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Cultural Organization

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Item 21 of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARD-SETTING INSTRUMENTS

GENERAL MONITORING

SUMMARY

In accordance with 192 EX/Decision 20 (I), this document contains an overall report on the conventions and recommendations of UNESCO that the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) is required to monitor and an analysis of current trends in monitoring the implementation of each of the instruments.

This item has no financial or administrative implications.

Action expected of the Executive Board: decision in paragraph 36.

1. In 192 EX/Decision 20 (I), the Executive Board requested the Director-General to ensure the implementation of the legal framework adopted at its 177th session on the implementation of the conventions and recommendations that the CR Committee is required to monitor (177 EX/Decision 35 (I) and (II)).

2. This document contains, following a brief report on the status of ratification of the conventions (and the 1962 Protocol), an assessment of the measures taken by the Secretariat within that framework and an analysis of current trends, including difficulties, in the implementation and monitoring of each of these standard-setting instruments.

Status of ratification of the 1960, 1970 and 1989 conventions

3. As at 1 January 2014, the *1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education* had been ratified by 100 States, the *1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* by 125 countries and 17 States had ratified the *1989 Convention on Technical and Vocational Education*. In comparison with the document submitted at the last session of the Committee (document 192 EX/20 Part I), one new State has ratified the 1960 Convention and two other States have become States Parties to the 1970 Convention.

4. The table below shows the number of ratifications per electoral group of UNESCO for these conventions, together with the percentage of ratifications of these instruments within each of the

six electoral groups. A full list of States Parties and non-Parties per electoral group has been posted on the webpage of the CR activities portal of the UNESCO website.¹

Conventions	Number of ratifications per electoral group (percentage of ratifications within each electoral group)					
	Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	Group V(a)	Group V(b)
1960 Convention ²	16 (59.26%)	22 (88%)	19 (57.58%)	11 (25%)	22 (46.81%)	10 (52.63%)
1970 Convention	19 (70.37%)	24 (96%)	23 (69.70%)	20 (45.45%)	24 (51.06%)	15 (78.95%)
1989 Convention	0 (0%)	3 (12%)	0 (0%)	3 (6.81%)	5 (10.64%)	6 (31.58%)

Specific measures adopted by the Secretariat to apply the new procedures on the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO conventions and recommendations for whose monitoring the Board is responsible

- **1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education (ED)**

5. The eighth consultation on the measures taken by Member States to implement the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education was completed. After examination by the 192nd session of the Executive Board, the results of the consultation were submitted to the 37th session of the General Conference (document 37 C/26). In addition to that report, an extensive report containing the results of the consultation is published in six languages and made available online. The General Conference requested the Director-General to take appropriate follow-up action to the eighth consultation and to intensify her efforts to foster inclusion in education and encourage Member States to adopt effective domestic measures intended to secure education for all without discrimination or exclusion.

6. In terms of ratification of the Convention, 100 Member States are Parties to the Convention as of 1 January 2014. Eleven Member States have ratified since the last consultation in 2006, including one in 2013, three in 2012 and two in 2010. Furthermore, the Secretariat is informed that a number of countries are currently in the process of ratification. In view of maintaining the momentum built up over the past few years, a new ratification campaign will be conducted.

7. The guidelines for reviewing national legal and policy frameworks regarding the right to education are completed. These guidelines were developed to analyse the degree of compatibility of national legislation on the right to education with international conventions and instruments on human rights in general, and gender equality and inclusive education in particular. The purpose is to provide guidance to users so that they can: help assess the situation in a given country; identify gaps in educational norms and policies; and make recommendations on changes that need to be

¹ http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=46874&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

² The 1962 Protocol instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be Responsible for seeking the Settlement of any Disputes which may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education has been ratified by 34 States, distributed by electoral group as follows: Group I: 12 (44.44%); Group II: 0 (0%); Group III: 7 (21.21%); Group IV: 4 (9.09%); Group V(a): 7 (14.89%); Group V(b): 4 (21.05%). In accordance with paragraph 4 of 191 EX/Decision 24 (I), the Director-General launched a consultation with States Parties to the 1962 Protocol concerning the functioning of the Commission within the framework of its call for nominations on 26 February 2013 for the election of members of the Commission at the 37th session of the General Conference. As at 1 January 2014, no proposals on the functioning of the Commission had been received by the Secretariat. For more information on the Commission: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23762&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

made in national legislations and policies in order for them to be fully aligned with international standards. The guidelines are being translated into French. The Secretariat is initiating the implementation process.

8. The global database on the right to education has been completed. This database provides country data and experiences on the status of the implementation of the right to education at every level (from pre-primary to higher and continuing education, formal and non-formal) and under constitutional, legislative and policy frameworks. It also covers many aspects of education, such as curriculum, human rights education, teachers, quality, languages and inclusion. Country-specific information on the implementation and monitoring process of normative instruments relating to the right to education are provided. Aside from helping to monitor the implementation of the right to education and assist research efforts, the database will contribute to government accountability and transparency by sharing information and practices, as well as foster international cooperation by offering a platform for governments to identify areas of possible regional and international cooperation. Moreover, this tool will help strengthen advocacy on the right to education and inform citizens and governments of their rights and duties concerning education.

- **Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (UNESCO, Paris, 1970)**

9. Following the Second Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention in June 2012, the Executive Board authorized, at its 190th session, the early convening of an Extraordinary Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention in order to accelerate the establishment of the monitoring organs of the Convention and, in particular, the election of the Subsidiary Committee created in June 2012 (190 EX/Decision 43). At the Extraordinary Meeting, which took place on 1 July 2013, the States Parties elected the 18 members of the Committee, which held its first session on 2 and 3 July 2013.

10. At its first session, the Subsidiary Committee adopted its Rules of Procedure and decided to establish an informal working group composed of all 18 Members of the Subsidiary Committee to work on the draft guidelines for the implementation of the Convention. The results of the informal working group will be submitted for possible adoption at the second session of the Subsidiary Committee, to be held from 30 June to 2 July 2014.

- **1989 Convention on Technical and Vocational Education (ED)**

11. Pursuant to 190 EX/Decision 24 (III), the monitoring of the 1989 Convention and the 2001 Revised Recommendation is delayed pending a possible revision of their texts (see also paragraph 25 below).

- **1960 Recommendation against Discrimination in Education (ED)**

12. (See paragraphs 5 to 8 above.)

- **1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers and 1997 Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel (ED)**

13. The eleventh session of the Joint ILO-UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART) report was published and distributed to Member States, partners and stakeholders. The report included also a section on the allegations received from teachers' organizations on non-application of the Recommendations. This report was submitted to the Executive Board at its 192nd session. The Board expressed its appreciation of the report and the work of the CEART "in stimulating action to promote greater awareness and wider application of the two Recommendations concerning the status of teaching personnel". The Board invited also the Director-General to assist the Joint Committee in carrying out its next cycle of work and to report to it on that work in 2016.

14. One hundred and fifty events took place around the world in celebration of World Teachers' Day 2013. Some 700 participants met on 4 October 2013 at UNESCO Headquarters to pay tribute to teachers and celebrate the day, commemorating the adoption of the Recommendation. The event was honoured with the presence of Goodwill Ambassador H.R.H. Princess Firyal of Jordan. Several stands showcased innovative pedagogy, for instance the microscience toolkits, where students and teachers demonstrated experiments using microscience methodology throughout the day; and the *Intel* exhibition on the use of new technologies for science teaching and engineering. *Education International* launched its year-long "Unite for Quality Education" campaign with a simultaneous webcast at UNICEF (New York). Partners renewed their commitment to quality education, and affirmed their broader goal of mobilizing 30 million teachers and education professionals to unite with parents and students.

- **1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ED)**

15. A consolidated report on the implementation of the 1974 Recommendation was examined by the Executive Board at its 192nd session and was submitted consequently to the General Conference at its 37th session (document 37 C/27). The General Conference invited the Director-General to transmit to it, at its 39th session in 2017, the next consolidated report on the implementation of this Recommendation (37 C/Resolution 90).

16. Since then, building on the outcomes from the Technical Consultation on Global Citizenship Education (GCE)³ jointly organized with the Republic of Korea (Seoul, September 2013), a first international UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education took place in Thailand (Bangkok, 2-4 December 2013). Jointly organized by UNESCO, the *Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development* (MGIEP) and the *Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding* (APCEIU), in support of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative, the Forum aimed to share information, advance conceptual thinking and identify actions needed for GCE. Issues related to human rights, peace building and learning to live together were addressed in their links to global citizenship. A major publication on GCE based on the Seoul and Bangkok meetings is under preparation and will be ready in spring 2014.

- **1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers (SHS)**

17. A consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of this Recommendation was examined by the Executive Board at its 189th and 190th sessions and was then submitted to the General Conference³ at its 37th session (document 37 C/28). Having examined document 37 C/28, the General Conference invited the Director-General to transmit to it, at its 39th session in 2017, the next consolidated report on the implementation of the recommendation (37 C/Resolution 91).

- **1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education (ED)**

18. The 37th session of the General Conference decided the 1976 Recommendation should be revised to reflect contemporary educational, cultural, political, social and economic challenges, as set out in the Belém Framework for Action and to give renewed momentum to strengthening adult education. A draft of the revised Recommendation will be submitted to the 38th session of the General Conference in 2015. A range of cost-effective measures will be applied for consulting Member States. The International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA) process is of special relevance for this purpose: it includes the preparation of national reports on the situation of adult education every three years to monitor the implementation of the Belém Framework for Action for the Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE); and a series of regional follow-up conferences from 2011 to 2014.

³ The outcome document can be found at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002241/224115E.pdf>

19. The second issue of GRALE is mainly based on the analysis of national reports from 141 Member States. Prepared by UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), GRALE II was launched in August 2013 on the occasion of the International Policy Forum on Literacy and Life Skills Education for Vulnerable Youth through Community Learning Centres in Jakarta (Indonesia). The French and Spanish versions were finalized in December.

20. Subsequently, a series of launching events in the other regions was held in cooperation with the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE) and its regional branches with support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). These launchings brought together relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from each region to debate on the report's key findings and to highlight the relevance of a global report for the further development of adult education at the regional and national levels.

- **1978 Revised Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics (UIS)**

21. The first international education surveys according to the new International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011 framework will be launched in 2014. UIS is continuing to support countries in the implementation of ISCED 2011. Regional workshops at which ISCED was presented took place in November 2013 in Turkey (Istanbul) for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and in December 2013 in Montenegro (Podgorica) for Balkan States. Further workshops are planned in 2014 for countries in South and East Africa, East and South Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Arab States. UIS is grateful to partner countries and organizations assisting in the promotion of the new ISCED framework, in particular: Japan and Sweden, the Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization and the Statistical Authority of Qatar respectively which are co-funding these workshops.

22. The new classification of fields of education and training (ISCED-F) was adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session in November 2013. UIS and its data collection partners, Eurostat and OECD, plan to launch the first surveys using ISCED-F in 2016, thus allowing countries a period of two years in which to adapt their national data surveys to the new classification. The classification can be used for other purposes than the reporting of internationally comparable statistics so other users may make use of the classification before 2016.

23. Between now and 2016, UIS will develop additional materials to support countries to implement the new classification. This will include a description of each of the detailed fields of the classification, listing the subjects covered by each field ("inclusions") and, for borderline cases, to indicate which subjects belong to other fields ("exclusions"). These materials will be available electronically on the UIS website in the second half of 2014.

- **1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist (CLT)**

24. A consolidated report on the implementation of this Recommendation was examined by the Executive Board at its 187th session and was submitted consequently to the General Conference at its 36th session in 2011 (document 36 C/57). The General Conference invited the Director-General to transmit to it, at its 38th session in 2015, the next consolidated report (36 C/Resolution 103). It should be noted that the Recommendation is not included in Major Programme IV of document 37 C/5. Consequently, no budget has been allocated to monitor the Recommendation.

25. At the fourth ordinary session of the Conference of Parties of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (June 2013), the question of artistic freedom and the social and economic status of the artist was discussed in relation to the periodic reporting on the implementation of the Convention. The Conference of Parties requested the Secretariat "to update its strategic and action-oriented analytical summary of the quadrennial periodic reports received each year, including a thematic focus on the status of the artist" (paragraph 7 of Resolution 4.CP 10). The Secretariat ensured this focus in its updated analytical

summary, which was then submitted to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions at its seventh session (December 2013) in document CE/13/7.IGC/5 Rev., Quadrennial periodic reporting: new reports and analytical summary.

- **1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education (ED)**

26. UNESCO assesses the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation primarily through monitoring the implementation of the five regional and one interregional conventions.

- Africa Regional Convention (“Arusha Convention”): Pursuant to 36 C/Resolution 14 and 193 EX/Decision 8, preparations are under way for the International Conference of States to examine and adopt the revised text of the Convention. The Conference will be hosted by Ethiopia in Addis Ababa in 2014. UNESCO received an important financial contribution from Norway towards the organization of the Conference. The Organization also received commitment from China for a financial contribution of US \$250,000 towards the Conference.
- Asia-Pacific Regional Conventions: UNESCO has carried out activities aiming to raise awareness of the Conventions and to facilitate their implementation. The twelfth session of the Regional Committee on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (2013), held in conjunction with a Regional Workshop on the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications, aimed to assist and encourage Member States to move forward in the ratification process of the Conventions. Projects to facilitate the implementation of the regional convention include, the “Toolkit for the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications” and the “Guidelines on the establishment and maintenance of national information centres”.
- Europe and North America Regional Convention (“Lisbon Recognition Convention”): To date, 53 countries are States Parties to the Convention. At the latest meeting of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee (Croatia, June 2013), the final text of the Recommendation on the Use of Qualifications Frameworks in the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications, a subsidiary text to the Convention, was adopted. Preparations are well under way for the 2014 Annual Joint Meeting of the ENIC-NARIC networks. Its website is being redesigned so that it better meets the needs of varied target users including through a section providing recognition-related information from all UNESCO regions.
- Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Convention: the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) is conducting a survey of mechanisms of recognition such as protocols, letters of intent, agreements and treaties that have been adopted by governments in the region. The objective is to generate a database of reliable, safe and affordable information on various internationalization processes, so that users can have a better understanding of the variety of mechanisms used by countries and thereby advance the Convention towards achieving its objectives. The results of the survey will be presented at a high-level meeting (August 2014), under preparation with support from Brazil.
- A UNESCO global standard-setting instrument on the recognition of higher education qualifications: Through 37 C/Resolution 15, the General Conference invited the Director-General to initiate the process towards a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications, ensuring that its development will build upon and complement the regional conventions. A report exploring further the scope and implementation modalities of a global convention, as well as the articulation between the global convention and the regional ones will be submitted to the General Conference at its 38th session in 2015 for review and decision on further action.

- **2001 Revised Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education (ED)**

27. The 37th session of the General Conference examined the preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects relating to the desirability of revising the 2001 revised Recommendation and requested the Director-General to prepare such revision through cost-effective measures. The draft of the revised Recommendation will be submitted to the General Conference at its 38th session in 2015. The Secretariat will make the necessary preparations to consult the Member States and other stakeholders throughout the current biennium.

- **2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (CI)**

28. Work has continued with concrete measures for the implementation of the 2003 Recommendation at the international level.

29. In this regard, UNESCO has held internal consultations for the preparation of the third consolidated report on the measures taken by UNESCO Member States to implement this Recommendation. The schedule for the preparation of the document has been established. It will be submitted to the Executive Board at its 196th session (spring 2015) and consequently to the General Conference at its 38th session in 2015.

30. Furthermore, in order to assist Member States, UNESCO has initiated a new project with the aim to develop language tools and build institutional capacities with respect to the promotion of Arabic language on the Internet and to the involvement in the multi-stakeholder processes. The language tool entitled “Glossary on Internet Governance terms” in English has been prepared by UNESCO, and will be translated into Arabic.

31. UNESCO has also contributed to the debate on linguistic minority rights in a digital era organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva (Switzerland) in November 2013. The outcome of the debate includes concrete suggestions for strengthening of the framework, policies and practice for the protection of linguistic rights in the digital landscape. UNESCO’s Recommendation is one of the key mechanisms that facilitate protection and promotion of linguistic rights around the world.

- **2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions (CLT)**

32. Implementation of the Recommendation was launched in 2011 with a series of workshops in pilot cities, particularly on the east coast of Africa, and continued in 2012 and 2013 in Asia and the Arab States. Regional action plans should be implemented in 2014 and 2015. The aim is to convince Member States of the relevance of an approach centred on the historic urban landscape and to demonstrate its benefit in the conservation of urban areas that are, or are in the process of being inscribed on the *World Heritage List*.

33. An international expert meeting on including the methodological approach relating to the Recommendation in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* was held at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 3 to 5 September 2013. The objective of the meeting was to review the relevant texts and to promote a better understanding of the Recommendation as a UNESCO standard-setting instrument, enabling better integration of cultural heritage conservation in development policies. A brainstorming meeting on the implementation of the Recommendation, two years after its adoption, was held at UNESCO Headquarters on 13 December 2013. Several experts who participated in drafting the text of the Recommendation and/or who have applied the approach that it advocates since 2011 attended the meeting.

34. The results of the two meetings will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in June 2014. The consolidated report on the implementation of this Recommendation will

be examined by the Executive Board at its 197th session (autumn 2015) and then by the General Conference at its 38th session in 2015.

Timetable of work of the CR Committee for 2014-2017

35. Furthermore, the secretariat of the CR Committee submits in Annex a calendar of the forthcoming sessions of the Executive Board (from the 194th in spring 2014 to the 202nd session in autumn 2017) at which the Committee would examine draft guidelines and reports on the standard-setting instruments concerned. This calendar also shows the General Conference sessions at which the forthcoming reports will be submitted on the monitoring of the effective implementation of these conventions and recommendations.

Action expected of the Executive Board

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

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 15 C/Resolution 12.2, 23 C/Resolution 29.1, 165 EX/Decision 6.2, 32 C/Resolution 77, 170 EX/Decision 6.2, 171 EX/Decision 27, 174 EX/Decision 21, 175 EX/Decision 28, 176 EX/Decision 33, 177 EX/Decision 35 (I) and (II), 34 C/Resolution 87, 180 EX/Decision 31, 181 EX/Decision 27, 182 EX/Decision 31, 184 EX/Decision 20, 185 EX/Decision 23 (I), 186 EX/Decision 19 (I), 187 EX/Decision 20 (I), 189 EX/Decision 13 (I), 190 EX/Decision 24 (I), 191 EX/Decision 20 (I) and 192 EX/Decision 20 (I) relating to the first aspect of the terms of reference of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), which concerns the implementation of standard-setting instruments,
2. Having examined document 194 EX/21 and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (194 EX/...),
3. Urges Member States once again to fulfil their legal obligations under Article VIII of the Constitution of UNESCO regarding periodic reports on the action taken on conventions and recommendations;
4. Takes note of the timetable contained in the Annex to document 194 EX/21, on the understanding that this timetable may be subject to further adjustments;
5. Requests the Director-General to ensure the implementation of the legal framework for the enforcement of standard-setting instruments, adopted at its 177th session, by the programme sectors and the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), which have responsibility for the conventions and recommendations monitored by the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations;
6. Decides to continue consideration of the matter at its 195th session.

Draft timetable of work of the CR Committee for 2014-2017

UNESCO conventions and recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided and for whose monitoring the CR Committee is responsible	2014-2015					2016-2017				
	194 EX (2014)	195 EX (2014)	196 EX (2015)	197 EX (2015)	38 C (2015)	199 EX (2016)	200 EX (2016)	201 EX (2017)	202 EX (2017)	39 C (2017)
1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education (ED)			EG						ER	PR
1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (CLT)	<i>Since 2012, the Convention has a specific institutional mechanism of monitoring (Subsidiary Committee)</i>									
1989 Convention on Technical and Vocational Education (ED)	<i>The monitoring of the Convention has been postponed pending the consideration by the 38th session of the General Conference of a draft of the revised 2001 Recommendation</i>									
1960 Recommendation against Discrimination in Education (ED)			(with C.1960)						ER	(with C.1960)
1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (ED)				ER (GEART)			ER (GEART)			
1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ED)									ER	PR
1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers (SHS)								ER		PR
1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education (ED)	<i>A draft of the revised Recommendation will be submitted to the consideration of the 38th session of the General Conference</i>									
1978 Revised Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics (UIS)								ER		PR
1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist (CLT)				ER	PR					
1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education (ED)			ER		PR					
1997 Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel (ED)				(with R. 1966)			(with R. 1966)			
2001 Revised Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education (ED)	<i>A draft of the revised Recommendation will be submitted to the consideration of the 38th session of the General Conference</i>									
2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (CI)			ER		PR					
2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions (CLT)				ER	PR					

EG: Examination of guidelines by the Executive Board / ER: Examination of reports by the Executive Board / PR: Presentation of reports at the General Conference.