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Educational, Scientific and  
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## **APPEALS BY MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THEIR PROPOSALS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED IN 2010-2011**

### **SUMMARY**

Pursuant to 159 EX/Decision 7.5, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board revised proposals from Member States for the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2010-2011.

The financial and administrative implications of the activities presented fall within the parameters of the C/5 document.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 12.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. According to the procedure adopted in 159 EX/Decision 7.5 (159th session of the Executive Board, May 2000) for establishing the list of anniversaries proposed by Member States with which UNESCO could be associated, the Member States concerned have had a statutory period of two months as from the last session of the Executive Board in order to reformulate, should they so desire, their requests concerning anniversaries that were rejected at its 181st session. This option applied solely to proposals submitted before 15 January 2009.

2. **Nine appeals have thus been submitted** to the Secretariat by eight Member States: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Philippines, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Czech Republic, Thailand and Ukraine. In addition, the authorities of Azerbaijan have informed the Secretariat that their country wished to be associated with the “750th anniversary of the active life of Khâje Nasîr-ud-Dîn Tûsî, scientist (1201-1274)”, anniversary proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and already selected by the Executive Board at its 181st session (181 EX/Decision 45).

3. Furthermore, Grenada has submitted a new proposal: “300th anniversary of the foundation of the Town of Saint George’s (1710)” and it is to be noted that this will ensure a desirable geographical balance since it means that all the regions will have submitted proposals for anniversaries, particularly in view of the fact that no other proposal from Caribbean countries is included in the present list (nor has been since 2002).

4. The Secretariat’s intersectoral selection committee has considered all the requests and the Executive Board is now called upon to examine the list of reformulated proposals deemed admissible inasmuch as they comply with the following selection criteria, established by 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and amended at the 166th (166 EX/Decision 9.3), 176th (176 EX/Decision 47) and 179th (179 EX/Decision 37) sessions of the Executive Board:

- (a) each proposed anniversary should be indisputably linked to the Organization’s ideals and missions in the fields of education, science, culture, social and human sciences and communication and should promote closer relations among peoples, tolerance and the ideals of peace, cultural dialogue and mutual understanding among peoples;
- (b) commemorations of the birth, independence or institutional regime of a State will not be eligible for consideration; similarly the anniversaries of military events will be excluded;
- (c) the anniversary should concern personalities of genuinely universal stature, nominated posthumously only, and works or events of genuinely worldwide or at least regional significance in order to reflect the ideals, the values, the cultural diversity and the universality of the Organization;
- (d) the anniversary should be a fiftieth anniversary, a centenary, or a multiple thereof; some flexibility should nevertheless be used in applying this criterion;
- (e) the anniversary should be the occasion for nationwide events already planned and for the organization of which certain resources have been allocated in the Member State or group of Member States directly concerned;
- (f) any anniversary proposal involving more than one State should be submitted by all;
- (g) requests relating to works of the intangible heritage – which comprise oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices and rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship – will not be taken into consideration since they cannot be dated in time.

5. The Director-General submits to the Executive Board, for decision, the reformulated proposals contained in section II, which contains a description of each anniversary selected, together with relevant historical and biographical information.

## II. MEMBER STATES' REQUESTS DEEMED ADMISSIBLE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

6. **The Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **200th anniversary of the establishment of the Prague Conservatory**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Established in 1808 (but opened to students in 1811), the Prague Conservatory is one of the oldest schools of music in the world and was the first musical training establishment in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. From the outset, renowned European musicians, such as Carl Maria von Weber, Hector Berlioz, Franz Liszt, Richard Wagner and Clara Schumann, were invited to collaborate with the establishment. Thus, over time it became “the Conservatory of Europe” open to talented foreign students.

In 1891, the famous Czech composer Antonín Dvořák headed the composition department. Then in 1901, on returning from a long stay in New York, he was made its director until his death in 1904.

This musical training institution also served as a model for the establishment of similar schools throughout Europe and in North America, thus ensuring the international influence of music as a vector for both dialogue, through training, and exchange between artists and talented students worldwide. (CLT)

7. **The Permanent Delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **50th anniversary of the death of Patrice Emery Lumumba**, symbol of pan-Africanism (1925-1961), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request complies with the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Born in 1925 in Kisangani, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba, one of the pioneers of pan-Africanism, leader of civil society and Congolese politician, dedicated his life to the civic education of citizens in order to advance the right of peoples to self-determination and their emancipation.

Patrice Lumumba, who was self-taught, was a journalist and activist in associative movements. His participation in the First Pan-African Congress in Accra in 1958 marked his entry into politics, as leader of the Congolese National Movement (CNM). Following victory in the elections following the independence of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba was appointed Prime Minister. He died tragically in January 1961 two months after his entry into office.

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Patrice Lumumba, the founding father of the Congolese nation, is explained by his commitment and the impact of his action in promoting African liberation through dialogue and democracy. For young Africans, Patrice Lumumba embodied the hope for a promising future for an Africa which, in spite of the burden of colonial history, could take in hand its destiny and benefit from its rich natural resources.

The international significance of Patrice Lumumba's action is attested to by the toponymy of cities, and the numerous books and films about him. His life has been a source of inspiration for many artists, including Aimé Césaire in his famous work “A season in the Congo”.

A key figure in contemporary African history, the commemorations regarding Patrice Lumumba that have been planned by the Congolese authorities, will provide an opportunity to the educational, scientific and cultural community to initiate activities that could form part of the launch of the project on the educational use of the *General History of Africa* and the African Liberation Heritage project.

Thus, UNESCO's association with the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Patrice Lumumba is justified by the role he played in the pan-African movement and by his action for the respect of human rights, in particular the defence of freedom of expression, the right to self-determination and solidarity among peoples. (AFR)

8. **The Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, Chair of the Grenada National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **300th anniversary of the foundation of the Town of Saint George's (1710)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The construction of the Historical District of Saint George's was ended with the addition of several administrative buildings in 1710. The town was laid out on a grid system with a central square and developed predominantly over the course of the eighteenth century. The original urban plan has remained intact since then and a large body of Georgian architecture adjusted to Caribbean circumstances has been preserved. From the natural harbour of Saint George's and the contour lines of the surrounding hills an unplanned area has expanded and developed from the early nineteenth century onwards. Historic buildings in the unplanned part of the Saint George's Historic District are predominantly erected in wood in a vernacular Caribbean style. The urban pattern and architectural styles of the Saint George's Historic District add up to present a blend of cultural features of outstanding universal value. The Historic District of Saint George's is part of UNESCO World Heritage tentative list. (CLT)

9. **The Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, with the support of the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO and Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO**, requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **50th anniversary of the Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Celebration**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Celebration is a festival which has taken place every five years in Riga since 1960. It aims to ensure the maintenance of the Baltic Song and Dance Celebration tradition, which was proclaimed Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2003 and which has pertained, as from November 2008, to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The Baltic Song and Dance Celebrations' tradition is common tradition to all Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Its regional significance underlines a common responsibility for the continuation of the common tradition. In this regard, the Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Celebration is an important event for the continuity of the Baltic Song and Dance Celebration, which is a living example of strong choir singing traditions. (CLT)

10. **The Permanent Delegation of Thailand to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Euah Suntornsanan, composer (1910-1981)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

A prolific and talented composer and bandleader, Eua Sunthornsanan was a pioneer in introducing Western music into Thai popular culture. In the 1940s, he founded the Suntaraporn which is Thailand's best-known big band. He has extensively performed in Thailand but also in other countries in the region such as Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia or China. Through his music and songs he successfully contributed to generating forces for peace and harmony among South-East Asian countries. The celebration of the centenary of his birth will no doubt provide an excellent opportunity to promote a better understanding of his unique contribution through the universal language of music. (CLT)

11. **The Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO, the Permanent Delegation of Belarus to UNESCO and the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **500th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Fyodorov, founder of book printing in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine (1510-1583)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Ivan Fyodorov (1510-1583) was the most celebrated among printers and one of the fathers of Russian and Ukrainian printing. He produced the first printed Church Slavonic Bible (the "Ostroh Bible" of 1580-1581), the first Russian (or other East Slavic) textbook (Bukvar, 1574), and the first printed Russian alphabetical subject index, calendar and poem. He was an accomplished craftsman in numerous trades, and a man of broad vision and great persistence. He played an important role in the promotion of literacy and Eastern Orthodox confessional unity, and introduced a high level of content, design and craftsmanship into a critically needed profession. (CLT)

### III. ACTION EXPECTED OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

12. At the close of its discussion, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 182 EX/51,
2. Noting that the proposals sent by Member States to the Director-General listed below comply with the statutory criteria,
3. Encourages the Member States of all regions to make proposals with a view to ensuring an improved geographical distribution and gender balance;
4. Recommends to the General Conference:
  - (a) that UNESCO should also be associated in 2010-2011 with the following celebrations:
    - (1) 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Prague Conservatory (1811) (Czech Republic);
    - (2) 50th anniversary of the death of Patrice Emery Lumumba, symbol of pan-Africanism (1925-1961) (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
    - (3) 300th anniversary of the foundation of the Town of Saint George's (1710) (Grenada);

- (4) 50th anniversary of the Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Celebration (1960) (Latvia, with the support of Estonia and Lithuania);
  - (5) 100th anniversary of the birth of EuaH Suntornsanan, composer (1910-1981) (Thailand);
  - (6) 500th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Fyodorov, founder of book printing in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine (1510-1583) (Ukraine, with the support of the Russian Federation and Belarus);
- (b) that account should be taken of the support of Azerbaijan and of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, respectively, for the association of UNESCO with the celebrations of the following anniversaries, as recommended by the Executive Board at its 181st session (181 EX/Decision 45):
- (1) 750th anniversary of the active life of Khâje Nasîr-ud-Dîn Tûsî, scientist (1201-1274) (Islamic Republic of Iran, **with the support of Azerbaijan**);
  - (2) 100th anniversary of the birth of Mother Teresa (1910-1997) (India, **with the support of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**).
- (c) that the list of anniversaries with whose celebration UNESCO is to be associated in 2010-2011, which supplements the list contained in 181 EX/Decision 45, be definitively closed, according to the procedure adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session (159 EX/Decision 7.5);
- (d) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations will be financed under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that programme.

## **ANNEX**

### **Composition of the Intersectoral Committee established to consider proposals**

The Intersectoral Committee established within the Secretariat to consider, in accordance with the criteria and procedures adopted, the list of proposals by the Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries shall be composed as follows (references: 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and document 159 EX/32):

- (a) one focal point from each programme sector:
  - Education Sector (ED);
  - Natural Sciences Sector (SC);
  - Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS);
  - Culture Sector (CLT);
  - Communication and Information Sector (CI);
- (b) the relevant units of the Sector for External Relations and Cooperation (ERC);
- (c) a representative of the central services:
  - Africa Department (AFR);
  - Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP);
  - Bureau of Field Coordination (BFC);
  - Bureau of Public Information (BPI);
  - Secretariat of the Executive Board (SCX);
  - Secretariat of the General Conference (SCG).