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REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

PART I

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, OF A REGIONAL RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE FOR WOMEN, GENDER AND PEACE-BUILDING IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION AS A CATEGORY 2 CENTRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

SUMMARY

Following the recommendations of the consultation held in Addis Ababa in 2005 to consider how best to promote the rights of women living in post-conflict zones, and of the Forum of Ministers of Women's Affairs of the Great Lakes region (Kinshasa, 2008) which decided on the establishment of an international research and documentation centre on women to be based in Kinshasa, the centre was subsequently designated as Regional Research and Documentation Centre for Women, Gender and Peace-Building at the second Forum (Mombasa, 2009). The Democratic Republic of the Congo reaffirmed its willingness to host the centre at the 33rd and 35th sessions of the UNESCO General Conference. The centre is also mentioned in document 34 C/5 Approved, paragraphs 03013 and 03014 among the priority actions of the Social and Human Sciences Sector in response to the needs of Africa and gender equality.

The General Conference at its 35th session adopted the resolution inviting the Executive Board at its 184th session to analyse the finalized feasibility study, to decide on its behalf on the granting of category 2 status to the regional centre, and to authorize the Director-General to conclude an agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of the countries of the Great Lakes region, establishing the regional centre. The activities of the centre will be officially launched in 2010.

This document contains the feasibility study which was carried out in 2005 and updated in 2006 in accordance with the guidelines regarding the establishment of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) approved in 33 C/Resolution 90.

Financial implications: see paragraph 30.

Action expected of the Executive Board: decision in paragraph 37.

I. Introduction

1. The establishment of an international women's research and documentation centre in Kinshasa was recommended by the consultation held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 May to 1 June 2005 to consider how best to promote the rights of women living in post-conflict zones. The Democratic Republic of the Congo subsequently reaffirmed its willingness to host the centre at the 33rd and 35th sessions of the UNESCO General Conference. The centre is also mentioned in document 34 C/5, paragraphs 03013 and 03014 among the priority actions of the Social and Human Sciences Sector in response to the needs of Africa and gender equality. The Forum of Ministers for Women's Affairs and Gender of the Great Lakes Region, held in Kinshasa (DRC) on 24 and 25 July 2008, adopted the decision referred to in the Kinshasa Declaration "to establish and support in collaboration with UNESCO an international women's research and documentation centre which will be based in Kinshasa and will be active in the countries of the Great Lakes region".

2. The second Forum of Ministers of Women's Affairs and Gender (Mombasa, Kenya, 2-5 June 2009) adopted the following designation: "Regional Research and Documentation Centre for Women, Gender and Peace-Building in the Great Lakes Region". The centre has premises and staff made available on a transitional basis by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the official launch of activities is scheduled for some time in 2010.

3. The General Conference, in 35 C/Resolution 38 adopted at its 35th session, invited "the Executive Board at its 184th session to analyse the finalized feasibility study, to decide on its behalf on the granting of category 2 status to the regional centre, and to authorize the Director-General to conclude an agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of the countries of the Great Lakes region, establishing the regional centre".

4. The feasibility study was entrusted to, carried out in 2005 and revised in 2006 by the UNESCO Chair in Culture of Peace, Conflict Resolution, Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance at the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

II. The status of women in the Great Lakes region

5. The wars and conflicts which have recently ravaged the Great Lakes region have taken a heavy toll among women and girls. Accession to a certain number of international legal instruments has not produced significant improvements in the daily life of women in the region. In spite of the presence of women in the legislative bodies of most countries, women remain underrepresented in most government and decision-making structures.

6. The needs and interests of women and girls are only marginally taken into account in post-conflict reconstruction processes. This fact was recognized in the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region (November, 2004) in which the heads of State and Government noted that the massive violations of human rights, policies of exclusion and marginalization, and gender disparities are among the principal factors giving rise to profound multidimensional conflicts and political instability in the region. It is worth noting the Zanzibar Declaration, following the Pan-African meeting of women on a culture of peace organized by UNESCO in 1999, by which the States undertook to set up consultations, research and cooperation in order to develop an overall, gender-specific approach to conflict prevention and management in the framework of the programme for a culture of peace. Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council (31 October 2000) reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts.

III. Objectives and vision of the centre, field of activities, competences and capacity to achieve its objectives

7. As mentioned in the Kinshasa Declaration (2008), the project seeks to promote gender equality and protection and respect for the human rights of women in the Great Lakes region. This objective will be achieved by building up the capacities for women's studies and research on gender-related issues, and by strengthening the links between research and policy formulation in order to ensure that women fully participate in and contribute to sustainable social transformations, development and decision-making in the context of post-conflict reconstruction.

8. The goal, in short, is to restore equal dignity to women so that they may play their role of fully participating in and contributing to sustainable social transformations and to development. In order to achieve all of those goals, the regional centre's activities will focus primarily on:

- research geared to policy formulation and dialogue among researchers and policy-makers;
- capacity-building;
- networking;
- the development of partnerships;
- electronic documentation and publication.

(a) Research geared to policy formulation and dialogue among researchers and policy-makers

9. The Centre will:

- conduct research on the legal, economic, cultural, social and political status of women and will endeavour to understand how the transformation of gender roles has affected men and women and influenced women's empowerment;
- foster critical analysis and observation of modern and traditional practices that impede gender equality and women's empowerment and perpetuate discrimination and injustice, and of the role of women in conflict resolution and the promotion of peace and development.

Through empirical research and the exchange of expertise among the countries in the region and political dialogue, the centre will contribute to stronger ties between research and policy formulation. It will provide a regional mechanism linking research and policy formulation and collecting knowledge and experiential data from various countries in the region in order to learn lessons and identify common areas of action and policy formulation.

(b) Capacity-building

10. The centre will endeavour to promote and build the intellectual and leadership capacities of stakeholders working for gender equality in the region, in particular in policy analysis and formulation, analysis of gender issues, information technology and strategic and critical thought. Furthermore, it will build research capacities in the fields of women's studies and gender studies in order to encourage academic excellence in the region's main universities.

11. The centre will also be entitled to organize training courses on research methodologies, conceptual bases and historical and anthropological considerations relevant to the conduct of research work. Other training courses conducive to work with grass-roots communities and tools required for advocacy and awareness-raising will also be organized.

(c) Networking

12. (i) Scientific networks. Owing to its regional nature, the centre will be required to play a key networking role. It will establish a forum, in particular through a virtual network for exchanges, the conduct of joint research and criticism for contemporary basic and applied research in the field of women's studies and gender studies.

(ii) Policy networks. A mechanism conducive to networking among policy officials, the various stakeholders concerned such as parliamentarians and members of civil society, in order to exert a positive influence on and enrich syllabi proposed by participating universities.

(iii) Policy dialogues. These may be held between the two networks mentioned above in order to turn research recommendations into operational and policy activities nationally, regionally and interregionally.

(d) Development of partnerships

13. The main partners involved in the project's implementation include UNESCO, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The centre will also develop cooperation with the United Nations system's composite institution on women's rights, which will soon be operational, and with the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict inter-agency group.

14. The centre will establish partnerships with research institutions and the region's and continent's networks such as Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Association of African Women for Research and Development (AFARD), African Centre for Gender and Development of the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the Commission of the African Union, networks of women parliamentarians, the network of African women ministers and parliamentarians and women NGOs, together with other United Nations agencies and international and intergovernmental organizations that promote respect for women's human rights and gender equality.

(e) Online publication and documentation

15. The publication of research findings, information, data and statistics will be one of the centre's activities designed to provide policy decision-makers and other key stakeholders with the necessary tools for the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes conducive to women's rights and empowerment. Use of new information technology, such as in digital libraries and virtual networks, will be an asset and a factor of excellence.

The centre's documentary resources will be open to all.

IV. The centre's fields of competence and its capacity to achieve its goals

16. Researchers and competent NGOs will conduct research geared to policy formulation in the fields identified above. More detailed research topics will be defined by the Science Council. The line ministries will be the ministries of women's and gender affairs in the Great Lakes region, but they will work in concert with the ministry in charge of scientific research so that the intellectual quality of research and outcomes will be assured.

V. Establishment and beneficiaries

17. The centre will be established in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It will be based in Kinshasa and will cover the 11 countries in the Great Lakes region, namely Angola, Burundi,

Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.

18. Associate national centres will be established in the 11 countries of the Great Lakes region as the regional centre's privileged partners. They will operate as a network and conduct joint research on regional topics in order to exchange information and consolidate inter-country accomplishments and partnerships regarding women's rights and gender issues.

19. To that end, national consultations were held in April/May 2009 in Burundi, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, and the countries have thus identified potential associate centres, defined their vision and stated their expectations of the regional centre. National consultations in the other six countries concerned will be held shortly and an in-depth study on university institutions and departments to be involved will be conducted under the auspices of the regional centre.

20. The project's direct beneficiaries will be government ministries, especially those working on women's rights and justice, parliamentarians, other government institutions, civil society organizations, universities, students, teachers, researchers and specialists in the field. The media, too, will be targeted so that they can act to improve understanding of women's rights and gender equality and to participate in the dissemination of information and images that have a positive influence on gender relations and respect for women's rights in the context of post-conflict reconstruction, the establishment of peace, economic development and regional integration.

VI. Links between UNESCO's and the centre's goals

21. The centre will participate in the Organization's tasks by contributing to the development of research geared to policy formulation and to the development of policies and programmes based on research findings in order to increase women's participation in decision-making and in reconstruction and development.

22. Furthermore, in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, the objective of **gender equality** is pursued as a global priority under "a two-pronged approach pursuing both **women's empowerment** and **gender mainstreaming** in Member States" (34 C/4 para.10), which are part of the centre's core objectives.

23. The centre's activities fall more specifically within the purview of activities conducted by the Social and Human Sciences Sector to promote women's rights and empowerment in post-conflict regions and in priority action taken by the Sector to meet Africa's needs (35 C/5 paras. 03008, 03009 and 03012).

24. Lastly, the centre will contribute to the promotion of women's rights, equal opportunities regardless of gender and equal participation of women in all spheres of life, as asserted in UNESCO's strategy on human rights.

VII. Relevance of its potential impact at the international, regional, subregional and interregional levels

25. Universities and higher education institutions have remarkable potential to educate the current and future generation of leaders of the Great Lakes region about women's rights, and may contribute to advancing the agenda for gender equality in a structured manner. It is recommended that the regional centre and the associate centres be firmly rooted at the university level. The research centres, departments and study programmes on gender issues in the Great Lakes region identified to date are:

- the University of Kinshasa (Faculty of Social, Administrative and Political Sciences, UNESCO Chair, Department of Human Rights, Women, Gender, Culture of Peace and Development), Democratic Republic of the Congo;

- Egerton University (Institute for Women, Gender and Development), Kenyatta University (Gender Studies Centre), the United States International University (Gender Studies), Kenya;
- Makerere University (Department of Women's and Gender Studies), Uganda;
- University of Dar es Salaam (Gender Centre), United Republic of Tanzania;
- Afhad University (Documentation Unit for Women's Studies), Sudan.

26. The work of these centres and institutes reveals a growing awareness in the Great Lakes region of women's and gender studies, and it contributes to forging progress in this field. However, the added value of the regional centre will lie in the detailed and comparative analyses which may fuel, support and facilitate policy formulation. To that end, it is essential to build capacity with regard to the promotion, coordination, dissemination and exposure of research work on gender and women in the region. In that connection, the creation of a research and documentation centre on women's and gender studies, operating at the regional level and networking several centres and institutes, may also facilitate the connection between policies and action.

27. Furthermore, at the consultation organized by UNESCO in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia (30 May-1 June 2005), participants had stressed the need to further the promotion of gender equality and women's rights in the Great Lakes region with the support of three players: academics, female members of parliament and the ministries concerned, and non-governmental organizations involved in this field. By working closely with these three players, the centre will act to support and harmonize their respective contributions in order to promote the theme of gender equality on the agenda of the Great Lakes region.

VIII. Regional and international impact of the centre

28. The impact may be evaluated based on the following potential outcomes:

- (a) Establishment or enhancement in the region of women's studies and gender research programmes at the university level;
- (b) Drafting of policy briefs and organization of dialogues with political decision-makers;
- (c) Cooperation between key universities of the Great Lakes region on women's studies and gender research;
- (d) Strengthening or development of institutional capacities for research and documentation on women's rights and gender equality in the Great Lakes region;
- (e) Availability of information and analyses of women- and gender-related problems based on research;
- (f) Development and enhancement of human capacity for the implementation of gender-sensitive programmes and projects, as well as the mainstreaming of gender equality in all actions and policies, and by all players involved;
- (g) Increased effectiveness of the media to rouse public opinion on structural problems which prevent the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality.

IX. Legal status and operation

29. The centre will be an independent and autonomous body. It will enjoy the legal personality and capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions, in particular the capacity to contract, institute legal proceedings, and acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

30. A governing board, which will include members from countries of the Great Lakes region as well as a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, will manage the centre. A scientific council will be designated by the governing board to orient the centre's activities. A director-general, appointed by the chairperson of the governing board, after consultation with the ministers of the countries of the Great Lakes region of women's and gender issues and the Director-General of UNESCO, will run the centre and represent it in legal proceedings and all civil acts. In discharging these functions, the director-general will enlist the appropriate technical and administrative staff to implement the approved work programme.

X. UNESCO's contribution and role

31. Cooperation with UNESCO may take the following shape:

- (a) UNESCO representation in the Centre's governing bodies;
- (b) Provision by the Organization of technical assistance to the centre only for activities related to UNESCO priorities in the Great Lakes region, including experts in its fields of competence, staff seconded on a temporary basis at the decision of UNESCO's Director-General, or the involvement of the centre in the implementation of the Organization's various programmes. This assistance and technical support will concern, in particular, the development of the vision and short-, medium-, and long-term strategies of the centre;
- (c) Facilitation of the partnership with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector players and UNESCO Member States;
- (d) Availability of UNESCO publications and other relevant resources, as well as the spread of information on the centre's activities;
- (e) Participation of UNESCO, if required, in meetings and educational, scientific and training activities organized by the centre.

XI. Complementarity and possible duplication

32. Since 2006, the region has seen the emergence of numerous initiatives to promote women's rights that the centre will have to identify and record in order to avoid any duplication of effort. The most important of these are listed below:

- The Regional Centre for Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights and Civic Education, established in Zambia by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) on 11 August 2009. Its activities related to women and gender issues include a regional observatory on women, mediation training for women and the establishment of a network of future women leaders in the region.
- The African Women's Rights Observatory, set up by UNECA and UNDP, aims to create a knowledge base enabling the different stakeholders to follow the progress made and the challenges concerning the promotion of women's rights in Africa. Its purpose is to monitor the implementation and application of regional and international instruments, including, but not limited to the protocol on African women, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the resolutions and declarations adopted by different regional and international bodies. This includes legal reform, domestication of international laws, disputes concerning women's rights, the access or lack thereof of women to justice and measures taken in view of promoting and protecting women's rights at the national, subregional and regional levels.

- The Kinshasa centre will stand out by its firm footing in the academic sphere and its added value will be capacity-building for research. As such, the Centre will finalize the terms of cooperation with these major centres and observatories of the region to prevent any duplication, in particular, with regard to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region (2004) and other conventions which promote women's rights in the Great Lakes region.

XII. Financial viability

33. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has already provided the centre with premises, allotted a sum of \$1 million in its 2010 budget for its launch, and will provide support with regard to staff. Country stakeholders will pay their annual statutory contributions under operating and overhead costs.

34. At the Mombasa Forum, Kenya, 2009, United Nations partner agencies (United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Population Fund, Economic Commission for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) reaffirmed their commitment to and technical and/or financial support for the centre, as did the African Development Bank (AfDB). A donors' round table will be held at the initiative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the official launch of the centre's activities and will also serve as a fundraising event. This meeting will be organized on a regular basis.

35. The centre may also benefit from contributions from higher education institutions, directly or through study and research programmes on women, other institutions engaged in research, the drafting of policies and documentation, and private institutions.

XIII. Proposal to establish a regional research and documentation centre on women, gender and peace-building in the Great Lakes region (Category 2 – UNESCO)

36. The Executive Board may wish to welcome the proposal by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which would contribute to the Organization's activities in the area of the promotion of women's rights and strengthen their involvement in building and maintaining peace in the Member States of the Great Lakes region.

XIV. Action expected of the Executive Board

37. In the light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 35 C/Resolution 103 concerning the establishment of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
2. Recalling 35 C/Resolution 38 of the General Conference which invites the Executive Board at its 184th session, to analyse the finalized feasibility study, to decide on its behalf on the granting of category 2 status to the regional centre, and to authorize the Director-General to conclude an agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of the countries of the Great Lakes region, establishing the regional centre,
3. Having examined document 184 EX/16, Part I,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of the countries of the Great Lakes region, to establish a research and documentation centre on women, gender and peace-building for the Great Lakes

region under the auspices of UNESCO, in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

5. Decides to grant category 2 status to the regional research and documentation centre on women, gender and peace-building under the auspices of UNESCO, and authorizes the Director-General to sign the agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the text of which is contained in the annex to document 184 EX/16, Part I.

ANNEX
DRAFT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN UNESCO AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
**ON THE REGIONAL RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE ON WOMEN,
GENDER, AND PEACE-BUILDING IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (CATEGORY 2)¹**

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

and

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

In the light of UNESCO's commitment contained in its Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 to encourage international and regional cooperation on research with a view to policy formulation and capacity building, and also the priority attached by the Organization to Africa and gender equality,

Taking into account the decision of the first Meeting of Ministers of Women's Affairs of the Great Lakes Region, held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (24 and 25 July 2008), expressed in the Declaration of Kinshasa, to set up and support in collaboration with UNESCO a centre on women and gender for the Great Lakes region,

Given the willingness of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, expressed at the 33rd and 35th sessions of the General Conference, to host the Regional Research and Documentation Centre on Women, Gender and Peace-Building in the Great Lakes Region in Kinshasa,

Considering that at its 35th session the General Conference invited the Executive Board at its 184th session to authorize the Director-General to conclude an agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of the countries of the Great Lakes region, establishing the regional centre (35 C/Resolution 38),

"Considering that the Director-General has been authorized by the Executive Board (184 EX/Decision ...) to conclude with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo an agreement in conformity with the draft that was submitted to the Executive Board",

Desirous of defining the terms and conditions governing the contribution that shall be granted to the said Centre in this Agreement,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 – Definitions

4. In this Agreement:

- (a) "UNESCO" refers to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
- (b) "Government" refers to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

¹ If changes in the model agreement are necessary because of exceptional circumstances, an adequate justification must be given for the proposed change.

- (c) “Great Lakes region” refers to the region comprising the following countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Angola, the Central African Republic, Zambia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi;
- (d) “Centre” refers to the Regional Research and Documentation Centre on Women, Gender, and Peace-building in the Great Lakes Region.

Article 2 – Establishment

Following the decision of the Ministers of Women’s Affairs of the Great Lakes Region meeting in Kinshasa (24-25 July 2008) to set up the Centre, which will be based in Kinshasa and will be active in the Member States of the Great Lakes region, the Government shall agree to take, in the course of the year 2010, any measures that may be required for the setting up and effective running of the Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, as provided for under this Agreement.

Article 3 – Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing collaboration between UNESCO and the Government and also the rights and obligations stemming therefrom for the parties.

Article 4 – Legal Status

- 4.1 The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO.
- 4.2 The Government shall ensure that the Centre enjoys within its territory the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity:
 - (a) to contract;
 - (b) to institute legal proceedings;
 - (c) to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

Article 5 – Constitution

The Constitution of the Centre must include provisions describing precisely:

- (a) the legal status granted to the Centre, within the national legal system, the legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions and to receive funds, obtain payments for services rendered, and acquire all means necessary for its functioning;
- (b) a governing structure for the Centre allowing UNESCO representation within its governing bodies.

Article 6 – Functions/Objectives

The functions/objectives of the Centre shall be to:

- promote protection and respect for the human rights of women and gender equality in the Great Lakes region with a view to peace-building on an equal basis;
- To that end, the Centre will seek to increase capabilities for study and research on gender-related issues and to strengthen the links between research and policy formulation, the ultimate objective being to restore to women their equal dignity so that

they may fully participate in, and contribute to sustainable social transformations and development.

Article 7 – Governing Board

1. The Centre shall be guided and supervised by a Governing Board, to be renewed every three (3) years and composed of:
 - (a) a representative of the Government of the host country or its designated representative;
 - (b) representatives of the Member States of the Great Lakes Region which have sent notification to the Centre and a copy for information to the Director-General of UNESCO;
 - (c) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO.
2. The Governing Board shall:
 - (a) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
 - (b) approve the annual work plan and budget of the Centre, including the staffing table;
 - (c) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director-General of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
 - (d) establish and adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures of the Centre;
 - (e) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre.
3. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his or her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of at least three of its members.
4. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

Article 8 – Executive Committee

In order to ensure the effective running of the centre between sessions, the Governing Board may delegate to a standing Executive Committee, whose membership and powers it shall determine as it deems necessary.

Article 9 – Scientific Council

The Scientific Council shall be comprised of members of the scientific community, known internationally and/or in the region and known for their work in the region. The members of the Scientific Council shall be nominated by the Governing Board on the proposal of the Director-General.

The Scientific Council shall be intellectually and scientifically independent. It shall submit its viewpoint and observations regarding the Centre's scientific policy, act as a forward-looking body

for concerns related to the centre's mandate, and propose research subjects reflecting key priorities in the region. The Council shall establish its own rules of procedure.

Article 10 – Secretariat

1. The Centre's secretariat shall consist of a Director-General and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.
2. The Director-General shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Board in consultation with the Forum of Ministers of Women's Affairs of the Great Lakes Region and the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of their skills and integrity.

The other members of the secretariat may comprise:

- (a) members of UNESCO's staff who are temporarily seconded and made available to the Centre, as provided for by UNESCO's regulations and by the decisions of its governing bodies;
- (b) any person appointed by the Director-General of the Centre in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Governing Board;
- (c) Government officials who are made available to the Centre, as provided by government regulations;
- (d) Experts which other Member States may second to the Centre and support, as provided by their national legislation.

Article 11 – Functions of the Director-General of the Centre

The Director-General of the Centre shall discharge the following duties:

- (a) direct the work of the Centre in conformity with the programmes and directives established by the Governing Board;
- (b) propose the draft work plan and budget to be submitted to the Governing Board for approval;
- (c) prepare the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Governing Board and submit to it any proposals that he or she may deem useful for the administration of the Centre;
- (d) prepare reports on the Centre's activities to be submitted to the Governing Board;
- (e) represent the Centre in law and in all civil acts.

Article 12 – Contribution of UNESCO

1. UNESCO may provide assistance, as necessary, in the form of technical assistance for activities which reflect UNESCO priorities in the Great Lakes region, for the Centre's programme activities, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO.
2. UNESCO's contribution may take the following shape:
 - (a) UNESCO representation in the Centre's governing bodies;
 - (b) Provision by the Organization of technical assistance to the centre only for activities related to UNESCO priorities in the Great Lakes region, including experts in its fields of competence, staff seconded on a temporary basis at the decision of UNESCO's

Director-General, or the involvement of the centre in the implementation of the Organization's various programmes. This assistance and technical support will concern, in particular, the development of the vision and short-, medium-, and long-term strategies of the centre;

- (c) Facilitation of the partnership with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector players and UNESCO Member States;
 - (d) Availability of UNESCO publications and other relevant resources, as well as the spread of information on the centre's activities;
 - (e) Participation of UNESCO, if required, in meetings and educational, scientific and training activities organized by the centre.
3. In all the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO's programme and budget, and UNESCO will provide Member States with accounts relating to the use of its staff and associated costs.

Article 13 – Contribution of the Government

1. The Government shall provide all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre.
2. The Government undertakes to:
 - (a) make available to the Centre buildings and land as well as other moveable and immovable property needed for the administration and functioning of the Centre;and
 - (b) entirely assume the maintenance of the premises;and
 - (c) provide a financial contribution to the Centre of 1,000,000 United States dollars in accordance with the Centre's Constitution;and
 - (d) make available to the Centre the administrative staff necessary for the performance of its functions, which shall comprise: the Director-General, researchers, archivists and documentalists, communication and information technology specialists and administrative officers.

Article 14 – Privileges and Immunities

The contracting parties shall agree, when circumstances so require, on provisions relating to privileges and immunities.²

Article 15 – Participation

1. The Centre shall encourage the participation of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which, by their common interest in the objectives of the Centre, desire to cooperate with the Centre.

² The provisions relating to privileges and immunities should only be included when circumstances so require, as agreed between the parties to the Agreement.

2. UNESCO Member States wishing to participate in the Centre's activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send to the Centre notification to this effect. The Director-General of the Centre shall inform the parties to the agreement and other Member States of the receipt of such notifications.

Article 16 – Responsibility

As the Centre is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for the acts or omissions of the Centre, and shall also not be subject to any legal process, and/or bear liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly set forth in this Agreement.

Article 17 – Evaluation

1. UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of the Centre in order to ascertain:
 - (a) whether the Centre makes a significant contribution to the strategic goals of UNESCO;
 - (b) whether the activities effectively pursued by the Centre are in conformity with those set forth in this Agreement.
2. UNESCO undertakes to submit to the Government, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation conducted.
3. Following the results of an evaluation, each of the contracting parties shall have the option of requesting a revision of its contents or of denouncing the Agreement, as envisaged in Articles 21 and 22.

Article 18 – Use of UNESCO Name and Logo

1. The Centre may mention its affiliation with UNESCO. It may therefore use, after its title, the mention "under the auspices of UNESCO".
2. The Centre is authorized to use the UNESCO logo or a version thereof on its letterheaded paper and documents including electronic documents and web pages in accordance with the conditions established by the governing bodies of UNESCO.

Article 19 – Entry into Force

This Agreement shall enter into force, following its signature by the contracting parties, when they have informed each other in writing that all the formalities required to that effect under domestic law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and UNESCO's internal regulations have been completed. The date of receipt of the last notification shall be deemed to be the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 20 – Duration

This Agreement is concluded for a period of six years as from its entry into force, and shall be deemed renewed unless otherwise expressly denounced by either party as provided for in Article 21.

Article 21 – Denunciation

1. Each of the contracting parties shall be entitled to denounce this Agreement unilaterally.

2. The denunciation shall take effect within 120 days following receipt of the notification sent by one of the contracting parties to the other.

Article 22 – Revision

This Agreement may be revised by consent between the Government and UNESCO using the following procedure:

- (a) The request for revision must be sent by the party initiating the action to the other party by registered letter with proof of receipt;
- (b) The request must indicate the provisions concerned and be accompanied by a written proposal for amendments;
- (c) Discussions must commence no later than three months following receipt of the request. Any modification must be expressly approved by both parties.

Article 23 – Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between UNESCO and the Government concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if not settled by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the parties, shall be submitted for final decision to an arbitration tribunal composed of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by a representative of the Government, another by the Director-General of UNESCO, and a third, who shall preside over the tribunal, shall be chosen by the first two. If the two arbitrators cannot agree on the choice of a third, the appointment shall be made by the President of the International Court of Justice.

2. The Tribunal's decision shall be final.

Done in three copies, in French.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Agreement,

For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

For the Government