



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

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**General Committee of
the General Conference**

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Item 2 of the agenda

**INCLUSION OF NEW ITEMS IN THE AGENDA
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

By letter dated 2 October addressed to the Director-General, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Jamaica and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) request the inclusion on the agenda of the General Conference of a new item entitled "Impacts on the Education system and freedom of expression as a consequence of the situation in Honduras." The text of the proposal is attached as an annex.

The President of the General Conference brings the present document to the attention of the Conference. At the request of the General Committee, this request for a new question on the agenda will be put to the General Conference for decision. An explanatory note presented by the sponsors is attached to this document as an annex.

ANNEX I

His Excellency
Mr Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General of UNESCO

Paris, 2 October, 2009

Mr Director-General,

Based on Article 15.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Jamaica and Venezuela respectfully request the inclusion of a new item, in its revised version, entitled "IMPACTS ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE SITUATION IN HONDURAS" in the provisional agenda of the 35th session of the General Conference.

As it is known, this is an item of an important and urgent character as established in the above-mentioned article.

We enclose and present herewith the corresponding draft resolution to be considered by the General Conference.

Sincerely yours,

Argentina (*Signed*)

Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (*Signed*)

Brazil (*Signed*)

Chile (*Signed*)

Cuba (*Signed*)

Guatemala (*Signed*)

Jamaica (*Signed*)

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (*Signed*)

**Impacts on the education system
and freedom of expression as a consequence
of the situation in Honduras**

The General Conference,

Taking into account the Constitution of UNESCO,

Welcoming the declarations of the Director-General of UNESCO expressed in his press releases about the situation in Honduras,

Expressing concern with the negative impacts on the functioning of the education system of Honduras,

1. Requests the Director-General to keep following the developments in Honduras strictly in the fields of competence of UNESCO according to its Constitution.

ANNEX II

The constitution of UNESCO establishes full respect for human rights and, in particular, entrusts the Organization with the protection of the right to education and the right to information in images and words.

Recent events in Honduras are putting the exercise of these rights at risk. It is therefore appropriate and timely for UNESCO to address the situation, in fulfilment of its constitutional mandate.

Last week, it was decided to end the school year in October. Universities have been closed. This has had an undeniably negative effect on the right to education in Honduras.

The crisis has also resulted in serious infringements on the right to freedom of information and the closure of some newspapers. Channel 36 and Radio Globo remain closed. The Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr Frank La Rue, reported on 9 October that cameramen and photographers have been victims of police violence and have had their equipment and materials confiscated.

The following resolution endorses the concern expressed by the Director-General in his decision to monitor developments in the situation.