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PROPOSALS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED IN 2016-2017, AND APPEALS BY MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THEIR PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 195 EX/Decision 25, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board the revised proposals by Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2016-2017 with which UNESCO could be associated and new proposals introduced by Member States from unrepresented or under-represented regions.

The financial and administrative implications of the activities fall within the parameters of the 39 C/5 document.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 7.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Board, at its 196th session, decided to recommend that the General Conference endorse the list of 44 proposals submitted in documents 196 EX/25 and Addendum for inclusion in the calendar of anniversary celebrations with which UNESCO could be associated in 2016-2017, in accordance with the revised programme for UNESCO's association with the celebration of anniversaries, approved by its 195th session, and which was applied for the first time during this biennium.

2. The Secretariat informed the Member States concerned of the anniversaries it proposes to select, providing the relevant explanations. Member States which had already made proposals had a statutory period of two months as from the end of the 196th session of the Executive Board in order to reformulate, should they so desire, the requests that were rejected in this first exercise.

3. In accordance with 195 EX/Decision 25 of the Executive Board, Member States from unrepresented or under-represented regions had the possibility of submitting new requests during this period. For the current biennium, this applied to all groups except for Europe and North America. Consequently, the deadline for new proposals and/or appeals was set at 23 June 2015. **In total, one appeal and 12 new proposals** were submitted to the Secretariat by nine Member States.

4. Despite the new provisions for geographical balance and gender equality, the list of anniversaries proposed remains unequal. No anniversaries of female personalities and no anniversaries regarding the Africa region were proposed. Three proposals were submitted for the Arab States region, two proposals for Latin America and seven proposals for the Asia and Pacific region. Two additional letters of support have been received for anniversaries already selected by the last session of the Executive Board.

5. The Executive Board is now called upon to examine the list of new proposals, including those deemed admissible by the Secretariat after evaluation inasmuch as they meet the selection criteria in force (see 195 EX/Decision 25 of the Executive Board).

6. 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 197 EX/30.INF.

II. PROPOSED DECISION

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

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined documents 197 EX/30 and 197 EX/30.INF,
2. Noting that the proposals sent by Member States to the Director-General listed below comply with the statutory criteria,
3. Recommends to the General Conference:
 - (a) that it add the expressions of support received respectively from Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran for the following two anniversaries, which have already been included in 196 EX/Decision 25 of the Executive Board:

- (1) 600th anniversary of the death of Nasimi (Sayyid 'Imād-ad-Dīn), poet (1369-1417) (Azerbaijan with the support of Kazakhstan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey);
 - (2) 700th anniversary of authoring the book of *Golshan-e Raz* by Sheikh Mahmūd Shabestarī (1317) (Islamic Republic of Iran, with the support of Azerbaijan);
- (b) that UNESCO in 2016-2017 is also associated with the celebration of the following anniversaries:
- (1) 200th anniversary of German settlements in the South Caucasus Region (Migration of the Schwab Germans to Azerbaijan and Georgia) (Azerbaijan and Georgia, with the support of Germany);
 - (2) 50th anniversary of the International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE) for conducting experiments on ocean research for the period 1962-65 (India);
 - (3) 50th anniversary of the death of Dr Homi Jahangir Bhabha, scientist (1909-1966) (India);
 - (4) 150th anniversary of the foundation of the National Conservatory of Music (1866) (Mexico);
 - (5) 150th anniversary of the birth of the poet Ruben Dario (1867-1916) and 100th anniversary of his death (Nicaragua with support from Cuba and Ecuador);
 - (6) 150th anniversary of the birth of Abdullah bin Humaid Al Salmi, social reformer and encyclopedic scientist (1867-1914) (Oman with the support of Lebanon and Egypt);
 - (7) 1000th anniversary of the birth of Abu Mohammed Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Azdi (Ibn Al Thahabi), scientist (Oman with the support of Egypt and Lebanon);
 - (8) 100th anniversary of the birth of Gafar Valamat-Zade, choreographer (1916-2016) (Tajikistan with the support of Kyrgyzstan);
 - (9) 1250th anniversary of the birth of Hakim at-Tirmizi, scientist (755-56? - 869) (Tajikistan with the support of Afghanistan, India and Kazakhstan);
- (c) that this completed list of celebrations of anniversaries with which UNESCO is to be associated in 2016-2017, supplementing the list contained in 196 EX/Decision 25, be definitively closed according to the procedure approved by the Executive Board at its 195th session (195 EX/Decision 25);
- (d) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations will be financed under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that Programme.