



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

ERC/RSC/NAC/1
Abu Dhabi, May 2006
Also in Arabic

Director General's Consultative Meeting with
National Commissions for UNESCO of Arab States
on the elaboration of the Draft Programme and
Budget for 2007-2008 (34 C/5) and the Draft
UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013
(34 C/4), followed by the 20th Quadrennial and
Statutory Conference of National Commissions of
that Region

27 - 31 May 2006
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Director-General's Consultative Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO of the Arab States Region on the Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy 2008-2013 (34 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5) and the 20th Quadrennial Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO of Arab States

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 27-31 May 2006.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Saturday, 27 May 2006

9:00-10:00 **Official Opening of the Consultation & Quadrennial Conference**

Welcoming addresses by:

- Secretary-General of the United Arab Emirates National Commission
- Representative of the Director-General, ADG/ERC, UNESCO
- President of the General Conference of UNESCO
- President of the United Arab Emirates National Commission and Minister of Education

10:00-10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30-11:30 **Adoption of the Provisional Rules of Procedures
Election of the Bureau
Adoption of the Agenda**

Overview of the 34 C/5 and 34 C/4 process,
by Mr Hans d'Orville, Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), UNESCO

11:30-13:00 **Cluster meetings on the Draft 34C/4 and 34 C/5**

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*

14:30-16:00 **Cluster meetings (continued)**

16:00-16:15 *Coffee break*

16:15-18:00 **Cluster meetings (continued)**

UNESCO Director General's Reception

Sunday, 28 May 2006

9:00-11:00	Presentation of Cluster Reports in plenary session
11:00-11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15-13:00	Discussion on <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 34 C/4 & 34 C/5 (Questionnaire)- Future role of UNESCO (33 C/Res. 64)- Comprehensive review of Major Programmes II & III (33 C/Res. 2)
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30-15:45	Discussion (continued)
15:45-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00-17:00	Discussion (continued)

Monday, 29 May

9:00-10:30	Discussion (continued)
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45-13:00	Discussion (continued)
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30-15:45	Discussion (continued)
15:45-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00-17:30	Discussion (continued)

Meeting for UNESCO Offices (to be confirmed)

Quadrennial meeting

Tuesday, 30 May 2006

- 9:00-10:00 **Adoption of the Provisional Rules of Procedures
Election of the Bureau
Adoption of the Agenda**
- 10:00-11:00 **Follow up to the recommendations of the 19th Quadrennial
Conference –Rabat, Morocco (June 2002)**
Presentation by :
- Secretary-General of Morocco National Commission
- Section for National Commissions (NAC) , UNESCO
- 11:00-11:15 *Coffee break*
- 11:15-13:00 **Reinforcement of UNESCO National Commissions: capacity
building and personnel empowerment in UNESCO's fields of
competence**
Presentation by :
- Arab National Commission (s)
- Mr James Michael Kulikowski, Deputy Assistant Director-
General for External Relation and Cooperation & Director of the
Division of Relations with Member States and National
Commissions (RSC), UNESCO
- Involvement of National Commissions for UNESCO in the
decentralization process (doc. 174 EX/34 and 174 EX/Dec.34)**
Presentation by :
- Arab National Commission (s)
- Mr Etienne Clément, Deputy Director, Bureau de la Coordination
Hors Siège (BFC), UNESCO
- 13:00-14:30 *Lunch*
- 14:30-15:45 **UNESCO visibility in the Arab region: 1945 + 60 years;**
Presentation by:
- Arab National Commission (s)
- Mr. Saturnino Munoz Gomes, Director, Bureau of Public
Information (BPI), UNESCO
- To all National Commissions:
Please bring any materials regarding activities related to the
60th anniversary**

Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO (doc.174 EX/32 and 174 EX/Dec.32)

Presentation by:

- Arab National Commission (s)
- Mr James Michael Kulikowski, Deputy Assistant Director-General for External Relation and Cooperation & Director of the Division of Relations with Member States and National Commissions (RSC), UNESCO

15:45-16:00

Coffee break

16:00-17:30

Extra-budgetary funds:

- **UNESCO partnership with certain Arab Funds that deal with issues of UNESCO concern**
- **The share of the Arab region in the UNESCO Projects that are financed by Extra-budgetary Funds**

Presentation by :

- Arab National Commission (s)
- Division of Cooperation with Extrabudgetary Funding Sources (ERC/CFS), UNESCO

17:30-18:30

Supporting the persistence of Euro-Arab dialogue activities, specially the role of UNESCO, ALECSO, ISESCO, Council of Europe, and coordination with Anna Lindh Foundation for Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Dialogue at areas of similar interests for the dialogue.

Presentation by:

- Mr Awad Ali Saleh, Secretary-General United Arab Emirates National Commission

Wednesday, 31 May

9:00-10:30

Recruitment and geographical distribution workshop

Presentation by:

- Arab National Commission (s)
- Ms Dyane Dufresne-Klaus, Director of the Bureau of Human Resources management (HRM), UNESCO

10:30-11:00

Coffee break

11:00-12:30

Adoption of the Final Report of the Consultation followed by the adoption of the Final report of the Quadrennial

Closing of the Consultation

Satellite meeting

Thursday, 1st June 2006

10:00-14:00

Training session on the UNESCO Clubs movement in the Gulf States

Concerned National Commissions:
Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
and Yemen

Director General's Consultation of National Commissions for UNESCO of the Arab States Region on the Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34C/4), the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009(34C/5) and the 20th Quadrennial and Statutory Regional Conference of National Commissions

Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) 27- 31 May 2006

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**20th Quadrennial Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO
in Arab States**

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 30-31 May 2006

FINAL REPORT

At the invitation of the United Arab Emirates National Commission, 17 out of 21 National Commissions from the Arab region attended this meeting (Djibouti, Iraq, Malta and Somalia National Commissions were not represented). The Palestinian Committee for Education, Science and Culture and one observer from ISESCO were also present. Officials of various units and services at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris as well as Directors and Representatives of UNESCO field offices in the region (Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Doha, Rabat and Ramallah, UNESCO Office for Iraq) participated in the meeting.

Election of the Bureau

It was decided in consensus that the Bureau of the 20th Quadrennial Conference composed of the following members:

Chairman: United Arab Emirates

Vice Chairpersons: Morocco and Oman

Rapporteur: Lebanon

Adoption of the Agenda

Members of the National Commissions present have adopted the provisional agenda

At the start of the Conference, opening remarks were made by Mr Awad Ali Saleh, Chairman of the Conference and Secretary-General of the United Arab Emirates National Commission for UNESCO, and Mr James Michael Kulikowski, Deputy Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation and Director of Division of Relations with Member States and National Commissions (DADG/ERC and DIR/ERC/RSC), UNESCO HQ.

Mr Awad Ali Saleh thanked UNESCO notably the Sector for External Relations and Cooperation for its consistent support to the Arab National Commissions and the assistance provided to the UAE National Commission for preparing and hosting this important regional gathering of National Commissions. He wished Mr Kulikowski and his colleagues of Division of Relations with Member States and National Commissions (ERC/RSC) every success in their challenging assignments.

On behalf of UNESCO, Mr Kulikowski thanked Mr Awad Ali Saleh for his great effort in organizing the Conference. He also thanked his colleagues for the preparation of this event, especially Vida Habash who cannot come to Abu Dhabi because of her maternity leave, and informed the participants of the recent appointment of Xiaolin Cheng as Chief of Section for

National Commissions and wished him success in cooperating with the respective National Commissions.

Mr Kulikowski went on to explain the goals of the newly reorganized ERC/RSC Division to more fully integrate the role of each National Commission into the knowledge base of each respective Member State, so as to make it possible for the Organization to know and value the activities being carried out by each National Commission. He further indicated that the Division would continue on its strategy of improving the communications capabilities of the National Commission as well as the programme of capacity building, and would also be working more closely with the Bureau of Public Information and the Bureau of Field Coordination to integrate the National Commissions into the programme to promote the visibility of UNESCO and to undertake increased activities at the country level.

Follow-up to the recommendations of the 19th Quadrennial Conference in Rabat, Morocco, June 2002

In her report (see Annex I), Mrs Mina El Mghari, Secretary-General of the Moroccan National Commission, reminded the Conference of the main issues that were discussed on that occasion, namely, enhancing the status and role of National Commissions, networking of and cooperation among Arab National Commissions, cooperation with Arab and Islamic organizations, cooperation with civil society partners, participation of National Commissions in UNESCO's reform and decentralization process, use of Arabic language in UNESCO and Euro-Arab Dialogue Project. She further stated that the follow-up to the recommendations has been assured by each National Commission, which could report to the Conference during next two days.

Mr Xiaolin Cheng, Chief of Section for National Commissions, UNESCO HQ, reported on the significant steps and actions taken by UNESCO Secretariat as follow-up of the recommendations, especially with regard to the capacity-building for National Commissions (e.g. advocacy, policy debates, awareness and visibility, staff training, ICT equipment), networking of and cooperation among National Commissions, cooperation with Arab and Islamic organizations and outreach to civil society partners in the Arab region (see Annex II).

While general satisfaction has been expressed by the participants over important measures so far taken with a view to enhancing the operational and human capacities of National Commissions, improving the communication between UNESCO both at HQ and in the field and National Commissions and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions, requests were made for both UNESCO and Arab National Commissions to make additional efforts in this regard.

Reinforcement of National Commissions for UNESCO: capacity building and personnel empowerment in UNESCO's field of competence

The participants from following 13 National Commissions as well as the directors of UNESCO regional bureau for science in Cairo and regional bureau for education in Beirut took the floor: Yemen, Libya, Tunisia, Kuwait, Sudan, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Jordan and UAE. All of them stressed the need for further enhancing National Commissions through training of their new staff and improving the communication UNESCO Secretariat and National Commissions. Suggestions for future actions in this respect were made as follows:

- Further inputs and support need to be provided by UNESCO HQ and FO;

- Local partners should be involved;
- Training programme could be better designed and tailored, with possible contribution by National Commissions with relevant comparative advantage;
- Extra-budgetary sources should be explored and mobilized;
- Better stability of National Commissions staff need to be maintained;
- Monitoring and assessment on the impact of these training events should be ensured;
- Training materials and electronic manuals and tools should be updated and produced.

In the reply to this rich debate, the Secretariat ensured the Conference that the valuable remarks and suggestions expressed were well noted and will be taken into consideration whenever possible in the future planning and implementation of activities. It was stated that challenges and constraints ahead notably in terms of budget need be overcome by joint effort.

Involvement of National Commissions for UNESCO in the decentralization process (doc. 174 EX/34 and 174 EX/Dec.34)

DADG/ERC introduced this topic by referring to the report of the Director-general on this issue. The guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO attached to this document were endorsed by the Executive Board at its 174th session (April 2006).

Mr Etienne Clement, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Field Coordination highlighted the respective status and functions of National Commissions and Field Offices contained in the Guidelines in planning, budgeting and implementation as well as in the exchange of information. It is important that these guidelines which aim at fostering synergy to promote UNESCO's ideals and principles are implemented at all levels as requested by the Executive Board to optimize the impact of UNESCO.

Two participants expressed their appreciation of the guidelines and requested that better communication be established between National Commissions and Field Offices. The Secretariat insured that all UNESCO Staff are invited to consult with or inform National Commission on matters of interest to the country.

UNESCO visibility in the Arab region: 1945 + 60 years

In his introduction, M. Saturnino Munoz Gomez, Director of the Bureau of Public Information (BPI), proposed that National Commissions and Field Offices work together to establish a communication Plan for the current biennium to raise visibility of UNESCO at the national and sub regional levels; This plan could include the following issues:

- programme priorities
- definition of target group
- most appropriate activities and information products
- partnership with the medias (TV, newspaper,...)
- evaluation of the results

He further invited National Commissions to organize activities to celebrate the 60th anniversary of UNESCO. In this regard, information materials could be provided by BPI for this purpose (posters, publication, exhibition ...). National Commissions are encouraged to use the name and logo of UNESCO for their events and publications.

Many participants took the floor to report on the various activities carried out in their countries in the context of the celebration of 60th anniversary, and expressed their readiness to work with media and to contribute to the visibility of UNESCO.

Directives concerning the use of the name; acronym; logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO (doc. 174 EX/32 and 174 EX/Dec. 32)

Mr Kulikowski briefed the Secretaries-General on the recent decision of the Executive Board on the role of National Commissions in authorizing use of the UNESCO name, acronym, logo and Internet domain name, which requires the National Commissions or other designee to take charge of questions relating to the use of the name and logo at the national level. He explained the new UNESCO logo package, and the authorization the National Commissions will be required to make with respect to the use of the UNESCO logo linked to the name and/or logo of the National Commission. He finished by describing the next steps that UNESCO and the Member States through their National Commissions or other designated body(ies) will now need to take to implement this decision during the trial period till 34th Session of the General Conference (October 2007).

Extra-budgetary funds:

- UNESCO partnership with certain Arab Funds that deal with issues of UNESCO concern. --
- The share of the Arab region in the UNESCO Projects that are financed by Extra-budgetary Funds

Mr Shantha Retnasingam, Chief a.i. of Section for Multilateral and Private Funding Sources (ERC/CFS/MLT), introduced the item. The aim of the presentation was to provide the current status of policies and management of extra-budgetary activities, and to exchange ideas with the National Commissions about coordinated actions aimed at enhancing resource mobilization. The National Commissions have an important role to play in facilitating UNESCO's efforts in resource mobilization through their participation in:

- Project identification, in close coordination with Field Offices
- Project implementation once approved, through sub-contracts
- Advocacy for UNESCO's mandate
- Identifying potential funding sources & advising on liability and priorities

The cooperation with Field offices and National Commissions will assist in establishing effective resource mobilization. However, projects that need to be submitted for potential funding sources' consideration must be UNESCO projects and should meet UNESCO's priorities as stated in the approved programme and budget. Moreover, National Commissions can do their own resource mobilization for their own activities and projects. A word of thanks was addressed to the Secretary-General of the UAE National Commission for his assistance in identifying and mobilizing extra-budgetary funding sources.

Supporting the persistence of Euro-Arab dialogue activities, specially the role or UNESCO, ALECSO, ISESCO, Council of Europe and coordination with Anna Lindh Foundation for Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Dialogue at areas of similar interests for the dialogue

The Chairman introduced this important initiative of national commissions of both Europe and Arab region, launched by the Tunisian and German National Commissions in 2001 in Geneva and

the various steps taken since then for its implementation and their cooperation with various intergovernmental organizations such as the Council of Europe, ALECSO and ISESCO. Various activities have been accomplished in this regard including notably:

- Seminar organized by Slovenian National Commission for pedagogical research centres from both regions
- Project in Cairo on the content of history text books in Europe on the image of Arab-Islamic culture

While growing interest was expressed and conviction made on such an unique interregional initiative, participants underlined the importance to further promote and strengthen the dialogue and reach out to the public at large. To this end, use of local media and other ICT tools as well as larger involvement of educational and cultural institutions in its implementation seem necessary. Clear conception and concrete activities will have to be defined. All National Commissions expressed their willingness to join this effort and to contribute to its realization. A better coordination between the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Euro-Arab Dialogue Project seems needed to attain common objectives and targets.

Recruitment and geographical distribution

Ms Dyane Dufresne-Klaus, Director of the Bureau of Human Resources and Management, outlined to the participants the recruitment policy and its major phases. She presented the current situation and trends of the Arab region with regard to geographic distribution and to pro-active measures taken to enhance it. More specifically, she discussed the role that National Commissions can play in the recruitment process in order to improve the geographical distribution of the region and emphasised the importance of their role in the region.

The members expressed their satisfaction and appreciation with the transparency and structural approach to recruitment process. A number of participants expressed their wish to have more work opportunities for candidates from Arab region, taken into consideration the support of the Member States.

Situation in Palestine and in Iraq

The participants commended the efforts exerted by UNESCO to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the people of Iraq in their strive for a democratic state, and requested the DG to render further support to both Palestinians and Iraqis in the domains of UNESCO areas of competence.

Closing of the Conference

Mr Sayyad, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation of UNESCO (ADG/ERC) and Mr Awad Ali Saleh, Chairman of the Conference and Secretary-General of the UAE National Commission made closing speeches.

In his closing remarks, ADG/ERC expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of the UAE and the Secretary-General of UAE National Commission for the tremendous inputs to this event as well as his appreciation and thanks to the participants for their recommendations made on UNESCO's next Medium Term Strategy and Programme and Budget (34 C/4 and 34 C/5) and the findings of the Quadrennial Conference. Remarks and suggestions made during the debates were well taken by

UNESCO Secretariat colleagues at HQ and in field offices, which will help UNESCO to enhance its future role in an overall UN reform context and involve National Commissions in this process.

The Chairman of the Conference thanked UNESCO for choosing UAE as the meeting venue, and ADG/ERC, his colleagues as well as directors/heads of the field offices in Arab region for their assistance and support making this event a full success. Several participants expressed the same sentiments in their farewell remarks and the wish to see more cooperative activities in future among National Commissions in this region.

All participants and the Secretariat staff including translators and interpreters were thanked for their contribution and hard-working. Special homage was paid to Ms Salwa Saniora Baassiri, long-time experienced Secretary-General of the Lebanese National Commission and Rapporteur of the Conference, for her effort in preparing the draft report and Ms Marie-Noelle Branet of Section for National Commissions for her efficient work in respect of administrative and logistic matters throughout the Conference.