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Cultural Organization

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Item 25 of the provisional agenda

PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2016-2017 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 195 EX/Decision 25, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board the proposals by Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2016-2017 with which UNESCO could be associated.

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

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 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. Following the programme's evaluation in 2013-14, at its 195th session (October 2014), the Executive Board approved, in 195 EX/Decision 25, a revised anniversaries programme, with a view to improving impact, including methodology, funding, geographical and gender balance, monitoring and evaluation, periodicity, and other relevant criteria. The revised programme includes, in particular, a recommendation to Member States to limit the number of anniversaries preferably to two requests per biennium, including one to support gender equality, and to submit the requests with the support of two other countries and/or a regional group.
3. The Executive Board also decided that the revised programme for UNESCO's association with the celebration of anniversaries would be applied for the first time in the 2016-2017 biennium. The programme will then be evaluated and the results, including the programme's financial implications for the regular budget, will be examined by the Executive Board at its 205th session.
4. In accordance with these arrangements, the Director-General, in a letter dated 7 November 2014, invited the National Commissions for UNESCO to transmit to her their proposals for 2016-2017, the deadline being 15 January 2015. For that biennium and for the first time, a new website has been set up to allow Member States to submit their requests online, using an electronic form.
5. As of 6 February 2015, the Secretariat had received 58 requests, submitted by 32 Member States, of which 41 have been selected and are listed in this document, in accordance with the established criteria. The application of the new criteria and new procedure have thus led to a reduction in the total number of proposals to almost one-third of the number submitted in the previous biennium, or 58 as opposed to 159. The Secretariat has also noted a reduction in the number of participant countries, which has nearly halved, to 32 compared with 55 previously.
6. However, despite the new provisions for geographical and gender balance, of the total of 58 proposals, there were only four concerning prominent women, of whom only two were deemed admissible and are included in the list of anniversaries.
7. In addition, of the four proposals from Africa and the two proposals from the Arab States, none were selected, as they all failed to comply with the selection criteria. With regard to geographical distribution, Europe alone accounts for more than 70% of the proposals.
8. Member States wishing to appeal will have a new period of two months from the end of the present session of the Executive Board to reformulate their proposals, if appropriate, should they wish to do so. Moreover, in accordance with 195 EX/Decision 25, unrepresented or under-represented Member States shall have the possibility of submitting new requests during that period. For the current biennium, this will apply to all groups except for Europe and North America. The reformulated and new proposals must be submitted by 23 June 2015 at the latest, and will then be re-examined by the intersectoral committee for submission to the Executive Board at its 197th session.
9. The Executive Board is called upon to examine the list of proposals that were deemed to be admissible by the Secretariat after examination inasmuch as they meet the selection criteria in force (see 195 EX/Decision 25 of the Executive Board), which are as follows:
 - (a) Each proposed anniversary must be indisputably linked to the Organization's ideals and missions in the fields of education, culture, natural sciences, social and human sciences and communication and must promote closer relations among peoples,

tolerance and the ideals of peace, cultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Preference shall be given to anniversaries linked to UNESCO's current programme and priorities and if possible to high-level events that have already been planned.

- (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 must concern personalities of genuinely universal stature, nominated posthumously only, and events of universal scope or of regional significance, indisputably known outside the borders of their own country, in order to reflect the ideals, values, cultural diversity and universality of the Organization.
- (d) The anniversary must be a fiftieth anniversary, a centenary or a multiple thereof.
- (e) Subregional, regional or international events must be already planned for the anniversary and sufficient financial resources must have been allocated to hold them in the Member State or group of Member States directly concerned.
- (f) All anniversaries must preferably be proposed with the support of at least two other countries or a regional group. Any anniversary proposed involving more than one Member State must be jointly proposed by Member States concerned.
- (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 crafts – cannot be considered owing to their timeless nature.

10. The Director-General submits to the Executive Board, for decision, the following proposals. The descriptions of each anniversary selected, together with the relevant historical and biographical information relating thereto, are set out in document 196 EX/25.INF.

II. DRAFT DECISION

11. After discussing this item, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined documents 196 EX/25 and 196 EX/25.INF,
2. Recalling 195 EX/Decision 25, concerning the "new criteria and procedure for UNESCO's association with the celebration of anniversaries".
3. Also recalling that Member States were encouraged to make proposals with a view to improving geographical distribution and gender balance, and to be more selective in making such proposals in order to enhance the quality, representativeness and visibility of the programme",
4. Recommends to the General Conference:
 - (a) that UNESCO be associated in 2016-2017 with the celebration of the following anniversaries (listed in alphabetical order):

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| 1 | 200th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Aivazovsky, painter (1817-1900) (joint nomination by Armenia and the Russian Federation, with the support of Italy) | Armenia and Russian Federation |
| 2 | 350th anniversary of the first printed Bible in Armenian (Amsterdam, 1666) (with the support of France and Netherlands) | Armenia |
| 3 | 600th anniversary of the death of Nasimi (Sayyid Imad-ad-Din), poet (1369-1417) (with the support of Kazakhstan and Turkey) | Azerbaijan |
| 4 | 150th anniversary of the birth of Lev (Leon) Bakst, artist, theatre designer, decorator (1886-1924) (with the support of the Russian Federation) | Belarus |
| 5 | 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Belarusian Printing (1517) | Belarus |
| 6 | 1100th anniversary of the death of Clement of Ohrid (830-916) (joint nomination by Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with the support of Poland and the Russian Federation) | Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| 7 | 150th anniversary of the birth of Pencho Petkov Slaveykov, writer (1866-1912) (with the support of Italy and Germany) | Bulgaria |
| 8 | 400th anniversary of the death of Faust Vrančić, polymath, linguist, inventor, bishop (1551-1617) (with the support of Hungary, Montenegro and Slovakia) | Croatia |
| 9 | 200th anniversary of the birth of Francisco de Albear y Fernández de Lara, engineer and scientist (1816-1887) (with the support of Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) | Cuba |
| 10 | 100th anniversary of the publication of the book <i>The black slaves</i> by Fernando Ortiz Fernández (1916) (with the support of Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) | Cuba |
| 11 | 700th anniversary of the birth of Charles IV of Luxembourg, patron of education, art and economic development (1316-1378) (with the support of Luxembourg, Poland and Slovakia) | Czech Republic |
| 12 | 200th anniversary of the death of Madame de Staël, novelist and essayist (1766-1817) (with the support of Germany and Switzerland) | France |
| 13 | 100th anniversary of the birth of Jean Rouch, filmmaker and ethnologist (1917-2004) (with the support of Mali and Niger) | France |
| 14 | 350th anniversary of the establishment of the French Academy of Sciences (1666) | France |
| 15 | 200th anniversary of the birth of Nikoloz Baratashvili, poet (1817-1845) (with the support of Azerbaijan) | Georgia |

16	150th anniversary of the birth of Käthe Kollwitz, painter, printmaker and sculptor (1867-1945) (with the support of Belgium and Poland)	Germany
17	300th anniversary of the death of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, mathematician and philosopher (1646-1716) (with the support of Poland and Switzerland)	Germany
18	2400th anniversary of the birth of Aristotle, philosopher and scientist (384 BC-322 BC) (with the support of Cyprus, Poland and Serbia)	Greece
19	1700th anniversary of the birth of Saint Martin, bishop (316 AD-397 AD) (with the support of Austria, Croatia, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia)	Hungary
20	50th anniversary of the death of Zoltán Kodály, composer (1882-1967) (with the support of Finland, Germany, Greece and Slovakia)	Hungary
21	700th anniversary of authoring the book of <i>Golshan-e Raz</i> by Sheikh Mahmoud Shabestari (1317)	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
22	150th anniversary of the birth of Alikhan Bukeikhan, public figure, statesman, scientist (1866-1937) (with the support of Azerbaijan)	Kazakhstan
23	1000th anniversary of Almaty city, former capital of Kazakhstan (until 1997) and at present cultural, educational, scientific and financial centre (with the support of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation)	Kazakhstan
24	150th anniversary of the birth of Janis Rozentāls, painter (1866-1916) (with the support of Finland and Lithuania)	Latvia
25	100th anniversary of the birth of Algirdas Julius Greimas, linguist (1917-1992) (with the support of Estonia, France and Mexico)	Lithuania
26	50th anniversary of the death of Milo Milunović, painter (1897-1967) (with the support of Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	Montenegro
27	200th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kościuszko, political leader (1746-1817) (with the support of Lithuania, Switzerland and the Kosciuszko Foundation: The American Center of Polish Culture)	Poland
28	100th anniversary of the death of Ludwik Zamenhof, physician and linguist (1859-1917) (with the support of Germany and Slovakia)	Poland
29	100th anniversary of the death of Stefan Luchian, painter (1868-1916)	Romania
30	100th anniversary of the death of Titu Maiorescu, literary critic and politician (1840-1917) (with the support of Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova)	Romania
31	250th anniversary of the birth of Nikolay Mikhailovich Karamzin, writer (1766-1826)	Russian Federation

32	150th anniversary of the foundation of the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory (1866)	Russian Federation
33	150th anniversary of the birth of Wassily Wassilyevich Kandinsky, painter (1866-1944)	Russian Federation
34	350th anniversary of the birth of Ján Kupecký, painter (1667-1740) (with the support of the Czech Republic and Poland)	Slovakia
35	200th anniversary of the birth of Jozef Miloslav Hurban, writer and philosopher (1817-1888) (with the support of the Czech Republic and Poland)	Slovakia
36	400th anniversary of the death of Miguel de Cervantes, writer (1547-1616) (with the support of Colombia, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Portugal and Uruguay)	Spain
37	400th anniversary of the birth of Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, painter (1617-1682) (with the support of Colombia, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Portugal and Uruguay)	Spain
38	100th anniversary of the birth of Puey Ungphakorn, educator and economist (1916-1999) (with the support of the Philippines and Viet Nam)	Thailand
39	150th anniversary of the birth of Chao Phaya Prasadej Surendrathibodi (M.R. Pia Malakul), educator (1867-1916) (with the support of the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam)	Thailand
40	50th anniversary of the death of Mehmed Fuad Köprülü, scholar (1890-1966) (with the support of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan)	Turkey
41	850th anniversary of the death of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, poet and Sufi (1093 or 1103-1166) (with the support of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)	Turkey



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PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2016-2017 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

ADDENDUM

SUMMARY

This addendum to documents 196 EX/25 and 196 EX/25.INF presents the latest developments concerning the agenda item on proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2016-2017 with which UNESCO could be associated.

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

Decision proposed: paragraph 6.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to 195 EX/Decision 25, documents 196 EX/25 and 196 EX/25.INF present to the Executive Board the 41 proposals concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2016-2017 that are deemed to be admissible because they meet the selection criteria in force.

2. The Director-General submits to the Executive Board, for decision, three proposals that reached the Secretariat after the statutory deadline and could be added to the list submitted in document 196 EX/25. The proposals are set out below together with the relevant historical and biographical information.

Member States' requests deemed admissible by the Director-General

3. 300th anniversary of the birth of Molla Panah Vagif, poet (1717-1797) (Azerbaijan with the support of Kazakhstan and Turkey)

Molla Panah Vagif is one of the most outstanding Azerbaijan lyrical poets whose legacy has not just opened a new strand in the development of the national literature, but even organically “implanted” into folk poetry of *ashyqs* (minstrels), having inspired dozens of dedications and allusions through the generations of folk poets. Vagif, as a founder of the realism genre in Azerbaijani poetry, has written a great number of poems that have had wide circulation among people. His poetry has become a definite step in Azerbaijani literature discovering the new expressiveness. It has had an impact on processes during that period in Safavi (and later on – Qajar) Persian or Ottoman Turkish and other literatures of the region. After nearly three centuries, Vagif’s poetry is still widely appreciated, cited and recited. Vagif through his poetry promoted freedom, love, peace, respect of moral and ethical values, and mutual understanding – the principles that UNESCO stands for and advances.

The proposal highlights Vagif’s merit in bringing the poetry “from the caste of literary connoisseurs to the wider circles of the ordinary people”. The celebration of Vagif’s anniversary will acknowledge this significant cultural move from the past of one given literary tradition, promoting UNESCO’s adherence to the principles of diversity of cultural expressions. Commemoration of Vagif’s legacy will reflect UNESCO’s overarching objectives – fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace, as well as contribute to its strategic activities in protecting, promoting and transmitting heritage. (CLT)

4. 1150th anniversary of the birth of Muhammad Zakariya Razi (also known by his Latinized name: Rhazes or Rasis), physician, chemist and philosopher (866-925) (joint nomination by Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Tajikistan)

Muhammad Zakariya Razi, the renowned Persian physician, chemist and philosopher was born in Ray, in the Southern part of the Iranian capital, Tehran, in 866 AD. His works in medicine, chemistry and philosophy gained world renown to the extent that George Sarton, the founder of the history of science, named him “The Greatest Physician of Eastern World and the Medieval Ages”. His discoveries of Alcohol and Sulphuric Acid brought him the world title of “The Father of Chemistry”. In addition to Chemistry, Razi had world fame in Medical sciences. His knowledge in this area of science was such that in order to write his Canon of Medicine, Avicenna used Razi’s book of “*al-Hawi fi al-Tibb*” as reference. Razi was the first to differentiate smallpox from measles.

Razi played a significant role in promoting knowledge across borders. He contributed to the evolution of medical sciences, chemistry and philosophy in the world, and beyond doubt, Razi is an important figure of ninth-century science, history and medicine. (SC)

5. 1050th anniversary of the birth of Seyyed Morteza Alamolhoda, scientist (966-1044) (Iran (Islamic Republic of) with the support of Iraq and Lebanon)

Seyyed Morteza Alamolhoda was a renowned Persian scientist who had an important role in promoting ethical and religious teachings in the world of Islam. In his efforts to eradicate ignorance, he played an important role in linking the different branches and schools of thought of Islam. He was personally a Shia scholar but he was in a very close and active cooperation with Sunni and even with non-Muslim scholars.

A most important objective of the nominated personality was to teach ethics and humanitarian principles in an attempt to eradicate prejudice and to empower the spirit of equity and tolerance. The celebration could help outline the “important role in promoting ethical and religious teachings in the world of Islam”, particularly useful in the current global context with the rise of extremism and intolerance grounded on culture, religion or beliefs. The contribution to the work of UNESCO and the United Nations for the promotion of interreligious dialogue may also be considered, particularly with respect to diversity in Islam. (SHS)

Action expected of the Executive Board

6. After discussing this item, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 196 EX/25 Add.,
2. Recommends to the General Conference:
 - (a) that the following celebrations be added to the list of celebrations of anniversaries with which UNESCO should be associated in 2016-2017, contained in document 196 EX/25:
 - (1) 300th anniversary of the birth of Molla Panah Vagif, poet (1717-1797) (Azerbaijan with the support of Kazakhstan and Turkey);
 - (2) 1150th anniversary of the birth of Muhammad Zakariya Razi (also known by his Latinized name: Rhazes or Rasis), physician, chemist and philosopher (866-925) (joint nomination by Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Tajikistan);
 - (3) 1050th anniversary of the birth of Seyyed Morteza Alamolhoda, scientist (966-1044) (Iran (Islamic Republic of) with the support of Iraq and Lebanon).