Item 32 of the provisional agenda

PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2012-2013 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 159 EX/Decision 7.5, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2012-2013 with which UNESCO could be associated.

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

Decision proposed: paragraph 11.
I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 154 EX/Decision 7.7, the Executive Board adopted the criteria and procedures for consideration of the proposals by the Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in each biennium, which were further developed in 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and amended at the 166th, 176th and 179th sessions of the Executive Board.

2. In accordance with these arrangements, the Director-General, in a letter dated 6 August 2010, invited the National Commissions for UNESCO to transmit to her their proposals for 2012-2013 for the celebration of the anniversaries of eminent personalities and historic events with which the Organization could be associated, the deadline being 15 January 2010.

3. As at 16 February 2011, the Secretariat had received 115 requests, of which 56 have been selected and form the subject of this document, in accordance with the established criteria.

4. Pursuant to the statutory procedure, the Secretariat considered all the requests received and drew up a preliminary list of those meeting the criteria adopted. It also ensured, to the extent possible, a geographical and gender balance when it drew up the list, provided the criteria were met.

5. Of the 115 requests, some Member States failed to follow the procedure for submission of proposals or to provide all the necessary information within the time limits. As a result, 59 requests that did not meet the criteria in force could not be selected.

6. However, the Member States concerned have a new period of two months from this session to revise, if appropriate, the proposals that have not been selected, in accordance with 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and 166 EX/Decision 9.3 of the Executive Board. The intersectoral committee will reconsider the appeals, which may concern only proposals submitted before 15 January 2011. The revised proposals must be submitted by 19 July 2011 at the latest, and will be submitted to the Executive Board at its 187th session if they meet the criteria in force.

7. A new edition of the publication listing the anniversaries with which UNESCO was associated during the period 2010-2011 was distributed to Member States after the 35th session of the General Conference to meet their request for further information on the programme, and to encourage them to enhance their historical and cultural wealth.

8. The Executive Board now has before it the list of requests for 2012-2013 that have been deemed admissible under the following selection criteria, approved by the governing bodies:

   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, values, cultural diversity and 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.

9. The Director-General submits to the Executive Board, for its decision, the proposals contained in section II. The descriptions of each anniversary, selected together with the relevant historical and biographical information relating thereto, are set out in document 186 EX/INF.7.

10. Given the insufficient representation of some regions and of eminent women among the proposals submitted, the Secretariat encourages Member States to correct this imbalance, with a view to ensuring an improved geographical distribution and gender balance, within the framework of the above-mentioned criteria, as they are invited to do by 34 C/Resolution 56.

II. DRAFT DECISION

11. 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 documents 186 EX/32 and 186 EX/INF.7,

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 ensuring an improved geographical distribution and gender balance;

4. Recommends to the General Conference:

   (a) that UNESCO should be associated in 2012-2013 with the following celebrations:

   (1) 350th anniversary of the death of Queen Nzinga Mbande Ngola Kiluanji (Kingdom of Matamba-Ndongo), emblematic figure of the struggle against slavery and for women’s empowerment in Africa (1583-1663) (Angola)

   (2) 1650th anniversary of the birth of Mesrop Mashtots, inventor of the Armenian alphabet (c.362-440) (Armenia)

   (3) 300th anniversary of the birth of Sayat-Nova (Harutyun (Arutin) Sayatyan), poet and musician (c.1712-1795) (Armenia, with the support of Georgia)

   (4) 500th anniversary of the first printed Armenian book (1512) (Armenia)

   (5) 1400th anniversary of the birth of Anania Shirakatsi, scientist (612-685) (Armenia)
(6) 100th anniversary of the musical comedy *Arshin Mal Alan* of Uzeyir Hajibeyli (1913) (Azerbaijan)

(7) 1150th anniversary of the city of Polotsk mentioned in the *Primary Chronicle* (862) (Belarus)

(8) 100th anniversary of the birth of academician Lyubomir Iliev (1913-2000) (Bulgaria)

(9) 150th anniversary of the birth of Milka Trnina, opera singer (1863-1941) (Croatia)

(10) 450th anniversary of the death of Andrija Medulić/Andrea Meldolla Schiavone, painter (c. 1510-1563) (Croatia with the support of Italy)

(11) 100th anniversary of the birth of René Portocarrero, painter (1912-1985) (Cuba)

(12) 1150th anniversary of the arrival of the missionaries Cyril and Methodius in Great Moravia (863) (Czech Republic and Slovakia, with the support of Serbia)

(13) 100th anniversary of the birth of Jiří Trnka, designer and director of animated films (1912-1969) (Czech Republic with the support of Slovakia)

(14) 100th anniversary of the birth of Otto Wichterle, scientist (1913-1998) (Czech Republic with the support of Slovakia)

(15) 100th anniversary of the death of José Eloy Alfaro Delgado, statesman and thinker (1842-1912) (Ecuador)

(16) 100th anniversary of the birth of Naguib Mahfouz, author and writer (1911-2006) (Egypt)

(17) 150th anniversary of the birth of Qasim Amin, author (1863-1908) (Egypt)

(18) 300th anniversary of the birth of Denis Diderot, writer and philosopher (1713) (France)

(19) 150th anniversary of the birth of Claude Debussy, composer (1862-1918) (France)

(20) 100th anniversary of the birth of Aimé Césaire, poet and writer (1913-2008) (France)

(21) 100th anniversary of the birth of Albert Camus, writer (1913-1960) (France)

(22) 300th anniversary of the printed edition of the epic poem *The Knight in the Panther's Skin* (1712) (Georgia)

(23) 150th anniversary of the birth of Niko Pirosmani, painter (1862-1918) (Georgia)

(24) 200th anniversary of the birth of Richard Wagner, composer (1813-1883) (Germany)
(25) 50th anniversary of the death of Hermann Hesse, poet and novelist (1877-1962) (Germany)

(26) 100th anniversary of the death of Rudolf Diesel, inventor and mechanical engineer (1858-1913) (Germany)

(27) 150th anniversary of the birth of Swami Vivekananda, philosopher and spiritual thinker (1863-1902) (India)

(28) 100th anniversary of the birth of Amrita Sher-Gil, painter (1913-1941) (India)

(29) 1000th anniversary of the compilation of Avicenna’s *al-Qānūn fī ʿt-ṭibb* (The Canon of Medicine) (1013) (Islamic Republic of Iran)

(30) 200th anniversary of the rediscovery of Petra (1812) (Jordan)

(31) 100th anniversary of the birth of Ufa Mendbayevich Ahmedsafin, scientist (1912-1984) (Kazakhstan)

(32) 150th anniversary of the birth of Pauls Valdens, chemist (1863-1957) (Latvia)

(33) 150th anniversary of the birth of Rūdolfs Blaumanis, writer (1863-1908) (Latvia)

(34) 100th anniversary of the birth of Meilė Lukšienė, professor and social scientist (1913-2009) (Lithuania)

(35) 700th anniversary of the work of Kankou Moussa, the “Builder” of education, religious dialogue and the rapprochement of Arab and African civilizations (Mali)

(36) 1150th anniversary of the foundation of the University of al-Qaraouiyine (Morocco)

(37) 100th anniversary of the birth of Witold Lutosławski, composer (1913-1994) (Poland)

(38) 100th anniversary of the birth of George Emil Palade, scientist (1912-2008) (Romania)

(39) 100th anniversary of the birth of Sergiu Celibidache, conductor (1912-1996) (Romania)

(40) 350th anniversary of the Church of the Holy Archangels in Rogoz (1663) (Romania)

(41) 100th anniversary of the death of Spiru Haret, scientist (1851-1912) (Romania)

(42) 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Rimsky-Korsakov Saint Petersburg State Conservatory (1862) (Russian Federation)

(43) 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Alexander Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts (1912) (Russian Federation)
(44) 150th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Vernadsky (Volodymyr Vernads'ky), scientist and thinker (1863-1945) (Russian Federation and Ukraine)

(45) 150th anniversary of the birth of Constantin Stanislavsky, actor and founder of the Moscow Art Theatre (1863-1938) (Russian Federation)

(46) 200th anniversary of the Constitution of 1812 (Spain)

(47) 300th anniversary of the birth of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, philosopher, writer and educationalist (1712-1778) (Switzerland and France)

(48) 150th anniversary of the birth of Queen Sri Savarindira, Queen Grandmother of Thailand (1862-1955) (Thailand)

(49) 100th anniversary of the birth of Boonlua Debyasuvan, teacher and educator (1911-1982) (Thailand)

(50) 100th anniversary of the birth of Eric Williams, scholar and statesman (1911-1981) (Trinidad and Tobago)

(51) 500th anniversary of the Piri Reis World Map (1513) (Turkey)

(52) 300th anniversary of the death of Yusuf Nabi, poet and philosopher (1641-1712) (Turkey)

(53) 100th anniversary of the birth of Kemal Ahmet Aru, architect and urban planner (1912-2005) (Turkey)

(54) 300th anniversary of the death of Buhurizade Mustafa Itri, musician (1640-1712) (Turkey)

(55) 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King’s "I Have a Dream" speech (1963) (United States of America)

(56) 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address (1863) (United States of America)

(b) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations be financed under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that programme.
Item 32 of the agenda

PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES
CONCERNING THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES
IN 2012-2013 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

ADDENDUM

SUMMARY

This addendum to documents 186 EX/32 and 186 EX/INF.7 presents the latest developments concerning the agenda item on proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2012-2013 with which UNESCO could be associated.

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

Action expected of the Executive Board: decision in paragraph 4.
Introduction

1. Pursuant to the procedure for drawing up the list of anniversaries proposed by Member States with which UNESCO could be associated, adopted in 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and amended by the Executive Board at its 166th (166 EX/Decision 9.3), 176th (176 EX/Decision 47) and 179th (179 EX/Decision 37) sessions, documents 186 EX/32 and 186 EX/INF.7 submit to the Executive Board the 56 proposals concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2012-2013 which are deemed to be admissible because they meet the selection criteria in force.

2. As not all the information required for the consideration of certain proposals reached us in time, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board for decision one proposal that could be added to the list presented in document 186 EX/32. This proposal appears below, together with the relevant biographical and historical information.

Request by Member States deemed admissible by the Director-General

3. The Permanent Delegation of Cuba to UNESCO has requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Museum of Fine Arts (1913), in 2013.

The National Museum of Fine Arts, founded in 1913, hosts two important collections: the Cuban art collection, the first museum overview of the Cuban visual arts; and the universal art collection, with its remarkable collection of ancient art, mainly from Egypt, Etruria, Greece and Rome, highlighted by nine funeral portraits from Fayum and the Greek ceramic collection.

The Museum of Fine Arts is located in Old Havana, a world heritage site, and through its collections and activities contributes to the promotion of the cultural heritage within the country and abroad.

Action expected of the Executive Board

4. 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 186 EX/32 Add.,

2. Recommends to the General Conference:

   (a) that the following celebration be added to the list of anniversaries with whose celebration UNESCO will be associated in 2012-2013, as presented in 186 EX/32:

   (1) 100th anniversary of the founding of the Museum of Fine Arts (1913) (Cuba);

   (b) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations be financed under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that programme.