



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-seventh session

197 EX/43

PARIS, 22 September 2015
Original: English

Item 43 of the provisional agenda

REQUEST FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO TO UNESCO

SUMMARY

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the Executive Board at its 197th session at the request of Albania and co-sponsored by Austria, Bahrain, Belize, Burkina Faso, Chad, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sweden, Togo, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Vanuatu.

The corresponding explanatory note is attached.

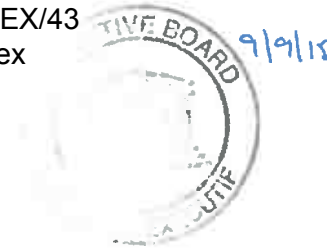
Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 5.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. By letter dated 4 August 2015 addressed to the Director-General, His Excellency Hashim Thaçi, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo, applied on behalf of his Government for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Annex).
2. In accordance with Rule 98 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, this application is accompanied by a statement that the Republic of Kosovo is willing to abide by the Constitution, to accept the obligations contained therein and to contribute to the expenses of the Organization.
3. Under the terms of Article II, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of UNESCO, “States not members of the United Nations may be admitted to membership of the Organization, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, by a two-third majority vote of the General Conference”. As the Republic of Kosovo is not a member of the United Nations, it is the responsibility of the Executive Board to make a recommendation to the General Conference concerning the application for membership.
4. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has already confirmed in its letter dated 26 August 2015 that the issue of Kosovo’s membership to UNESCO is “solely for UNESCO and its organs to determine”.

PROPOSED DECISION

5. The Executive Board,
 1. Considering the request of the Republic of Kosovo for admission to UNESCO submitted on 4 August 2015,
 2. Having noted that the Republic of Kosovo accepts UNESCO’s Constitution and is ready to fulfill the obligations arising from its admission and to contribute towards the expenses of the Organization,
 3. Considering Article II, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of UNESCO, which stipulates that “... States not members of the United Nations Organization may be admitted to membership of the Organization, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Conference”,
 4. Recommends that the General Conference admit the Republic of Kosovo as a member of UNESCO.



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government
Zyra e Kryeministrit –UredPremijera-Office of the Prime Minister
Ministria e Punëve të Jashtme / MinistarstvoInostranihPoslova / Ministry of ForeignAffairs

Prishtine, on 4 August 2015
Ref. 121

Application for Membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO)

Madam Director General,

On behalf of the Republic of Kosovo, and expressing the desire of the people of Kosovo to establish and maintain closer cooperation with other nations in the field of education, science and culture, allow me to send directly to you this application for admission of the Republic of Kosovo to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in conformity with Article II, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

For the purpose of this application, I enclose herewith a statement made pursuant to Rule 98, paragraph 1, of the UNESCO Rules of Procedure of the General Conference.

I trust that you will forward this application to the Executive Board at its earliest session with a view to its consideration by the 38th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

Please accept, Madam Director General, the assurances of my highest considerations.

Hashim Thaçi
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Kosovo


UNESCO
Ms. Irina Bokova
Director-General



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO PURSUANT TO RULE 98,
PARAGRAPH 1, OF THE UNESCO RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE

Prishtine, on 4 August 2015

On behalf of the Republic of Kosovo, and for the purpose of its application for membership in UNESCO, I hereby declare and confirm that the Republic of Kosovo is willing to abide by the Constitution, to accept the obligations contained therein and to contribute to the expenses of the UNESCO.


Hashim Thaçi
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Kosovo