



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and seventy-seventh session

# 177 EX/70

PARIS, 17 September 2007  
Original: English

Item 70 of the provisional agenda

## COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AUROVILLE, AN INTERNATIONAL TOWNSHIP

### SUMMARY

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 177th session of the Executive Board at the request of India.

An explanatory note and a proposed decision are attached.

Decision proposed: paragraph 5.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. India is seeking inscription of a new item on the agenda of the 177th session of the Executive Board entitled “40th anniversary of the establishment of Auroville: An international township” and is submitting the attached draft decision in this regard.
2. It may be recalled that UNESCO has been involved from the very inception of this project, which was founded in Auroville in South India in February 1968, when the youth of 124 Member States participated in this ceremony by depositing some soil from their countries in the foundation urn to symbolize the coming together of the nations of the World. Since then the Executive Board and the General Conference have adopted decisions to commemorate the establishment of this township. Specifically, the General Conference adopted a resolution in 1968 noting the establishment of the township to commemorate the 20th anniversary of UNESCO in 1970 to provide support to this project, and in 1983 to also provide support to the work being done in Auroville in pursuance of UNESCO’s core mandate. The 25th anniversary of the township in 1994, the 30th anniversary of the township in 1998 and the 35th anniversary of the township in 2004 were commemorated in UNESCO with the support of UNESCO’s Culture Sector and Member States of UNESCO.
3. The present draft decision seeks recognition by the Executive Board of the value of such civilizing experiences as an invaluable and integral part of the commonly held human experience, and invites the Director-General of UNESCO to take steps to strengthen the association of UNESCO, and in particular its Culture Sector, with Auroville in the context of the commemorative activities at its 40th anniversary.
4. It is hoped that the draft decision will be supported by Members States of the Executive Board from all regional groups and will highlight the achievements of Auroville, as an important flagship of UNESCO’s achievements in the fields of culture, education and communication.

### Proposed draft decision

5. Following the inclusion of this item in the provisional agenda of the 177th session of the Executive Board at the request of India, the draft decision hereunder is presented by the following States Members of the Executive Board:

Afghanistan, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Nigeria and Portugal.

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the foundation of an international township, Auroville, in South India in February 1968, when the youth of 124 Member States participated in the ceremony by depositing the soil of their countries in the foundation urn to symbolize the coming together of the nations of the world,
2. Noting that the Charter of Auroville, announced at the Foundation Ceremony, declared that Auroville belongs to nobody in particular but to humanity as a whole,
3. Recognizing that Auroville aims at international understanding, peace, innovative education, a learning society and all-round material and spiritual development for harmonious individual and collective growth, and that such aims contribute to the advancement of the objectives of UNESCO, especially dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions; cultural diversity; and culture as a factor for development,
4. Recalling that in 1983 the General Conference adopted a resolution inviting Member States and international non-governmental organizations to participate in the development of Auroville as an International Cultural Township,

5. Conscious therefore of the broad range of activities undertaken by governments, National Commissions for UNESCO and international non-governmental organizations to promote the development of Auroville as an important international cultural programme,
6. Recognizing the value of such civilizing experiences as an invaluable and integral part of the commonly shared human experience,
7. Recognizing that Auroville is a successful and unique model project, proving the capacity of an international community, after 40 years of existence, to continue to live up to its initial founding ideals of peace and international harmony and within the spirit of mutual respect and understanding, tolerance, dialogue, cultural diversity, quality education and sustainable development that are also UNESCO's own values and principles, as well as some of its major priorities,
8. Noting that 28 February 2008 will mark the 40th anniversary of the setting up of Auroville project,
9. Invites the Director-General to reinforce the association of UNESCO, and in particular its Culture Sector, with Auroville in the context of the commemorative activities at its 40th anniversary.



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## COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AUROVILLE, AN INTERNATIONAL TOWNSHIP

### ADDENDUM

Paragraph 5: proposed draft decision

Add the following Member States to those presenting the draft decisions:

Japan and Sri Lanka