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IMPLEMENTATION OF 34 C/RESOLUTION 58 AND 180 EX/DECISION 44 CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

SUMMARY

This document is presented in compliance with 34 C/Resolution 58 and 180 EX/Decision 44. It summarizes the progress made by UNESCO, since the 180th session of the Executive Board, in providing assistance to the Palestinian people and their educational and cultural institutions, as well as to such institutions in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Director-General intends to issue an addendum to the present document before the 181st session of the Board.

No financial or administrative implications.

INTRODUCTION

1. The conflict in Gaza from 27 December to 17 January 2009 resulted in heavy civilian casualties, especially among children, considerable damage to the infrastructure in Gaza and a deepening humanitarian crisis. At the time of drafting the present report, preliminary needs assessments indicated that a significant number of schools, as well as institutions of higher education, had been damaged or destroyed in Gaza. The media profession and infrastructure were also affected. In addition, reports received from the Palestinian Authority stressed damage incurred to various cultural heritage sites.

2. During the crisis, the Director-General issued five public statements calling for a halt to violence and for the protection of educational and cultural institutions and media installations in Gaza. In his statement of 5 January, the Director-General urged “all parties concerned to remain vigilant about making schools and universities safe, and to protect the lives of schoolchildren, students and educational personnel. We must also ensure the protection of the rich diversity of this cultural heritage at risk. In situations of conflict” – he added – “all opportunities, no matter how small, should be seized to enhance the prospects for peace, dialogue and development”.

3. During the period under review, and in parallel to its response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, UNESCO consolidated its assistance to the Palestinian Authority focusing in particular on the priority areas of cooperation identified during the eighth meeting of the UNESCO/Palestinian Authority Joint Committee, held at UNESCO Headquarters on 4 and 5 March 2008.

UNESCO'S RESPONSE TO THE GAZA CRISIS

4. In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, UNESCO participated in the integrated United Nations response to meet the challenges of humanitarian relief and early recovery. Through its Office for the Palestinian Territories based in Ramallah, UNESCO has been an active member of the Education Cluster, providing both technical and programmatic guidance and secretarial support for its overall coordination. UNESCO also represents the Education Cluster in the Early Recovery Cluster, thereby ensuring the practical bridging of effort and opportunities between the relief and recovery phases of the planning process. Similarly, UNESCO is participating both in the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) and the Early Recovery Rapid Assessment (ERRA) United Nations processes. As a result of the first exercise, the “Gaza Flash Appeal” was launched in Geneva on 2 February 2009. This Flash Appeal is based on a rapid needs assessment in which UNESCO took part, covering immediate humanitarian needs relative to restoring access to basic services and ensuring the protection of the civilian population in Gaza. UNESCO succeeded in including six project proposals totalling \$2,940,000 within the Appeal, focusing on the emergency reactivation of quality educational services, as well as on the protection of journalists.

5. Beyond humanitarian assistance, UNESCO will play a critical role in addressing the early recovery needs in Gaza. To this effect, three UNESCO staff from the Ramallah Office went to Gaza on 1 and 2 February 2009, in order to identify needs and priorities in the following areas: (i) the broader recovery of educational institutions, including affected universities; (ii) the protection and preservation of damaged cultural heritage sites; and (iii) the promotion of free and independent media. Needs and priorities will be presented in the Palestinian Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza that is expected to be launched at a donor conference in Cairo on 2 March 2009. The Director-General held an information meeting on 6 February 2009 to update Member States on UNESCO's participation in the humanitarian response to the Gaza crisis. An update on these ongoing efforts will be provided in an addendum to the present document.

PROGRESS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN UNESCO'S ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Education

6. Assistance in the field of education continued to focus on the four priority areas agreed during the eighth meeting of the Joint UNESCO/Palestinian Authority Committee, held at UNESCO Headquarters in early March 2008, namely: teacher education, educational planning, technical vocational education and training (TVET), and science education.

7. Technical support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) in the field of teacher education was further strengthened in December 2008, with the signing of a three-year technical assistance programme funded by the European Commission for a total of €3.6 million. The programme entitled "Quality Systems for Quality Teachers" will assist the MoEHE in implementing its recently approved National Teacher Education Strategy (TES) and will focus on: (i) improving the management and institutional capacity of the teacher education system; (ii) promoting the status of teachers; (iii) enhancing the coherence and relevance of teacher training and career development programmes. Moreover, in response to the most urgent recommendations of the TES, two technical assistance missions were carried out respectively in September and October 2008 to advise the MoEHE on the establishment of the Commission for the Development of the Teaching Profession (CDTP) and the upgrading of teacher related data within the Education Management Information System (EMIS). The missions resulted in: (i) a framework document for the establishment of the CDTP; (ii) a review of the current teacher training and professional development units and structures within the MOEHE; and a (iii) a review of the teacher education databases at the MoEHE. These missions constituted the final activities under the project Development of a National Comprehensive Teacher Education Strategy in the occupied Palestinian territory [oPt] (\$500,000), funded by Norway.

8. The new Five-Year Education Development Strategic Plan (EDSP 2008-2012), finalized with UNESCO/International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) technical assistance, was launched by the MoEHE in July 2008. As for the implementation of the Plan, UNESCO/IIEP assistance will focus on the development of the Ministry's capacities in planning, administrative and managerial skills. As a first step, an IIEP mission started working on the design of a comprehensive Capacity Development Programme (CDP) for the MoEHE in June 2008. During this mission, particular emphasis was given to the identification of immediate needs in developing capacities for formulating yearly operational plans, budgets, monitoring and evaluation. Consequently, with financial support from UNESCO and Finland (\$13,000), IIEP carried out a three-week training of trainers workshop in October 2008 in the formulation of yearly operational quality plans, using participatory planning approaches. As a result, a core team of 40 trainers is now qualified to lead working teams of district and school levels to deal with all aspects of EDSP implementation and monitoring. A second IIEP mission (October 2008) aimed at complementing the training needs assessment undertaken during the June mission. A road map that describes MoEHE's short-term and long-term capacity development needs for planning and management was produced.

9. Concurrent to these developments, the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) – which is the local aid coordination forum for education – advanced a process of donor alignment and harmonization within a sector-wide approach (SWAp) based on the EDSP implementation. On 29 October 2008, a number of development partners, including UNESCO, signed a Partnership Principles document, as a further step towards achieving SWAp.

10. Progress was achieved in assisting the MoEHE in the establishment of a national vocational guidance and counselling system. An appraisal mission was undertaken in early September 2008 by a UNESCO consultant and produced a mapping of ongoing career guidance activities and initiatives, as well as policy options for a national career guidance system development. The latter was presented and discussed in a stakeholder's round table held on 14 October 2008. On this

basis, a refined proposal for the development of a career guidance system in the oPt was prepared, drawing both on best local and international practices.

11. In support of the development of science education, a two-day workshop on the utilization of micro-science kits was organized in Ramallah in October 2008 for 30 science teachers and supervisors. Parallel to this workshop, a work plan for the dissemination of micro-science kits in Palestinian schools and the adaptation of their use within the Palestinian education system and curriculum were developed in cooperation with the MoEHE. The work plan will be implemented during spring 2009.

12. In a context of increased internal strife within the Palestinian Territories, UNESCO continued giving special attention to the educational needs of vulnerable groups. A summer camp in Nablus area targeting 100 children (7-13 age-group) from the Old City of Nablus and Ballata Refugee Camp was held with UNESCO's support.

13. In the field of higher education and in a context of increased poverty and deteriorating socio-economic conditions in Gaza, an extension of the Saudi funded project "Supporting an Equitable and Efficient Funding Mechanism for Palestinian Higher Education" (\$36,480) was obtained and will thus provide for at least 83 grants to students from universities in Gaza.

CULTURE

14. UNESCO assistance for the safeguarding and enhancement of the Palestinian cultural heritage was further consolidated. Such assistance was carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) and local stakeholders, in particular the municipalities of Bethlehem and Nablus. The "Culture and Development in the oPt" project (\$3 million under the Spanish Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG TF), was approved and will be initiated soon. It will increase opportunities for cooperation with the Ministry of Culture (MoC) and other geographical areas including Jenin, Hebron and the Gaza Strip. With regard to cultural heritage preservation, two new projects were identified respectively for the project Conservation and Management of the Archaeological Site of Tell Balata in Nablus (€300,000) to be funded by the Netherlands, and for the Protection of the Mosaic at Qasr Hisham Archaeological Park (\$56,540) in Jericho, to be funded by the Czech Republic.

15. Significant progress was achieved towards the establishment of the Riwaya Museum – Bethlehem, a project funded by the Government of Norway (\$1,323,631). In November 2008, rehabilitation works on the museum site started and, in December, the display was presented to the concerned national and local authorities, the MoTA and the Municipality of Bethlehem, as well as to the donor and the local institutions. The museum, using interactive technologies such as interactive media, aims at preserving Palestinian tangible and intangible cultural heritage, cultural diversity and fostering intercultural dialogue.

16. Within the framework of the project Bethlehem Area Conservation and Management Plan funded by the Government of Italy (\$500,000), major achievements included: (a) in October 2008, the endorsement of the Area Conservation and Management Plan's Strategic Document by a Joint Technical Committee; and (b) the adoption of the "Charter on the Safeguarding of Palestinian Historic Towns and Urban Landscapes (The Bethlehem Charter)", signed on 21 December 2008 by the Minister of Local Government, the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, the Governor of Bethlehem, the Mayors of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour, and the Director of the Cultural Heritage Preservation Centre. The Plan and the Charter commit the three municipalities of this area to key safeguarding principles and conservation guidelines based on international standards.

17. Within the framework of the project Safeguarding Historical and Environmental Resources Toward Sustainable Development in the Bethlehem Governorate (\$115,000) funded by the Government of Norway, the research on cultural landscapes in pilot areas (e.g., the village of Battir

and its surroundings) was completed. The findings of the research showed the fragility of the environmental and cultural resources of these areas and were presented to the MoTA. As a result, UNESCO and the MoTA are devising a proposal to draft jointly a Conservation and Management Plan for the Safeguarding of Cultural Landscape in the area of Battir.

Nablus

18. In the context of the project Revitalization Plan of the Old City of Nablus, sponsored by the Munir Sukhtian Group-Jordan (\$100,000), UNESCO provided technical assistance to the Municipality of Nablus for the execution of the rehabilitation works in one of the six selected sites in the Old City of Nablus.

19. Within the framework of the “Old City of Nablus Renovation – Restoration and Adaptive Re-use of the Khan al-Wakala” (€1,327,000), funded by the European Commission, the international bidding process for the rehabilitation works was completed. The contract will focus on structural works on the new additions to the existing building, in accordance with the project design. The rehabilitation works are expected to start in February 2009.

Jericho

20. UNESCO provided continued technical assistance to the MoTA for the United States-funded project on the establishment of the “Archaeological Park of Qasr Hisham” executed directly by the Ministry. The funding mobilized from the Czech Republic will serve to further define the executive design for the protective shelters for the mosaic pavement and other visitors’ facilities.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

21. In the context of the Gaza crisis and to address the concern of the safety and protection of Palestinian media professionals, UNESCO donated 18 protective bullet-proof vests and 16 helmets to media organizations and journalists in Gaza in January 2009. Also, extrabudgetary funding from Finland (€500,000) was identified for a new project aimed at protecting media personnel, particularly in Gaza. The project focuses on safety training, the creation of a support network for Palestinian journalists and job and career development opportunities for women media professionals.

22. A project on “Strengthening Palestinian Participatory Democracy and Public Dialogue” developed jointly by UNESCO and the AMIN Media Network/Internews was selected and finally approved for funding under the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). With a budget of \$300,000, the project aims at reinforcing capacities of local media and encouraging open and transparent communication systems. Activities include capacity-building in citizen and blog journalism and production of community radio talk shows and national TV debates.

23. During the eighth Joint UNESCO/Palestinian Authority Joint Committee meeting, the Palestinian Authority has requested UNESCO to provide advice and technical support in drafting a new Press Law and Broadcast Law in cooperation with the Ministry of Information, the Birzeit University Institute of Law, Palestinian media organizations, academia and civil society. The objective is to promote an enabling environment for freedom of expression and freedom of information through media legislation and regulatory framework and enhance capacity and expertise of local authorities, judiciary, media and civil society on international principles and standards in the area. In December 2008, Birzeit University completed a first draft of the broadcast law that will be widely circulated and serve as basis for a consultative process with stakeholders and other interested parties, through workshops supported by UNESCO.

24. Continued support was provided to Reconstructing and Strengthening the News Agency WAFA, a project funded by Italy (\$116,000) in cooperation with the Birzeit University Media Development Centre and AMIN Media Network. The aim of this project is to strengthen

professional capacities of Wafa's reporters and senior staff in managing the editorial desk, further develop the Wafa's website and strengthen the capacity of the photography department while reinforcing the network of local correspondents in the West Bank. In addition, a legal study and draft law on Wafa was commissioned from the Birzeit University Institute of Law to reorganize the legal status of the Palestinian news agency within the Palestinian Authority.

25. Within the framework of the project Establishment of Palestinian Web-Based Platform for Journalists (\$20,000), financed by the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), a website is being set up by a team of media experts from the Birzeit University Media Development Centre, in close cooperation with local journalists and media organizations. Among the services to be provided by this web-based platform, which will benefit 2,500 Palestinian journalists and media professionals, are: information on training and job opportunities; new communication technologies and latest developments in the field of media; and freedom of expression.

26. In the framework of the project Women Taking the Lead, developed in cooperation with AMIN Media Network funded by IPDC (\$20,000), on-the-job training is being provided to 40 mid-career women journalists and media managers to increase career development and equal employment opportunities as well as protection against harassment and discrimination.

27. Finally, the project Digital and Web Radio – Voice of Palestine (\$21,000) funded by IPDC was completed in cooperation with the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC). This included the establishment of the PBC website, provision of the digital radio equipment and capacity building and training of PBC media professionals.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

28. UNESCO's assistance in the field of social and human sciences continues to be focused on strengthening the institutional and human capacities of the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Centre (PWRDC). In addition to providing documentation and library facilities, the Centre is serving as an observatory on the status and condition of Palestinian women. The Centre has started developing online databases, producing publications, organizing training courses and targeted seminars and providing information to ministries, NGOs, students and researchers.

THE SITUATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

29. In May 2008, a mission to Damascus was conducted by the Beirut Office in close consultation with senior officials from the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) to identify needs and develop the basic outline of a scholarship programme for Syrian students in the Occupied Syrian Golan, announced by the Director-General during his visit to Syria in January 2008. As a result, a project document was developed in August 2008, finalized in October 2008 and submitted to the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) for approval. The total amount requested from the donor is \$113,000 and the expected implementation period is 2009-2013 (four academic years).

DIALOGUE BETWEEN PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI PROFESSIONALS AND ACADEMIA

30. The Organization continued to facilitate Israeli-Palestinian dialogue with the aim of strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation.

31. In the area of academic cooperation, UNESCO continued to provide assistance to the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization (IPSO). In particular, UNESCO has granted a financial contribution of \$130,000 to co-finance three research projects implemented by IPSO on: (1) Genetic and agronomic analyses of high and low temperature stress in chickpeas; (2) The

genetic basis of congenital heart disease in a community with a high rate of consanguinity;
(3) Electrical transport in single molecules upon stretching: bi-lateral Palestinian-Israeli project in the field of nanotechnology.

32. In the field of Israeli-Palestinian academic cooperation, and within the framework of the second phase of the Programme of University Cooperation “Masters on Social Sciences and Humanitarian Affairs” 2008-2009, students from eight Israeli and eight Palestinian universities attended joint courses at the University of Rome “La Sapienza” in November and December 2008. The third phase of the Programme, namely the “Home university-based curriculum”, will start in February 2009 and end in May 2009.

CONCLUSION

33. Given recent developments in the Middle East, the Director-General intends to issue an addendum to the present document before the 181st session of the Executive Board, so as to keep Member States abreast of the situation and UNESCO’s response thereto. This addendum will also contain a draft decision.



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IMPLEMENTATION OF 34 C/RESOLUTION 58 AND 180 EX/DECISION 44 CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

ADDENDUM

SUMMARY

This document provides an update on the UNESCO response to the Gaza crisis to keep the Executive Board abreast of recent developments since the issuance of document 181 EX/47 on 20 February 2009.

1. This addendum presents an update on the UNESCO response to the Gaza crisis following the issuance of 181 EX/47. Since then, a series of new developments have occurred as reflected in Part I below, which reports on progress made in relation to UNESCO's participation in the United Nations humanitarian response. Part II provides information on the Palestinian Authority's efforts towards mid-term recovery and reconstruction in Gaza and the United Nations contribution thereto.

Part I: Humanitarian response

2. UNESCO is actively involved in the United Nations humanitarian response to the Gaza crisis, which was spelled out in the United Nations Gaza Flash Appeal launched in February 2009. Six UNESCO projects, to a total value of US \$2,940,000, were retained in the Flash Appeal.

3. The Flash Appeal identified education as a priority area of response. In this context, UNESCO and other humanitarian actors participating in the education cluster of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) developed five proposals focusing on the most crucial gap areas, namely the urgent reactivation of educational services in secondary and higher education; as well as the promotion of quality standards in emergency education. The five proposals are:

- (i) provision of emergency secondary education in non-UNRWA schools (\$800,000): the project aims at restoring educational services in governmental secondary schools with a special focus on catch-up courses for Tawjihi students, and training to enable secondary education teachers to provide psycho-social support;

- (ii) emergency rehabilitation of higher education institutions (\$800,000): the project supports universities and higher education institutions in conducting delayed exams for the first semester and in developing alternative spaces for lecturing and study opportunities, including e-learning;
- (iii) support for crisis planning and management for affected school principals and district officials (\$400,000): the project aims at providing managerial tools and professional support to education officials responsible for the reactivation and recovery of the education system.
- (iv) training in INEE Minimum Standards (\$320,000): the project seeks to ensure that emergency education programmes are developed in line with established international standards for education in emergencies, through training of teachers and aid workers active in the field of education in Gaza; and
- (v) promotion of schools as safe zones (\$420,000): the project aims at raising awareness among teachers on the concept of schools as safe zones and its application in the specific context of Gaza.

4. The protection and safety of journalists, another area of main concern to UNESCO during the present humanitarian phase, was given attention in the United Nations humanitarian response. As a result, a proposal entitled “Strengthening the Safety and Protection of Journalists and Press Freedom in the Gaza Strip” addressing this crucial issue was introduced under the Protection Cluster of the Flash Appeal (\$200,000).

5. At the time of drafting the present document, UNESCO’s response in the Gaza Strip had begun, focusing on the implementation of urgent priority activities, in particular in the field of education. In the immediate aftermath of the launching of the United Nations Gaza Flash Appeal, the Director-General decided to allocate an amount of \$165,000 from the Organization’s Post-Crisis Special Account (established by 174 EX/Decision 48) for such activities. The design and modalities of the implementation of these activities have been developed in close consultation with other United Nations agencies and humanitarian actors on the ground, in order to ensure full consistency in the support provided to restore educational services in Gaza, and to tackle the many operational constraints imposed by the political and security situation. Furthermore, in order for UNESCO to deliver this assistance to the population in the Gaza Strip with adequate capacities, the Director-General decided to establish a Project Antenna in Gaza. Located in the UNDP compound in Gaza City, the Antenna was, thanks to Norwegian funding, staffed by a secondee from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in early March. In early April, a full-time local programme assistant was recruited. The Antenna, now operational, is placed under the direct supervision of the UNESCO Ramallah Office for the Palestinian Territories.

6. Ongoing priority activities in the field of education concentrate on **support to higher education**. This entails, in particular, support to the Islamic University – the most affected university in Gaza – to enable this institution to conduct belated end of semester exams and to carry on with teaching specifically at the engineering, information technology (IT) and nursing departments, which were hit hard during the conflict. However, this support only partially secured the holding of exams, as some required equipment that was destroyed during the conflict is currently not authorized entry into the Gaza Strip.

7. In order to improve the quality of educational services in Gaza, UNESCO will organize a five-day training of trainers workshop on **INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies and Schools as Safe Zones**. The training will take place in Gaza City in early May 2009 and involve a broad group of teachers, school supervisors, and NGO workers dealing with education. The aim of the training is to raise awareness on INEE minimum standards and discuss preparedness and methods for making schools safe zones in the particular context of Gaza.

Subsequently, during the summer vacations, each trainer will lead separate training courses for three days at the district level throughout the Gaza Strip.

8. From April to early June 2009, UNESCO will support **catch-up courses for students in Gaza**, who will sit for the Tawjihee exam ending the upper secondary education cycle in late June. This initiative, which will benefit 4,800 students from six governmental schools located in the areas most affected by the recent conflict in Gaza, seeks to address the learning gap caused by the conflict when schools were closed for one month. The review of the curriculum and accelerated training in key subjects will ensure a thorough preparation for the Tawjihee exam. The activity is thus an important contribution to improved access and opportunities for higher education for students in Gaza. This activity for a total amount of \$100,000 is funded by Japan through the Japanese Fund-in-Trust for Capacity-Building of Human Resources. It is a component of the UNESCO Flash Appeal project entitled “Provision of emergency secondary education in non-UNRWA schools”.

9. As part of the UNESCO Flash Appeal project “**Strengthening the safety and protection of journalists and press freedom in the Gaza Strip**”, which has received funding of \$130,000 from Finland, UNESCO will organize from June to August 2009, two safety training courses to increase the safety and protection of media professionals in Gaza. This capacity-building will increase safety awareness, skills and psycho-social support for 60 Palestinian journalists and cameramen, and provide safety equipment, press signs, protective vests, helmets and first aid kits for local media organizations. In addition, the project will create a support network for media professionals in Gaza to address violations against press freedom and safety of journalists. Finland has also provided funding of \$530,000 to support a project for the “Promotion of the freedom of expression, safety of journalists and empowering women in media to enhance respect for human rights in the Gaza Strip and West Bank” which will run from 2009 to 2011. This new project will increase awareness on the right to freedom of expression and access to information, strengthen independent and pluralistic media and provide capacity-building and career development for Palestinian women journalists.

10. In order to meet the urgent humanitarian needs in Gaza, particularly in the field of education, major efforts have been put into **funds mobilization** for the UNESCO projects in the United Nations Gaza Flash Appeal. Italy, Japan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have expressed initial interest in contributing to funding the UNESCO education projects under the Appeal. However, no firm commitment has been made at this stage. Other potential donors are still considering possible funding. As for the project aimed at the safety and protection of media professionals, Finland has expressed strong interest in providing \$100,000 to the Flash Appeal project on this particular matter. Finally, in April 2009, UNESCO launched a direct mailing campaign in Switzerland aimed at collecting private funds in favour of “safe schools in Gaza”.

Part II: Contribution to Gaza’s Recovery and Reconstruction

11. On 2 March 2009, the Palestinian Authority launched its **Gaza Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan (GERRA)** on the occasion of the **International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction in Gaza** (Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt). The Palestinian Authority received strong international support for its Plan. According to information available, the total new pledges amounted to \$4.5 billion for both Gaza and the West Bank. The biggest shares of the \$4.5 billion included pledges from Saudi Arabia (\$1 billion), from the United States of America (\$0,9 billion), the European Union (€440 million) and Qatar (\$250 million).

12. UNESCO, as a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for the Palestinian Territories, provided technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority in preparing the **Gaza Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan (GERRA)**. For UNESCO, such assistance concentrated on the education and culture components of the GERRA and included data collection on damage and needs in these areas, as well as sharing experience on best practices for recovery and reconstruction.

13. The participation of the UNESCO Deputy Director-General in the Sharm-el-Sheikh Conference offered the opportunity for separate meetings with the Palestinian authorities, in particular the Minister of Planning, key donors and the United Nations Secretary-General. These meetings allowed for discussion of UNESCO's future contribution to the education and cultural heritage protection components of the GERRA.

14. An **integrated United Nations response plan** to the GERRA is currently being prepared by the UNCT for the Palestinian Territories. The UNESCO Ramallah Office has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating the education and culture parts of this response plan, in close consultation with sister United Nations agencies involved in these fields in Gaza. It is expected that the response plan will be finalized in May 2009.

15. In the field of culture, and following an expression of interest, a proposal for "**Emergency Protective Measures for the Monastery of Saint Hilarion and its Thermal Complex**" was submitted to the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development in late March 2009. A final decision on the funding of this project by the Foundation is expected shortly.

Conclusion

16. It is important to note that a successful response by UNESCO to the Gaza crisis requires a number of conditions, in particular: (i) free and sustained movement of personnel and relief items and equipment in and out of Gaza; (ii) funding of the Flash Appeal projects; and (iii) flexibility in implementation. At the time of preparing the present addendum, many of these conditions remain unmet and are creating serious challenges for UNESCO's operations in Gaza.

17. Furthermore, it should be noted that in parallel to its response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza as described above, the UNESCO Ramallah Office continued consolidating its overall development-oriented assistance in support of the reform and development programme of the Palestinian Authority addressing the West Bank and Gaza. At the time of reporting, such assistance programmes on education, culture and media development, amounted to a total of more than \$15 million, most of which has come from extrabudgetary funding.



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IMPLEMENTATION OF 34 C/RESOLUTION 58 AND 180 EX/DECISION 44 CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

ADDENDUM 2

SUMMARY

This document is a second addendum to document 181 EX/47 and Add., and is proposing a draft decision in this regard.

Decision proposed: paragraph 1.

1. In view of the information provided in document 181 EX/47 and 181 EX/47 Add., the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

I

1. Recalling 34 C/Resolution 58 and 180 EX/Decision 44, as well as Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with regard to the right to education, Articles 4 and 94 of the Fourth Geneva Convention with regard to the denial of the right of children to education, as well as the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) and the Hague Convention (1954) and its Additional Protocols,
2. Having examined document 181 EX/47 and 181 EX/47 Add.1,
3. Further recalling the role that UNESCO is called upon to play in order to satisfy the right to education for all, and to meet the need for Palestinians to have safe access to the education system,
4. Committed to the safeguarding of monuments, works of art, manuscripts, books and other historical and cultural properties to be protected in the event of conflict,
5. Deeply convinced that the continuous strengthening of the reconstruction and development process in the Palestinian territories should be carried out in a context of

non-violence and of mutual respect and recognition, as promoted by the objectives of the Road Map,

6. Supports the efforts made by the Director-General with a view to the implementation of 34 C/Resolution 58 and 180 EX/Decision 44, and requests him to do everything possible to ensure that they are fully implemented in the framework of the Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5 Approved);
7. Expresses its appreciation for the substantial contributions of all concerned Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to UNESCO's action in the Palestinian territories, and appeals to them to continue assisting UNESCO in this endeavour;
8. Thanks the Director-General for the results that have been obtained in relation to the implementation of a number of current educational and cultural activities, and invites him to strengthen UNESCO's financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian educational and cultural institutions in order to address new needs and problems resulting from recent developments;
9. Expresses its continuing concern at any actions undermining the cultural and natural heritage, and cultural and educational institutions, as well as at any impediments which prevent Palestinian and all other schoolchildren and students from being an integral part of their social fabric and from exercising fully their right to education, and calls for the observance of the provisions of 34 C/Resolution 58 and 180 EX/Decision 44;
10. Encourages the Director-General to continue to reinforce his action in favour of the reconstruction, rehabilitation and restoration of the Palestinian archaeological sites and cultural heritage;
11. Invites the Director-General to address the needs for capacity-building in all UNESCO's fields of competence by expanding the financial assistance programme for Palestinian students both from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources;
12. Requests the Director-General to follow closely the implementation of the recommendations of the eighth meeting of the Joint UNESCO-Palestinian Authority Committee (4-5 March 2008) and to organize, as soon as possible, the ninth meeting of the Joint UNESCO-Palestinian Authority Committee;
13. Encourages Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, and expresses the hope that a just and comprehensive peace will be brought about speedily;

II

14. Also invites the Director-General:
 - (a) to continue the efforts he is making to preserve the human, social and cultural fabric of the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with the relevant provisions of this decision;
 - (b) to undertake efforts to offer appropriate curricula, and to provide more grants and adequate assistance to the educational and cultural institutions of the occupied Syrian Golan;

III

15. Decides to include this item on the agenda of the Executive Board at its 182nd session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.