

**General Conference**

34th session, Paris 2007  
Draft resolution

**Генеральная конференция**

34-я сессия, Париж 2007 г.  
Проект резолюции

**dr**

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

**Conférence générale**

34<sup>e</sup> session, Paris 2007  
Projet de résolution

**المؤتمر العام**

الدورة الرابعة والثلاثون، باريس ٢٠٠٧  
مشروعات القرارات

**Conferencia General**

34<sup>a</sup> reunión, París 2007  
Proyecto de resolución

**大会**

第三十四届会议，巴黎，2007年  
决议草案

34 C/DR.25\*  
(COM.PRX)  
3 October 2007  
Original: French

**Item 4.2 of the provisional agenda****Amendment to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5 2nd version)**

Submitted by **FRANCE**

Co-sponsored by **ALBANIA, ALGERIA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, EGYPT, GERMANY, GREECE, LEBANON, LITHUANIA, MOROCCO, ROMANIA, SENEGAL, SLOVENIA**

**Part II.A – Programmes:**

UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

Resolution No.: 06000

Paragraph: 1

Budgetary implications  
indicated by the sponsor: \$170,000

Source of financing  
proposed by the sponsor: 34 C/5, particularly the budget of the UNESCO Institute for  
Statistics

**Proposed modification:**

- (a) to improve the timeliness, coverage and quality of UNESCO's international statistical database by reviewing its data collection methods and tools, strengthening communication with Member States and cooperation with field offices and partner agencies and networks;
- (b) to undertake the revision of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) in view of the major changes that have taken place in the adaptation and the structuring of education systems since the last revision;
- (bc) to develop new statistical concepts, methodologies and standards in education, science, culture and communication, and to promote the collection and production of quality statistics and indicators, at both national and international levels, for monitoring progress towards development goals;

\* This proposal was received by the Secretariat on 31 August 2007.

The General Conference,

Recalling the creation of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) by UNESCO in the early 1970s, its adoption by the General Conference at its 20th session in 1978 and its revision by the 1997 General Conference,

Referring to the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 that sets the goal of developing all education systems at their different levels on the basis, *inter alia*, of classifications and relevant and recognized international standards,

Further referring to the draft programme for 2008-2009 on education, under the biennial sectoral priorities, which aims in particular to promote capacities for monitoring, comparison and evaluation so as to facilitate the exchange and sharing of knowledge and information,

Reaffirming that ISCED constitutes the basic and indispensable standard for any international collection of education statistics and for the development of education indicators that are reliable, policy-relevant and comparable at the international level,

Aware of the increased importance attached to international comparisons that reveal difficulties in the use of the current classification at various levels,

Considering that it is essential to reopen discussion on the contents of this classification and its use, especially for higher education where requirements for comparability are very strong, without however neglecting the other levels,

Invites the Director-General to initiate a consultation of experts comprising representatives of UNESCO and interested Member States, and also representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), with a view to submitting the revised version of ISCED to the General Conference at its 35th session.

#### **Explanatory note:**

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) was devised by UNESCO in the early 1970s to serve “as an instrument suitable for assembling, compiling and presenting statistics of education both within individual countries and internationally”.

This classification was revised from 1995 to 1997 and adopted by the General Conference in 1997.

After ten years of use, it seems essential to reconsider its contents and the way in which it is currently applied in the collection of statistical data, and especially in the definition of levels of education.

In fact, major changes have taken place in adapting and structuring education systems. Moreover, the increased importance accorded to international comparisons has also revealed difficulties in using the classification for most levels and sectors of education. Special attention will need to be paid to higher education where the requirements for comparability are very strong, without, however, neglecting the other levels.

UNESCO must play a central role in this work of revision, following on from its earlier action in this field, since “ensuring global coordination and providing assistance to Member States to achieve the EFA goals” is also incumbent upon it, as stipulated in biennial sectoral priority 1 and, at the same time, as emphasized also by biennial sectoral priority 2, it is called upon to take action at the higher education level as the only United Nations agency whose mandate covers this level of education.

Clearly, following the approach successfully adopted for the previous revision, UNESCO should include in its reflection, in addition to the Organization's experts and especially those from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), representatives of interested Member States, representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and experts from the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT).

The conclusions of this reflection and its proposals would be submitted to the General Conference at its 35th session in 2009.