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Item 14.3 of the provisional agenda

REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE GREAT FAMINE (HOLODOMOR) IN UKRAINE

OUTLINE

Source: Rule 12.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference.

Background: This document concerns item 14.3 of the provisional agenda and is proposed by Ukraine.

Purpose: An explanatory note concerning this item and a draft resolution are contained in an annex to the present document.

Decision required: Paragraph 6 (Annex).

ANNEX

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. In the former Soviet Union millions of men, women and children fell victims to the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime. The Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (Holodomor) took from 7 million to 10 million innocent lives and became a national tragedy for the Ukrainian people. In this regard, the Government of Ukraine is organizing activities observing the seventy-fifth anniversary of this famine.

2. On 7 November 2003, a number of countries signed a Joint Statement on the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (Holodomor) that was later on circulated as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly. In this document (currently supported by 64 countries), Holodomor was officially recognized as the national tragedy of the Ukrainian people, caused by the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime.

3. In our view it is obvious that raising public awareness on the tragic events in the history of humankind and their prevention in future is crucially important. The remembrance of acts and policies that brought about mass starvation and the death of millions of people, preserving historical records and restoring the dignity of victims through acknowledgement of their suffering should, in our view, guide future societies and help to avoid similar catastrophes in the future.

4. Considering UNESCO's role in "building peace in the minds of men" by promoting tolerance, understanding and dialogue between nations, as well as its impact on global educational policies and practices, it seems advisable that the knowledge about the tragedy of Holodomor be disseminated through UNESCO's framework to ensure that the lessons of this tragic page are inculcated in young generations.

5. The adoption of this resolution is also a means of expressing sympathy to the victims of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine by UNESCO Member States, its partners, non-governmental organizations, foundations and associations and thus paying tribute to the memory of those who perished during that tragic period of history.

6. Proposed Draft Resolution:¹

The General Conference,

Remembering the Great Famine (Holodomor), an artificially created famine that took the lives of millions of Ukrainians in 1932-1933,

Convinced that the tragedy of Holodomor should be a warning to the present and future generations,

Recalling the Joint Statement on the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (Holodomor) that was circulated as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly and in which Holodomor was officially recognized as the national tragedy of the Ukrainian people, caused by the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime,

1. Expresses sympathy to the victims of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (Holodomor) and honours the memory of those who perished as a result of it;

¹ At the date of publishing of the present document the following Member States had officially expressed support for this draft resolution: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Peru, Poland and the United States of America.

2. Welcomes the initiative of Ukraine to organize the commemorations on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine and encourages Member States to take part in those events;
3. Requests the Director-General to promote awareness of Holodomor remembrance by means of incorporating this knowledge into the educational programmes to inculcate forthcoming generations with the lessons of this tragic page.