this draft resolution in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 18 of document 33 C/8 COM.III concerning in particular the budgetary implications.

educational activities, assisting in establishing ethics or bioethics committees and facilitating their networking;

- (iv) extend the role of UNESCO as an intellectual forum and laboratory of ideas to the national level, by fostering the dissemination of information and the networking of experts at regional and national levels;
 - (v) pursue reflection on basic ethical questions raised by scientific and technological progress, based on UNESCO's role as an ethical, intellectual, international and interdisciplinary forum, through the work of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), in cooperation with UNESCO's intergovernmental and international scientific programmes and benefiting from intersectoral contributions, especially Major Programme II, with respect to outer space, environmental ethics, a code of conduct for scientists, and ethics related to emerging technologies;
 - (vi) reinforce the advisory role of COMEST and the standard-setting action of the Organization by encouraging the elaboration and promotion of principles in the domain of environmental ethics and science ethics, exploring the feasibility of drafting a universal declaration of science ethics, relating to a code of conduct for scientists;
 - (vii) enhance the visibility of UNESCO's activities in ethics of science and technology among Member States, by implementing an effective information and communication strategy, including also the Global Ethics Observatory, and to enhance global awareness of its work, especially among the scientific and intellectual communities;
 - (viii) promote research and undertake ethics education activities – both in the area of bioethics and ethics of science and technology – in particular in the training and education of future scientists and among policy-makers and professionals;
 - (ix) establish a resource centre in Africa to facilitate exchanges between policy-makers, scholars, civil society and other interested parties on ethical, legal and social concerns stemming from advances in the life sciences, especially in bioethics, with particular interest to Africa and other developing regions, share information on international instruments development challenges and priorities and the ways and means of developing and implementing national policy frameworks in the field of bioethics.
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$3,173,500 for programme costs and \$60,800 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

12. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 03120 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Programme III.1 (Ethics of science and philosophy), Subprogramme III.1.2 (Foresight, philosophy and human sciences, democracy and human security), as amended by:

- (i) the following draft resolution:

33 C/DR.64 (submitted by Nigeria) for paragraph (a)(iv).

13. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
- (i) carry out, in the field of philosophy, a cycle of interregional and intercultural philosophical dialogues, bringing together academics and researchers from different backgrounds (the Asia and the Pacific region and the Arab States – Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa); promote philosophical reflection on contemporary problems and encourage the growth of philosophy education; pursue and expand the celebration of Philosophy Day;
 - (ii) foster international cooperation in the field of the human sciences and philosophy, *inter alia*, through closer cooperation with the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS);
 - (iii) contribute to peace-building, human security and conflict prevention, in accordance with the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), for which UNESCO is the lead agency, in particular through:
 - further elaboration of regional and subregional frameworks for the promotion of human security and peace in Africa and in Eastern Europe;
 - a comparative analysis of the different regional priorities for human security and the preparation and broad dissemination of a report by the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) on human security;
 - a multidisciplinary analysis of the historical, socio-economic and cultural factors at the roots of new forms of violence, including terrorism, and of their consequences;
 - support for and recognition of the efforts carried out to promote the universal values of peace and tolerance, notably through the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education;
 - (iv) enable the International Centre for Human Sciences, Byblos, Lebanon, in association with select similar institutions in sub-Saharan Africa to conduct comparative studies on the relations between democracy, development and culture, and justice and support identified centres in other regions of the world;
 - (v) continue the promotion of future-oriented thinking and debate in pursuit of UNESCO's function as a forum of anticipation, by holding the Twenty-first Century Talks and Dialogues, and through the dissemination of the UNESCO World Report;

- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$2,859,100 for programme costs and \$54,800 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

14. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 03210 Rev. of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Programme III.2 (Human rights and social transformation), Subprogramme III.2.1 (Promotion of human rights), as amended by:

- (i) the following draft resolutions:

33 C/DR.24³ (Islamic Republic of Iran) for paragraph (a)(i)(b) and (a)(i)(c) and (a)(ii), as orally amended by the United States of America;

33 C/DR.71 (submitted by Italy) adding a new paragraph (b), as amended by Canada, France, Germany, Uganda and the United States of America.

15. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
 - (i) implement the UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights (adopted by the General Conference in 32 C/Resolution 27) by:
 - (a) contributing to the further integration of a human rights-based approach into all programmes and activities of the Organization;
 - (b) promoting policy-oriented human rights research and promoting the rule of law in countries, in close cooperation with UNESCO Chairs, human rights institutions, and the academic community especially in countries in transition, especially on those rights within the competence of UNESCO;
 - (c) contributing to the promotion of human rights education, especially for children and youth, especially through the dissemination of information on human rights standards, procedures for their application and the results of human rights research;
 - (d) contributing to standard-setting activities related to human rights within UNESCO's field of competence;
 - (e) strengthening partnerships within the United Nations system, especially with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights holding the lead role for human rights activities in the United Nations system, with other intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations, in order to avoid duplication of activities and to better coordinate efforts, with a view to

³ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution as amended, in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 21 of document 33 C/8 COM.III and taking into account oral comments by the representative of the Director-General.

increasing the effectiveness and visibility of UNESCO's role in the field of human rights;

- (ii) strengthen UNESCO's contribution to the promotion of gender equality, capacity-building, and the human rights of women in Member States, in the context of the Organization's gender mainstreaming framework, notably through knowledge-sharing, research and analysis, above all through research network-building, in conformity with the Beijing Platform for Action for Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, also bearing in mind MDG 3 of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- (iii) implement the Integrated Strategy to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (adopted by the General Conference in 32 C/Resolution 28) by:
 - (a) reinforcing awareness-raising activities in the field and strengthening solidarity networks through new partnerships and a mobilization of UNESCO partners, including civil society organizations and in particular those concerned with the defence of human rights, universities, research centres, educational establishments and training institutes and competent NGOs throughout the world;
 - (b) pursuing research on new forms of discrimination; reinforcing the institutional capacities of different actors involved to promote research, education and communication in the combat against racism and other forms of discrimination; and
 - (c) strengthening the combat against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance – focusing also on discrimination against individuals with HIV/AIDS;
- (b) to encourage Member States, Associate Members, observers and international organizations in the framework of their respective competencies:
 - (a) to introduce rule of law and to concretely implement such rule and to inspire judiciary systems to rule of law;
 - (b) to propose and implement all positive actions needed to grant everybody the effective exercise of fundamental human rights, such as the creation of political and economic conditions to improve quality of life, especially among less-favoured groups such as women, children, persons with disability, refugees and migrants;
 - (c) to maximize their efforts in order to improve the condition of women, children, persons with disability, refugees and migrants in war and post-war zones, with the support of academic networks and public and private institutions;
 - (d) to facilitate the reconstruction of schools, hospitals and labour centres in order to grant everybody the concrete exercise of all political, economic, social and cultural rights;

- (c) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$1,793,600 for programme costs and \$34,200 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

16. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 03220 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Programme III.2 (Human rights and social transformation), Subprogramme III.2.2 (Social transformation) as amended by:

- (i) the following draft resolution:

33 C/DR.25⁴ (Islamic Republic of Iran) for paragraph (a)(ii), as amended orally by the United States of America.

17. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
 - (i) contribute to sustainable social transformations, through (a) refocusing the intergovernmental social science research programme MOST on the use of social sciences in evidence-based policy-making; (b) improving cooperation with international NGOs, such as the International Social Sciences Council (ISSC), and other regional, subregional and national social science networks; (c) further developing cooperation with universities by strengthening UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs networks in interdisciplinary fields; and (d) disseminating high-quality social science research results worldwide through the publication of the *International Social Science Journal* in six languages;
 - (ii) elaborate a framework of policy development on international migration and foster debate on the issue of international migration and urban development on the basis of scientific research, and collect and disseminate best practices concerning the situation of migrants in society; develop a new strategy for social integration in cities based on interaction and cooperation among researchers, public authorities and civil society, through comparative research, training and pilot projects which foster new bonds within the policy-making sphere, especially in developing countries and countries in transition;
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$2,528,400 for programme costs and \$48,400 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

18. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 03300 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning the projects relating to cross-cutting themes, as amended by:

⁴ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution as amended, in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 23 of document 33 C/8 COM.III and taking into account oral comments by the representative of the Director-General concerning in particular the budgetary implications.

- (i) the following draft resolution:

33 C/DR.72 (Italy), as amended orally by Italy.

19. 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”;
- (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 invite Member States, Associate Members, observers and international organizations to implement actions aimed at eradicating poverty and at elaborating strategies in order to promote human rights, especially in the countries where human trafficking has not yet been eliminated;
- (e) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$1,100,000 for programme costs.

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

20. 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.

Having examined **33 C/DR.3** (submitted by Cuba), concerning paragraph 03120 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add., proposing to add a new paragraph in order to ensure the ongoing support to the José Martí Project for International Solidarity, the Commission recommends that the General Conference not retain the amendment proposed, on the understanding that the concerns expressed in this draft resolution are already addressed and that appropriate modalities of action will be reflected in the work plans for 2006-2007.

Having examined **33 C/DR.73** (submitted by Italy), concerning paragraph 03220 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add., proposing to add a new paragraph in order to request Member States to develop every possible contact in order to submit to the Executive Board guidelines for cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and in order to invite the Director-General to set up a commission to prepare a guide on sources relating to the history of migrations around the world and to encourage the collection of such sources, the Commission recommends that the General Conference not retain the amendment proposed, on the understanding that, on the

initiative of the Social and Human Sciences Sector and in cooperation with the Culture Sector, existing institutes and organizations – especially the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – as well as individual experts will be brought together to exchange information on initiatives and activities concerning the social integration of migrants and documentation regarding the history of migration.

Regarding **33 C/DR.34** (submitted by Austria and supported by Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland), the Commission decided to leave paragraph 05120 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. as it stands, as it will be discussed further in Commission V, and noting that the Commission is in principle in favour with the spirit of document 33 C/DR.34 within the existing 33 C/5 budget proposals.

Draft resolutions withdrawn or not retained

21. The Commission informs the General Conference that 33 C/DR. 56 (submitted by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and United Kingdom) has been withdrawn by the authors within the context of item 4.2 (see paragraph 34 below).

Total budgetary provision for Major Programme III

22. Taken as a whole, the Commission recommends that the General Conference approve a total sum of \$30,838,000 for Major Programme III, corresponding to \$11,652,800 for total programme activities and \$19,185,200 for staff costs as indicated in the Draft Appropriation Resolution of 33 C/5 Rev., it being understood that this total amount is subject to adjustments in the light of the joint meeting of the Administrative Commission and of the five Programme Commissions and the decisions taken by the General Conference concerning the budget ceiling.

Recommendations relating to specific items

Debate 2

Item 5.11 – Proclamation of a world philosophy day

23. During its third meeting, the Commission examined item 5.11 (Proclamation of a world philosophy day). The representatives of 28 Member States took the floor on this item.

24. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 11 of document 33 C/45, as amended orally by France and the Russian Federation. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Having examined document 33 C/45 relating to the proclamation of a world philosophy day and the decision of the Executive Board concerning that proclamation,
2. Endorsing the results of the feasibility study presented by the Director-General on the celebration of a world philosophy day (171 EX/INF.12),

3. Recalling that philosophy is a discipline that encourages critical and independent thought, and is capable of working towards a better understanding of the world and promoting tolerance and peace,
4. Noting that the proclamation of a world philosophy day will not have any additional financial implications for the regular budget of UNESCO for 2006-2007,
5. Convinced that the institutionalization of Philosophy Day at UNESCO as a world philosophy day would win recognition for and give strong impetus to philosophy and, in particular, to the teaching of philosophy in the world,
6. Proclaims the third Thursday of November every year “World Philosophy Day”;
7. Invites the Member States of UNESCO to participate actively in the celebration of this Day and in the determination of the theme, at the local, national and regional levels, with the active participation of National Commissions for UNESCO, non-governmental organizations and the public and private institutions concerned (schools, universities, institutes, municipalities, cities, communities, philosophical associations, cultural associations and so on);
8. Invites the Director-General to encourage and support all initiatives which will be taken in this regard at the national, regional and international levels;
9. Requests the General Assembly of the United Nations to associate itself with this celebration and encourage the Member States of the United Nations to do likewise.

Debate 3

Item 5.4 – Celebration of an international year of global consciousness and the ethics of dialogue among peoples

25. During its third meeting, the Commission examined item 5.4 (Celebration of an international year of global consciousness and the ethics of dialogue among peoples). The representatives of 18 Member States took the floor on this item.

26. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 5 of document 33 C/15, as amended orally by Kazakhstan. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Recalling 32 C/Resolution 30,
2. Further recalling 31 C/Resolution 39 and 32 C/Resolution 47,
3. Having examined document 33 C/15,
4. Invites the Director-General to further the objectives expressed by the General Conference in 32 C/Resolution 30 by pursuing his efforts aimed at the promotion of dialogue among peoples;

5. Also invites the Director-General to attach particular importance to improving the system of humanitarian, including philosophical, education, enabling the development of universal global consciousness, free from racial, ethnic and social prejudices, as fostering knowledge of this kind should become one of the priority tasks of UNESCO.

Debate 4

Item 8.2 – Draft declaration on universal norms on bioethics

27. During its fourth meeting, the Commission examined item 8.2 (Draft declaration on universal norms on bioethics). The representatives of 49 Member States and one Observer took the floor on this item. During the debate, a number of delegates made statements specifying their Government's interpretation of certain provisions of the Declaration. At their request, these statements are given in Annex II of the present report.

28. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt by acclamation, for the records of the General Conference, the draft resolution contained in paragraph 32 of document 33 C/22, as amended orally by Indonesia and the United States of America, and the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, as annexed thereto. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Having examined document 33 C/22,
2. Having decided at its 32nd session, by 32 C/Resolution 24, that the international instrument on bioethics should be in the form of a declaration to be submitted to its 33rd session,
3. Adopts the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, as annexed hereto;
4. Calls upon Member States:
 - (a) to make every effort to adopt measures, whether of a legislative, administrative or other character, to give effect to the principles set out in the Declaration, in accordance with the international human rights law; such measures should be supported by action in the sphere of education, training and public information;
 - (b) to notify the Director-General regularly of any pertinent information on steps taken by them to implement the principles set forth in the Declaration;
 - (c) to foster ethics education and training at all levels, and to encourage information and knowledge dissemination programmes about bioethics;
5. Invites the Director-General:
 - (a) to take appropriate steps to ensure the follow-up to the Declaration, including its dissemination and translation into a large number of languages;

- (b) to take the necessary steps to enable the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) to assist UNESCO in promoting and disseminating the principles set forth therein;
- (c) to report to the General Conference at its 34th session on the implementation of this resolution.

ANNEX

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON BIOETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The General Conference,

Conscious of the unique capacity of human beings to reflect upon their own existence and on their environment; to perceive injustice; to avoid danger; to assume responsibility; to seek cooperation and to exhibit the moral sense that gives expression to ethical principles,

Reflecting on the rapid developments in science and technology, which increasingly affect our understanding of life and life itself, resulting in a strong demand for a global response to the ethical implications of such developments,

Recognizing that ethical issues raised by the rapid advances in science and their technological applications should be examined with due respect to the dignity of the human person and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Resolving that it is necessary and timely for the international community to state universal principles that will provide a foundation for humanity's response to the ever-increasing dilemmas and controversies that science and technology present for humankind and for the environment,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948, the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 11 November 1997 and the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16 October 2003,

Noting the two United Nations International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966, the United Nations International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 21 December 1965, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 18 December 1979, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity of 5 June 1992, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, the ILO Convention 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries of 27 June 1989, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture adopted by the FAO Conference on 3 November 2001 and entered into force on 29 June 2004, the Recommendation of UNESCO on the Status of Scientific Researchers of 20 November 1974, the UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice of 27 November 1978, the UNESCO Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations of 12 November 1997, the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of 2 November 2001, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) annexed to the Marrakech Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, which entered into force on 1 January 1995, the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health of 14 November 2001 and other relevant international instruments adopted by the United Nations and the specialized

agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO),

Also noting international and regional instruments in the field of bioethics, including the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine of the Council of Europe, adopted in 1997 and entered into force in 1999, together with its additional protocols, as well as national legislation and regulations in the field of bioethics and the international and regional codes of conduct and guidelines and other texts in the field of bioethics, such as the Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association on Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects, adopted in 1964 and amended in 1975, 1989, 1993, 1996, 2000 and 2002 and the International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences adopted in 1982 and amended in 1993 and 2002,

Recognizing that this Declaration is to be understood in a manner consistent with domestic and international law in conformity with human rights law,

Recalling the Constitution of UNESCO adopted on 16 November 1945,

Considering UNESCO's role in identifying universal principles based on shared ethical values to guide scientific and technological development and social transformation, in order to identify emerging challenges in science and technology taking into account the responsibility of the present generation towards future generations, and that questions of bioethics, which necessarily have an international dimension, should be treated as a whole, drawing on the principles already stated in the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights and the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data, and taking account not only of the current scientific context but also of future developments,

Aware that human beings are an integral part of the biosphere, with an important role in protecting one another and other forms of life, in particular animals,

Recognizing that, based on the freedom of science and research, scientific and technological developments have been, and can be, of great benefit to humankind in increasing, *inter alia*, life expectancy and improving quality of life, and emphasizing that such developments should always seek to promote the welfare of individuals, families, groups or communities and humankind as a whole in the recognition of the dignity of the human person and the universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that health does not depend solely on scientific and technological research developments but also on psychosocial and cultural factors,

Also recognizing that decisions regarding ethical issues in medicine, life sciences and associated technologies may have an impact on individuals, families, groups or communities and humankind as a whole,

Bearing in mind that cultural diversity, as a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, is necessary for humankind and, in this sense, is the common heritage of humanity, but emphasizing that it may not be invoked at the expense of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Also bearing in mind that a person's identity includes biological, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual dimensions,

Recognizing that unethical scientific and technological conduct has had particular impact on indigenous and local communities,

Convinced that moral sensitivity and ethical reflection should be an integral part of the process of scientific and technological developments and that bioethics should play a predominant role in the choices that need to be made concerning issues arising from such developments,

Considering the desirability of developing new approaches to social responsibility to ensure that progress in science and technology contributes to justice, equity and to the interest of humanity,

Recognizing that an important way to evaluate social realities and achieve equity is to pay attention to the position of women,

Stressing the need to reinforce international cooperation in the field of bioethics, taking into account in particular the special needs of developing countries, indigenous communities and vulnerable populations,

Considering that all human beings, without distinction, should benefit from the same high ethical standards in medicine and life science research,

Proclaims the principles that follow and *adopts* the present Declaration.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 – Scope

- (a) This Declaration addresses ethical issues related to medicine, life sciences and associated technologies as applied to human beings, taking into account their social, legal and environmental dimensions.
- (b) This Declaration is addressed to States. As appropriate and relevant, it also provides guidance to decisions or practices of individuals, groups, communities, institutions and corporations, public and private.

Article 2 – Aims

The aims of this Declaration are:

- (i) to provide a universal framework of principles and procedures to guide States in the formulation of their legislation, policies or other instruments in the field of bioethics;
- (ii) to guide the actions of individuals, groups, communities, institutions and corporations, public and private;
- (iii) to promote respect for human dignity and protect human rights, by ensuring respect for the life of human beings, and fundamental freedoms, consistent with international human rights law;
- (iv) to recognize the importance of freedom of scientific research and the benefits derived from scientific and technological developments, while stressing the need that such research and developments occur within the framework of ethical principles set out in this Declaration and that they respect human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- (v) to foster multidisciplinary and pluralistic dialogue about bioethical issues between all stakeholders and within society as a whole;
- (vi) to promote equitable access to medical, scientific and technological developments as well as the greatest possible flow and the rapid sharing of knowledge concerning those developments and the sharing of benefits, with particular attention to the needs of developing countries;
- (vii) to safeguard and promote the interests of the present and future generations; and
- (viii) to underline the importance of biodiversity and its conservation as a common concern of mankind.

PRINCIPLES

Within the scope of this Declaration, in decisions or practices taken or carried out by those to whom it is addressed, the following principles are to be respected:

Article 3 – Human dignity and human rights

- (a) Human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms are to be fully respected.
- (b) The interests and welfare of the individual should have priority over the sole interest of science or society.

Article 4 – Benefit and harm

In applying and advancing scientific knowledge, medical practice and associated technologies, direct and indirect benefits to patients, research participants and other affected individuals should be maximized and any possible harm to such individuals should be minimized.

Article 5 – Autonomy and individual responsibility

The autonomy of persons to make decisions, while taking responsibility for those decisions and respecting the autonomy of others, is to be respected. For persons who are not capable of exercising autonomy, special measures are to be taken to protect their rights and interests.

Article 6 – Consent

- (a) Any preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention is only to be carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned, based on adequate information. The consent should, where appropriate, be express and may be withdrawn by the person concerned at any time and for any reason without disadvantage or prejudice.
- (b) Scientific research should only be carried out with the prior, free, express and informed consent of the person concerned. The information should be adequate, provided in a comprehensible form and should include the modalities for withdrawal of consent. The consent may be withdrawn by the person concerned at any time and for any reason without any disadvantage or prejudice. Exceptions to this principle should be made only in accordance with ethical and legal standards adopted by States, consistent with the principles and provisions set out in this Declaration, in particular in Article 27, and international human rights law.
- (c) In appropriate cases of research carried out on a group of persons or a community, additional agreement of the legal representatives of the group or community concerned

may be sought. In no case should a collective community agreement or the consent of a community leader or other authority substitute for an individual's informed consent.

Article 7 – Persons without the capacity to consent

In accordance with domestic law, special protection is to be given to persons who do not have the capacity to consent:

- (a) authorization for research and medical practice should be obtained in accordance with the best interest of the person concerned and in accordance with domestic law. However, the person concerned should be involved to the greatest extent possible in the decision-making process of consent, as well as that of withdrawing consent;
- (b) research should only be carried out for his or her direct health benefit, subject to the authorization and the protective conditions prescribed by law, and if there is no research alternative of comparable effectiveness with research participants able to consent. Research which does not have potential direct health benefit should only be undertaken by way of exception, with the utmost restraint, exposing the person only to a minimal risk and minimal burden and, if the research is expected to contribute to the health benefit of other persons in the same category, subject to the conditions prescribed by law and compatible with the protection of the individual's human rights. Refusal of such persons to take part in research should be respected.

Article 8 – Respect for human vulnerability and personal integrity

In applying and advancing scientific knowledge, medical practice and associated technologies, human vulnerability should be taken into account. Individuals and groups of special vulnerability should be protected and the personal integrity of such individuals respected.

Article 9 – Privacy and confidentiality

The privacy of the persons concerned and the confidentiality of their personal information should be respected. To the greatest extent possible, such information should not be used or disclosed for purposes other than those for which it was collected or consented to, consistent with international law, in particular international human rights law.

Article 10 – Equality, justice and equity

The fundamental equality of all human beings in dignity and rights is to be respected so that they are treated justly and equitably.

Article 11 – Non-discrimination and non-stigmatization

No individual or group should be discriminated against or stigmatized on any grounds, in violation of human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 12 – Respect for cultural diversity and pluralism

The importance of cultural diversity and pluralism should be given due regard. However, such considerations are not to be invoked to infringe upon human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms, nor upon the principles set out in this Declaration, nor to limit their scope.

Article 13 – Solidarity and cooperation

Solidarity among human beings and international cooperation towards that end are to be encouraged.

Article 14 – Social responsibility and health

- (a) The promotion of health and social development for their people is a central purpose of governments that all sectors of society share.
- (b) Taking into account that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition, progress in science and technology should advance:
 - (i) access to quality health care and essential medicines, especially for the health of women and children, because health is essential to life itself and must be considered as a social and human good;
 - (ii) access to adequate nutrition and water;
 - (iii) improvement of living conditions and the environment;
 - (iv) elimination of the marginalization and the exclusion of persons on the basis of any grounds; and
 - (v) reduction of poverty and illiteracy.

Article 15 – Sharing of benefits

- (a) Benefits resulting from any scientific research and its applications should be shared with society as a whole and within the international community, in particular with developing countries. In giving effect to this principle, benefits may take any of the following forms:
 - (i) special and sustainable assistance to, and acknowledgement of, the persons and groups that have taken part in the research;
 - (ii) access to quality health care;
 - (iii) provision of new diagnostic and therapeutic modalities or products stemming from research;
 - (iv) support for health services;
 - (v) access to scientific and technological knowledge;
 - (vi) capacity-building facilities for research purposes; and
 - (vii) other forms of benefit consistent with the principles set out in this Declaration.
- (b) Benefits should not constitute improper inducements to participate in research.

Article 16 – Protecting future generations

The impact of life sciences on future generations, including on their genetic constitution, should be given due regard.

Article 17 – Protection of the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity

Due regard is to be given to the interconnection between human beings and other forms of life, to the importance of appropriate access and utilization of biological and genetic resources, to the respect for traditional knowledge and to the role of human beings in the protection of the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity.

APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES

Article 18 – Decision-making and addressing bioethical issues

- (a) Professionalism, honesty, integrity and transparency in decision-making should be promoted, in particular declarations of all conflicts of interest and appropriate sharing of knowledge. Every endeavour should be made to use the best available scientific knowledge and methodology in addressing and periodically reviewing bioethical issues.
- (b) Persons and professionals concerned and society as a whole should be engaged in dialogue on a regular basis.
- (c) Opportunities for informed pluralistic public debate, seeking the expression of all relevant opinions, should be promoted.

Article 19 – Ethics committees

Independent, multidisciplinary and pluralist ethics committees should be established, promoted and supported at the appropriate level in order to:

- (i) assess the relevant ethical, legal, scientific and social issues related to research projects involving human beings;
- (ii) provide advice on ethical problems in clinical settings;
- (iii) assess scientific and technological developments, formulate recommendations and contribute to the preparation of guidelines on issues within the scope of this Declaration; and
- (iv) foster debate, education, and public awareness of, and engagement in, bioethics.

Article 20 – Risk assessment and management

Appropriate assessment and adequate management of risk related to medicine, life sciences and associated technologies should be promoted.

Article 21 – Transnational practices

- (a) States, public and private institutions, and professionals associated with transnational activities should endeavour to ensure that any activity within the scope of this Declaration, which is undertaken, funded or otherwise pursued in whole or in part in different States, is consistent with the principles set out in this Declaration.
- (b) When research is undertaken or otherwise pursued in one or more States (the host State(s)) and funded by a source in another State, such research should be the object of an appropriate level of ethical review in the host State(s) and the State in which the funder is located. This review should be based on ethical and legal standards that are consistent with the principles set out in this Declaration.

- (c) Transnational health research should be responsive to the needs of host countries, and the importance of research to contribute to the alleviation of urgent global health problems should be recognized.
- (d) When negotiating a research agreement, terms for collaboration and agreement on benefits of research should be established with equal participation by those party to the negotiation.
- (e) States should take appropriate measures, both at the national and the international level, to combat bioterrorism, illicit traffic in organs, tissues and samples, genetic resources and genetic-related materials.

PROMOTION OF THE DECLARATION

Article 22 – Role of States

- (a) States should take all appropriate measures, whether of a legislative, administrative or other character, to give effect to the principles set out in this Declaration in accordance with international human rights law. Such measures should be supported by action in the spheres of education, training and public information.
- (b) States should encourage the establishment of independent, multidisciplinary and pluralist ethics committees, as set out in Article 19.

Article 23 – Bioethics education, training and information

- (a) In order to promote the principles set out in this Declaration and to achieve a better understanding of the ethical implications of scientific and technological developments, in particular for young people, States should endeavour to foster bioethics education and training at all levels as well as to encourage information and knowledge dissemination programmes about bioethics.
- (b) States should encourage the participation of international and regional intergovernmental organizations and international, regional and national non-governmental organizations in this endeavour.

Article 24 – International cooperation

- (a) States should foster international dissemination of scientific information and encourage the free flow and sharing of scientific and technological knowledge.
- (b) Within the framework of international cooperation, States should promote cultural and scientific cooperation and enter into bilateral and multilateral agreements enabling developing countries to build up their capacity to participate in generating and sharing scientific knowledge, the related know-how and the benefits thereof.
- (c) States should respect and promote solidarity between and among States, as well as individuals, families, groups and communities, with special regard for those rendered vulnerable by disease or disability or other personal, societal or environmental conditions and those with the most limited resources.

Article 25 – Follow-up action by UNESCO

- (a) UNESCO shall promote and disseminate the principles set out in this Declaration. In doing so, UNESCO should seek the help and assistance of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) and the International Bioethics Committee (IBC).

- (b) UNESCO shall reaffirm its commitment to dealing with bioethics and to promoting collaboration between IGBC and IBC.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 26 – Interrelation and complementarity of the principles

This Declaration is to be understood as a whole and the principles are to be understood as complementary and interrelated. Each principle is to be considered in the context of the other principles, as appropriate and relevant in the circumstances.

Article 27 – Limitations on the application of the principles

If the application of the principles of this Declaration is to be limited, it should be by law, including laws in the interests of public safety, for the investigation, detection and prosecution of criminal offences, for the protection of public health or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. Any such law needs to be consistent with international human rights law.

Article 28 – Denial of acts contrary to human rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any claim to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to human rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity.

Debate 5

Item 5.28 – Report by the Director-General on the advisability of elaborating an international declaration on science ethics to serve as a basis for an ethical code of conduct for scientists

29. During its fourth and fifth meetings, the Commission examined item 5.28 (Report by the Director-General on the advisability of elaborating an international declaration on science ethics to serve as a basis for an ethical code of conduct for scientists). The representatives of 14 Member States and of one non-governmental organization took the floor on this item.

30. Following a vote,^{*} the Commission decided to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 2 of document 33 C/64. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Recalling 29 C/Resolution 13, paragraph 2.C(d), 30 C/Resolution 20, 31 C/Resolution 21.1(a) and 32 C/Resolution 26, calling upon UNESCO to promote ethical reflection associated to the advancements of science and technology, with the advice of COMEST,
2. Bearing in mind the Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge, prepared by the 1999 World Conference on Science and adopted by the General Conference at its 30th session,

* The result of the vote on an amendment to paragraph 8 of the proposed resolution was the following: 32 against and 22 in favour.

3. Recognizing that ethics and responsibility of science should be an integral part of the education and training of all scientists and that it is important to instil in students and scientists a positive attitude towards reflection, vigilance and awareness of the ethical dilemmas that they may encounter in their professional lives,
4. Having taken note of 169 EX/Decision 3.6.1,
5. Congratulates the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), on the high standard of its work;
6. Thanks the Director-General for his initiatives to enhance the impact and visibility of UNESCO's programme of ethics of science and technology;
7. Takes note of the recommendations taken by COMEST at its Fourth Ordinary Session (23-25 March 2005) supporting UNESCO's proposal to undertake a feasibility study on elaborating an international declaration on science ethics;
8. Requests the Director-General to prepare a feasibility study, in cooperation with the International Council for Science and COMEST, on the elaboration of an international declaration on science ethics to serve as a basis for an ethical code of conduct for scientists, and to submit this study to the Executive Board at its 175th session;
9. Also invites the Director-General to report to the General Conference at its 34th session on the implementation of this resolution.

Noting of reports of COMEST, IBC and IGBC, and MOST

31. Having examined the reports of COMEST (33 C/REP/21), IBC and IGBC (33 C/REP/13), and MOST (33 C/REP/18), the Commission recommends to the General Conference that it take note of these reports.

Part II Debate on the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4) and on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (items 3.2 and 3.1, Major Programme II, Natural sciences and Major Programme III, Social and human sciences)

Debate 6

Item 3.2 – Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4)

32. During its third meeting, the Commission examined item 3.2 (Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4)). The representatives of 29 Member States took the floor on this item.

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

33. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the draft resolution 33 C/COM.I, II, III, IV, V/DR.2 (submitted by Andorra, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia,

Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Monaco, Netherlands, Saint Lucia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America):

The General Conference,

1. Recalling the discussions at the 32nd session of the General Conference, as well as at the subsequent sessions of the Executive Board, on the Organization's priorities,
2. Recalling 171 EX/Decision 30 concerning the preparation of the provisional agenda of the 33rd session of the General Conference,
3. Having examined document 33 C/6,
4. Emphasizing the need for UNESCO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations system, to effectively pursue its purposes and functions as laid down in its Constitution, and to contribute effectively to the objectives of the wider multilateral system, to inter-agency activities, and to the development needs of Member States within its domains,
5. Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome of the United Nations General Assembly and the Millennium Declaration,
6. Considering that the Summit Outcome Document of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and reflection undertaken in connection with the 60th anniversary of UNESCO, present an opportunity for the Director-General to set out a vision for UNESCO and how it could be managed as a modern, forward-looking United Nations organization together with the requisite framework,
7. Also considering UNESCO's mandate and its comparative advantage within the system of international organizations in its areas of competence,
8. Further considering that UNESCO's mission, rooted in its Constitution, should be defined in the light of the evolving dynamics of global development,
9. Further considering it essential that the General Conference issue clear guidance to the Secretariat and the Executive Board for the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy,
10. Further considering it important that UNESCO's programmes have clear results and contribute to genuine change in the world,
11. Cognizant of the good quality of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 and the important contribution it already made to strengthen the Organization, in particular thanks to its strategic character and its clear focus,

PART I

12. Invites the Director-General to ensure due consideration in the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) of the following principles and guidelines, which build on results-based programming, budgeting, management and

monitoring (RBB and RBM) methodologies used within the United Nations system:

- (a) to define UNESCO's **vision** in a single mission statement, describing in contemporary terms the organization's purpose and objectives, replacing the "unifying theme";
- (b) to define a limited number of **overarching objectives**, covering the full breadth of UNESCO's mandate, further concretizing the mission statement, replacing the "strategic thrusts";
- (c) to further define and operationalize the overarching objectives into a limited set of **strategic programme objectives**, one or two for each of the four programmes, which in turn form the basis for a limited number of **biennial sectoral priorities** with measurable goals, expected results and clear benchmarks in future C/5 documents;
- (d) to set measurable expected outcomes for the overarching objectives and the strategic programme priorities;
- (e) to draw on the full implementation of RBM, with strict orientation on results and impact;
- (f) to include in document 34 C/5 a road map, including a timetable, towards full implementation of RBM;
- (g) to structure the Medium-Term Strategy in such a way that it allows, in consecutive C/5 documents, for the development of a larger number of intersectoral programmes;
- (h) to ensure that due attention is paid to the improvement of the visibility of the Organization;
- (i) to define the complementary roles of Headquarters and the field, so as to ensure measurable impact of UNESCO's activities at the country level, particularly in LDCs;
- (j) to define the contribution of category II centres to strategic programme objectives;
- (k) to focus UNESCO's general role on those areas where the Organization has a core mandate and comparative advantage within the United Nations system, making sure that proposed actions of UNESCO and those of other international organizations are within their respective core mandates and not overlapping with each other;
- (l) to make the Medium-Term Strategy a reader-friendly reference document for UNESCO's Member States and Secretariat, preferably limited to 30 pages, and with comprehensive summaries, as appropriate;

13. Further invites the Director-General to take into account the guidance offered by the 33rd session of the General Conference in the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy;
14. Encourages the Director-General to make the appropriate organizational changes for the full delivery of the Medium-Term Strategy, including the introduction of structures facilitating greater intersectorality;

PART II

15. Requests the Director-General in the consultative process of Member States and National Commissions, which is an integral part of the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy:
 - (a) to reflect the contents of this resolution in the questionnaire to be sent to Member States and National Commissions, as well as in the regional consultations of these Commissions;
 - (b) to create conditions for a high response rate to the questionnaire, among others by considerably reducing the number of questions in the questionnaire;
 - (c) to present to the Executive Board, besides the programmatic analysis of the responses of Member States and National Commissions to the questionnaire, a quantitative analysis of these responses, in order for the Board to assess the extent of support for specific programmes and initiatives;
16. Requests the Director-General to ensure that views shared by a majority of Member States are all taken into account in the process of the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy;
17. Further requests the Director-General to present progress reports to the 174th and 175th sessions of the Executive Board;
18. Urges the Director-General in preparing the Medium-Term Strategy to take due account of the recommendations and guidance offered by the internal and external auditor and the Joint Inspection Unit, as well as “when appropriate” guidance emanating from other internal or external evaluations or strategic reviews;

PART III

19. Requests the Member States of UNESCO and the UNESCO National Commissions to take into account this resolution in the process of consultation for the preparation of the draft Medium-Term Strategy;
20. Requests the Executive Board to ensure that the above-mentioned principles and guidelines are taken into account in the preparation of the draft Medium-Term Strategy;
21. Decides that the draft Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) shall be presented to the 34th session of the General Conference.

ANNEX

Vision = Mission Statement (long-term 2015)				
Overarching Objectives (long-term 2015)				
Strategic Programme Objectives (mid-term 2011)				
	Education Programme	Sciences Programme	Culture Programme	Communication Programme
ED Sector	Biennial (Cross-) Sectoral Priorities (short-term 2008-2009)			
SC Sector	Biennial (Cross-) Sectoral Priorities (short-term 2008-2009)			
SHS Sector	Biennial (Cross-) Sectoral Priorities (short-term 2008-2009)			
CLT Sector	Biennial (Cross-) Sectoral Priorities (short-term 2008-2009)			
C&I Sector	Biennial (Cross-) Sectoral Priorities (short-term 2008-2009)			

34. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the draft resolution 33 C/COM.III/DR.2 (submitted by Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), as amended:

The General Conference,

Decides to launch an overall review of Major Programmes II and III against the background of UNESCO's mandate, country and regional priorities and today's global needs, which would form an integral part of and contribute to programme planning;

Requests the Director-General to undertake a review with mandate on the lines indicated below by setting up a team of expert scientific representatives of Member States, inclusive of all Regions, and appropriate intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations, working in close partnership with the Secretariat;

Requests the Director-General to submit a report on the conclusions and recommendations of the expert team through the Executive Board to the 34th session of the General Conference with a view to integrating the agreed conclusions and recommendations in the Programme and Budget (34 C/5) and the Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4);

Welcomes the intention of the Director-General to adjust the evaluation plan for 2006-2007 with a view to providing \$120,000 from regular resources under the programme and budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5) for the purposes of conducting the team review;

Urges Member States to provide adequate complementary extrabudgetary resources in addition to those to be provided from the regular programme and budget (33 C/5) and to do so at the earliest possible time.

Debate 7

Item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5)

35. During its third and fourth meetings, the Commission examined item 3.1 (Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5)). The representatives of nine Member States took the floor on this item.

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

36. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the draft resolution 33 C/COM.I, II, III, IV, V/DR.1 (submitted by Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and supported by Barbados and Seychelles):

The General Conference,

Recalling the adoption at its 32nd session of a resolution (32 C/Resolution 48) specifically addressed to the “Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: further implementation and review of the Barbados Programme of Action (Barbados+10)”, with its operative paragraphs addressed to Member States and Associate Members, non-governmental organizations in official relations with UNESCO, and the Director-General,

Welcoming the subsequent decision by the Director-General to formalize the coordination of UNESCO inputs to the Barbados+10 process, through the creation in February 2004 of a high-level intersectoral and interregional working group (WG-SIDS) to promote and coordinate UNESCO-wide contributions to the Barbados+10 review and forward-planning process,

Taking note of the convening by the United Nations of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was held in Port Louis (Mauritius) from 10 to 14 January 2005,

Taking note also of the distinctive contribution made by UNESCO to the review and forward-planning process and to events connected with the International Meeting in Mauritius, in such fields as the role of culture in the sustainable development of SIDS, youth visioning for island living, communities in action, ocean and coastal management, and civil society forum,

Welcoming the adoption by the International Meeting of the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy for Implementation),

Noting that the principal negotiated outputs of the Mauritius International Meeting – the political declaration and the strategy document – call for action in many fields related to UNESCO’s concerns, programmes and priorities,

Acknowledging the convening in March 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters of an Intersectoral Information Meeting for Permanent Delegates and Observers, which provided an occasion for a preliminary presentation and exchange of views on the possible contribution of the Organization to the Mauritius Strategy,

Noting the endorsement in July 2005 of the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy by the United Nations General Assembly,¹

Further noting the invitation by the General Assembly to all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional economic commissions, among others, to take timely action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

1. Urges Member States and Associate Members to:
 - (a) participate actively in the implementation of and the follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy;
 - (b) mobilize UNESCO’s programmes and networks in their respective countries and regions to promote further the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS through taking advantage of synergies of action across the Organization’s programmes and programme sectors and the opportunities presented by the Participation Programme and other sources of support;

2. Urges non-governmental organizations in official relations with UNESCO to:
 - (a) work in close partnership with government and other stakeholders in the follow-up to the Mauritius International Meeting;
 - (b) strengthen cooperation with civil society in SIDS in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;

3. Invites the Director-General to:
 - (a) continue to mainstream the Mauritius Strategy in the Organization’s activities and work programmes;
 - (b) continue, at the same time, to promote a holistic, integrated approach to sustainable living and development in SIDS, and to nurture intersectoral cooperation with intergenerational dimension, at the interregional level, via the proven platform approach;

¹ A/59/L.63 presented by Jamaica, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 July 2005.

- (c) collaborate fully with United Nations family of institutions and with other international and regional organizations, in contributing to the timely follow-up and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;
- (d) include appropriate proposals for the further contribution of UNESCO to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in preparation of the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy of 2008-2013 (34 C/4).

37. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the draft resolution 33 C/COM.II, III, IV, V/DR.1 (submitted by Australia and Indonesia):

The General Conference,

1. Thanking the Director-General for his efforts to ensure UNESCO plays its role in combating fanaticism, extremism, and terrorism, within all the realms of its mandate and in accordance with the United Nations Secretary-General's call for action in this domain,
2. Recalling General Conference resolutions 31 C/Resolution 39, 32 C/Resolution 30 and 32 C/Resolution 47,
3. Recalling 172 EX/Decision 53 of the Executive Board which, seeking to enhance UNESCO's contribution to international action against terrorism through education, the sciences, culture, communication, and information, has:
 - recognized the link between activities in support of a dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, and efforts to discourage and dissuade extremism and fanaticism,
 - underlined the importance of implementing concrete and sustained action in the various domains of UNESCO aimed at fostering a dialogue among peoples and countering extremism and fanaticism,
 - requested the Director-General to include concrete activities in the work plans for the Programme and Budget for 2006-2007, once approved by the General Conference, and to report to the Executive Board at its 174th session,
4. Acknowledging the range of valuable initiatives and meetings held under the auspices of the "Dialogue among Civilizations", and building on the results of the International Congress "Education for Shared Values for Intercultural and Interfaith Understanding" initiated by the National Commissions for UNESCO of the Asia-Pacific region, held in Adelaide from 28 November to 3 December 2004, and the "Call to Action" agreed at the Congress founded upon the ideals of the Delors Report pillar, "Learning to Live Together" and the Dialogue Among Civilizations, and in the context of the mandate of UNESCO,
5. Requests the Director-General to prepare for the draft document 34 C/5 an intersectoral programme, involving all sectors, to continue and strengthen initiatives in the development of curriculum frameworks and materials for education for shared values for intercultural and interfaith understanding.

PART III MAJOR PROGRAMME II – NATURAL SCIENCES

Debate 8

Item 4.2 – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007

38. At its fifth and sixth meetings, the Commission examined item 4.2 – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007, Major Programme II – Natural Sciences.

39. The representatives of 48 Member States and of one non-governmental organization took the floor.

Recommendations of the Executive Board contained in document 33 C/6

40. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it approve the Recommendations of the Executive Board as contained in the relevant paragraphs for Major Programme II of document 33 C/6, as well as document 33 C/6 Add.

Draft resolutions proposed in document 33 C/5

41. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 02110 Rev. of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Programme II.1 (Science, environment and sustainable development), Subprogramme II.1.1 (Managing water interactions: systems at risk and social challenges). The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
 - (i) fulfil the biennial objectives set for the principal priority, water and associated ecosystems, through an implementation of the sixth phase of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and to develop the plan for the seventh phase of IHP (2008-2013);
 - (ii) investigate measures to minimize threats to vulnerable water resource systems, including in emergency situations like floods and their consequences; and develop integrated catchment or watershed approaches to land, surface and groundwater management;
 - (iii) improve the understanding of the physical and geo-biochemical processes that affect water resource systems, with a focus on ecohydrology, extreme hydrological phenomena and sediment transport processes; and develop improved techniques, indicators and databases for water resource assessment at different scales;
 - (iv) formulate policy recommendations for water resource management for human needs, with emphasis on arid and semi-arid as well as urban environments; and provide leadership in the implementation of the United

Nations system-wide World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and the preparation of the second World Water Report;

- (v) promote an enhanced understanding of causes of water conflicts and vulnerabilities related to water, and develop cooperative approaches and tools to assist in preventing or reducing them through water resource management approaches; and
 - (vi) strengthen water-related research and capacity-building, in close cooperation with UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and with the involvement of the regional and international water centres under the auspices of UNESCO;
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$8,800,200 for programme costs and \$126,200 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

42. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 02120 Rev. of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Programme II.1 (Science, environment and sustainable development), Subprogramme II.1.2 Ecological and earth sciences for sustainable development, as amended by:

- (i) the following draft resolutions:

33 C/DR.17⁵ (submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran) for paragraph (b)(i);
33 C/DR.66⁶ (submitted by Italy) for a new paragraph (c) as amended;

- (ii) the amendments recommended by the Executive Board contained in paragraph 52 of document 33 C/6.

43. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in the ecological sciences, in particular through the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and associated interdisciplinary scientific research and capacity-building related to the sustainable use of biological resources, in order to:
 - (i) contribute to minimizing biodiversity loss through the use of ecological and biodiversity sciences in policy- and decision-making;
 - (ii) promote environmental sustainability through the World Network of Biosphere Reserves;

and

⁵ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 4 of document 33 C/8 COM.III, with the understanding that only seed money could be provided while additional funds would have to be sought from extrabudgetary resources.

⁶ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 5 of document 33 C/8 COM.III.

- (iii) enhance the linkages between cultural and biological diversity, jointly with MP IV;
- (b) to implement the corresponding plan of action for the earth sciences in order to:
 - (i) improve applied and fundamental research in the earth sciences through the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) and translate geo-environmental and hydro-geological knowledge and knowledge relating to other emerging scientific disciplines into information for the planning of socio-economic development, including groundwater and related ecosystem management issues; strengthen earth science networks in developing countries optimizing earth sciences training in formal and non-formal education and promote geological heritage;
 - (ii) develop interdisciplinary cooperation in earth observation for operational monitoring of the earth system and its resource; increase cooperation with space agencies to improve management of MAB biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites; enhance institutional and human capacities of Member States in earth sciences, relevant space and information technologies and their educational and training applications, especially for developing countries; champion the process leading to the proclamation of an international year of Planet Earth, and ensure UNESCO's leadership role in its implementation phase.
- (c) to invite Member States to strengthen collaboration with UNESCO and the Secretariat of the "United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (UNCCD) in order to celebrate the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification through the arrangement of appropriate and long-term activities.
- (d) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$2,969,600 for programme costs and \$42,600 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

44. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 02130 Rev. of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Programme II.1 (Science, environment and sustainable development), Subprogramme II.1.3 – UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, as amended by:

- (i) the following draft resolution:

33 C/DR.61 (submitted by Sudan) for paragraph (a)(iv), as amended.

45. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action pertaining to the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in order to:

- (i) improve scientific knowledge and understanding of oceanic and coastal processes with a view to assisting Member States in the design and implementation of sustainable policies for the ocean and coastal zones, through the organization and coordination of major scientific programmes, responding to the mandate of UNCLOS, Chapter 17 of Agenda 21/UNCED, the Barbados Plan of Action for Small Islands States, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) adopted at WSSD, the Global Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity, the Millennium Development Goals and the relevant regional conventions and programmes;
 - (ii) continue the development of Operational Oceanography and Information and Data Systems through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the Intergovernmental Oceanography Data Exchange programme (IODE) and the IOC/WMO Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM);
 - (iii) coordinate the establishment of a tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean region, building upon the 40-year experience of the Tsunami Warning System for the Pacific;
 - (iv) strengthen the capacities of Member States to monitor and predict the transfer of harmful algal species and other introduced non-native species by oil tanker traffic;
 - (v) continue the implementation of regional coastal management projects contributing to the operational phase of the African Process in the framework of the Environment Component of NEPAD;
 - (vi) answer the call to the IOC contained in the JPOI to support the development of permanent capacities in ocean sciences, services and observations by Member States of IOC, contributing to build the capacities of developing countries to establish science-based management systems for the coastal resources and ecosystems in their Economic Exclusive Zone;
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$3,821,600 for programme costs, and \$54,800 for indirect costs at Headquarters.

46. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 02210 Rev. of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Programme II.2 (Capacity-building in science and technology for development), Subprogramme II.2.1 (Basic and engineering sciences, renewable energy and disaster mitigation), as amended by:

- (i) the following draft resolutions:

33 C/DR.31⁷ (submitted by Belarus) for paragraph (a)(iii), as amended;
33 C/DR.7 (submitted by France) for paragraph (a)(v);

⁷ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 10 of document 33 C/8 COM.III, i.e. that the amendment be placed as a separate section after (a)(vi) as (a)(vii) and the consequent subparagraphs be renumbered accordingly, and that the Organization could contribute seed money from its regular programme but that the major part of the resources would have to be sought from extrabudgetary sources.

33 C/DR.28⁸ (submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe) for paragraphs (a)(v) and (a)(vi); 33 C/DR.12 (submitted by Madagascar) for paragraph (a)(vi), renumbered as paragraph (a)(viii), as amended;

- (ii) the amendments recommended by the Executive Board contained in paragraphs 53 and 54 of document 33 C/6.

47. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the following plan of action in order to:
 - (i) pursue UNESCO's contribution to the follow-up to the World Conference on Science (WCS) through further capacity-building in the basic and engineering sciences;
 - (ii) promote the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), a new flagship programme for basic sciences, as a contribution towards sustainable development and human security;
 - (iii) reinforce national and regional capacities through promotion of networking activities, scientific exchange with an emphasis on interdisciplinary programme development in physics, mathematics, chemistry and the life sciences, and in particular through the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP);
 - (iv) promote the use of renewable energies in addressing developmental issues by strengthening efforts in human resources development, with emphasis on improving the living conditions in rural areas in developing countries;
 - (v) assist, with a view to Education for All, in building capacities in science and technology education through networking to promote regional and international cooperation, raising the awareness of young people, especially girls, information-sharing and the development and dissemination of learning and teaching tools in engineering, science and technology;
 - (vi) assist in building capacities in physical asset management for poverty eradication and sustainable development through the culture of maintenance;
 - (vii) support national and regional efforts for prevention and mitigation of the aftermath of technological disasters;

⁸ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 9 of document 33 C/8 COM.III, bearing in mind that this activity will be sought to be accommodated within the Programme and Budget for Major Programme II and that partnerships need to be enhanced for securing extrabudgetary resources.

- (viii) foster a culture of prevention facing natural disasters as a contribution to the follow-up to the Kobe World Conference on Disaster Reduction, with a focus on knowledge management, education and information for disaster preparedness and strengthen the capacities of the national platforms and regional mechanisms set up to implement the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR);
 - (ix) to promote gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the various activities of this subprogramme;
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$3,731,600 for programme costs, and \$53,500 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

48. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 02220 Rev. of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning Programme II.2 (Capacity-building in science and technology), Subprogramme II.2.2 – Science and technology policies for sustainable development, as amended by:

- (i) the following draft resolutions:

33 C/DR.30⁹ (submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania, Benin, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda) for paragraph (a)(iii);
33 C/DR.37¹⁰ (submitted by Monaco) for paragraph (a)(vi), as amended;
33 C/DR.52¹¹ (submitted by Costa Rica) for paragraph (a)(x), renumbered as paragraph (a)(xi).

49. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Authorizes the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:
- (i) develop decision-making instruments, methodologies, guidelines and norms for science policy, in particular for surveying national scientific potential, for preparing programmes and budgets related to submissions for funding of research and development projects, for technology forecasting, assessment and regulation, and for exchanging information and data required for science policy-making;

⁹ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 11 of document 33 C/8 COM.III indicating that he is willing to provide seed funding and to mobilize extrabudgetary resources.

¹⁰ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 12 of document 33 C/8 COM.III indicating that he is willing to examine the possibility of setting up the proposed committee.

¹¹ The Commission agreed on this draft resolution in the light of the comments made by the Director-General contained in paragraph 14 of document 33 C/8 COM.III agreeing that he is to provide seed funding for such a programme and that he is to mobilize extrabudgetary resources for its implementation.

- (ii) conduct analysis of national systems for science and innovations drawing on experience from different economic and cultural settings with a view to proposing best practices and to reinforcing and reforming such systems;
- (iii) conduct baseline study on S&T situation and S&T policy and implementation in sub-Saharan Africa and provide advisory services to Member States (in particular from Africa and Small Island Developing States) for the formulation and implementation of science and technology policies at the national, subregional and regional levels, with a view to increasing and mobilizing scientific and technological resources in support of sustainable development and peace;
- (iv) assist Small Island Developing States in obtaining advisory, programmatic and financial support for the follow-up implementation of the SIDS-Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
- (v) develop strategies to reinforce education for sustainable development with emphasis on needs of small island developing States and their endogenous capacities, including local and indigenous knowledge and values, with special reference to the contribution from formal and non-formal education as a contribution to DESD;
- (vi) support an intersectoral regional plan of action for the Mediterranean maritime heritage with a view to sustainable development, promote the Fourth International Symposia on Monaco and the Mediterranean and set up an international commission on the contribution of science and culture to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region;
- (vii) reinforce community capacities to record, manage and mobilize local and indigenous knowledge in order to shape sustainable development and natural resource management to local requirements and needs;
- (viii) promote participatory approaches to policy-making in science through the involvement of all stakeholders within regional and subregional science policy forums in order to increase public support for civil research and ensure its societal relevance;
- (ix) promote the active participation of women in science and technology, and ensure that the need of gender equality and women's empowerment be pursued and fully reflected in the design of national science and technology policies for sustainable development, with special emphasis on Africa and the small island developing States;
- (x) promote the active participation of young scientists in science and technology policy-making through support to the UNESCO-backed World Academy of Young Scientists;
- (xi) follow up and implement paragraph 55(a) of the Doha Plan of Action of the Second South Summit of the Group of 77 and China, for the establishment of a South-South cooperation fund for science and technology, enabling a

programme of cooperation in this field to be developed and implemented for the purpose of: facilitating the integration of a development approach into national science, technology and innovation policies; capacity-building in science and technology; providing policy advice and exchanges of experience and best practice; creating problem-solving networks of centres of excellence in developing countries; and facilitating the exchange of students, researchers, scientists and technologists among developing countries;

- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$1,663,100 for programme costs and \$23,800 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

50. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 02310 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education.

51. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Acknowledging the report of the Governing Board of the UNESCO-IHE Institute of Water Education for the 2004-2005 biennium,

Recognizing the vital importance of water education and capacity-building in the implementation of UNESCO's principal priority "water and associated ecosystems" for the natural sciences, and the role of UNESCO-IHE therein,

Underlining the valuable contribution being made by UNESCO-IHE in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging that UNESCO-IHE is entirely extrabudgetary and as such represents a unique model among UNESCO's category I institutes, requiring innovative approaches to management and programme delivery,

Noting the resolution of the sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) that draws attention to the need for all Member States to share responsibility for the longer term viability of UNESCO-IHE,

1. Requests the Governing Board of UNESCO-IHE to continue and if possible intensify even further its efforts to:
 - (a) achieve synergy and complementarity with the International Hydrological Programme in implementing UNESCO's overall water and sustainable development programme, including the development of key new initiatives such as the International Flood Initiative and in the planning for the Seventh Phase of IHP;
 - (b) contribute actively to assisting Member States to attain the necessary expertise and capacities to implement MDG 7;

- (c) support and help implement activities of the United Nations system, in particular the World Water Assessment Programme and the International Decade on Action, “Water for Life” (2005-2015);
 - (d) innovate with new means of delivery of education and capacity-building services within developing countries themselves, in particular through distance-learning methods;
 - (e) serve as a hub for UNESCO water institutes and centres throughout the world, and promote their interaction and complementarity;
2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands, as host country to UNESCO-IHE, for providing core support that ensures the operation of the Institute, and to the Member States and other institutions that provide support for UNESCO-IHE projects and fellowships;
 3. Appeals to Member States to make voluntary contributions to UNESCO-IHE so as to demonstrate that all Member States are committed to water education and capacity-building and the new model of category I institute that UNESCO-IHE represents;
 4. Further appeals to Member States to take initiatives to increase the linguistic diversity of UNESCO-IHE in education, training and capacity-building.

52. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 02320 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) (Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics).

53. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Acknowledging the report of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) for the 2004-2005 biennium,

Recognizing the important role of ICTP, as a category I UNESCO centre, in capacity-building in theoretical and applied physics, pure and applied mathematics, and interdisciplinary areas, with special focus on developing countries, under Major Programme II,

- (a) Requests the ICTP Steering Committee and Scientific Council, in accordance with ICTP Statutes, host country agreements, and the present resolution, when approving the Centre’s budget for 2006-2007:
 - (1) to ensure that ICTP goals and activities are in consonance with UNESCO’s strategic objectives and programme priorities in the natural sciences;
 - (2) to strengthen its capacity for advanced research, training and networking in the physical and mathematical sciences, as well as interdisciplinary areas, for the benefit of scientists from developing countries;

- (3) to enhance the Centre's research activities allowing its staff scientists to remain at the forefront of their fields;
 - (4) to encourage new techniques and promote practical laboratory work in developing countries, and, in particular to explore the use of theoretical physics and mathematics in modelling climate change and complex environmental systems;
- (b) Authorizes the Director-General to support ICTP by providing a financial allocation of \$1,015,000 under Major Programme II;
 - (c) Expresses its gratitude to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Italian Government, which gives a substantial financial contribution and provides its premises free of charge, and to the Member States and foundations that have supported the Centre with voluntary contributions, and invites them to continue their support for 2006-2007 and beyond;
 - (d) Appeals to Member States, international organizations, donor agencies, foundations and the private sector to grant or renew their support to enable ICTP to implement and expand the activities envisaged for the 2006-2007 biennium.

54. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 02400 of document 33 C/5 Rev. Add. concerning the projects relating to cross-cutting themes.

55. 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";
- (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 \$700,000 for programme costs.

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

56. 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.

Having examined **33 C/DR.21** (submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran), concerning paragraph 02110, proposing to add at the end of subparagraph (a)(ii), the text “especially in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region”, and requesting additional financial resources of \$250,000 using regular programme funds and extrabudgetary resources, the Commission recommends that the General Conference decide that the concerns expressed in this draft resolution are already addressed by the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) that has attached priority to hydrology in arid regions and that efforts will be intensified for this purpose through joint action by the Division of Water Sciences and the Cairo Office.

Having examined **33 C/DR.39** (submitted by Kenya), concerning paragraph 02110, proposing to add after subparagraph (a)(v) a new subparagraph (vi), “formulate policies on minimizing transboundary water resources conflicts for sustainable management of common/shared water resources” to further enhance transboundary water cooperation in the Lake Victoria and the Nile basins as well as in other similar basins, and requesting additional financial resources (regular programme: \$80,000; extrabudgetary resources: \$320,000) for this purpose, the Commission recommends that the General Conference decide that the suggested project be accommodated within the framework of the ongoing project entitled “From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential” (PCCP) for which efforts will be intensified to raise further financial resources.

Having examined **33 C/DR.40** (submitted by Kenya), concerning paragraph 02220, proposing assistance to be given to Member States to develop science, technology and innovation policies for sustainable development and economic growth, and requesting the provision of \$500,000 (regular programme: \$100,000; extrabudgetary resources: \$400,000), the Commission recommends that the General Conference decide that the aims of this draft resolution are common with the DR. 30 and its underlying concerns are already catered for with the adoption of DR. 30 noting that seed funding would be provided and extrabudgetary resources would be mobilized to this end.

Having examined **33 C/DR.41** (submitted by Kenya), concerning paragraph 02110, proposing to add a new subparagraph which would “develop and support associated UNESCO-IHE regional centres in developing Member States for water-related research and capacity-building to improve prospects for poverty reduction and sustainable development”, for which an amount of \$2,000,000 is requested (regular programme: \$100,000; extrabudgetary resources: \$1,900,000), the Commission recommends that the General Conference decide that the requested amendment is already reflected in paragraph 02110 (subparagraph (vi)) and paragraph 02310 (relating to UNESCO-IHE), that the issue be addressed through the establishment of regional water-related centres in IHP and through the regional capacity-building efforts of UNESCO-IHE, and that seed money be provided to explore the establishing of UNESCO-IHE regional centres in developing countries.

Having examined **33 C/DR.77** (submitted by Romania), concerning paragraph 02220, proposing to add a reference to “technical heritage” in subparagraph (a)(vi) as well as adding the same reference in paragraph 04110, subparagraph (a)(ii) to be examined by Commission IV, for which an amount of \$100,000 from regular programme and extrabudgetary resources would be needed, the Commission recommends that the General Conference decide that the Culture and Natural Sciences Sectors develop a conceptual framework and a feasibility study on technical heritage for which seed

funding would be provided and extrabudgetary resources would be mobilized to conduct the study.

Total budgetary provisions for Major Programme II

57. Taken as a whole, the Commission recommends that the General Conference approve a total sum of \$55,994,500 for Major Programme II, corresponding to \$23,002,000 for total programme activities and \$32,992,500 for staff costs as indicated in the Draft Appropriation Resolution of 33 C/5 Rev., it being understood that this total amount is subject to adjustments in the light of the joint meeting of the Administrative Commission and of the five Programme Commissions and the decisions taken by the General Conference concerning the budget ceiling.

Recommendations relating to specific items

Debate 9

Item 5.6 – Strategy for establishing a global tsunami warning system

58. During its seventh meeting, the Commission examined item 5.6 (Strategy for establishing a global tsunami warning system). The representatives of 33 Member States took the floor.

59. The Commission recommends to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 19 of document 33 C/39, as amended orally by Finland. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Having examined document 33 C/39,
2. Notes with satisfaction the work carried out by UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC) in response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami, in particular the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System;
3. Acknowledges the need to establish tsunami and other ocean-related hazards early warning systems in all oceans and seas as part of a global operational, multi-purpose detection and multi-hazard warning system;
4. Endorses the Global Strategy proposed in document 33 C/39;
5. Requests the Director-General to proceed with the implementation of this strategy and to report to it at its 34th session on progress made thereon.

Debate 10**Item 5.9 – Establishment of a regional centre for biotechnology training and education in India, under the auspices of UNESCO****Item 5.25 – Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for the establishment of an international centre of excellence in Venezuela under the auspices of UNESCO****Item 5.26 – Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for granting the status of a regional institute under the auspices of UNESCO to the Instituto de Matematica Pura e Aplicada (IMPA) in Brazil**

60. During its seventh meeting, the Commission examined items 5.9 (Establishment of a regional centre for biotechnology training and education in India, under the auspices of UNESCO), 5.25 (Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for the establishment of an international centre of excellence in Venezuela under the auspices of UNESCO) and 5.26 (Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for granting the status of a regional institute under the auspices of UNESCO to the Instituto de Matematica Pura e Aplicada (IMPA) in Brazil).

61. The representatives of 21 Member States took the floor on these items.

Item 5.9 – Establishment of a regional centre for biotechnology training and education in India, under the auspices of UNESCO

62. The Commission recommends to the Plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 48 of document 33 C/43 and its Annex as amended orally by Sri Lanka with regard to Article 3, paragraph 2, subparagraph (g). The text of the resolution and its Annex reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Noting 171 EX/Decision 10 on the Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study of the proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for biotechnology training and education in India, under the auspices of UNESCO,
2. Having examined document 33 C/43 and its annex,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of India,
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study;
5. Approves the proposal for the creation of the said Centre under the auspices of UNESCO; and
6. Authorizes the Director-General to negotiate and sign an appropriate agreement for the establishment of the Centre, it being understood that the obligations of UNESCO shall not be other than those indicated in the Annex to this decision.

ANNEX

DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN INDIA

Whereas the General Conference, at its 33rd session, decided that a Regional Centre For Biotechnology Training and Education would be established in India under the auspices of UNESCO,

Whereas the Government of India has contributed and stands ready to contribute further to the establishment and operation of the Regional Centre in its territory,

Bearing in mind that the Government of India has already taken a number of effective measures and steps to ensure the necessary infrastructure and facilities for the Regional Centre,

Desirous of concluding an agreement with a view to ensuring the establishment and operation of the said Regional Centre and to defining the terms and conditions governing the support that it shall be granted, under the guidelines laid down by the General Conference (21 C/Resolution 40) for regional centres set up by a State with UNESCO's participation,

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, hereinafter called "UNESCO", and the Government of India, hereinafter called "the Government",

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Establishment

The Government agrees to take any measures which may be required for the setting up of the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Training and Education in India, hereinafter called "the Regional Centre", as provided for under this Agreement.

Article 2 Participation

1. The Regional Centre shall be an autonomous institution at the service of Member States of UNESCO which, by their geographical proximity to the Regional Centre and their common interest in its objectives in the field of biotechnology, desire to cooperate with the Regional Centre.

2. Member States of UNESCO wishing to participate in the Regional Centre's activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send the Director-General of UNESCO notification to this effect, and shall designate a national institution working in the field of biotechnology which shall be competent to represent the Member State. The Director-General shall inform the Regional Centre and the Member States mentioned in Article 2, paragraph 1, above, of the receipt of such notifications.

Article 3
Objectives and functions

1. The objectives of the Regional Centre are:
 - (a) to promote capacity-building through education and training and research and development in biotechnology for sustainable development objectives through regional and international cooperation;
 - (b) to facilitate transfer of knowledge and technology relating to biotechnology at the regional level;
 - (c) to create a hub of biotechnology expertise in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region, and more generally in the Asia region, and to address human resources needs in the region;
 - (d) to create a network of satellite centres in the region;
 - (e) to promote and strengthen South-South cooperation.

2. The functions of the Regional Centre shall be:
 - (a) to execute educational and training activities to transfer knowledge in biotechnology;
 - (b) to undertake research, development and scientific investigation in collaboration with relevant research centres in the region;
 - (c) to hold scientific symposiums and conferences (regional and international) and to conduct short-term and long-term training courses and workshops in all areas of biotechnology;
 - (d) to collect universally available information with a view to setting up a data bank;
 - (e) to collect and disseminate, through networking, the relevant local knowledge;
 - (f) to disseminate the outcomes of research activities in different countries through the publication of books, articles, etc.;
 - (g) to promote collaborative research and development networking programmes in specific areas of biotechnology, and exchange and mobility of scientists at the regional level in this context with due consideration for issues pertaining to intellectual property rights of collaborating institutions promoting equitable sharing of benefits with collaborating institutions.

3. The Regional Centre shall pursue the above objectives and functions in close collaboration with other relevant regional and international networks, the centres collaborating with UNESCO, microbial resources centres (MIRCENs) and biotechnology education and training centres (BETCENs) in the region.

4. The Regional Centre shall carry out the above functions dependent on the extent to which regional and international resources can be mobilized.

Article 4 Governance

1. The Board of Governors:
 - (a) The Regional Centre shall be administered by a Board of Governors composed of:
 - (i) a representative of the Government;
 - (ii) a representative of each of the other Member States that (1) has sent the Director-General of UNESCO notification, as provided for under Article 2, paragraph 2, above; or that (2) makes a substantial contribution to the operating budget or running of the Regional Centre, and is thus accorded a seat by decision of the Board of Governors;
 - (iii) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO.
 - (b) The Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology of the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology shall be the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. The person designated by the Chairperson shall be the representative of the Government.
 - (c) The Board of Governors shall have all the powers required for the running and administration of the Regional Centre. It shall:
 - (i) approve the annual work plan and budget of the Regional Centre;
 - (ii) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Regional Centre as provided under Article 6 below;
 - (iii) study and approve the Centre's internal procedures, including financial regulations and staff rules;
 - (iv) approve the Regional Centre's organizational structure and number of staff;
 - (v) convene special consultative sessions to which it shall invite, in addition to its own members, the Director of the Regional Centre and representatives of other interested countries and international organizations, in order to obtain proposals for strengthening the scope of services of the Regional Centre and for carrying out projects and activities relevant to the Regional Centre, and to expand the Regional Centre's fundraising strategy and capabilities.
 - (d) The Board of Governors shall meet in ordinary session once a year; it shall meet in an extraordinary session if summoned by the Chairperson, either on his own initiative or at the request of at least half of its members.
 - (e) The Board of Governors shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For the first meeting the procedure shall be established by the representatives of the Government and of the Director-General of UNESCO.
2. The Executive Committee:
 - (a) shall be constituted, in consultation with the Board of Governors, for the day-to-day management of the Centre;

- (b) shall comprise the Director of the Regional Centre and representatives of the Department of Biotechnology, of the Indian Ministries of External Affairs and Human Resources Development, of three countries of the region (representation by rotation), and of UNESCO.
3. The Programme Advisory Committee:
- (a) shall be constituted to provide technical advice for planning, execution, review and monitoring of the programme of the Regional Centre;
 - (b) shall comprise scientific, technical and legal experts nominated by the Government, countries of the region and UNESCO, and experts invited from outside the region.
4. The Secretariat:
- shall be established to execute the day-to-day activities of the Regional Centre under the authority of the Director of the Regional Centre.

Article 5 Secretariat

1. The Regional Centre's Secretariat shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Regional Centre.
2. The Director shall be appointed by the Board of Governors in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO.
3. The other members of the Secretariat may comprise:
 - (a) members of UNESCO's staff who may be made available to the Centre, as provided for by the Organization's regulations;
 - (b) any person appointed by the Director, in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Board of Governors;
 - (c) government officials who may be made available to the Regional Centre, as provided by the Government's regulations.

Article 6 Duties of the Director

1. The Director shall discharge the following duties:
 - (a) direct the work of the Regional Centre in conformity with the programmes and directives established by the Board of Governors;
 - (b) propose the draft work plan and budget to be submitted to the Board of Governors for approval;
 - (c) prepare the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Board of Governors and submit to it any proposals that he may deem useful for the administration of the Regional Centre;
 - (d) prepare reports on the Regional Centre's activities to be submitted to the Board of Governors;

- (e) represent the Regional Centre in law and in all civil acts.

Article 7
Financial arrangements

1. The Regional Centre's resources shall derive from catalytic funds allotted by the Government and, for start-up activities, by UNESCO, subject to the decisions of the General Conference, as well as from such contributions as it may receive from other Member States of UNESCO within the region for the establishment of a core fund following an agreed process through the administrative mechanisms of the Regional Centre, from external sources to be explored with intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations, and from payments for services rendered. The Member States may also provide voluntary contributions to the Core Fund, including contributions in the form of secondment of scientists, researchers, teachers, officers, etc.
2. The travel costs of the representatives of Member States participating in the sessions of the administrative bodies of the Regional Centre shall be met by the Member States participating in the Regional Centre. The local costs shall be covered by the Core Fund.
3. The Regional Centre may, with the approval of the Board of Governors, receive donations, gifts and legacies.

Article 8
Contribution of the Government

1. The Government shall provide the Regional Centre with appropriate office space, equipment and facilities.
2. The Government shall make available to the Regional Centre the necessary staff, and contribute special funds which shall cover:
 - (a) the salaries and compensations of the Secretariat staff, including the Director;
 - (b) the communication, utilities and maintenance costs of the Regional Centre, plus the expenses of holding the sessions of the Board of Governors and special consultative sessions;
 - (c) the cost of studies, training, and publication activities, complementing the contributions from other sources.

Article 9
Contribution of UNESCO

1. UNESCO shall provide technical assistance as and when required and as appropriate, for the establishment and operation of the Regional Centre, including assistance in the formulation of the short-term, medium-term and long-term programmes of the Regional Centre.
2. UNESCO shall provide some catalytic support within the framework of the regular biennial Programme and Budget (C/5 document), particularly for start-up activities of the Regional Centre, it being understood that UNESCO may only contribute financially to concrete activities/projects of the Regional Centre if those are deemed in line with UNESCO's programme priorities. UNESCO shall not, however, provide financial support for administrative or institutional purposes.
3. It shall encourage the international governmental and non-governmental financial entities, as well as Member States of UNESCO, to provide financial and technical assistance and to

propose applicable projects to the Regional Centre, and shall facilitate contacts with other international organizations relevant to the functions of the Regional Centre.

4. It shall provide the Regional Centre with relevant UNESCO publications and other pertinent material, and shall disseminate information on the activities of the Regional Centre via the UNESCO website and other newsletters and mechanisms at its disposal.

5. It shall participate, when appropriate, in the scientific, technical and training meetings held by the Regional Centre.

Article 10

Legal status, privileges and immunities

1. The Regional Centre shall enjoy on the territory of India the personality and legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions.

2. The Government shall apply to UNESCO and its officials and experts and to the representatives of Member States and Associate Members attending the sessions of the governing bodies and the Programme Advisory Committee, the provisions of the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, to which it has been party since 1949.

3. The Government shall authorize the entry, free of visa charges, the sojourn in its territory and the exit of any person invited to attend the sessions of the governing bodies or proceeding to the Regional Centre on official business.

4. The goods, assets and income of the Regional Centre shall be exempt from all direct taxes. Further, the Regional Centre shall be exempt from the payment of any fees or taxes in respect of equipment, supplies and material imported or exported for its official use.

5. The Regional Centre may have accounts in any currency, hold funds and foreign exchange of any kind, and transfer them freely.

6. The Government shall be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third persons against UNESCO, against members of its staff or against other persons employed by the Regional Centre, and shall hold UNESCO and the above-mentioned parties harmless from any claims or liabilities resulting from operations of the Regional Centre under this Agreement, except where it is agreed by UNESCO and the Government that such claims or liabilities arise from the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such persons.

Article 11

Final clauses

1. The present Agreement shall come into force upon its signature by the two parties. It shall remain in force for a period of six years following its date of entry into force and may be reviewed for a similar period as agreed upon between the parties provided that the renewal of the designation of the Regional Centre as a category II centre has been recommended by the Executive Board of UNESCO.

2. The present Agreement may be revised by consent between the Government and UNESCO.

3. Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by giving six months' prior written notice to the other party.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives, duly authorized, have signed the present Agreement in two original copies.

For the Government of India:

For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization:

.....

(representative of the Government)

.....

(representative of UNESCO)

Item 5.25 – Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for the establishment of an international centre of excellence in Venezuela under the auspices of UNESCO

63. The Commission recommends to the Plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 2 of document 33 C/61. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Recalling 21 C/Resolution 40.1, 165 EX/Decision 5.4 and 171 EX/Decision 23,
2. Taking into account 172 EX/Decision 13,
3. Having examined document 33 C/61 and its annex,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Venezuela to establish the International Centre for Biological Sciences (CICB) in Venezuela under the auspices of UNESCO;
5. Approves in principle the establishment of the International Centre for Biological Sciences (CICB) in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, under the auspices of UNESCO (category II), with effect from the date on which the Executive Board approves the related agreement, and requests the Venezuelan authorities to provide additional information on the legal status of the new Centre (CICB), in relation to the current legal status of the three existing Centres, i.e. CLAB, CIET and CICC SB, whose work and functions CICB is intended to coordinate, as well as on the administrative and managerial structures of CICB once it is formally established in early 2006.
6. Delegates to the Executive Board at its 174th session the final decision to authorize the Director-General to sign the Agreement presented in the annex to document 172 EX/14, with necessary modifications that may be needed following the actual establishment of CICB in early 2006, and provided all the conditions required, including those under paragraph 5 above, are fulfilled by the Venezuelan authorities.

Item 5.26 – Report by the Director-General on a feasibility study for granting the status of a regional institute under the auspices of UNESCO to the Instituto de Matematica Pura e Aplicada (IMPA) in Brazil

64. The Commission recommends to the Plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 55 of document 33 C/62. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Recalling 172 EX/Decision 15 on the Report by the Director-General on the feasibility study for granting the Instituto de Matematica Pura e Aplicada (IMPA), in Brazil, the status of a regional institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category II),
2. Having examined document 33 C/62 and its annex,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of Brazil, and considering the outcomes and results of the feasibility study of IMPA,
4. Approves the granting, in principle, of the status of an institute under the auspices of UNESCO to IMPA, with effect from the date that the Executive Board approves the related agreement;
5. Authorizes the Executive Board to approve the agreement to be signed between UNESCO and the Government presented in the annex to this document, provided all the conditions required are guaranteed and fulfilled by the Brazilian authorities.

Debate 11

Item 5.14 – Proclamation of 2008 as a United Nations International Year of Planet Earth;

Item 5.30 – Proclamation of 2009 as International Year of Astronomy

65. During its eighth meeting, the Commission examined items 5.14 (Proclamation of 2008 as a United Nations International Year of Planet Earth) and 5.30 (Proclamation of 2009 as International Year of Astronomy). The representatives of 23 Member States and of one non-governmental organization took the floor on these items.

Item 5.14 – Proclamation of 2008 as a United Nations International Year of Planet Earth

66. The Commission recommends to the Plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the draft resolution contained in paragraph 10 of document 33 C/49. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Mindful of the fact that the planet Earth offers life support systems to the human race and other living things,

Noting that the wealth of scientific information available on planet Earth, which could assist planning, disaster mitigation, resource exploitation and management remains untapped and hardly known to the public, policy- and decision-makers,

Convinced that education in Earth Sciences provides men and women with the tools to live gently on the planet and to build the scientific infrastructure essential for sustainable development,

Taking into account the crucial role UNESCO and the Year could play in raising public awareness of the importance of Earth processes and resources, disaster reduction and developing capacity for building sustainable communities,

Welcomes UNESCO Executive Board's 171 EX/Decision 57 following the examination of document 171 EX/52 and 171 EX/52 Add. and Corr., and subsequently 172 EX/Decision 63 following the examination of document 172 EX/57 supporting the proclamation of 2008, the International Year of Planet Earth;

Invites the Director-General to support all efforts leading to the United Nations General Assembly proclaiming 2008 as the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth;

Further invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the global geoscience community through the International Union of Geological Sciences to organize activities celebrating 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth, notably by inviting all UNESCO National Commissions to create national groups for the implementation of the Year and collaborating with the earth sciences societies and groups throughout the world, including the developing countries;

Recommends that the United Nations General Assembly at its 60th session adopt a resolution declaring 2008 as the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth.

Item 5.30 – Proclamation of 2009 as International Year of Astronomy

67. The Commission recommends to the plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of document 33 C/67. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Recognizing that the study of the universe has led to numerous scientific discoveries that have great influence not only on humankind's understanding of the universe but also on the technological, social and economic development of society,

Aware that astronomy proves to have great implications in the study of science, philosophy, religion and culture,

Noting the excellent opportunity to raise public awareness, especially of the young generation, on scientific issues and to demonstrate the links between science, education, culture and communication in the framework of the Space Education Programme and thematic initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage",

Welcomes Executive Board decision 172 EX/57;

Invites the Director-General to support all efforts leading to the proclamation of 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy;

Recommends that the United Nations General Assembly at its 60th session adopt a resolution declaring 2009 as the United Nations International Year of Astronomy.

Debate 12

Item 5.10 – Proposed establishment of the international centre for water hazard and risk management (ICHARM) in Tsukuba, Japan, under the auspices of UNESCO;

Item 5.16 – Proposed establishment of an international IHP-HELP centre for water law, policy and science at the University of Dundee, Scotland, UK, under the auspices of UNESCO;

Item 5.32 – Proposed establishment of the regional water centre for arid and semi-arid zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC) under the auspices of UNESCO, in La Serena, Chile

68. During its eighth meeting, the Commission examined item 5.10 (Establishment of an international centre for water hazard and risk management (ICHARM) in Tsukuba, Japan, under the auspices of UNESCO), item 5.16 (Proposal for the establishment of an IHP-HELP centre for water law, policy and science at the University of Dundee, United Kingdom) and item 5.32 (Proposed establishment of the Regional Water Centre for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC) under the auspices of UNESCO, in La Serena (Chile)). The representatives of 20 Member States took the floor on these items.

Item 5.10 – Proposed establishment of the international centre for water hazard and risk management (ICHARM) in Tsukuba, Japan, under the auspices of UNESCO

69. The Commission recommends to the plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 2 of document 33 C/44. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Recalling 21 C/Resolution 40.1 and 165 EX/Decision 5.4,
2. Further recalling the implementation plans highlighting the needs to mitigate the effects of drought and floods which were adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, and the ministerial declaration underlining the need for comprehensive efforts against water-related disasters from the Third World Water Forum (WWF3) in Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka, Japan, in 2003, and Resolution XVI-4 adopted at the 16th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council held from 20 to 24 September 2004 in Paris,
3. Having examined document 33 C/44 and its annexes,

4. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Japan to establish the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the existing principles and guidelines (21 C/36) and the proposed strategy for this category of institutes and centres (165 EX/20 and 167 EX/16);
5. Approves the establishment of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), under the auspices of UNESCO, as recommended by the Executive Board at its 171st session (171 EX/Decision 12);
6. Invites the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Japan annexed to 171 EX/Decision 12.

Item 5.16 – Proposed establishment of an international IHP-HELP centre for water law, policy and science at the University of Dundee, Scotland, UK, under the auspices of UNESCO

70. The Commission recommends to the Plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 2 of document 33 C/53. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Recalling 21 C/Resolution 40.1 and 165 EX/Decision 5.4,
2. Further recalling paragraphs 29 and 33 of the Science Agenda – Framework for Action adopted by the World Conference on Science in Budapest in June 1999, as well as Resolution XVI-5 adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in September 2004,
3. Having examined document 33 C/53 and its annex,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of the United Kingdom to establish the International IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the existing principles and guidelines (21 C/36) and the proposed strategy for this category of institutes and centres (165 EX/20 and 167 EX/16);
5. Approves the establishment of the International IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, under the auspices of UNESCO, as recommended by the Executive Board at its 172nd session (172 EX/Decision 14);
6. Invites the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the United Kingdom contained in Annex II to document 172 EX/15.

Item 5.32 – Proposed establishment of the regional water centre for arid and semi-arid zones of Latin American and the Caribbean (CAZALAC) under the auspices of UNESCO, in La Serena, Chile

71. The Commission recommends to the Plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 2 of document 33 C/69. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Recalling 21 C/Resolution 40.1 and 165 EX/Decision 5.4,
2. Further recalling Resolution XIV-5 adopted at the 14th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in June 2000,
3. Having examined document 33 C/69 and its annex,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Chile to establish the Regional Water Centre for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC) under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the existing principles and guidelines (21 C/36) and the proposed strategy for this category of institutes and centres (165 EX/20 and 167 EX/16);
5. Approves the establishment of the Regional Water Centre for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC), under the auspices of UNESCO, as recommended by the Executive Board at its 172nd session (172 EX/Decision 61);
6. Invites the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Chile contained in Annex II to document 172 EX/54.

Debate 13

Item 5.27 – Proposed establishment of the European regional centre for ecohydrology, Lodz, Poland, under the auspices of UNESCO

72. During its eighth meeting, the Commission examined item 5.27 (Proposed establishment of the European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology, Lodz, Poland, under the auspices of UNESCO). The representatives of seven Member States took the floor on this item.

73. The Commission recommends to the plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 2 of document 33 C/63. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. Recalling 21 C/Resolution 40.1 and 165 EX/Decision 5.4,

2. Further recalling Resolution XV-12 adopted at the 15th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in June 2002,
3. Having examined document 33 C/63 and its annex,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Poland to establish the European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology in Lodz, Poland, under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the existing principles and guidelines (21 C/36) and the proposed strategy for this category of institutes and centres (165 EX/20 and 167 EX/16);
5. Approves the establishment of the European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology in Lodz, Poland under the auspices of UNESCO, as recommended by the Executive Board at its 172nd session (172 EX/Decision 16);
6. Invites the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Poland contained in Annex II to document 172 EX/17.

Debate 14

Item 5.20 – Proposal for the establishment of the regional centre on urban water management for Latin America and the Caribbean in Cali, Colombia, under the auspices of UNESCO

74. During its ninth meeting, the Commission examined item 5.20 (Proposal for the establishment of a Regional Centre on Urban Water Management under the auspices of UNESCO in Colombia). The representatives of seven Member States and one intergovernmental organization took the floor on these items.

75. The Commission recommends to the Plenary of the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the draft resolution contained in 33 C/COM.III/DR.1 Rev. The text of the draft resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

Recalling 21 C/Resolution 40.1 and 171 EX/Decision 23 (in particular paragraph 9 which invites the General Conference to authorize the Executive Board to decide, when appropriate, on its behalf, about the granting of category II status to new institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO),

Further recalling Resolution XV-11 adopted at the 15th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in June 2002,

Having examined document 33 C/74,

Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Colombia to establish the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management, in Cali, Colombia, under the auspices of UNESCO;

Authorizes the Executive Board at its 174th session to analyse the completed feasibility study and to decide, on its behalf, on the granting of category II status to the Centre and to authorize the Director-General to sign the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Colombia establishing the Centre.

Noting of reports of IOC, MAB, IGCP, IHP, and UNESCO-IHE

76. Having examined the reports of IOC (33 C/REP/9), MAB (33 C/REP/10), IGCP (33 C/REP/11), IHP (33 C/REP/12), and UNESCO-IHE (33 C/REP/22), the Commission recommends to the General Conference that it take note of these reports. The Chairperson also drew the Commission's attention to document 33 C/INF.14 on the development of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) and strategy of action proposed for 2006-2007.

PART IV

General debate on item 3.2 – Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4)

77. The representative of the Director-General introduced the item and document 33 C/48 together with the relevant portions of document 33 C/6. He highlighted several issues on which Member States were invited to provide guidance and direction, including the scope of UNESCO's future action; the linkage between documents 31 C/4 and 31 C/5; the reflection of UNESCO's mission and functions; the approach to strategic objectives for each of UNESCO's four programmes; the selection of cross-cutting themes and intersectoral approaches; as well as the results-based approach. He noted that the two science sectors were covered by a single science programme in document 34 C/4 and he further stressed the importance for UNESCO to clearly identify its role in a reforming United Nations system, including the contributions to be made at the country level in the context of a unified United Nations response aimed at increasing efficiency and aid effectiveness. He noted the critical importance of UNESCO's contribution to the development of the relevant science and technology components and aspects of coherent national development plans – called for by the 2005 United Nations World Summit Outcome document – which too often were given scant attention. He also noted that the observations by delegations would serve as an input to the consultative process on the preparation for document 34 C/4, which was due to start during the first half of 2006.

78. Twenty-nine delegates took the floor. They all welcomed the opportunity to have a preliminary exchange on the orientations of the future Medium-Term Strategy. Some delegations noted that such an exchange was taking place at an appropriate moment, considering that options for future directions would also be determined by the outcomes of the recent United Nations World Summit, in particular the renewed commitment of the international community to eradicate poverty and to protect the environment and to focus strongly on capacity-building in all activities of the United Nations system. As a self-reflexive exercise, the C/4 process was also seen as an occasion for deepening UNESCO's work, notably through a broad-based inclusive consultation with particular reference to National Commissions and civil society organizations.

79. The critical contribution the sciences can make to alleviating poverty and enhancing the environment was underlined by all speakers, who also called for a strengthening of

UNESCO's science programmes. All felt that the science programmes should feature more prominently on the Organization's agenda and that, for that matter, more resources would be required to promote scientific cooperation and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation, not least also to help popularize UNESCO's scientific programmes. The Commission unanimously considered that science, technology and innovation were key to economic growth, development and ultimately poverty eradication, with the social and human sciences providing the ethical, social and cultural context.

80. Many delegations called upon UNESCO to foster cooperative efforts between the natural sciences and the social and human sciences and to integrate more effectively reflection from the six international intergovernmental scientific programmes of UNESCO, providing for synergies and the development of programmes with an interdisciplinary focus. Other guiding principles and challenges for the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 were mentioned and included: placing emphasis on the catalytic role of the Organization for international cooperation and capacity-building; the need to transcend traditional sectoral divisions in the sciences; the need to enhance the results orientation of the expected outcomes of the Medium-Term Strategy, including the formulation of clear programme objectives as well as specific, measurable and achievable performance indicators and time-bound targets. In all cases, the rationale for the choice of indicators should be given in the interest of transparency. The RBM approach was deemed critical to make the C/4 document more readable, to facilitate discussion on strategic issues and to assess achievements. As programmes needed to be proactive to respond to emerging needs, several delegations expressed the view that the C/4 process should also provide for possible revisions and adjustments in a rolling manner.

81. The need to outline more clearly UNESCO's role within the international community and to delineate the role and activities of other international actors was referred to by many speakers (see also para. 8 below). In this connection, the cross-sectoral nature of many UNESCO programmes (e.g. sustainable development, science education, natural disaster prevention and preparedness, small island developing States) was underlined. A large number of delegations called for an increased level and scope of interdisciplinarity and intersectorality in the design and implementation of UNESCO's programmes, as multidisciplinary eventually constituted one of the Organization's main comparative advantages. They pointed out that multidisciplinary placed UNESCO in a unique position to tackle increasingly complex, multifaceted and interrelated processes and issues of a transnational and global nature. It was suggested that the Organization should concentrate on those fields in which its comparative advantage would be put to best use. Several delegates indicated that an effective contribution by the science sectors to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) was particularly important in this regard.

82. The point was also made that UNESCO could not attain any of its objectives alone and needed to work with partners, drawing also on the comparative advantage and strength of other partner organizations. Several Member States felt that given its resource constraints, UNESCO should act as a catalyst and help steer work towards desired outcomes. Emphasizing the intellectual and ethical dimension of UNESCO's work, some speakers underscored the role of UNESCO as a world forum for reflection and strategic guidance. Others felt that while retaining its five functions, UNESCO should focus on action at the country level. Many delegations were of the view that a balance should be struck between these complementary roles. There was, however, broad-based agreement that priority should be given to endogenous capacity-building and sharing of experience, as building national capacities would be key to the attainment of development objectives in UNESCO's area of

competence. In particular, UNESCO should help countries to adopt policies that would address national and regional development challenges, including the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and objectives such as the MDGs, as well as urgent global issues, especially those related to climate change and sustainable development.

83. In the context of document 34 C/4, several delegations nevertheless expressed their support for maintaining, not least in the interest of continuity, the principal priorities for both science programmes, “water and associated ecosystems” for Major Programme II and “ethics of science and technology, with emphasis on bioethics” for Major Programme III in the next C/5 document. Several delegations felt that the notion of a principal priority should be more inclusive in order for all UNESCO scientific programmes to maintain their strengths and to continue to be of the highest standards. The importance of the basic sciences for developing countries was also stressed as a possible principal priority. Other suggested areas of priority attention included: climate change, disaster prevention and preparedness, minimizing biodiversity loss through sustainable management of resources, renewable energies, the formulation of national strategies in science and technology, the promotion of local and indigenous knowledge systems as well as improving the links between scientists and decision-makers.

General debate on item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5)

84. The representative of the Director-General introduced the item and document 33 C/7. He emphasized that the Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5) would constitute the first biennium of the next Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4), and would therefore need to be prepared within the overall strategic framework provided by that document. He invited delegates to provide their views in particular on the issues identified in paragraphs 3(a) through 3(m) of document 33 C/7.

85. Representatives of nine Member States took part in the debate. They unanimously reaffirmed the need for ensuring a better articulation between the natural sciences and social and human sciences in addressing the ethical aspects of science and technology. All speakers agreed that UNESCO should continue to give priority attention to the implementation of the recommendations stemming from the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and identified capacity-building as a primary function of the Organization in document 34 C/5.

86. General support was given to the continuation of the mainstreaming approaches applied to activities pertaining to Africa, least developed countries, women and youth. Several speakers considered that increased attention should be given to the promotion of the status of women in the sciences, with emphasis on capacity-building to ensure their effective and active participation, particularly in democratization and governance processes.

87. The view was expressed that UNESCO should enhance its support for programmes where it has a comparative advantage in relation to other organizations of the United Nations system, especially as regards the pursuit of priority objectives expressed in the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

88. Many delegations called for an increased level and scope of interdisciplinarity and intersectorality in the design and implementation of UNESCO’s programmes in order to bring to bear one of UNESCO’s major comparative advantages, namely its multidisciplinary.

89. All delegations supported the continued emphasis on programme concentration and on results-based management in document 34 C/5. Several speakers expressed the view that performance must be improved with a view to ensuring the realization of expected results. This should be a central feature of document 34 C/5. They further felt that too often the results-based approach was focused on planning and programming processes of management and less so on actual programme results, monitoring and evaluation, which should be in place both at the central and the country levels. In this context, many delegations called for a continued refinement of the quality of the results formulation and of both qualitative and quantitative performance indicators and for the establishment of baselines and targets against which progress could be measured over a certain period of time. The importance of drawing on evaluation findings and recommendations as a basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation as well as for policy development was underlined by a number of delegations.

90. With regard to the designation of programme priorities, all Member States favoured retaining the approach whereby there would be one principal priority for each Major Programme and a limited number of “other” priorities. There was also broad agreement that the current principal priorities (“water and associated ecosystems” for Major Programme II and “ethics of science and technology, with emphasis on bioethics” for Major Programme III) should be maintained for document 34 C/5. Some delegations pointed to the need for a holistic perspective, whereby all priorities would need to be mutually supportive and contribute to the overall objectives of UNESCO.

91. In pursuit of the internationally agreed targets in the Millennium Declaration and in the Joint Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, several delegations suggested that in the context of “water and associated ecosystems” as principal priority for Major Programme II emphasis be placed on research and capacity-building. In the area of education for water management the work of UNESCO-IHE was highlighted, given its successful role in building capacities of developing countries. IHE was seen as a global hub in developing knowledge and concepts, notably through the PoWER programme (Partnership for Water Education and Research). It was suggested that areas of focus within the principal priority should also encompass the impact of climate change on water resources, the preparedness to water-related risks and disasters, the enhancement of the eco-hydrological approach, the management of shared groundwater basins and aquifers and the prevention of water-related conflict, biosphere reserves for sustainable development and the role of women in water resources management and sanitation. The need to strengthen cooperation and synergies between IHP and the other UNESCO intergovernmental scientific programmes was also underlined.

92. Strong support was also expressed for priority attention to the management of coastal and marine areas, with particular reference to the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) which was commended for its role in leading the establishment of a global early warning system and for the strong partnerships it has developed for this purpose. In this regard, several Member States acknowledged UNESCO’s successful contribution to the United Nations-wide coordination mechanisms of water and oceans.

93. While the principal priority of Major Programme III was overwhelmingly proposed to remain “the ethics of science and technology, with emphasis on bioethics”, one speaker felt that the management of social transformations (MOST) should become the principal priority for the Major Programme or should at least be given a more prominent place. One delegate

suggested that the principal priority for Major Programme III should also encompass the ethics of sustainability, including environmental ethics.

94. Several delegations called for a pause in the formulation of new normative instruments in order for the Organization to address more effectively the implementation of existing instruments through policy, legislation, research and professional activities. They welcomed the suggestion by the Director-General in this respect, in particular his intention to place focus on promoting the dissemination of existing instruments and their translation in legal and political settings at national level.

95. In addition to the support expressed for the principal priorities for Major Programmes II and III and for a priority focus on oceans and social transformations, speakers mentioned the following issues deserving particular attention: capacity-building in science and technology, the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD), the access of young girls and women to science, the promotion of international cooperation in basic and engineering sciences through IBSP, science policy formulation, the elaboration of sustainable development strategies for the small island developing States (SIDS), and the promotion and management of renewable sources of energy and environmental education.

96. The basic and engineering sciences were cited as being essential factors in the fight against poverty. Many speakers expressed the view that support to the development of regional and national capacities should be scaled up in document 34 C/5. The role of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) was seen as essential and innovative in promoting regional and international cooperation. It would facilitate the transfer and sharing of knowledge and the strengthening of national capacities in the basic sciences and science education. Some delegations considered that all activities should also contribute to combating “brain drain” and overcoming the isolation of researchers in developing countries. One delegation called for a more pronounced treatment of innovation and innovations systems in the science programmes.

97. It was also suggested by some delegations that document 34 C/5 should follow the same format and structure as document 33 C/5.

ANNEX I

Meeting of the Chairs of

**the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP)
the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)
the International Hydrological Programme (IHP),
the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC),
the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB),
and the Programme on Management of Social Transformations (MOST)**

UNESCO Headquarters, Room B6.19 (Bonvin Building)
5-6 October 2005

Joint Statement to the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The idea of the meetings of the Chairs of the UNESCO scientific programmes – the International Geoscience Programme, the International Hydrological Programme, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Man and the Biosphere Programme – came as a direct follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The task of this Group of Chairs was to forge synergies and to develop projects with an interdisciplinary approach to help UNESCO Member States on the road to sustainable development, thinking globally and acting locally. The Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) was added in 1995. This year, 2005, the International Basic Sciences Programme was a newcomer to the table, adding a further dimension to potential cooperative efforts. As the Chairperson of this new Programme, and as the representative of this Group of Chairs, I welcome this opportunity to participate in your meeting today.

The Group of Chairs of these scientific programmes met at UNESCO Headquarters on 5 and 6 October. Our mandate was to analyse the results of the previous meetings of this group, to take stock of its evolving role, and to plan for the future.

The Group recognized first and foremost that the role of science in society and governance has never been more important. Governments need science for informed decisions on how to address urgent global issues such as coping with climate change and achieving sustainable development. They need science, technology and innovation as the basic ingredients of all aspects of national and international development, including poverty alleviation and economic growth. The social and human sciences provide governments with the inseparable ethical, social and cultural context. Hence, scientists have an overriding responsibility to help societies to make a transition to deal with all these issues: scientists can, expect and are willing to help political leaders to adopt policies that make sense in the long term.

UNESCO is the main global forum where the political and scientific communities can come together; in addition it is the only nexus for the natural and the social and human

sciences. The UNESCO scientific programmes are the main intergovernmental and international programmes which are valid for the developed and the developing world alike. Only UNESCO can provide the framework to set up centres of excellence which promote scientific collaboration and peaceful international relations. I can vouch for this from my personal experience with SESAME – the Centre for Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East – located in Jordan. SESAME was established by UNESCO in 2003 as part of the UNESCO initiative on science for peace, to contribute to a better understanding among people of different traditions, religions and political systems.

The Group of Chairs examined the current status of science in UNESCO. We consider that today, science is not making its full potential contribution to UNESCO objectives. Not only are more resources required, but also the science programmes are little known and under-used locally, nationally and internationally. It is time to recommit UNESCO to science. One immediate opportunity would be the new Medium-Term Strategy (2008-2013) which would be prepared soon after this General Conference. The Group would be ready and willing to contribute its advice if so asked.

For this, UNESCO's role in providing scientific advice within the United Nations system should be acknowledged and strengthened.

Within UNESCO itself, measures should be taken to ensure that our scientific programmes maintain their strengths and are of the highest scientific quality. Programmes need to be proactive to timely respond to emerging needs. Their governance structures should be re-examined to better mainstream them with government policy. New ways of fund-raising should be tested. Synergisms and interdisciplinary projects should be built in areas such as the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, cities, natural disaster prevention and preparedness, coastal regions and small islands, and traditional knowledge. An integrated scientific approach should be actively promoted. For example, in relation to obtaining sound basic data and ground truth for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), better use should be made of UNESCO's World Heritage sites, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks. Above all, new measures should be taken to popularize UNESCO's scientific programmes to political leaders, the general public and to the scientists and the scientific community themselves.

The Group of the Chairs of the science programmes of UNESCO stands ready and intends to contribute to the debate on the future evolution of science in UNESCO and its application for the benefit of humankind.

Thank you.

Professor Herwig Schopper, Chair, International Basic Sciences Programme, and

Professor Amos Bein, Member of the Working Group on Hydrogeology
of the International Geoscience Programme

Eng. Mohammed Hamisu Ibrahim, Vice-Chair, International Hydrological Programme

Dr David Pugh, Chair, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

Dr Günter Köck, Vice-Chair, Man and the Biosphere Programme

Professor Tuomo Melasuo, Vice-Chair, Management of Social Transformations Programme

ANNEX II

STATEMENTS ON THE INTERPRETATION OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON BIOETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Belgium

Belgium joins the many delegations to have backed the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights by the General Conference. The text is a very good compromise and we are particularly pleased by the importance it accords to respect for human rights. Nevertheless, Belgium would like to clarify its interpretation of the text on two points.

With regard to Articles 6(a) and 7(a), Belgium declares that, in accordance with its domestic law, it will interpret these provisions as follows: when, in an emergency, appropriate consent or authorization cannot be obtained, any medical intervention for the benefit of the person concerned may be effected without delay.

With regard to Article 14(b)(i), Belgium declares that it will interpret the term “health care” to include reproductive health care.

Canada

Canada expresses support for the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. This Declaration is the product of tremendous effort by UNESCO Member States, and we congratulate those that have been involved in this successful endeavour.

The Declaration does not create new human rights, but it does promote respect for existing human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are to be accorded significant consideration when States and others formulate policy and programmes. With respect to Article 2(iii), Canada will interpret the phrase “respect for the life of human beings” in a manner consistent with existing Canadian and international human rights law.

Canada considers Articles 26 and 27 to be of particular significance. They ensure that the principles are understood to be complementary and interrelated, and that if the application of the principles is to be limited, this is to be done so by law, consistent with international human rights law. Accordingly, and as required by Article 6, exceptions to the principle of consent are to be consistent with Article 27 of the Declaration. Equally, Article 9 is to be interpreted in a manner consistent with Article 27. Further, the reference in Article 9 to consent refers back to the requirements of Article 6.

While the environmental dimensions might be relevant in resolving any particular bioethical issue in the medical and life sciences fields, the Declaration does not set down any rules governing the substantive consideration of environmental issues. More precisely, with regard to Article 17, the reference to “appropriate access and utilization of biological and genetic resources” references and acknowledges that it is the rules contained in the current international regime on access and benefit-sharing that govern the access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits resulting from their use.

Germany

Germany aligns itself with the consensus on the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights and would like to make the following statement:

Germany welcomes the UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights as a milestone of international standard-setting in the field of bioethics. For the first time ever States have agreed on exacting common minimum standards on ethical issues related to medicine and life sciences that are designed to guide States in the formulation of their legislation and guide the actions of all those who work in medical practice and biological research.

Given Germany's past, the question of research on persons who are unable to give their consent, research which does not have any potential direct therapeutic benefit to the individual is still a highly sensitive issue that is intensively debated both in Parliament and among the general public.

Above all, in cases where state or public bodies act as the legal guardians of such persons who are in psychiatric care, in children's homes or nursing homes, there may be conflicting interests as regards the approval of research projects whenever those state bodies also have an interest.

German law provides the necessary maximum protection for persons who lack the capacity to consent by setting particularly strict limits on research that is of benefit to groups, rather than the individual concerned. Germany believes that it is of great importance that a strict interpretation of the conditions on research of benefit to groups also prevails at international level.

Germany thus reaffirms its position on research on persons lacking the capacity to consent and approves the Declaration on Bioethics with the express note that the determination of international minimum standards that differ from German legislation does not give the Federal Republic of Germany any cause to deviate from the stricter German legal standards.

Germany explains its understanding of Articles 4, 7, and 9 as follows:

Article 4: In medical prevention, diagnosis or treatment, the *direct* benefit to the patient, in research; the *direct* or *indirect* benefits to research participants or other affected individuals should be maximized: Any possible harm, to the patient or research participants should be minimized.

Article 7: The conditions stated in Article 7(b), second sentence are cumulative. They are additions to the conditions contained in Article 7(a) and 7(b), first sentence.

Article 9: This Article is understood in line with the principle of consent, i.e. that a change of purpose for the use of personal data requires a new consent by the person concerned.

Japan

The Government of Japan supports that the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights would be adopted at this General Conference on the premise that the Declaration is, in legal terms, non-binding.

However, we must express our concern, which still exists on Article 6(a). Although we agree that "informed consent" is very important, we should also take into consideration the reality that on some occasions it is difficult for medical doctors to give all the relevant information and receive explicit consent of the patients. We therefore still consider that simple "consent" is appropriate in

this Article concerning medical diagnosis and treatment. However, in the interest of achieving a consensus we would like to support the present draft as it stands.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands supports the endorsement of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. The Declaration can be a useful instrument for various countries. Besides this, it also offers UNESCO a framework of reference to elaborate on different themes, for example “informed consent” towards research.

The Netherlands welcomes in particular the respect for the life of human beings as referred to in Article 2(iii), but would like to state that this provision will be interpreted in consistency with its domestic law and international human rights law.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom has carefully considered its position with regard to this Declaration. We feel that the revised text following the June meeting of experts represents an outcome with which we are content.

The United Kingdom’s interpretation, consistent with international and domestic law, with regard to the Articles 7(b) and 9 of the current draft, is the following:

First, Article 7(b), the United Kingdom interprets this as research involving those without capacity to consent should be carried out for his and/or her potential health benefit as research is about innovation and uncertainty.

Second, Article 9, we interpret that information not to be used or disclosed for purposes other than those for which it was collected or consented to, relates to confidential personal information. For the United Kingdom, confidential personal information should not be used or disclosed in a form that may identify the person concerned but there are separate issues in the use of anonymized and non-confidential information.

United States of America

The United States is pleased to be able to join consensus on the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. Although far from perfect, this document helps to provide a basic framework of ethical principles to guide States in the development of their domestic legislation and policies.

The United States believes it is particularly important that this Declaration is aimed at ensuring fundamental freedoms and respect for the life of human beings. The United States fully endorses the Declaration’s recognition that respect for human dignity and human rights requires respect for the life of human beings. The United States, moreover, applauds the primacy accorded to human dignity, which is the basis for human rights.

As stated in the Preamble, this Declaration is to be understood in a manner consistent with domestic and international law. The United States has long been a leader in applying bioethical principles to biomedical research and the delivery of health care. In our legislation, rules, court decisions, and administrative actions and policies, we have grappled with the many difficult issues that inevitably arise in implementation of the principles of the Declaration. We have joined the Declaration, therefore, on the basis of the understanding that the Declaration is to be understood in a manner consistent with our domestic law.

Alongside the ethical principles it states, the Declaration articulates the hope that progress in science and technology will advance the health and well being of the people of the world. These goals can be achieved only if innovators are assured that they will be rewarded for their genius, their efforts and the resources they devote to it. The United States emphasizes, in accepting this Declaration, the critical role that intellectual property, and the protection of it, play in fostering medical, scientific, and technological research and development, and in making the fruit of human creativity widely available. As recognized in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the right to own property is a basic right, on which so many others depend, and everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from their scientific, literary or artistic production. Everyone benefits by the recognition and protection of those rights.