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176 EX/57

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Item 57 of the provisional agenda

IBERO-AMERICAN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR DANCE, MUSIC, PERFORMING ARTS AND AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION, SANTO DOMINGO (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)

SUMMARY

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 176th session of the Executive Board at the request of the Dominican Republic and Spain.

An explanatory note together with a draft decision are attached.

Decision proposed: paragraph 13.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

ON THE IBERO-AMERICAN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR DANCE, MUSIC, PERFORMING ARTS AND AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (SANTO DOMINGO)

1. The increasing globalization of contemporary life as a result of economic, social and technological development requires professionals to be more and more competitive.
2. It is therefore important to promote teaching, high-quality artistic creation, research and innovation as fundamental elements in the face of the challenges of globalization. The knowledge society calls for radical changes in education systems, since this is the only way of ensuring the well-being of citizens and sustainable development.
3. Such action should be based on the goals set in the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000 and the programmes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, including those dealing with higher education; cultural diversity and everything relating to cultural policies, dialogue and understanding between cultures.
4. With a view to promoting empowerment through access to information and knowledge, with special emphasis on freedom of expression, promoting the development of communication, and fostering the use of information and communication technologies for education, science and culture, the Secretariat of State for Culture of the Dominican Republic and Secretariat for Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain, acting within their respective fields of competence, consider it to be of major social, political and cultural benefit, in the context of South-South and South-South-North exchanges and cooperation, to take as a reference the process of convergence in the European Higher Education Area, with a view to the introduction in the Dominican Republic of advanced studies in dance, performing arts, music and audiovisual communication.
5. Within this whole process, agreements have been initiated with the "Alicia Alonso" Higher Dance Institute, a specifically named centre of the Foundation of the same name, attached to the Rey Juan Carlos University, as well as with the Department of Audiovisual Communication of the same University in Madrid and with the New Latin American Cinema Foundation and its centre called the "Escuela Internacional de Cine" (International Film School), situated in the San Antonio de los Baños in the Republic of Cuba.
6. Similarly, work has begun with the Department of Audiovisual Communication of the Rey Juan Carlos University with a view to initiating the process of introducing advanced film, radio and television studies in the Dominican Republic during the academic year 2007/2008.
7. In this context, the Secretariat of State for Culture proposes the establishment of a regional and international centre as a forum to promote programmes of South-South and South-South-North exchanges and cooperation, called the Ibero-American Regional Dance, Music, Performing Arts and Audiovisual Communication Centre of the Dominican Republic. The aim of this Centre, to be based in Santo Domingo, is to train artists and professionals in the fields of dance, performing arts, music and audiovisual communication.
8. The Centre will have a significant regional dimension both with respect to training activities and to dissemination and research, which will benefit the Dominican and Latin American communities, by promoting capacity-building, the pursuit of excellence, high-quality training, diversity and multicultural dialogue. With a view to laying the foundations of the project, teacher training is being provided in these artistic fields with the assistance of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.

9. During the first stage, the New Latin American Cinema Foundation based in Cuba and the Alicia Alonso Higher Dance Institute of the Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid (Spain) will be brought within the Regional Centre as associated centres acting as academic units.

10. Objectives of the Regional Centre:

- (a) to train artists to high standards of excellence and with a contemporary outlook in the fields of dance, performing arts and audiovisual communication in the Latin American region, with special emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (b) to promote the relationship of professional artists to society, their commitment to the latter and participation in the development processes of the territories in which they perform;
- (c) to promote the validation of high-level diplomas and qualifications relating to the vocational training and development of artists;
- (d) to strengthen the relations of cooperation, partnership, exchange and dialogue between countries in the region, particularly with other regional centres of a similar kind;
- (e) to foster cultural diversity in the broad multilingual Caribbean context.

11. Legal status:

From a legal point of view, the Regional Centre would be placed under the auspices of UNESCO as a category 2 institute, by virtue of a formal agreement that will be signed between the Dominican Republic and the Organization, and submitted to the General Conference for approval, in accordance with the existing provisions in that regard. The Centre will be an organization that enjoys managerial and administrative autonomy and has its own legal personality. It will be an official non-profit-making, public service institution devoted to the development of advanced training programmes, the dissemination of, and research on, the arts and audiovisual communication by means of bodies attached to it and/or associated with it for such purposes.

12. Member States of the region that wish to be involved in the activities of the Centre will be able to do so through the attachment or association of bodies in their countries as academic units of the Centre.

Proposed draft decision

13. The Executive Board may wish to consider a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 33 C/Resolution 90 adopted by the General Conference at its 33rd session,
2. Having examined document 176 EX/57,
3. Welcomes with interest the proposal of the Governments of the Dominican Republic and the Kingdom of Spain to establish an Ibero-American Regional Centre for Dance, Music, Performing Arts and Audiovisual Communication in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic);
4. Invites both governments to submit a viability and feasibility study on this proposal, with a view to examining the possibility of placing this Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.



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CORRIGENDUM

The draft decision contained in paragraph 13 of the document should read as follows:

13. The Executive Board may wish to consider a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 33 C/Resolution 90 adopted by the General Conference at its 33rd session,
2. Having examined document 176 EX/57 and Corr.,
3. Welcomes with interest the proposal of the Governments of the Dominican Republic and the Kingdom of Spain to establish an Ibero-American Regional Centre for Dance, Music, Performing Arts and Audiovisual Communication in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic);
4. Invites both governments to submit, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to the Executive Board at its 177th session, a viability and feasibility study on this proposal, with a view to examining the possibility of placing this Centre under the auspices of UNESCO as a category 2 institute.