



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-seventh session

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197 EX/Decisions

PARIS, 23 November 2015

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 197th SESSION

* Including the meetings of the subsidiary bodies before the plenary meetings.

All the terms used in this collection of texts to designate the person discharging duties or functions are to be interpreted as implying that men and women are equally eligible to fill any post or seat associated with the discharge of these duties and functions.

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ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1 **Agenda and timetable of work, and report of the Bureau** (197 EX/1; 197 EX/2)

The Executive Board adopted the agenda and timetable of work as set out in document 197 EX/1 Prov. Rev.

The Executive Board decided to refer the following items of its agenda to the commissions:

1. **Programme and External Relations Commission (PX):** items **4.I, 5.I (A, B and C) and II, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 30, 33, 38, 40, 42, 45 and 46;**
2. **Finance and Administrative Commission (FA):** items **4.II, 5.I (D), IV (A, B, C, D and E) and V, 15, 16.II to XXII, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27**

and to refer the following items to the **PX and FA Commissions at their joint meeting:** items **5.III and IV (F), 11, 13, 16.I, 17, 18.II, 28, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 44 and 47.**

The Executive Board approved the proposals by the Bureau contained in document 197 EX/2.

(197 EX/SR.1)

2 **Approval of the summary records of the 196th session** (196 EX/SR.1-6)

The Executive Board approved the summary records of its 196th session.

(197 EX/SR.1)

3 **Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board** (197 EX/PRIV.1; 197 EX/3.INF)

The announcement appearing at the end of these decisions reports on the Board's consideration of this subject in private meeting.

(197 EX/SR.5)

REPORTING ITEMS

4 **Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference** (197 EX/4 Part I (*online only*); 197 EX/4 Part II and Corrigenda; 197 EX/4.INF; 197 EX/4.INF.2; 197 EX/4.INF.3; 197 EX/PG.INF; 197 EX/52; 197 EX/53)

I

Programme execution

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/4 Part I,
2. Takes note of its content.

(197 EX/SR.8)

II

**Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37 C/5) as at 30 June 2015
(unaudited),**

**budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and
Management Chart for Programme Execution in
2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved)**

Status as at 30 June 2015 (unaudited)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined the Director-General's report in document 197 EX/4 Part II on donations and special contributions received during the period January-June 2015 and appropriated to the regular budget and the transfers made between appropriation lines, in accordance with the terms of the Appropriation Resolution approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 98, paras. (b), (d) and (e)),

A

2. Notes that the Director-General has, as a consequence of these donations and special contributions, increased the appropriations to the regular budget by a total amount of **\$8,968,582 for the period 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015** as indicated in Annex II of document 197 EX/4.INF.2 and summarized as follows:

Part I.A – Governing Bodies (GBS)	124,533
Part I.B – Internal Oversight (IOS)	249,070
Part II.A – Major Programme I (ED)	3,201,905
Part II.A – Major Programme II (SC)	1,231,678
Part II.A – Major Programme III (SHS)	622,647
Part II.A – Major Programme IV (CLT)	2,053,782
Part II.A – Major Programme V (CI)	584,315
Part II.A – Management of field offices	533,681
Part II.B – Coordination and monitoring of action to benefit Africa (Africa)	25,623
Part II.B – External relations and public information (ERI)	303,823
Part III.A – Human resources management	37,525
Total	<u>\$8,968,582</u>

3. Expresses its appreciation to the donors listed in Annex II of document 197 EX/4.INF.2;
4. Also notes that the amount of \$8,968,582 includes a transfer from the Emergency Fund of \$2,642,664 authorized by the Director-General pursuant to paragraph 7 of 196 EX/Decision 4 (II,C);

B

5. Recalling the provision of the Appropriation Resolution by virtue of which the Director-General may make transfers between appropriation lines up to an amount of 2% of the initial appropriation, informing Members of the Executive Board in writing, at the session following such action, of the details of and reasons for these transfers;

6. Notes that the Director-General has made transfers between appropriation lines in support of UNESCO's participation in country-level programming exercises and reallocation of regular programme resources as detailed in paragraph 4 of document 197 EX/4 Part II.A;

C

7. Takes note of the revised 37 C/5 appropriation table in Annex I of document 197 EX/4.INF.2;

D

8. Recalling the draft resolution recommended to the General Conference in paragraph 18 of 196 EX/Decision 15,
9. Also recalling that the payment, after the end of the biennium, of items legally contracted but as yet unpaid as at 31 December 2017 is a normal course of business and a procedure that has been followed in previous biennia, and that, accordingly, the draft appropriation resolution for document 38 C/5 requires an amendment to allow for such payment,
10. Noting that a similar situation exists with respect to document 37 C/5, such that in the absence of an amendment to the Appropriation Resolution for 2014-2015, budgetary commitments entered into during the current biennium cannot be paid beyond the end of 2015, and that these commitments, which are binding legal obligations on the Organization would thus have to be paid for from funds made available in document 38 C/5,
11. Takes note of budget commitments and expenditures as at 30 June 2015 (197 EX/4 Part II (A));
12. Also takes note of the situation with respect to budgetary commitments entered into during the financial period 2014-2015, and the need to ensure that legally binding commitments may be paid in 2016 in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Organization;
13. Recommends that the General Conference adopt the following amendment to paragraph (c) of the Appropriation Resolution for 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) by inserting the following sub-paragraph:
- (iii) Budgetary commitments relating to document 37 C/5 made before 31 December 2015 to be delivered in the subsequent calendar year (2016) shall, in accordance with Article 4 of the Financial Regulations, remain available and valid during that calendar year (2016).

E

14. Takes cognizance of the Secretariat's advice that certain transfers may involve amounts of more than 2% of the initial appropriation line, and that the exact amounts to be transferred will only be known at the end of the biennium, it being understood that the Executive Board will be informed in full of the details of any such transfers at its 2016 spring session;

F

15. Regrets that the funding of the Voluntary Mutual Separation Programme was not in conformity with the decisions taken at its previous sessions and 37 C/Resolution 92,

stipulating that any savings from the current biennium should be directed to the five major programmes;

16. Notes that the advice of the Legal Adviser on the Voluntary Mutual Separation Programme was sought four months after the launch of the Programme.

(197 EX/SR.5)

- 5 **Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions** (197 EX/5 Part I; 197 EX/5 Part II and Addenda; 197 EX/5 Part III; 197 EX/5 Part IV and Corr. and Addenda; 197 EX/5 Part V and Corr. and Addenda and Corr. (*English only*); 197 EX/5.INF; 197 EX/5.INF.2; 197 EX/5.INF.3; 197 EX/PG.INF; 197 EX/51; 197 EX/52; 197 EX/53; 197 EX/54)

I

Programme issues

A

Developments relating to UNESCO's role as a UNAIDS Cosponsor and lead organization

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part I (A),
2. Takes note of its content.

(197 EX/SR.8)

B

Cultural and educational institutions in Iraq

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 195 EX/Decision 5 (II, A),
2. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part I (B),
3. Acknowledges with appreciation the results achieved in the implementation of programmes in UNESCO's fields of competence, in particular through capacity-building activities and by addressing the most urgent humanitarian needs of the affected population;
4. Expresses its gratitude to all donors and multilateral and private sector partners for their substantial contribution to UNESCO's action in favour of the Iraqi people, and appeals to them to continue assisting UNESCO in its efforts, in particular to foster reconstruction, dialogue and the safeguarding of cultural heritage in Iraq;
5. Welcomes the #Unite4Heritage campaign and other initiatives taken by the Director-General in this regard to draw attention to the strong links between culture and peacebuilding;
6. Invites the Director-General to present a progress report to it at its 200th session.

(197 EX/SR.8)

C

Progress report on the preparation and publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* including the activities of its Scientific Committee

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 195 EX/Decision 17 approving the Statutes of the International Scientific Committee for the Preparation and Publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* (GHA),
2. Bearing in mind 196 EX/Decision 5 (I, E), which takes note of the project's progress and the need to mobilize additional funds for its effective implementation and success,
3. Having examined the progress report on the activities of the International Scientific Committee, together with the main themes and thrusts of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* (GHA),
4. Also recalling 196 EX/Decision 5 (I, E), by which Member States were invited to continue to support the project through additional voluntary contributions to ensure the effective implementation and success of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* (GHA),
5. Takes note of the methodological approach and the thrusts adopted by the International Scientific Committee, and the efforts made by the Committee to respect social, cultural and linguistic diversity;
6. Requests the Director-General to continue her efforts to mobilize the funding required for the preparation, publication and promotion of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* (GHA);
7. Also takes note that the General Conference will examine, at its 38th session, a report on the implementation of the final phase of the *General History of Africa* (GHA) project.

(197 EX/SR.8)

D

Activities benefiting SIDS within the Organization's programme (2014-2017) and budget (38 C/5), including an analysis of additional resource requirements

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 1 (V),
2. Stressing the importance of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway as the reference document for small island developing States (SIDS),
3. Also recalling 196 EX/Decision 5 (I, B),
4. Having examined documents 197 EX/5 Part I (D) and 197 EX/5.INF,
5. Further recalling the special status conferred by the Organization upon small island developing States (SIDS) as a priority target group in its Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4),
6. Acknowledging the major contributions that UNESCO made to the International Year of Small Island Developing States (2014) and to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Samoa, 1-4 September 2014) and its preparatory process,

7. Mindful of UNESCO's role in contributing to the identification of priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS) in the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially concerning actions with respect to, *inter alia*, inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning, climate change, oceans and coastal zone management, freshwater, youth and gender, social and cultural well-being, building knowledge societies and information and communication technology (ICT),
8. Reiterating its appreciation for the draft action plan for small island developing States (SIDS) presented by the Director-General for the period of the current Medium-Term Strategy (2014 to 2021),
9. Acknowledges the information provided by the Director-General describing specific activities associated with small island developing States (SIDS) within the current quadrennial programme of work, the direct allocations to and costing of those activities as earmarked in the regular biennial budget, and the analysis of the funding gap to be filled with extrabudgetary funds;
10. Requests the Director-General to present to it at its 199th session, for adoption, the finalized small island developing States (SIDS) action plan along with an implementation strategy;
11. Also requests the Director-General to include in the implementation strategy of the small island developing States (SIDS) action plan:
 - (a) the issue of climate change and its impact on SIDS, taking into account the direct links to, and implications arising from, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
 - (b) a table with a clear breakdown between regular budget and extrabudgetary funds so as to facilitate dialogue between SIDS Members of UNESCO and Secretariat and potential bilateral and multilateral donors;
 - (c) a strategy for securing extrabudgetary funds for SIDS;
12. Further requests the Director-General to direct the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) to apply to its field data for UNESCO development programmes a disaggregated level of data for development indicators relating to small island developing States (SIDS), in order to facilitate better understanding of the impact of the categorizations of SIDS as developed and developing, and high, middle and low income, and to more adequately reflect the specificities of SIDS, taking account of the islands' vulnerabilities linked to limitations of size and resources, economies of scale, indebtedness, external economic shocks and natural hazard occurrences, and to submit a preliminary progress report to it at its 200th session;
13. Requests the Director-General to integrate into SISTER and results-based budgeting (RBB) a mechanism to facilitate the identification of specific activities that would directly benefit small island developing States (SIDS), similar to those used for the global priorities Africa and gender equality, and to be presented to it at its 201st session;
14. Also requests the Director-General to present to it at its 201st session a report on progress made towards the further implementation of the small island developing States (SIDS) action plan.

II

Intersectoral activities

Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)¹

The Executive Board,

1. Mindful of the fundamental principles of UNESCO contained in the preamble to its Constitution and in all relevant human rights instruments,
2. Reaffirming UNESCO's key role in ensuring education for all, in protecting the cultural, historical and natural heritage of humanity, and in facilitating the free flow of ideas,
3. Recalling 194 EX/Decision 32, 195 EX/Decision 5 (II, E), 196 EX/Decision 5 (II, B) and United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014,
4. Also recalling United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 26/30 of 27 June 2014,
5. Taking note of the report by the Director-General contained in document 197 EX/5 Part II including the information submitted by Ukraine upon the request of the Director-General of UNESCO concerning the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) in the key fields of UNESCO's competence,
6. Underscores the need to further provide comprehensive follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) within UNESCO's fields of competence pursuant to 194 EX/Decision 32, 195 EX/Decision 5 (II, E) and 196 EX/Decision 5 (II, B);
7. Building on an assessment by various objective sources of the information on the situation concerning fundamental freedoms and human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in the fields of education, culture, freedom of expression and media freedom, requests the Director-General to continue collecting information for regular exchange between UNESCO and the international organizations within and beyond the United Nations system, as well as with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have at their disposal relevant updates on the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;
8. Invites the governing bodies of the relevant UNESCO conventions to consider a coordinated assessment of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) within UNESCO's fields of competence, facilitated by the Director-General;

¹

The Executive Board adopted this decision upon a recommendation made by the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) following a roll-call vote: 18 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 26 abstentions:

In favour: Albania, Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: China, Cuba, India, Russian Federation.

Abstentions: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chad, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda.

Absent: Afghanistan, Belize, Ecuador, Gabon, Kuwait, Morocco, Nepal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates.

9. Calls upon the Director-General to establish a mechanism to monitor the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea at the institutional level and in the form that she deems appropriate in order to ensure direct UNESCO participation in the elaboration of relevant solutions to the issues within the competence of the Organization;
10. Requests the Director-General to report to it at its 199th session on the results of the above-mentioned activities, and on existing and planned actions within UNESCO's fields of competence.

(197 EX/SR.8)

III

Evaluation issues

Periodic report on Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluations

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 186 EX/Decision 6 (VI),
2. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part III,
3. Welcomes the evaluations and invites the Director-General to implement the recommendations, except those recommendations that require a decision by the Executive Board and/or the General Conference, in which case the relevant issue shall be submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration.

(197 EX/SR.8)

IV

Management issues

A

Proposal for the organization of regional consultation meetings concerning the C/4 and C/5 documents: roadmap for the 2016 consultation on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget (39 C/5)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 187 EX/Decision 17 (III, A), 192 EX/Decision 5 (III, B) and 36 C/Resolution 104 (II),
2. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part IV (A), and the roadmap for the 2016 consultations contained therein,
3. Recognizing the importance and added value of the consultations with Member States and their National Commissions, together with input from key constituencies, in informing the Director-General's preliminary proposals for the Medium-Term Strategy (C4) and the Programme and Budget (C/5),
4. Bearing in mind the financial difficulties faced by the Organization,
5. Welcomes the Director-General's proposal for alternative modalities for the regional consultations, and the proposed roadmap for the preparation of document 39 C/5;

6. Invites the Director-General to seek the necessary funding and make the necessary arrangements to conduct the 2016 consultations in accordance with the roadmap;
7. Encourages Member States to ensure sufficient funding to support the organization of face-to-face regional and/or interregional consultation meetings, if they so wish;
8. Recommends that the General Conference adopt the proposed roadmap for the preparation of document 39 C/5.

(197 EX/SR.5)

B

Implementation of the action plan for improved management of extrabudgetary funds

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined documents 197 EX/5 Part IV (B) and 197 EX/5 Part IV Add.,
2. Welcomes the efforts made by the Director-General to strengthen the strategic orientation, coherence and programmatic concentration of the Complementary Additional Programme with specific reference to the development of targets for each expected result of document 37 C/5;
3. Acknowledges that, despite the decrease in voluntary contributions in 2014, the level of cash received by the Organization is consistent with the level of voluntary contributions in 2012 and 2011;
4. Reiterates the importance of the application of full-cost budgeting principles, and takes note of progress made in the implementation of the cost-recovery policy and of full-cost budgeting;
5. Welcomes the draft resource mobilization strategy for 2016-2017;
6. Decides to organize, with the support of the Director-General, on an annual basis, starting at its 199th session, a structured dialogue on financing with Member States and relevant partners so as to monitor and follow up the predictability, flexibility, transparency and alignment of both regular and extrabudgetary resources provided for in the implementation of the Programme and Budget (C/5), including information on resource requirements;
7. Requests the Director-General to review how the principles and the modalities of the structured dialogue on financing, as outlined in paragraph 46 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) , may be adapted to UNESCO's business model, and to present a concrete proposal, including a timeframe, to it at its 199th session;
8. Also requests the Director-General to include an annual update on the outcome of the structured dialogue on financing in her reporting to the governing bodies;
9. Encourages the Secretariat to continue to improve the enabling environment for resource mobilization through further investment in training, timely information on funding opportunities, information sharing, the review of administrative procedures, agreement templates and modalities for managing funds, and the mobilization of complementary human resources through loans and secondments, incorporating best practices from the United Nations system;

10. Invites the Director-General to report to it at its 200th session on further developments and challenges encountered with regard to the management of extrabudgetary resources, to resource mobilization, and to the implementation of the cost-recovery policy and the total costs recovered.

(197 EX/SR.5)

C

Implementation of Participation Programme and Emergency Assistance

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part IV (C),
2. Takes note of the detailed analysis of the implementation of the Participation Programme and emergency assistance and of the results achieved;
3. Welcomes the increase in the number of gender-equality-related applications and projects;
4. Invites the Secretariat and Member States to continue active cooperation so as to further strengthen the Programme for the benefit of the priority groups of Member States as defined by 37 C/Resolution 72 on the Participation Programme.

(197 EX/SR.5)

D

Invest for Efficient Delivery

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 196 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 4 (II, E),
2. Having examined documents 197 EX/5 Part IV (D) and 197 EX/5.INF.2,
3. Also recalling that an “invest for efficient delivery fund” should be created, which will be used exclusively to finance ongoing investments in reform and improving UNESCO’s programme delivery in order to produce ever greater efficiency gains and cost optimization in support of programme delivery,
4. Takes note of the Financial Regulations of the “strategic” Special Account “Invest for Efficient Delivery” contained in annex to document 197 EX/5 Part IV;
5. Appeals to Member States to consider providing voluntary contributions to complement the available budget resources;
6. Approves the initial phases of the “Invest for Efficient Delivery” plan, taking into account the debate thereon at its 197th session;
7. Requests the Director-General to present to it at its 199th session the fully developed, timetabled, prioritized and costed plan with targets, including the possible efficiency and effectiveness gains, taking into account the debate thereon at its 197th session.

(197 EX/SR.5)

E

Criteria for introducing new and maintaining existing programmes for regular and extrabudgetary programmes

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part IV (E),
2. Requests the Director-General to include in the strategic results report (SRR) a review of the main lines of action and their respective expected results for each major programme, and to use, *inter alia*, this review to present proposals in the SRR for the continuation, reorientation, including possible reinforcement, exit strategies or termination of the related programmes;
3. Also requests the Director-General to include in annex to the strategic results report (SRR) a table showing the performance of UNESCO's programmes in relation to the criteria defined in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/5 Part IV (E), namely relevance, capacity to deliver, comparative advantage, tangible results and sustainability;
4. Takes note of the need for UNESCO to develop methods to synthesize the criteria in a comprehensive and analytical way.

(197 EX/SR.5)

F

Proposal for presenting the performance indicators (PI) and targets related to the global priorities Africa and gender equality

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 33 C/Resolution 78, 36 C/Resolution 92 and 196 EX/Decision 15 (II),
2. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part IV (F),
3. Requests the Director-General, in consultation with Member States, to ensure that the performance indicators in document 39 C/5 fulfil the criteria set out in 196 EX/Decision 15 (II) and include a baseline in all cases;
4. Also requests the Director-General to present to it at its 199th session a proposal for mainstreaming the performance indicators and associated baselines and targets for UNESCO's global priorities Africa and gender equality in such a way as to ensure that both global priorities are reflected appropriately in all relevant expected results.

(197 EX/SR.8)

G

Schedule and workload of Executive Board sessions

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 184 EX/Decision 17, 192 EX/Decision 16 (VII), 195 EX/Decision 5 (IV, E) and 196 EX/Decision 5 (IV, C),
2. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part IV (G),

3. Also recalling 37 C/Resolution 96 requesting the External Auditor to present a full report on the governance review to the Executive Board at its 197th session, with a view to recommending relevant follow-up measures for consideration by the General Conference at its 38th session,

I. Presentation of documents and decisions

4. Invites the Director-General to introduce as standard practice the online publication of draft decisions and amendments by Member States as soon as they are submitted, and to present them in a single list on the UNESCO website in the same form as the lists of main series (EX) and information (INF) documents;
5. Requests the Director-General to improve, from its 199th session and following informal consultations with Member States, the traceability of documents (such as the EX/5 documents) which have a number of parts (for instance, EX/5 Part I) that are divided into sections (for instance, EX/5 Part I, E) *inter alia* by creating a hyperlink for each part and issuing an alert whenever the document is updated;
6. Also requests the Director-General to ensure that there is a draft decision for each item and sub-item on its agenda;
7. Recalls 170 EX/Decision 5.1, by which it adopted a new Rule 34A in its Rules of Procedure, stipulating that “the Executive Board shall not take a decision involving expenditure unless it has before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications of the proposal”, and invites the Director-General to continue presenting his/her comments in accordance with Rule 34A and at least 48 hours in advance of consideration of the proposal, with information on the anticipated staff, regular budget and extrabudgetary resources which would be required, even if there are no financial implications for the regular budget;
8. Reiterates its request that paper versions of Executive Board documents should no longer be distributed to those Member States which have opted out of receiving such documents, or in the room where Executive Board meetings take place;

II. Timetable, agenda and organization of debates

9. Encourages the Bureau and the chairs of the commissions, committees and the Preparatory Group to propose moving directly to the examination of draft decisions more often, when appropriate and feasible, unless requested otherwise by Member States;
10. Requests the Special Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, to present a proposal concerning the periodicity of agenda items and the streamlining of follow-up reporting mechanisms, with a view to facilitating the treatment of items during the course of the biennium, taking into account relevant previous decisions of the Executive Board;
11. Underlines the need to improve further the mechanism for the selection of items to be included in the agenda of the Preparatory Group reflecting its terms of reference, in particular regarding evaluations and the related policy recommendations and the planning of the future programme cycle;
12. Decides to continue at its 199th session the examination of proposals for the schedule and workload of the Executive Board sessions for the 2016-2017 biennium, taking into account the debate thereon at its 197th session;

13. Also decides to include in the agenda of the next session of the Special Committee an item relating to the organization of the General Conference, taking into account the move to a four-year programme cycle, with a view to evaluating the 38th session of the General Conference, and to starting a dialogue on the preparation of future intermediate sessions of the General Conference at which it will be required to adopt only the budget.

(197 EX/SR.6)

V

Human resources issues

A

Geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 192 EX/Decision 5 (IV, A) and 195 EX/Decision 5 (V, A),
2. Also recalling that the highest standards of integrity, efficiency and technical competence remain the paramount criteria for recruitment,
3. Takes note of the information provided in document 197 EX/5 Part V regarding the situation of the geographical distribution and gender balance of staff as at 1 June 2015;
4. Invites the Director-General to provide an information note on the situation of the geographical distribution of the staff in the Secretariat and a progress report on the achievement of gender balance at the senior level to it at its 199th session, and to submit a full report to it thereon at its 201st session;
5. Also invites the Director-General to submit to the General Conference at its 39th session a full report on the situation of the geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat, along with remedial measures being taken to redress any imbalance.

(197 EX/SR.5)

B

Use of consultant contracts in 2014 and the implementation of the revised policy on individual consultants and other specialists

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 195 EX/Decision 5 (V, B),
2. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part V,
3. Takes note of the data, analyses and qualitative information presented in document 197 EX/5 Part V;
4. Also recalling that the highest standards of integrity, efficiency and technical competence remain the paramount criteria for the hiring of consultants,
5. Encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve wider geographical distribution and a better gender balance in the hiring of consultants;

6. Invites the Director-General to report to it at its 200th session on the use of consultant contracts and the implementation of the revised policy on individual consultants and other specialists.

(197 EX/SR.5)

C

**Human resources management strategy for 2011-2016:
priority issues and related action plan**

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 196 EX/Decision 23 (III),
2. Takes note of the information provided in document 197 EX/5 Part V, and of the priority issues in the human resources management strategy for 2011-2016;
3. Invites the Director-General to implement the proposed action plan, and to identify the necessary resources to this effect;
4. Also invites the Director-General to submit to it at its 200th session a full report on the implementation of the human resources management strategy for 2011-2016, including information on the implementation of the priority issues as set out in the action plan.

(197 EX/SR.5)

D

Internal Oversight Service: Audit of UNESCO's Recruitment Process for International Staff

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/5 Part V Add.2,
2. Requests the Director-General to implement the action plan proposed for each recommendation;
3. Also requests the Director-General to incorporate the action plans for implementing the recommendations within the human resources management strategy for 2011-2016;
4. Further requests the Director-General to propose any amendments to the Staff Regulations needed to implement the recommendations;
5. Requests the Director-General to report on the implementation of these and all human resources audit recommendations in her next report on the implementation of the human resources management strategy for 2011-2016.

(197 EX/SR.5)

PROGRAMME MATTERS

6 Outcomes of the World Education Forum 2015 (197 EX/6 and Add.; 197 EX/6.INF; 197 EX/PG.INF; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 11, 195 EX/Decision 6 and 196 EX/Decision 7,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/6,

3. Expresses its appreciation for the Director-General's efforts in leading and facilitating the contribution of UNESCO and its partners to the development of the Education 2030 Agenda leading up to the World Education Forum 2015;
4. Expresses its gratitude to the Republic of Korea for having hosted the World Education Forum 2015, as well as to the Director-General for having ensured its successful organization together with the co-convening agencies;
5. Welcomes and supports the Incheon Declaration and undertakes to support the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda;
6. Expresses its satisfaction with the work done by the Drafting Group in negotiations and preparation of the draft education framework for action, to be presented for adoption and launched at the special high-level meeting to be organized by UNESCO and the other six World Education Forum 2015 co-convening agencies and held alongside the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference;
7. Reiterates the importance of UNESCO, as a United Nations specialized agency with a mandate on education including through its field offices, institutes, networks and platforms, continuing to perform the role entrusted to it by its mandate by supporting its Member States and leading and coordinating the Education 2030 Agenda;
8. Invites the Director-General to support the work of the new global coordination mechanism in accordance with the provisions of the draft education 2030 framework for action after its adoption;
9. Requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 200th session a report on the implementation of the 2030 Education Agenda.

(197 EX/SR.8)

7 UNESCO's participation in the preparations for a post-2015 development agenda
(197 EX/7; 197 EX/PG.INF; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/7,
2. Reaffirming 191 EX/Decision 6, 192 EX/Decision 8, 194 EX/Decision 14, 195 EX/Decision 8 and 196 EX/Decision 8,
3. Welcomes the discussion paper presented in Part II of document 197 EX/7 and the annex thereto;
4. Calls on Member States and all relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets related to UNESCO's priorities in education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information;
5. Requests the Director-General, through the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, to continue developing appropriate indicators that could be included in the draft indicator and monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so as to position UNESCO as a leader in monitoring the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets related to its areas of competence in education, culture, the sciences, and communication and information;
6. Also requests the Director-General to continue her reform efforts so as to strengthen UNESCO's competitive edge and organizational delivery capacity so as to support

Member States in delivering on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development globally, regionally and nationally;

7. Further requests the Director-General to report to it at its 200th session on the various functions, activities and roles envisaged by UNESCO as part of its participation in the progressive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the framework of her preliminary proposals concerning document 39 C/5;
8. Requests the Director-General to transmit a broadened version of the discussion paper (Part II of document 197 EX/7 and annex), along with the summary of its debates on this subject, to the General Conference at its 38th session for its consideration and further decision on the future Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5), along with guiding principles as to how to structure the debate.

(197 EX/SR.8)

8 Preliminary report concerning the preparation of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications (197 EX/8; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 15, which requested the Director-General to consult Member States and relevant stakeholders on key issues relating to the establishment of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications, further to the preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects thereof (document 37 C/45),
2. Having examined document 197 EX/8 presenting the preliminary report concerning the preparation of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications,
3. Committed to the Incheon Declaration and Sustainable Development Goal 4 concerning education and the promotion of quality lifelong learning opportunities for all, including higher education and research,
4. Takes note of major developments in higher education such as massification and democratization, increased mobility and the diversification of higher education provision and providers, and the use of information and communication technologies (ICT);
5. Notes the broad support expressed by Member States through the extensive consultations of Member States, experts and other stakeholders;
6. Stresses that a global convention should be built on, and will complement strong regional conventions, and in no way weaken their achievements on the regional level;
7. Conscious of the need for sufficient supplementary resources to be provided through extrabudgetary funds in order to facilitate comprehensive consultations with Member States and other stakeholders, and their broad participation in the process of developing a draft convention,
8. Requests the Director-General to present to the General Conference at its 38th session a timeline of the procedures to be undertaken for the global convention, taking into consideration the discussions at the 197th session of the Executive Board;
9. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, invite the Director-General to continue the process of elaborating a global convention and to submit a progress report, accompanied by a preliminary draft of a convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications, to the General Conference at its 39th session (2017).

(197 EX/SR.8)

9 Report on the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) (197 EX/9; 197 EX/PG.INF; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 194 EX/Decision 10,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/9,
3. Takes note of the important highlights presented by the Director-General in her report on the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), and welcomes the main initiatives taken in this regard, notably the coordination work led by UNESCO so as to involve effectively different stakeholders in the Decade;
4. Welcomes the engagement of Member States, and calls upon them to support the Director-General's efforts to pursue resource mobilization initiatives further in order to attain the ambitious objectives of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022);
5. Renews its invitation to all Member States and relevant organizations and institutions to draw on the Action Plan of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) to strengthen their commitment to intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, much needed in the world today;
6. Requests the Director-General to present a report on the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) to it at its 202nd session, including information about concrete initiatives undertaken at the local and national levels.

(197 EX/SR.8)

10 Reinforcement of UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict (197 EX/10; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 196 EX/Decision 29,
2. Also recalling World Heritage Committee decision 39 COM/7 as well as the Bonn Declaration on world heritage of 29 June 2015 and the global coalition "#Unite4Heritage" aimed at strengthening the mobilization of governments and actors outside the culture and heritage field in response to damage to cultural heritage, particularly in the Middle East,
3. Welcoming the results of the International Conference of the Ministers of Culture held in Milan in July 2015, and in particular its Final Declaration, which reiterates the value of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, as a reflection of peoples' identity,
4. Also welcoming the outcomes of the Paris international conference on the victims of ethnic and religious violence in the Middle East, which took place in September 2015 and emphasized that cultural, religious and ethnic diversity in the Middle East represents an invaluable heritage for the region and humanity as a whole, which the international community must safeguard,

5. Takes note of the report submitted on the activities undertaken by UNESCO concerning the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict (document 197 EX/10);
6. Welcomes the progress made in implementing the relevant provisions of 196 EX/Decision 29, and notably the establishment of the global coalition “#Unite4Heritage”, as well as the actions taken by UNESCO and its partners on the ground;
7. Also welcomes the strategy for reinforcing UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict;
8. Invites Member States to support the implementation of the strategy, including by defining mechanisms for the rapid mobilization of national experts who may cooperate with UNESCO in the implementation of the 1954, 1970, 1972, 2003 and 2005 Conventions, the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects and other relevant international legal instruments as agreed upon, as well as by contributing to the recently established UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Invites the Director-General to explore, in collaboration with Member States, practical ways for effectively implementing such a mechanism for the rapid intervention and mobilization of national experts, coordinated by UNESCO and in collaboration with the United Nations and other concerned international organizations where appropriate;
10. Supports the Director-General’s efforts aimed at embedding the protection of cultural heritage and cultural diversity in humanitarian action, global security strategies and peace-building processes, by means of all pertinent United Nations mechanisms and in collaboration with the relevant United Nations departments, taking into account the positive results of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA);
11. Requests the Director-General to revise the strategy for reinforcing UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict based on the views expressed by Member States at its 197th session, as appropriate;
12. Decides to transmit the revised strategy to the General Conference of UNESCO at its 38th session for discussion and adoption;
13. Also invites the Director-General to include the provisions of the revised strategy for reinforcing UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict among the priorities for document 39 C/5, to be presented to the Executive Board at its 200th session.

(197 EX/SR.8)

11 Re-design of the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists (197 EX/11; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling UNESCO Financial Regulations 6.5 and 6.6,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/11,
3. Supports the Director-General’s proposal concerning the re-design of the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists with a view to increasing their impact, in accordance with the priorities defined and approved by Member States in document 37 C/5;

4. Takes note of the closure of the Special Account for the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists;
5. Also takes note of the Director-General's decision to create a Special Account for the UNESCO-Aschberg Programme for Artists and Cultural Professionals to fund the new programme for artists and cultural professionals;
6. Further takes note of the transfer of the balance available on closure of the Special Account for the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists to the newly established Special Account for the UNESCO-Aschberg Programme for Artists and Cultural Professionals, and of the latter's Financial Regulations;
7. Invites the General Conference to approve the amendment of the Statutes of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFPC) by deleting Article 4.2 thereof, as proposed in the annex to document 197 EX/11.

(197 EX/SR.8)

[12 Enhancing UNESCO's Contributions to Promote Culture of Respect]

Consideration of this item was deferred to a later session at the request of Saudi Arabia.

13 Reports on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) (2014-2015) (197 EX/13; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/13,
2. Takes note of its content.

(197 EX/SR.8)

14 Roadmap for UNESCO's programme on preventing and addressing school-related gender-based violence (197 EX/14; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 196 EX/Decision 30,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/14,
3. Commends the Director-General for her efforts in addressing the issue of school-related gender-based violence with a view to achieving gender equality in education;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for her efforts to develop the roadmap for UNESCO actions in addressing school-related gender-based violence;
5. Urges the Director-General to continue integrating this work in the Programme and Budget under document 38 C/5, and to maintain recognition of safe learning environments and school-related gender-based violence, in line with UNESCO's work to support the Incheon Declaration, Sustainable Development Goal 4 related to education and Sustainable Development Goal 5 related to gender;
6. Reiterates its invitation to the Director-General to continue to advocate for the right to education for all young boys, girls and adolescents, highlighting in particular the dimensions of equality and equity, in order to create a safe, non-violent and inclusive environment through the Education 2030 Agenda, to eradicate gender-based violence

and discrimination in schools, and to include the fight against school-related gender-based violence in the Agenda's draft education 2030 framework for action and in the process of identifying the indicators;

7. Requests the Director-General to include in her report to the Executive Board at its 200th session on the Education 2030 Agenda, the work in the area of preventing and combating school-related gender-based violence.

(197 EX/SR.8)

INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

15 Category 1 institutes and centres (197 EX/15; 197 EX/52)

Management of the education-related category 1 institutes

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 14, 194 EX/Decision 7 and 196 EX/Decision 5 (IV, A),
2. Having examined document 197 EX/15,
3. Notes with satisfaction the improvements in programmatic alignment and synergies made between the Education Sector and the education-related category 1 institutes as well as among the latter, and also notes the changes to financial regulations which allow for better management of the education-related category 1 institutes;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for her efforts to improve the management of the education-related category 1 institutes, in line with the recommendations of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) and the External Auditor;
5. Requests the Director-General to consider the suitability of establishing a link between performance and budget allocations for category 1 institutes in the preparation of the proposed draft document 39 C/5;
6. Appeals to the Director-General together with the Member States and regional groups and host countries to make every effort to provide adequate funding to education-related category 1 institutes with a view to ensuring their financial sustainability;
7. Also requests the Director-General to transmit to the General Conference, at its 38th session, the report contained in document 197 EX/15, along with the comments of the Executive Board thereon.

(197 EX/SR.5)

16 Category 2 institutes and centres (197 EX/16 Part I and addenda; 197 EX/16 Parts II to XXII; 197 EX/52; 197 EX/54)

I

Evaluation and renewal of category 2 institutes and centres

A

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 34 C/Resolution 32, 34 C/Resolution 42, 180 EX/Decision 19 (III), 35 C/Resolution 30 and 37 C/Resolution 93,

2. Taking into account document 37 C/18 Part I, its Annex and the attachments thereto,
3. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part I,
4. Notes the Director-General's recommendation that the designation of the centres/institutes mentioned in document 197 EX/16 Part I and listed below as category 2 centres/institutes be renewed:
 - Regional Centre for the Development of Science Parks and Technology Incubators (IRIS), Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran;
 - International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK), Guilin, China;
 - Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU), Abeokuta, Nigeria;
5. Confirms that all the centres/institutes mentioned in paragraph 4 of this decision have performed satisfactorily as centres/institutes under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
6. Decides to renew the designation of the Regional Centre for the Development of Science Parks and Technology Incubators (IRIS) (Islamic Republic of Iran), the International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK) (China) and the Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU) (Nigeria) as centres/institutes under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
7. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreements.

(197 EX/SR.8)

B

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 35 C/Resolution 56 and 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking into account document 37 C/18 Part I, its Annex and the attachments thereto,
3. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part I Add.,
4. Notes the Director-General's recommendation that the designation of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) be renewed;
5. Encourages South Africa to ensure the enhanced contribution of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) to the implementation of the strategic objectives and priorities of UNESCO and in particular of the 1972 World Heritage Convention;
6. Invites both South Africa and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) to improve the effectiveness of the Fund and its operations as recommended in the conclusions of the evaluation report contained in document 197 EX/16 Part I Add.;
7. Decides to renew the designation of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), for a period of six years;
8. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.8)

C

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 34 C/Resolution 40 and 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking into account document 37 C/18 Part I, its Annex and the attachments thereto,
3. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part I Add.2 and its Annex,
4. Notes the Director-General's recommendation that the designation of the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) be renewed;
5. Notes also the Director-General's recommendation requesting Croatia to take measures to address issues identified in the evaluation report on the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA), and to respond to the recommendations of the evaluation report contained in document 197 EX/16 Part I Add.2, and inform her of the measures taken by 1 April 2017;
6. Encourages the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) to strengthen the promotion and implementation of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, with support from the Croatian Ministry of Culture and the Croatian Commission for UNESCO;
7. Encourages Croatia and the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) to intensify their efforts to involve other UNESCO Member States in the Centre's regional and international mission and to create a regional network of experts to support the promotion and implementation of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage as well as an intervention team for specific activities, followed by appropriate actions;
8. Also encourages Croatia and the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) to secure additional sources of funding, including from bilateral, multilateral and private sources;
9. Invites the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) to improve its effectiveness and operations as recommended in the evaluation report contained in document 197 EX/16 Part I Add.2;
10. Invites Croatia to take measures to respond to all of the recommendations made in the evaluation report contained in document 197 EX/16 Part I Add.2, and to inform the Director-General, by 1 April 2017, of such measures;
11. Decides to renew the designation of the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
12. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the new agreement annexed to document 197 EX/16 Part I Add.2.

(197 EX/SR.8)

II

Establishment in Dhaka, Bangladesh, of an international mother language institute

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking note of the important contributions of category 2 institutes and centres to UNESCO's programme priorities and their potential international or regional impact,
3. Recognizing the importance of quality education based on mother language education,
4. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part II containing the proposal of Bangladesh to establish in Dhaka, Bangladesh an international mother language institute (IMLI) as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
5. Welcomes the proposal of Bangladesh to establish in Dhaka, Bangladesh, an international mother language institute (IMLI) as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
6. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study contained in document 197 EX/16 Part II;
7. Deems the considerations and proposals contained in document 197 EX/16 Part II to be such as to meet the requirements needed to establish an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
8. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Dhaka, Bangladesh, of the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

III

Establishment in Shenzhen, China, of an international centre for innovation in higher education

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking note of the important contributions of category 2 institutes and centres to UNESCO's programme priorities and their potential international or regional impact,
3. Recognizing the importance of improving access, equity, quality and governance in the field of higher education,
4. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part III containing the proposal of China to establish in Shenzhen, China, an international centre for higher education innovation as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
5. Welcomes the proposal of China to establish in Shenzhen, China, an international centre for innovation in higher education as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
6. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study contained in document 197 EX/16 Part III;

7. Deems the considerations and proposals contained in document 197 EX/16 Part III to be such as to meet the requirements needed to establish a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
8. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Shenzhen, China, the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

IV

Establishment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, of an African regional centre for ecohydrology

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part IV, containing the proposal of Ethiopia to establish in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, an African regional centre for ecohydrology (ARCE) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the water sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of Ethiopia to establish in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, an African regional centre for ecohydrology (ARCE) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Highlighting the important opportunities for action that the establishment of an African regional centre for ecohydrology (ARCE) offers in the framework of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP),
5. Recognizing that the proposal to establish an African regional centre for ecohydrology (ARCE) is in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, of the African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ARCE) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

V

Establishment in Kigali, Rwanda, of an East Africa institute for fundamental research

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part V, containing the proposal of Rwanda to establish in Kigali, Rwanda, an East Africa institute for fundamental research as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), in close collaboration with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,

3. Welcoming the proposal of Rwanda to establish in Kigali, Rwanda, an East Africa institute for fundamental research as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Highlighting the important opportunities for action that the establishment of an East Africa institute for fundamental research offers in the framework of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),
5. Recognizing that the proposal to establish an East Africa institute for fundamental research in Kigali, Rwanda, in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Kigali, Rwanda, of the East Africa Institute for Fundamental Research as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), in close collaboration with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

VI

Establishment in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, of a regional post-graduate training school on integrated management of tropical forests and lands

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part VI containing the proposal of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to designate the Regional Post-Graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands (ERAIFT), located in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
2. Recognizing the importance of training senior managers specialized in interdisciplinary and systemic approaches and able to devise and implement policies for the integrated planning, development and management of tropical forests and lands,
3. Welcomes the proposal of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to designate the Regional Post-Graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands (ERAIFT) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93;
4. Takes note of the divergences between the model agreement for institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), attached to document 37 C/18 Part I, and the draft agreement between UNESCO and the Democratic Republic of the Congo contained in Annex III to document 197 EX/16 Part VI;
5. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the designation of the Regional Post-Graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands (ERAIFT), located in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

VII

Establishment in El-Qanater, Egypt, of a central laboratory for environmental quality monitoring

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 93 and Resolution XXI-4 adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) at its 21st session,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/ 16 Part VII, containing the proposal of Egypt to designate the Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring (CLEQM), located in El-Qanater, Egypt, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
3. Welcomes the proposal of Egypt to designate the Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring (CLEQM), located in El-Qanater, Egypt, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93;
4. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the designation of the Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring (CLEQM), located at El-Qanater, Egypt, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

VIII

Establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of a water research centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 93 and Resolution XXI-4 adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) at its 21st session,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part VIII, containing the proposal of Kuwait to designate the Water Research Centre, located at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) in Kuwait City, Kuwait, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
3. Taking note of the provisions of the draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Kuwait, annexed to document 197 EX/16 Part VIII, that deviate from the model agreement for institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), attached to document 37 C/18 Part I,
4. Welcomes the proposal of Kuwait to designate the Water Research Centre, located at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), in Kuwait City, Kuwait, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93, except for the deviations indicated in the Annex to document 197 EX/16 Part VIII;
5. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the designation of the Water Research Centre, located at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) in Kuwait City, Kuwait, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

IX

Establishment in Abbottabad, Pakistan, of a regional water research centre on hydrology of headwater catchments

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking note of the important contributions of category 2 institutes and centres to UNESCO's programme priorities and their potential international or regional impact,
3. Emphasizing the importance of research in all matters relating to water resources,
4. Having examined document IHP/IC-XXI/3, containing Resolution XXI-4 of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) concerning the proposal of Pakistan for the establishment in Abbottabad, Pakistan, of a regional water research centre at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
5. Welcomes the proposal of Pakistan to establish, in Abbottabad, Pakistan, a regional water research centre at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
6. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study contained in document 197 EX/16 Part IX;
7. Recognizes that the proposal to establish in Abbottabad, Pakistan, a regional water research centre at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), is in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93;
8. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Abbottabad, Pakistan, of the Regional Centre Regional Water Research Centre on Hydrology of Headwater Catchments at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

X

**Establishment in Karachi, Pakistan,
of an international centre for chemical and biological sciences**

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part X, containing the proposal of Pakistan to establish in Karachi, Pakistan, an international centre for chemical and biological sciences (ICCBS) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),

3. Welcoming the proposal of Pakistan, to establish in Karachi, Pakistan, an international centre for chemical and biological sciences (ICCBS) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study in document 197 EX/16 Part X;
5. Also takes note of the provisions of the draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Pakistan, annexed to document 197 EX/16 Part X, that deviate from the model agreement for institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), attached to document 37 C/18 Part I;
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Karachi, Pakistan, of the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XI

Establishment in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, of an international centre for the integrated management of watershed and bio-resources in arid and semi-arid regions

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking note of the important contributions of category 2 institutes and centres to UNESCO's programme priorities and their potential international or regional impact,
3. Stressing the importance of research in all matters relating to water resources,
4. Having examined document IHP/IC-XXI/3, containing Resolution XXI-4 of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), concerning the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to create, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, an international centre for the integrated management of watershed and bio-resources in arid and semi-arid regions as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
5. Welcomes the proposal of Iran to create, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, an international centre for the integrated management of watershed and bio-resources in arid and semi-arid regions as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
6. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study contained in document 197 EX/16 Part XI;
7. Deems the considerations and proposals contained in document 197 EX/16 Part XI to be such as to meet the requirements needed to establish a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
8. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, of the International Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-resources in Arid and Semi-arid

Regions as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XII

Establishment in Chiang Mai, Thailand, of an international training centre in astronomy

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, approved by General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XII, containing the proposal of Thailand to establish in Chiang Mai, Thailand, an international centre for training in astronomy as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
3. Welcoming the proposal of Thailand to establish in Chiang Mai, Thailand, an International Centre for Training in Astronomy as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of feasibility study contained in document 197 EX/16 Part XII;
5. Deems the considerations and proposals contained in document 197 EX/16 Part XII to be such as to meet the requirements needed to establish a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Chiang Mai, Thailand, of the International Centre for Training in Astronomy as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XIII

Establishment in Hanoi, Viet Nam, of an international centre for research and postgraduate training in physics

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XIII, containing the proposal of Viet Nam to establish, in Hanoi, Viet Nam, an international centre for research and postgraduate training in physics as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of Viet Nam to establish, in Hanoi, Viet Nam, an international centre for research and postgraduate training in physics as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Highlighting the important opportunities for action that the establishment of an international centre for research and postgraduate training in physics offers in the framework of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),

5. Recognizing that the proposal for the creation of an international centre for research and postgraduate training in physics in Hanoi, Viet Nam, is in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Hanoi, Viet Nam, of the International Centre for Research and Postgraduate Training in Physics as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XIV

Establishment in Hanoi, Viet Nam, of an international centre for research and postgraduate training in mathematics

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XIV, containing the proposal of Viet Nam to establish in Hanoi, Viet Nam, an international centre for research and postgraduate training in mathematics as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in pure and applied mathematics research, education and training,
3. Welcoming the proposal of Viet Nam to establish in Hanoi, Viet Nam, an international centre for research and postgraduate training in mathematics as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Highlighting the important opportunities for action that the establishment of an international centre for research and postgraduate training in mathematics offers in the framework of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),
5. Recognizing that the proposal for the creation of an international centre for research and postgraduate training in mathematics in Hanoi, Viet Nam, is in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Hanoi, Viet Nam, of the International Centre of Research and Postgraduate Training in Mathematics as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XV

Establishment in Beijing, China, of an international centre for engineering education

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO approved by General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XV, containing the proposal of China to establish in Beijing, China, an international centre for engineering education as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
3. Welcoming the proposal of China to establish in its territory an international centre for engineering education as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study in document 197 EX/16 Part XV;
5. Deems the considerations and proposals contained in document 197 EX/16 Part XV to be such as to meet the requirements needed to establish a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Beijing, China, of the International Centre for Engineering Education as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XVI

Establishment in Beijing, China of an international centre for theoretical physics in Asia-Pacific

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XVI, containing the proposal of China to establish an international centre for theoretical physics in Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), in close collaboration with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP),
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of China to establish an international centre for theoretical physics in Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the establishment of an international centre for theoretical physics in Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP) offers in the framework of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),
5. Recognizing that the proposal for the creation of an international centre for theoretical physics in Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP) in Beijing, China, is in line with the revised integrated

comprehensive strategy for institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,

6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Beijing, China, of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), in close collaboration with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XVII

Establishment in Sao Paulo, Brazil, of a South American institute for fundamental research

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XVII, containing the proposal of Brazil to designate the South American Institute for Fundamental Research (SAIFR), located in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of Brazil to designate the South American Institute for Fundamental Research (SAIFR), located in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the South American Institute for Fundamental Research (SAIFR) offers in the framework of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),
5. Recognizing that the proposal to designate the South American Institute for Fundamental Research (SAIFR) as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) is in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the designation of the South American Institute for Fundamental Research (SAIFR), located in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as an institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XVIII

Establishment in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, of a regional centre for advanced training and research in physics, mathematics, energy and environment

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XVIII, containing the proposal of Mexico to establish in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, a regional centre for advanced training and research in physics, mathematics, energy and environment: Meso-American institute for science (MAIS) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),

2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of Mexico to establish, in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, a regional centre for advanced training and research in physics, mathematics, energy and environment as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the establishment of a regional centre for advanced training and research in physics, mathematics, energy and environment offers in the framework of UNESCO's International Basic Science Programme (IBSP),
5. Recognizing that the proposal to establish a regional centre for advanced training and research in physics, mathematics, energy and environment in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, is in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, of the Regional Centre for Advanced Training and Research in Physics, Mathematics, Energy and Environment: Meso-American Institute for Science (MAIS), as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XIX

Establishment in Thessaloniki, Greece, of a centre on integrated and multi-disciplinary water resources management

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XIX, containing the proposal of Greece to designate the Centre on Integrated and Multi-disciplinary Water Resources Management (CIMWRM), located at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
3. Welcomes the proposal of Greece to designate the Centre on Integrated and Multi-disciplinary Water Resources Management (CIMWRM), located at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study in document 197 EX/16 Part XIX;
5. Also takes note of the provisions of the draft agreement between UNESCO and Greece annexed to document 197 EX/16 Part XIX that deviate from the model agreement for centres and institutes under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) attached to document 37 C/18 Part I;
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the designation of the Centre on Integrated and Multi-disciplinary Water Resources Management (CIMWRM) located at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, as a

centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XX

Establishment in Yaoundé, Cameroon, of a centre of excellence in microscience

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XX, containing the proposal of Cameroon to designate the Centre of Excellence in Microscience (CEM), located in Yaoundé, Cameroon, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
2. Recognizing the importance of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) global microscience programme and its positive impact on the expansion of science and sustainable development in Africa,
3. Welcomes the proposal of Cameroon to designate the Centre of Excellence in Microscience (CEM), located in Yaoundé, Cameroon, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93;
4. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the designation of the Centre of Excellence in Microscience (CEM), Yaoundé, Cameroon, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement;
5. Invites all Member States interested in UNESCO's global microscience programme and the Organization's programme with regard to science teaching to cooperate actively with the Centre of Excellence in Microscience (CEM) in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XXI

Establishment in Beijing, China, of an international centre for creativity and sustainable development

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XXI, containing the proposal of China to establish in Beijing, China, an international centre for creativity and sustainable development (ICCSA) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
3. Welcomes the proposal of China to establish in Beijing, China, an international centre for creativity and sustainable development (ICCSA) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
4. Recognizes that the proposal to establish an international centre for creativity and sustainable development (ICCSA) in Beijing, China, is in line with the revised

integrated comprehensive strategy for establishing category 2 institutes and centres, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93;

5. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Beijing, China, of the International Centre for Creativity and Sustainable Development (ICCSA) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

XXII

Establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of a global centre of excellence for the empowerment of persons with disabilities through information and communication technologies

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XXII, containing the proposal of Kuwait to establish in Kuwait City, Kuwait, a global centre of excellence for the empowerment of persons with disabilities through information and communication technologies as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
3. Taking note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study contained in document 197 EX/16 Part XXII,
4. Deeming the considerations and proposals contained in document 197 EX/16 Part XXII to be such as to meet the requirements needed to establish a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
5. Welcomes the proposal of Kuwait to establish in Kuwait City, Kuwait, a global centre of excellence for the empowerment of persons with disabilities through information and communication technologies as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of the Global Centre of Excellence for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

(197 EX/SR.5)

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

- 17 Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5)** (197 EX/17 and Add. and Corrigenda; 197 EX/54)

I

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 196 EX/Decision 15 on the draft budget for the the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5),

2. Having examined document 197 EX/17,
3. Takes note of the revised budget allocations, expected results, performance indicators and targets for the five major programmes proposed in document 197 EX/17;
4. Also takes note of the revised draft appropriation resolution, including the level of assessment on Member States of \$653 million;
5. Draws to the attention of the General Conference the increase in the flexibility of transfers from 2% to 5% as shown in Part A (e) of the revised draft appropriation resolution;
6. Recommends that the General Conference amend paragraph (c) (iii) of the revised draft appropriation resolution to read as follows: “budgetary commitments relating to document 38 C/5 made before 31 December 2017 to be delivered in the subsequent calendar year (2018) shall, in accordance with Article 4 of the Financial Regulations, remain available and valid during that calendar year (2018)”;
7. Notes that Annex II to document 38 C/5 includes 71 posts at grade D-1 and above under the \$518 million expenditure plan, which includes eight Assistant Director-General posts (education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information, Africa, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and external relations and information);
8. Recommends that the General Conference examine document 38 C/5 as revised in document 197 EX/17.

(197 EX/SR.8)

II

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 195 EX/Decision 13,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/17 Add.,
3. Takes note of the fact that the reported United Nations operational USD/Euro exchange rate is evolving very closely around the constant dollar rate of one United States dollar to 0.869 euro;
4. Agrees to maintain the constant dollar rate of one United States dollar to 0.869 euro for document 38 C/5, and to examine its revision for the preparation of document 39 C/5;
5. Requests the Director-General to provide an explanation concerning the implications of the revision of the constant dollar rate in the periodic budget implementation reports related to document 38 C/5 (2016-2017);
6. Also requests the Director-General to prepare document 39 C/5 by using the United Nations operational exchange rate prevailing at the time of preparation of that document, thereby ensuring the closest possible alignment of the constant dollar rate in use to the actual rate.

(197 EX/SR.8)

METHODS OF WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

18 Report by the Executive Board on its activities and programme implementation (197 EX/18 Part I and Corrigenda; 197 EX/18 Part II Rev.; 197 EX/PG.INF; 197 EX/54)

I

Activities in 2014-2015, including its methods of work

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/18 Part I,
2. Takes note of its content.

(197 EX/SR.8)

II

Implementation of the current Programme and Budget (37 C/5), with results achieved in the previous biennium (38 C/3)

The Executive Board,

1. Mindful of Article V.6 (b) of the Constitution of UNESCO,
2. Recalling 33 C/Resolution 78, 33 C/Resolution 92, 34 C/Resolution 89, 182 EX/Decision 26 and 187 EX/Decision 16,
3. Decides to transmit to the General Conference, at its 38th session, the report contained in document 197 EX/18 Part II Rev. together with, where appropriate, recommendations made during the debates at the Executive Board's 197th session;
4. Invites the General Conference, at its 38th session, to endorse the report.

(197 EX/SR.8)

MATTERS RELATING TO NORMS, STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

19 Examination of the communications transmitted to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations in pursuance of 104 EX/Decision 3.3, and report of the Committee thereon (197 EX/CR/HR and Addenda)

The announcement appearing at the end of these decisions reports on the Board's consideration of this subject in private meeting.

(197 EX/SR.5)

20 Implementation of standard-setting instruments (197 EX/20 Parts I to VIII, 197 EX/20.INF; 197 EX/49)

I

General monitoring

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), 192 EX/Decision 20 (I), 194 EX/Decision 21, 195 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 19 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 197 EX/20 Part I and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) thereon (197 EX/49),
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 upon conventions and recommendations;
4. Requests the Director-General to continue providing assistance to Member States concerning the implementation of standard-setting instruments in order to increase the number of ratifications;
5. Also requests the Director-General to ensure the implementation of the legal framework for the implementation of standard-setting instruments, approved by means of 177 EX/Decision 35, 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 (CR);
6. Decides to continue consideration of the matter at its 199th session.

(197 EX/SR.5)

II

Application of the 1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers and the 1997 Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel

Report by the Director-General on allegations received by the Joint ILO-UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 154 EX/Decision 4.4 and 157 EX/Decision 6.3,
2. Having examined 197 EX/20 Part II and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) thereon,
3. Takes note of the interim report of the Joint ILO-UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART) relating to allegations on the non-observance of certain provisions of the 1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers in Japan; non-respect of principles enshrined in the 1966 Recommendation in Cambodia; and an update on developments in three cases concerning Denmark, Japan and Portugal previously examined by CEART.

(197 EX/SR.5)

III

Application of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 36 C/Resolution 103, 177 EX/Decision 35 (I), 195 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 20,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part III and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) thereon,
3. Notes that 60 Member States submitted reports in response to the survey by the Secretariat;
4. Recalls that the submission by Member States of periodic reports on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the General Conference is an obligation under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution;
5. Also recalls that the periodic consultation of Member States on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist is intended to enable the Organization to assess both the extent to which Member States are implementing that instrument, and the obstacles that they encounter;
6. Reaffirms the importance of the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, in particular with regard to emerging trends in digital technologies, freedom of expression and the transnational mobility of artists, as well as of its implementation by Member States;
7. Recommends that the General Conference invite those Member States which have not taken measures to implement the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist to do so, in consultation with artists and their associations, and to provide the required reports thereon;
8. Recommends that the Secretariat pursue synergies in the monitoring of the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist and other UNESCO standard-setting instruments, in particular the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
9. Invites the Director-General to transmit to the General Conference, at its 38th session, the report on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, together with the Executive Board's observations thereon, and any observations or comments that the Director-General may wish to make.

(197 EX/SR.5)

IV

Application of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 177 EX/Decision 35 (I), 195 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 20,

2. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part IV containing the report on the implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) thereon,
3. Recalls that the submission by Member States of periodic reports on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the General Conference is an obligation under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution;
4. Encourages Member States to submit their reports on the application of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;
5. Also recalls that the periodic consultation of Member States on the implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape is intended to enable the Organization to assess both the extent to which Member States are implementing that instrument, and the obstacles that they encounter;
6. Reaffirms the importance of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and of its implementation by Member States, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
7. Invites Member States, particularly those from the three priority regions (Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab States), to support the Secretariat's efforts to implement the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, notably by hosting technical meetings, workshops and conferences on the implementation of the approach conveyed by the standard-setting instrument;
8. Recommends that the General Conference invite those Member States that have not taken measures to implement the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape to do so, and to provide the required reports thereon;
9. Invites the Director-General to transmit to the General Conference, at its 38th session, the consolidated report on the measures taken by Member States to implement the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, together with the Executive Board's observations thereon, and any observations or comments that the Director-General may wish to make.

(197 EX/SR.5)

V

Consideration of the draft guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the application of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education

The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind Member States' obligations under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution,
2. Recalling 177 EX/Decision 35 by which it decided to approve the specific multi-stage procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO conventions and recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided, and the framework guidelines,

3. Also recalling 37 C/Resolution 89, 195 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 20,
4. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part V,
5. Also bearing in mind the importance of the Convention against Discrimination in Education as a cornerstone of the Education 2030 Agenda,
6. Approves the guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the application of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education, as annexed to document 197 EX/20 Part V, on condition that consultations with Member States take place with a view to further improving these guidelines before 15 December 2015;
7. Requests the Director-General to invite Member States to submit to UNESCO reports on the implementation of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation;
8. Also requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 202nd session a summary of the reports on the measures taken in regard to the implementation of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education, with a view to transmitting that summary, together with the Executive Board's comments thereon, to the General Conference at its 39th session.

(197 EX/SR.5)

VI

Application of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part VI,
2. Invites the Director-General to transmit document 197 EX/20 Part VI to the General Conference at its 38th session, together with the Executive Board's observations and any observations or comments that the Director-General may wish to make;
3. Recommends that the General Conference adopt the following draft resolution:

The General Conference,

Recalling that at its 27th session (Paris, 1993) it adopted the Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education,

Also recalling that by means of 34 C/Resolution 87 it identified the Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education as a priority to be monitored by the UNESCO Secretariat,

Further recalling 36 C/Resolution 12,

Recalling 177 EX/Decision 35 (I), 195 EX/Decision 15 and 196 EX/Decision 20,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated report on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made in the revision of the regional conventions on the recognition of studies and qualifications in higher education;

3. *Invites* all Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure the full and comprehensive implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education;
4. *Invites* the Director-General to:
 - (a) continue to promote the development of successful infrastructure for implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education through the six conventions on the recognition of studies and qualifications in higher education;
 - (b) provide technical support to Member States to facilitate the recognition of studies and qualifications across all regions;
 - (c) continue monitoring as a priority the 1993 Recommendation, particularly in the context of the revision of the regional conventions on the recognition of studies and qualifications in higher education;
5. *Also invites* the Director-General to transmit to it at its 40th session the next consolidated report on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education and *decides* to inscribe this item in the agenda of its 40th session.

(197 EX/SR.5)

VII

Application of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 33 C/Resolution 54, 34 C/Resolution 49 and 36 C/Resolution 58,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part VII and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) thereon contained in document 197 EX/49,
3. Notes that only 21 Member States submitted reports for the third consultation, which represents a decrease in the responsiveness of Member States;
4. Recalls that the submission by Member States of periodic reports concerning the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the General Conference is an obligation under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution;
5. Reaffirms the importance of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace and its implementation by Member States;
6. Recommends that the General Conference urge those Member States which have not taken measures to implement the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace to do so;
7. Invites the Director-General to transmit to the General Conference at its 38th session the third consolidated report on the measures taken by Member States to implement the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, together with the Executive Board's observations

thereon and any observations or comments that the Director-General may wish to make.

(197 EX/SR.5)

VIII

Strategy to improve visibility, ratification, implementation, monitoring and cooperation concerning education-related standard-setting instruments

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 195 EX/Decision 15,
2. Also recalling the conclusions of the working group on the methods of work of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) (196 EX/36),
3. Having examined document 197 EX/20 Part VIII,
4. Recognizing the importance of UNESCO standard-setting instruments in the field of education, notably in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
5. Appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General to develop a strategy with a view to improving visibility, ratification, implementation, monitoring and cooperation concerning education-related standard-setting instruments;
6. Requests the Director-General to inform it, at its 199th session, of the roadmap and a provisional timetable to guarantee the implementation of this strategy;
7. Also requests the Director-General to keep it informed of the implementation of the strategy, and to present detailed information on the financial, personnel and procedural aspects of the proposed observatory on the right to education in the framework of the general monitoring of the implementation of standard-setting instruments.

(197 EX/SR.5)

21 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: Nominations and report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (197 EX/21, 197 EX/49)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the provisions of Article 3 of the 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,
2. Also recalling the provisions of Article 7 of the Protocol whereby, subject to the provisions of Article 6, members of the Commission shall remain in office until their successors take up their duties,
3. Having taken note of the list of persons nominated by the States Parties to the Protocol with a view to the election of eight members of the Commission, transmitted to it by the Director-General in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2, of the Protocol (197 EX/21),
4. Transmits this list to the General Conference at its 38th session;

5. Requests the Director-General to invite once again the States Parties to the Protocol to submit nominations, and to transmit to the General Conference any nominations that she may receive before the opening of the vote that is to take place at its 38th session.

(197 EX/SR.5)

GENERAL CONFERENCE

- 22 **Preparation of the 38th session of the General Conference** (197 EX/22 Part I; 197 EX/22 Part II and Add.; 197 EX/22 Part III and V; 197 EX/22.INF)

I

Revised provisional agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/22 Part I,
2. Having regard to Rules 12 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference,
3. Noting that five proposals for supplementary items were submitted within the time limit entailed by Rule 12,
4. Also noting that these items are included in the supplementary list circulated to the Member States and Associate Members in accordance with the provisions of Rule 12, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference (circular letter CL/4118 dated 15 September 2015),
5. Establishes the revised provisional agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (38 C/1 Prov.) with the addition of any items stemming from the decisions taken at its 197th session, and the following supplementary items:

Item	Title	Reference
GENERAL POLICY AND PROGRAMME QUESTIONS		
4.14	UNESCO's role in the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda	Item proposed by the Director-General
4.15	Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Strategy for the period 2015-2025	Item proposed by the Director-General
4.16	Renewal and revision of the Operational Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands on the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and revision of the Statutes of the Institute	Item proposed by the Director-General
5.5	Transparency at UNESCO	Item proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Saint Lucia

Item	Title	Reference
8.2	Request for the admission of Montserrat as an Associate Member of UNESCO	Item proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
6.	<u>Recommends</u> that the General Conference consider, without prior debate, the draft resolutions relating to the following items of its provisional agenda: 1.7, 4.1, 4.4 (38 C/18 Parts I to XXII), 4.10, 4.12, 5.6, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 11.1 and 13.1.	
(197 EX/SR.7)		

II

Addendum to the draft plan for the organization of the work of the 38th session of the General Conference

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined documents 197 EX/7 and 197 EX/22 Part II,
2. Recalling 36 C/Resolution 105, in which the General Conference decided to extend the C/5 programme cycle from two to four years, starting with document 37 C/5, and related paragraph 39 of 186 EX/Decision 17 (I) IV, in which the Executive Board decided to draw up the agendas of the General Conference with different tasks for each of its biennial sessions, calibrated to the requirements of managing a four-year programming cycle,
3. Considering that the new programme cycle of four years should leave room for a more forward-looking and fruitful debate on the next programme during the upcoming 38th session of the General Conference,
4. Noting that the 38th session of the General Conference is the first intermediate session in the four-year cycle, which will focus on the examination of the Draft Budget for 2016-2017, in the context of the approved quadrennial Programme in document 37 C/5,
5. Stressing the continued relevance of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4),
6. Recommends that the General Conference use the discussion paper entitled "The post-2015 development agenda: What role for UNESCO" (197 EX/7 Part II) as a basis to structure its debates on item 3.4 of its provisional agenda (Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)), adapting the document as necessary for the needs of a broader debate on document 39 C/5, in particular by recalling UNESCO's mandated role and activities, its continued commitment to its two global priorities (Africa and gender equality) and its core functions;
7. Encourages all Member States to prepare the debate so that the discussions may be fruitful and the results may guide the Executive Board during the following years leading to the adoption of the next programme;
8. Requests the Director-General, in consultation with the chairpersons of the commissions of the General Conference, to provide Member States with a programme

(timetable) well in advance for the discussions on provisional agenda item 3.4, based on the following guiding principles:

- (a) Part II of document 197 EX/7, along with a summary of the Executive Board's debate on this item, should frame the discussions;
 - (b) sufficient time should be allocated for debate on the proposed discussion questions in the paragraphs 56, 60, 64, and 67 of Part II of document 197 EX/7;
 - (c) the debate should be structured in such a way as to promote targeted interventions on the questions (for instance by grouping them into time-bound thematic sessions);
 - (d) it should be borne in mind that not all proposed questions may be relevant to all commissions;
 - (e) consideration should be given to adding provisional agenda item 3.4 to the agenda of the joint meeting of the commissions, taking into account the cross-cutting nature of some questions;
 - (f) the expected outcome of the discussions should be clearly stated;
9. Requests the Secretariat to summarize the debates of the commissions on provisional agenda item 3.4, and to submit a proposal for a draft resolution to be examined by the joint meeting of the commissions at the end of the 38th session of the General Conference;
 10. Decides to evaluate the 38th session of the General Conference at its 199th session, and to start a dialogue on the preparation of future intermediate sessions, in order to allow for more strategic, forward-looking, inclusive and visible discussions, bearing in mind the audit report on the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities by the External Auditor (197 EX/28.INF Rev.);
 11. Approves the proposals contained in paragraph 2 of document 197 EX/22 Part II;
 12. Recommends to the General Conference that the items listed below be examined by the following organs:

Plenary

Item 8.2 Request for the admission of Montserrat as an Associate Member of UNESCO

APX Commission

Item 5.5 Transparency at UNESCO

ED Commission

Item 4.14 UNESCO's role in the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda

SC Commission

Item 4.15 Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Strategy for the period 2015-2025

- Item 4.16 Renewal and revision of the Operational Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands on the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and revision of the Statutes of the Institute

(197 EX/SR.7)

III

Venue of the 39th session of the General Conference

The Executive Board,

1. Having regard to the provisions of Rules 2 and 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference,
2. Considering that, by the date entailed by Rule 3, no Member State had invited the General Conference to hold its 39th session in its territory,
3. Recommends that the General Conference hold its 39th session at the Headquarters of the Organization in Paris.

(197 EX/SR.7)

IV

Submission of nominations for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference, as well as for the offices of Chairpersons of the committees and commissions

The Executive Board, in accordance with Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, recommends the following nominations for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference at its 38th session:

President of the General Conference: Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa (Namibia)

Vice-Presidents (34): The heads of delegations of the following Member States:

Angola	Guinea	Peru
Australia	Honduras	Philippines
Austria	India	Poland
Bahrain	Italy	Russian Federation
Bangladesh	Kenya	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Canada	Kuwait	Serbia
Chad	Lebanon	Sweden
China	Mali	Sudan
Czech Republic	Morocco	Togo
Dominican Republic	Nicaragua	Yemen
Finland	Pakistan	
France	Paraguay	

(197 EX/SR.7 and 8)

The Executive Board also decided to recommend to the General Conference the following candidates for the offices of Chairpersons of the commissions and committees²:

SC Commission:	Ms Noorul Ainur binti Mohd Nur (Malaysia)
SHS Commission:	Ms Hadidja Alim Youssouf (Cameroon)
CI Commission:	Mr Abdulla El Reyes (United Arab Emirates)
Credentials Committee:	Ms Mariam Y. Katagum (Nigeria)
Legal Committee:	Mr Pierre Michel Eisemann (France)

(197 EX/SR.5)

V

Admission to the 38th session of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined the requests from foundations and similar institutions maintaining official relations with UNESCO to be represented by observers at the 38th session of the General Conference (document 197 EX/22 Part V Annex I),
2. Also having examined the requests from non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO to be represented by observers at the 38th session of the General Conference (document 197 EX/22 Part V Annex II),
3. Referring to Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, and to the procedure that the Executive Board adopted at its 125th session for the examination of such requests,
4. Recommends that the General Conference admit as observers at its 38th session, the foundations and similar institutions listed in Annex I and the non-governmental organizations listed in Annex II of document 197 EX/22 Part V.

(197 EX/SR.7)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

23 Collection of Member States contributions and incentive scheme for the prompt payment of contributions (197 EX/23; 197 EX/52)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/23,

I

2. Recalling 192 EX/Decision 25 and 37 C/Resolution 79,

² At its 196th session, the Executive Board decided that the names to fill these positions would be communicated at a later stage by the Member States concerned (196 EX/Decision 21 (IV)).

3. Recalls that the prompt payment of contributions is an obligation incumbent on Member States under the Constitution and Article 5.5 of the Financial Regulations of the Organization;
4. Expresses its gratitude to Member States that have paid their contributions and to those that have made efforts to reduce their arrears;
5. Notes the failure of three Member States to pay the amounts due by them against payment plans approved by the General Conference for settlement of their accumulated arrears in annual instalments, in addition to the current year's contributions;
6. Concerned by the financial situation of the Organization as a result of the non-payment of assessed contributions by Member States and the severe implications thereof for the delivery of regular programme activities and for the Organization's reliance on extrabudgetary funding sources,
7. Urgently appeals to those Member States that are behind with the payment of their regular contributions and instalments under payment plans to pay their arrears without delay.

II

8. Recalling 36 C/Resolution 87 and 192 EX/Decision 30,
9. Takes note of the amounts distributed from 2012 to 2015 to eligible Member States as discounts for the prompt payment of assessed contributions;
10. Recommends that the General Conference approve the continuation of the incentive scheme for prompt payment of assessed contributions as follows:
 - (a) Member States that pay their current assessed contributions in full by the end of February of the relevant year and have no outstanding payment plans shall receive a discount;
 - (b) the discount shall be calculated from the date of payment to the end of June of that same year; the date of payment shall be considered to be 1 January if the contribution is received in advance;
 - (c) the discount shall be based on the effective interest rate earned net of bank charges and investment fees;
 - (d) the distribution of amounts shall be made after the closing of accounts of the relevant year in the form of deductions from the eligible Member State's assessed contributions due to the Organization.

(197 EX/SR.5)

24 Report by the Director-General as at 31 May 2015 on the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor and his comments thereon (197 EX/24; 197 EX/24.INF; 197 EX/52)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 180 EX/Decision 40 (II), 190 EX/Decision 30, 190 EX/Decision 35, 191 EX/Decision 28 (I, II and III), 192 EX/Decision 27, 192 EX/Decision 29 (I and II),

194 EX/Decision 23 (I, II and IV), 195 EX/Decision 23 (I and II) and 196 EX/Decision 23 (I, II, III and IV),

2. Having examined documents 197 EX/24 and 197 EX/24.INF,
3. Takes note of the implementation status of the External Auditor's recommendations and expresses concern at the delay in the implementation of some long-standing recommendations;
4. Requests the Director-General to take prompt action to implement those recommendations where further action is needed;
5. Decides to transmit to the General Conference at its 38th session the report by the Director-General as at 31 May 2015 on the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor and his comments thereon (197 EX/24).

(197 EX/SR.5)

25 Financial report and audited consolidated financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO for the year ending 31 December 2014, and report by the External Auditor (197 EX/25 Parts I and II; 197 EX/52)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling Financial Regulation 12.10,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/25,
3. Notes the opinion of the External Auditor that the financial statements give a fair view of the financial position of UNESCO as at 31 December 2014, as well as the financial performance, the cash flow and the comparison of budget and actual amounts for the 12-month period ending 31 December 2014, in conformity with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);
4. Expresses its appreciation to the External Auditor for the high standard of his work;
5. Decides to transmit to the General Conference at its 38th session the report by the External Auditor and the audited consolidated financial statements of UNESCO for the financial period ended 31 December 2014;
6. Recommends that the General Conference delegate to the Executive Board the authority to approve the financial statements of the financial period of the second year of the biennium;
7. Requests the Director-General to submit to the General Conference the necessary amendments to Financial Regulation 12.10 in order to delegate to the Executive Board the authority to approve the financial statements of the financial period of the second year of the biennium.

(197 EX/SR.5)

26 Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex (197 EX/26; 197 EX/52)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 35 C/Resolution 96, 37 C/Resolution 86 and 195 EX/Decision 22,

2. Having examined document 197 EX/26,
3. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, adopt a draft resolution along the following lines:

“The General Conference,

Recalling 35 C/Resolution 96, 37 C/Resolution 86 and 195 EX/Decision 22,

Having examined documents 38 C/44 Parts I and II,

I

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Headquarters Committee and to its Chairperson, H.E. Mr Shahidul Islam, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Bangladesh, for the decisions taken and the results achieved between the 37th and 38th sessions of the General Conference;
2. *Takes note* of the progress achieved in managing the UNESCO complex and the maintenance and conservation of Headquarters buildings;
3. *Welcomes* the achievements made in the implementation of the space optimization plan of Headquarters premises and *invites* the Director-General to continue seeking future tenants for vacant offices in Building VI (Bonvin) until it is fully occupied;
4. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the information provided on rentals of office space, occupancy, revenue and the repayment of the €1.2 million advance from the Headquarters Utilization Fund, and *requests* the Director-General to continue to report to the Headquarters Committee thereon;
5. *Authorizes* the Director-General to transfer funds allocated under the regular budget for conservation of Headquarters premises to the Special Account for the Restoration and Improvement of Headquarters;
6. *Also authorizes* the Director-General to transfer into the Miollis/Bonvin sub-account of the Special Account for the Restoration and Improvement of Headquarters the savings resulting in 2014-2015 from the exemptions of payment of the refuse collection tax;
7. *Takes note with concern* of the critical state of the Miollis/Bonvin buildings, in particular that of Building V (Miollis), and *requests* the Director-General to identify the necessary funding for the engineering and architectural studies for its renovation, and to provide a report thereon to the Headquarters Committee at its first session in 2016;
8. *Also takes note with concern* of the implications of a public-private partnership for the renovation of the Headquarters sites, which would entail ceding the rights and leases of the sites and the buildings that are property of Member States, and *recommends* that no further steps be taken on this issue without full detailed consultations with the Headquarters Committee.

II

1. *Recognizes* the risks associated with the obsolete telephone system and the urgent need to replace it;

2. *Authorizes* the Director-General to start the infrastructure preparations required for a new telephone system, including the cabling of Building II, at an estimated cost of €570,000;
3. *Requests* the Director-General to develop a costed solution for the implementation of the new system(s) for all buildings, to be presented to the Headquarters Committee at its 191st session;
4. *Also authorizes* the Director-General to replace the projectors in conference rooms, prioritizing where most needed.

III

1. *Notes* the completion of the construction of the forward security post at the Fontenoy entrance in the context of the reinforcement of UNESCO Headquarters security;
2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Chair of the Executive Board, H. E. Mr. Mohamed Sameh Amr, for his fund-raising initiative for the renovation of Room X;
3. *Also expresses its gratitude* to Angola, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Malaysia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Mr Zurab Tsereteli, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, for their voluntary contributions, in cash and in kind for the renovation of Room X;
4. *Further expresses its gratitude* to His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rachid Al-Maktoum, for his generous donation towards the renovation of Room I.

IV

1. *Endorses* the decisions of the Headquarters Committee aimed at increasing the likelihood of recovering debts owed to the Organization;
2. *Reiterates the request* to the Director-General to apply all necessary measures required by the contracts on letting office space to permanent delegations, including the redistribution of offices from those delegations which do not meet their contractual obligations and to those that regularly discharge their obligations;
3. *Reiterates the invitation* to Member States to make voluntary contributions for the restoration and improvement of Headquarters, especially Hall Miro and the other exhibition spaces;
4. *Requests* the Director-General to report to it at its 39th session, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex.

(197 EX/SR.5)

27 Financial Regulations of Special Accounts and proposed amendments to Financial Regulations of UNESCO Category 1 Institutes (197 EX/27 Parts I to III; 197 EX/52)

I

Financial Regulations of Special Accounts

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling Articles 6.5 and 6.6 of UNESCO's Financial Regulations,

2. Having examined document 197 EX/27 Part I,
3. Takes note of the Financial Regulations (annexed to document 197 EX/27 Part I) of the following Special Accounts:
 - (a) Special Account for Strengthening UNESCO's Evaluation Work;
 - (b) Special Account for the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

(197 EX/SR.5)

II

Proposed Amendments to Financial Regulations of UNESCO category 1 institutes

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/27 Part II,
2. Approves the standard model text for Financial Regulations applicable to UNESCO category 1 institutes contained in annex to document 197 EX/27 Part II;
3. Invites the Director-General to report to it, for consideration and recommendation, on any deviation from the standard model text applicable to existing UNESCO category 1 institutes, or when proposing draft financial regulations for any new UNESCO category 1 institute.

(197 EX/SR.5)

III

Report of the External Auditor on the conditions of use of the Emergency Fund and conclusions to be drawn regarding the management of UNESCO's Special Accounts

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/27 Part III,
2. Takes note of its content.

(197 EX/SR.5)

28 New audits by the External Auditor (197 EX/28 Rev.; 197 EX/28.INF Rev.; 197 EX/54)

Report on the audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities

and

44 Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board (197 EX/44; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/DG.INF.2; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/44,

2. Also having examined documents 197 EX/28 Rev. and 197 EX/28.INF Rev. on the audit report on the governance of UNESCO,
3. Recognizing the hard work undertaken by the informal group of friends of governance,
4. Considering the recommendations and conclusions of the External Auditor's audit report on the governance of UNESCO,
5. Reaffirming the need for a holistic and comprehensive reform of UNESCO, particularly its governing bodies, in order to ensure greater effectiveness and efficiency in the governance of the Organization,
6. Takes note of the additional information provided by the Secretariat on the financial implications of the proposals contained in document 197 EX/44;
7. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session:
 - (a) discuss the question of the governance and working procedures and methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO;
 - (b) establish an open-ended working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO on the basis in particular of the External Auditor's audit report on the governance of UNESCO;
 - (c) define the terms of reference and timetable of the open-ended working group, so that it may submit its report to the General Conference at its 39th session;
8. Requests the Director-General to include in the agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference an item on the governance and working procedures and methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO;
9. Also requests the Director-General to submit to the first meeting of the above-mentioned working group further information on the structure of the governing bodies of other agencies of the United Nations system, including aspects relating to their composition, functioning and frequency of meetings, in order to establish a comparison within the system;
10. Requests the Chair of the Executive Board, in consultation with the Director-General, to make the necessary practical arrangements and organize on a trial basis, during the 2016-2017 biennium, and without amending the Rules of Procedure, meetings of the Executive Board Members, in principle six times per year; such meetings will be open to States Members of the Executive Board, to Member States non-Member of the Executive Board as observers with enhanced participation status, and to the Secretariat;
11. Decides to suspend the Preparatory Group and the information meetings between the Director-General and the Executive Board on a trial basis during the 2016-2017 biennium, and to integrate their work into the meetings of Executive Board Members as described in paragraph 10 above; such meetings will have no decision-making power, but will foster discussions in view of the regular formal Executive Board sessions during the biennium, to be followed by an evaluation to be included in the report referred to in paragraph 7(c) above;
12. Further requests the Director-General to review and improve the existing orientation materials regarding the functions and responsibilities of the governing bodies and Executive Board Members, as well as a UNESCO acronym glossary to be provided to Member States;

13. Recommends that the General Conference request the Director-General to start the implementation of recommendations 1, 11 and 13 of the above-mentioned External Auditor's audit report on the governance of UNESCO, and to report on progress to the Executive Board at its 199th session.

(197 EX/SR.8)

RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

29 Relations with non-governmental partners (197 EX/29; 197 EX/29.INF and Corr.; 197 EX/29.INF.2, 197 EX/50)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 29 C/Resolution 64, 188 EX/Decision 12, 36 C/Resolution 108, 190 EX/Decision 36 and 195 EX/Decision 24,
2. Having examined documents 197 EX/29, 197 EX/29.INF and Corr. and 197 EX/29.INF.2,
3. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts made to make the network of official non-governmental partners more representative both in its geographical diversity and in the status of cooperation between UNESCO and its partners, and urges the Secretariat to continue in this direction;
4. Invites the Director-General, in coordination with National Commissions and field offices, to identify those non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national foundations in line with UNESCO's fields of competence and likely to promote its activities on the ground in line with the Organization's programme and projects, and to keep it informed of progress made;
5. Welcomes the scope and the quality of the international forums of NGOs that have taken place under the auspices of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in cooperation with the Secretariat, and invites Member States to support the organization of such forums in different regions in order to raise awareness and mobilize civil society organizations around UNESCO's values and priorities both locally and internationally;
6. Takes note of the Director-General's decisions relating to the admission to consultative status of the nine non-governmental organizations listed in paragraph 6 of document 197 EX/29; the establishment of official relations with the two foundations listed in paragraph 7 of document 197 EX/29; the renewal of official relations with the three foundations listed in paragraph 8 of document 197 EX/29;
7. Decides to admit to associate status the three non-governmental partners of UNESCO listed in paragraph 5 of document 197 EX/29.

(197 EX/SR.6)

30 Proposals for the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2016-2017 and appeals by Member States concerning their proposals (197 EX/30; 197 EX/30.INF; 197 EX/53)

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 the Islamic Republic of Iran and Azerbaijan for the following two anniversaries, which were already included in 196 EX/Decision 25:
 - (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 also be associated in 2016-2017 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 Jehangir 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 Rubén Darío (1867-1916) and 100th anniversary of his death (Nicaragua, with the support of Cuba and Ecuador);
 - (6) 150th anniversary of the birth of Abdullah bin Humaid Al Salmi, social reformer and encyclopaedic 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 (1916-1993) (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 the hereby completed list of anniversaries with whose celebration UNESCO is to be associated in 2016-2017, which supplements the list contained in 196 EX/Decision 25, be definitively closed, according to the procedure approved by means of 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.

(197 EX/SR.8)

31 Partnership agreement between UNESCO and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
(197 EX/31; 197 EX/2)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/31,
2. Approves the draft partnership agreement contained in annex to document 197 EX/31;
3. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the Partnership Agreement on behalf of UNESCO.

(197 EX/SR.1)

GENERAL MATTERS

32 Occupied Palestine³ (197 EX/32 and Addenda)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined documents 197 EX/32 and Add. and Add.2,
2. Recalling the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions (1949) and their additional Protocols (1977), the 1907 Hague Regulations on Land Warfare, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related Protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982), and the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO on the protection of cultural heritage, as well as resolutions and decisions of UNESCO relating to Jerusalem, also recalling previous UNESCO decisions relating to the reconstruction and development of Gaza as well as UNESCO decisions on the two Palestinian sites in al-Khalīl/Hebron and in Bethlehem,
3. Affirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims, *inter alia*, at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Palestine and the distinctive character of East Jerusalem, shall in any

³ The Executive Board adopted this decision following a roll-call vote: 26 votes in favour, 6 votes against and 25 abstentions:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, Chad, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates,

Against: Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstentions: Albania, Angola, Austria, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Montenegro, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine.

Absent: Turkmenistan.

way affect the relevant Security Council and other United Nations resolutions and decisions on the legal status of Palestine and Jerusalem,

I

A Jerusalem

4. Deeply regrets the Israeli refusal to implement UNESCO previous Decisions concerning Jerusalem, particularly 185 EX/Decision 14, and notes that its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all the aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, has not been fulfilled, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint the above-mentioned representative;
5. Deeply deplores the recent repression in East Jerusalem, and the failure of Israel, the occupying Power, to cease the persistent excavations and works in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City, and reiterates its request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all such works, in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
6. Thanks the Director-General for her efforts to implement previous UNESCO decisions on Jerusalem and requests her to maintain and reinvigorate such efforts;

B Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf and its surroundings

1 Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf

7. Strongly condemns the Israeli aggressions and illegal measures against the freedom of worship and Muslims' access to their holy site Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf, and requests Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the pre-1967 status quo and to immediately stop these measures;
8. Firmly deplores the continuous storming of Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf by Israeli right-wing extremists and uniformed forces, and urges Israel, the occupying Power, to take necessary measures to prevent provocative abuses that violate the sanctity and integrity of Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf;
9. Deeply decries the continuous Israeli targeting of civilians including religious figures, sheikhs, and priests, decries the large number of arrests and injuries among Muslim worshippers and Jordanian Awqaf guards in Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf by the Israeli forces, and also urges Israel, the occupying Power, to end these aggressions and abuses which inflame the tension on the ground and between faiths;
10. Disapproves of the Israeli restriction of access to Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf during the 2015 Eid Al-Adha and the subsequent violence, and calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to stop all violations against the Waqf properties;
11. Deeply regrets the refusal of Israel to grant visas to UNESCO experts in charge of the UNESCO project at the Centre of Islamic Manuscripts in Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf, and requests Israel to grant visas to UNESCO experts without restrictions;
12. Regrets the damage caused by Israeli forces, especially since 23 August 2015, to the historic gates and windows of al-Qibli Mosque inside Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf, and reaffirms, in this regard, the obligation of Israel to respect the integrity, authenticity and cultural heritage of Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf, as reflected in the pre-1967 status quo, as a Muslim holy site of worship and as an integral part of a world cultural heritage site;

13. Expresses its deep concern over the Israeli closure and ban of the renovation of the al-Rahma Gate building, one of the Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf gates, and asks Israel to lift the ban on the Gate and on the necessary restoration works, in order to fix the damage caused by the weather conditions, especially the water leakage into the historic rooms of the building, and also calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to stop the obstruction of the immediate execution of all the 19 Hashemite restoration projects in and around Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf;
14. Deplores the Israeli decision to approve a plan to build a two-line cable car system in East Jerusalem and the so-called “Liba House” project in the Old City of Jerusalem, as well as the construction of the so-called “Kedem Center”, a visitor centre near the southern wall of the Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf, the construction of the Strauss Building and the Buraq Plaza elevator project, and urges Israel, the occupying Power, to renounce the above-mentioned projects and to stop the construction works in conformity with its obligations under the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

2 Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in the Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf

15. Reaffirms that the Mughrabi Ascent is an integral and inseparable part of the Al-Aqṣà Mosque/al-Ḥaram ash-Sharīf;
16. Takes note of the 14th Reinforced Monitoring Report and all previous reports, together with their addenda prepared by the World Heritage Centre, as well as the state of conservation reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre by Jordan and the State of Palestine;
17. Deprecates the continuing Israeli unilateral measures and decisions regarding the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate, including the latest works conducted at the Mughrabi Gate entrance in February 2015, the instalment of an umbrella at that entrance as well as the enforced creation of a new Jewish prayer platform south of the Mughrabi Ascent and the removal of the Islamic remains at the site, and reaffirms that no Israeli unilateral measures shall be taken in conformity with its status and obligations under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;
18. Also expresses its deep concern regarding the illegal demolition of Ummayyad, Ottoman and Mamluk remains as well as other intrusive works and excavations in and around the Mughrabi Gate Pathway, and also requests Israel, the occupying Power, to halt such demolitions, excavations and works and to abide by its obligations in this regard;
19. Reiterates its thanks to Jordan for its cooperation and also urges Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate with the Jordanian Awqaf Department, in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and to facilitate access of Jordanian Awqaf experts with their tools and material to the site in order to enable the execution of the Jordanian design of the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in accordance with UNESCO and World Heritage Committee decisions, particularly 37 COM/7A.26, 38 COM/7A.4 and 39 COM/7A.27;
20. Thanks the Director-General for her attention to this sensitive situation, and requests her to take the necessary measures in order to enable the execution of the Jordanian design of the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate;

C UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls and UNESCO experts meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent

21. Stresses yet again the urgent need for the implementation of the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls;

22. Recalls in this regard 196 EX/Decision 26 that decided, in case of non-implementation prior to the 197th session of the Executive Board, to consider, in conformity with the international law, other means to ensure its implementation;
23. Notes with deep concern that Israel, the occupying Power, has not complied with any of the ten Executive Board decisions* or six World Heritage Committee decisions** that request the implementation of the reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls;
24. Regrets the continued Israeli refusal to act in accordance with UNESCO and World Heritage Committee decisions that request a UNESCO experts meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent and the dispatch of a reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls;
25. Invites the Director-General to take necessary measures to implement the above-mentioned reactive monitoring mission in accordance with World Heritage Committee decision 34 COM/7A.20, prior to the 198th session of the Executive Board, and invites all concerned parties to facilitate the implementation of the mission and experts meeting;
26. Requests that the report and recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission as well as the report of the technical meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent, be presented to the concerned parties;
27. Thanks the Director-General for her continuous efforts to implement the above-mentioned UNESCO joint reactive monitoring mission and all related UNESCO decisions and resolutions;

II

A Reconstruction and development of Gaza

28. Deeply decries the continuous negative impact of the Israeli military confrontations in the Gaza Strip in all fields of competence of UNESCO;
29. Strongly deplores the continuous Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, which harmfully affects the free and sustained movement of personnel and humanitarian relief items as well as the intolerable number of casualties among Palestinian children, the attacks on schools and other educational and cultural facilities and the denial of access to education, and requests Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately ease this blockade;
30. Reiterates its request to the Director-General to upgrade, as soon as possible, the UNESCO Antenna in Gaza in order to ensure the prompt reconstruction of schools, universities, cultural heritage sites, cultural institutions, media centres and places of worship that have been destroyed or damaged by the consecutive Israeli wars on Gaza;
31. Thanks the Director-General for the information meeting held last March on the current situation in Gaza in the fields of competence of UNESCO and on the outcome of the projects conducted by UNESCO in the Gaza Strip-Palestine, and invites her to organize another information meeting on the same matter;
32. Also thanks the Director-General for initiatives that have already been implemented in Gaza in the fields of education, culture and youth and for the safety of media professionals, and calls upon her to continue her active involvement in the reconstruction of Gaza's damaged educational and cultural components;

* Executive Board decisions: 185 EX/Decision 14, 186 EX/Decision 11, 187 EX/Decision 11, 189 EX/Decision 8, 190 EX/Decision 13, 191 EX/Decision 9, 192 EX/Decision 11, 194 EX/Decision 11, 195 EX/Decision 9 and 196 EX/Decision 26.

** World Heritage Committee decisions: 34 COM/7A.20, 35 COM/7A.22, 36 COM/7A.23, 37 COM/7A.26, 38COM/7A.4 and 39 COM/7A.27.

B The two Palestinian sites of *Al-Ḥaram Al Ibrāhīmī/Tomb of the Patriarchs* in Al-Khalīl/Hebron and the *Bilāl Ibn Rabāḥ Mosque/Rachel's Tomb* in Bethlehem

33. Reaffirms that the two concerned sites located in Al-Khalīl/Hebron and in Bethlehem are an integral part of Palestine;
34. Disapproves of the ongoing Israeli illegal excavations, works, construction of private roads for settlers and a separation wall inside the Old City of Al-Khalīl/Hebron, that harmfully affect the integrity of the site, and the subsequent denial of freedom of movement and freedom of access to places of worship, and urges Israel, the occupying Power, to end these violations in compliance with provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
35. Deeply deplores the constant aggressions by the Israeli settlers and other extremist groups against Palestinian residents including schoolchildren, and asks Israel, the occupying Power, to prevent such aggressions;
36. Deeply regrets the Israeli refusal to comply with 185 EX/Decision 15 which requested the Israeli authorities to remove the two Palestinian sites from its national heritage list and calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to act in accordance with that decision;

III

37. Decides to include an item entitled “Occupied Palestine” in the agenda at its 199th session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.

(197 EX/SR.6)

33 Implementation of 37 C/Resolution 67 and 196 EX/Decision 27 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories⁴ (197 EX/33; 197 EX/53)

I

OCCUPIED PALESTINE

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 67 and 185 EX/Decision 36 as well as Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with regard to the right to education, Articles 4 and 94 of the Fourth Geneva Convention with regard to the denial of the right of children to education, as well as the Hague Convention (1954) and its Protocols and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972),

⁴ The Executive Board adopted this decision upon a recommendation made by the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) following a roll-call vote: 40 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 11 abstentions:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Against: United States of America.

Abstentions: El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine.

Absent: Afghanistan, Angola, Chad, Mozambique, Pakistan, Turkmenistan.

2. Also recalling the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion of 9 July 2004 on the "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory",
3. Having examined document 197 EX/33,
4. Committed to the safeguarding of monuments, works of art, manuscripts, books and other historical and cultural properties to be protected in the event of conflict, as well as the safeguarding of schools and all educational facilities,
5. Deplores the damaging impact of the military confrontations in and around the Gaza Strip in the fields of competence of UNESCO where several hundreds of educational and cultural facilities have been destroyed or damaged, affecting more than 500,000 schoolchildren and students as reflected in United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and UNESCO reports, as well as the severe damage inflicted on cultural heritage sites and cultural institutions, and also deplores breaches of the inviolability of UNRWA schools;
6. Expresses its deep concern about the recent escalation of the situation and its effect on the full exercise of the right to education by schoolchildren and students;
7. Reaffirms, in this regard, that schools, universities and cultural heritage sites enjoy special protection and should not be targeted in situations of armed conflict;
8. Expresses its growing concern about the harmful impact of the Wall and of other practices on the activities of educational and cultural institutions, as well as obstacles resulting therefrom which prevent Palestinian schoolchildren and students from being an integral part of their social fabric and from exercising fully their right to education, and calls for the observance of the provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
9. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the Wall and other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian territory, including in and around East Jerusalem as well as in the Cremisan Valley region, which, *inter alia*, have a negative impact on Palestinian schoolchildren's ability to fully exercise their right to education;
10. Notes with deep concern the Israeli censorship of the Palestinian curricula of schools and universities in East Jerusalem, and urges Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately halt this censorship;
11. Expresses its appreciation for the substantial contributions of all concerned Member States and intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to UNESCO's action in Palestine, and appeals to them to continue assisting UNESCO in this endeavour;
12. Thanks the Director-General for the results that have been obtained in relation to the implementation of a number of current educational and cultural activities, and invites her to strengthen UNESCO's assistance to the Palestinian educational and cultural institutions in order to address new needs;
13. Encourages the Director-General to continue to reinforce her action in favour of the protection, reconstruction, rehabilitation and restoration of the Palestinian archaeological sites and cultural heritage, and invites her to address the needs for

capacity building in all UNESCO's fields of competence by expanding the financial assistance programme for Palestinian students;

14. Requests the Director-General to organize, as soon as possible, the ninth meeting of the Joint UNESCO-Palestine Committee;

II

OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

15. Also invites the Director-General:

- (a) to continue the efforts she is making to preserve the human, social and cultural fabric of the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with the relevant provisions of its decisions;
- (b) to undertake efforts to offer appropriate curricula, and to provide more grants and adequate assistance to the educational and cultural institutions of the occupied Syrian Golan;
- (c) to dispatch an expert to assess and evaluate the needs of the educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Syrian Golan and report to her before the 199th session of the Executive Board;

III

16. Decides to include this item in the agenda of the Executive Board at its 199th session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.

(197 EX/SR.8)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

34 World Day of Romani Language (197 EX/34; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Aware of the Romani language's role in contributing to the preservation and dissemination of human civilization and culture,
2. Understanding the need to implement more wide-ranging cooperation between peoples through linguistic pluralism, cultural rapprochement and dialogue among civilizations, in line with in the provisions of the Constitution of UNESCO,
3. Convinced that UNESCO has an active role to play and an important contribution to make in promoting multicultural values through the education, language and culture of Roma people,
4. Welcoming the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015,
5. Expressing appreciation for the active engagement of the international community in promoting and participating in a world day of Romani language, as Roma people are citizens of almost every country in the world,
6. Determined that UNESCO should continue to take the lead in enhancing intercultural dialogue and fostering cultural rapprochement, especially by proclaiming a world day of Romani language, which will help further the development of and research into the Romani language in Member States,

7. Recognizing that the proclamation of a world day of Romani language sends a clear message that the Romani language represents part of the world's rich linguistic and cultural heritage,
8. Invites the Director-General to promote, especially during the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, the celebration of world day of Romani language on 5 November each year as one of the international days marked by UNESCO, it being understood that this should have no financial impact on the regular budget of the Organization;
9. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, proclaim 5 November of each year as world day of Romani language.

(197 EX/SR.8)

35 International Access to Information Day (197 EX/35; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling that the right to information is an integral part of the right to freedom of expression, as recognized by resolution 59 of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted in 1946, and defined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
2. Also recalling that freedom of information is also central in the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which reaffirmed freedom of expression and universal access to information as cornerstones of inclusive knowledge societies,
3. Bearing in mind the efforts made by UNESCO to highlight the relevance and importance of the right to information in the Brisbane Declaration - Freedom of Information: the Right to Know (2010), the Maputo Declaration: Fostering Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and Empowerment of People (2008), and the Dakar Declaration - Media and Good Governance, among others,
4. Taking note of the Declaration of the African Platform on Access to Information, adopted at the Pan-African Conference on Access to Information in Africa, organized by the Windhoek+20 Campaign on Access to Information in Africa in partnership with UNESCO, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, and held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 17 to 19 September, 2011,
5. Taking into account the fact that access to information is one of the main priorities of UNESCO's activities,
6. Considering that several civil society organizations and government bodies across the world have adopted and currently celebrate 28 September as "International Right to Know Day",
7. Also taking note of the principles established in the Declaration of the African Platform on Access to Information, and recognizing that these principles can play a crucial role in development, democracy, equality and the delivery of public services,
8. Recommends that the General Conference:
 - (a) proclaim 28 September of each year as the international day for universal access to information;

- (b) invite all Member States, United Nations system agencies, and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to celebrate international day for universal access to information in a manner which each considers most appropriate and without financial implications for the regular budget of UNESCO;
9. Requests the Director-General to bring to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General the resolution that might be adopted on the issue by the General Conference so that an “international day for universal access to information” may be endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.

(197 EX/SR.8)

36 African Heritage Day and Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Establishment of the African World Heritage Fund (197 EX/36; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 182 EX/Decision 20 and 35 C/Resolution 56 establishing the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
2. Also recalling the importance of international cooperation in building the capacity of African Member States to promote and implement the World Heritage Convention through building capacity for the preparation of nominations and the sustainable management of world heritage properties,
3. Further recalling the global mobilization through the #Unite4Heritage campaign led by the Director-General,
4. Welcoming the proposal of the Africa Group, in accordance with the objectives of the World Heritage Convention, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the African World Heritage Fund and to proclaim 5 May African world heritage day,
5. Invites Member States Parties to the World Heritage Convention and other players to organize events related to the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the African World Heritage Fund at the local, national, subregional, regional and even international levels, and to transmit to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2016, information on the events that they aim to organize in this context;
6. Invites States Parties, National Commissions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, UNESCO Clubs and Associated Schools, and the media to participate actively and contribute as widely as possible to the dissemination of this celebration;
7. Encourages multiple African partners, international and regional multilateral agencies such as the United Nations system, World Bank, African Union, Commonwealth, International Organisation of La Francophonie, European Union and African Development Bank, as well as national donors and regional African political communities, such as the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and East African Community (EAC), to support the efforts to protect African cultural and natural heritage;
8. Invites the Director-General to report to it at its 199th session (2016) on the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the African World Heritage Fund and African world heritage day, including the activities carried out by States Parties;

9. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the African World Heritage Fund and the proclamation of 5 May as African world heritage day.

(197 EX/SR.8)

37 Presentation of the Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace in Africa, “Biennale of Luanda” (197 EX/37; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/37,
2. Considering that UNESCO was established to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men and women,
3. Recalling document 36 C/INF.15, the background document of the Leaders’ Forum at the 36th session of the General Conference, entitled “How does UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and to sustainable development?”,
4. Also recalling the Operational Strategy for Priority Africa, 2014-2021, which sets out in detail a flagship programme entitled “Promoting a culture of peace and non-violence”,
5. Further recalling document 191 EX/4.INF.3 on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference relating to the final report of the Pan-African Forum “Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace”, held in Luanda, Angola, in 2013,
6. Recalling 191 EX/Decision 15 (C), ,
7. Also considering Assembly/AU.Decision 558 (XXIV) adopted at the twenty-fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, requesting the Commission of the African Union to “take all appropriate measures in consultation with UNESCO and the Government of Republic of Angola to co-organize a biannual Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace in Africa, “Biennale of Luanda”” (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2015),
8. Requests the Director-General to take the appropriate measures, and to set up mechanisms to implement and follow up the African Union’s decision;
9. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session (November 2015), adopt a resolution concerning the joint organization by the Government of Angola, the African Union and UNESCO of the first Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace in Africa, “Biennale of Luanda”.

(197 EX/SR.8)

38 Establishment of a School of Peace: High-Level Pan-African Training and Research Centre for the Culture of Peace (197 EX/38; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/38,
2. Considering that UNESCO was established to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men and women,

3. Also considering that, by virtue of its mandate, UNESCO must ensure the promotion of peace, and that the promotion of the culture of peace is one of the Organization's main priorities,
4. Recalling the recommendations of the International Congress on Peace in the Minds of Men, held in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, in 1989,
5. Also recalling document 36 C/INF.15, the background document of the Leaders' Forum at the 36th session of the General Conference, "How does UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and to sustainable development?",
6. Further recalling document 191 EX/4.INF.3 on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference relating to the final report of the Pan-African Forum "Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace", held in Luanda, Angola, in 2013,
7. Recalling the Yamoussoukro +25 Declaration, adopted at the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the concept of the culture of peace, in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, in 2014,
8. Taking note of Assembly/AU.Decision 558 (XXIV) on the culture of peace in Africa, adopted at the twenty-fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, requesting the African Union to "explore with UNESCO and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire the possibility of creating a 'School of Peace'" (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2015),
9. Takes note of the project to establish in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, under the auspices of the African Union and UNESCO, a school of peace entitled the "high-level pan-African training and research centre for the culture of peace";
10. Requests the Director-General to take the appropriate measures, and to set up mechanisms, to implement and follow up the African Union's decision;
11. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session (November 2015), adopt a resolution on the establishment of a high-level pan-African training and research centre for the culture of peace under the auspices of the African Union and UNESCO;
12. Also recommends that the General Conference delegate to the Executive Board, at its 200th session, the authority and prerogative to establish a high-level pan-African training and research centre for the culture of peace as a category 2 centre.

(197 EX/SR.8)

39 UNESCO's Support for the Implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali of 15 May and 20 June 2015 (197 EX/39; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO,
2. Also recalling the United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (General Assembly resolution 53/243),

3. Further recalling resolution 2227 (2015) of the United Nations Security Council, and in particular its paragraph 14 regarding protection of the Mali's cultural and historic sites against all attacks,
4. Acknowledging the important role that UNESCO continues to play regarding the promotion of a culture of peace,
5. Commending the major role UNESCO has played in the comprehensive programme to reconstruct the cultural heritage in Mali,
6. Welcoming the signature on 15 May 2015 of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, emanating from the Algiers process,
7. Recognizing the need to support the people of Mali in recovering the cohesion of their past, the foundation for all stability,
8. Bearing in mind the need to assist Mali in setting out determinedly on the path to peace,
9. Also welcoming the efforts of the Government of Mali to implement the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, in particular through the establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission,
10. Noting the Director-General's declaration during her visit to Bamako, on 18 July 2015, and her undertaking to assist Mali in implementing the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation,
11. Conscious of the importance of initiating activities for education for a culture of peace with a view to strengthening social cohesion and dialogue among Malians,
12. Also conscious that peace, through education for a culture of peace, is a prerequisite for all forms of economic development and all social cohesion,
13. Recommends that the General Conference:
 - (a) congratulate Mali on the signature of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali;
 - (b) provide every backing in accompanying the national reconciliation process in Mali by means of support for the work of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission;
 - (c) invite the Director-General to make every effort to provide technical and financial support for the holding in Bamako of a national forum on the culture of peace and non-violence, and the establishment of a programme on that theme.

(197 EX/SR.8)

40 MOST Programme Contributions to the Post-2015 Development Agenda (197 EX/40; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/40,
2. Taking note with satisfaction of document MOST/IGC/2015/DEC, containing the decisions adopted at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations Programme (IGC-MOST),

3. Taking into account 37 C/Resolution 64 (III) and 194 EX/Decision 14 on UNESCO's participation in the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda,
4. Recalling the importance of the social sciences in understanding social transformations and the need to build bridges between academic research and public policies,
5. Also recalling that the objective of the MOST Programme is to produce and transmit important social sciences research findings and data to policy-makers in order to encourage positive social transformations,
6. Recognizing that the MOST Programme might be an invaluable resource for achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) set under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
7. Notes with satisfaction the results achieved by the MOST Programme, namely the establishment of regular forums of ministers of social development and MOST schools that make possible the design of informed public policies;
8. Welcomes the initiative of the Intergovernmental Council of the MOST Programme (IGC-MOST) in drawing up a comprehensive strategy for the Programme and awaits with interest the discussion to take place thereon at the 199th session of the Executive Board;
9. Encourages Member States to establish and develop MOST National Committees so as to strengthen multisectoral relations, in particular between academic research and public policies;
10. Recommends that the experience of the MOST Programme be disseminated throughout the United Nations system and its specialized agencies, as well as in other relevant regional organizations;
11. Encourages the MOST Programme to strengthen its links with civil society, with a view to fostering its participation in policy dialogues at all levels;
12. Invites the Director-General, with the support of the MOST Secretariat, to continue the MOST Programme reforms approved by the Member States in the framework of the Intergovernmental Council, in the light of the guidelines set out herein;
13. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, examine, under its provisional agenda item 3.4 "Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)", the role of the MOST Programme in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(197 EX/SR.8)

41 International Day for the defence of the mangrove ecosystem (197 EX/41 and Corr.; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/41,
2. Considering that mangroves are a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem, providing by virtue of their existence, substantial benefits to human beings in terms of biomass and productivity, as well as forestry and fishery goods and services, contributing to the

protection of the coastline and being particularly relevant in terms of both the mitigation of the effects of climate change, and food security for local communities,

3. Recalling that the promotion of a harmonious relationship between human beings and their natural environment, emphasizing ecosystems of singular importance and vulnerability, is part of the essence of UNESCO and its international science programmes,
4. Recognizing that 26 July each year is celebrated worldwide as the “International Day for the Defense of the Mangrove Ecosystem” without as yet having been proclaimed an international day by the United Nations or any of its agencies,
5. Also recalling that within the framework of its Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Project, UNESCO has developed with partners an open initiative on mangroves and sustainable development,
6. Also considering that the proclamation of an international day for the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem will contribute to the conservation of this important ecosystem and to the sustainable development of both the communities that depend on their resources and other populations,
7. Taking into account that, according to its mandate, UNESCO has a leading role in fostering environmental conservation,
8. Decides:
 - (a) to welcome and endorse the recommendation to proclaim an international day for the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem on 26 July each year;
 - (b) to invite the Director-General to support all efforts leading the proclamation of an international day for the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem;
 - (c) to include this item in the agenda of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference;
 - (d) to recommend that the General Conference, at its 38th session, adopt a resolution to proclaim an international day for the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem on 26 July every year, as provided for in the draft resolution contained in the annex to document 197 EX/41.

(197 EX/SR.8)

42 League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities (197 EX/42; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 109 EX/Decision 7.2, requesting the Director-General to “draw the attention of the General Conference, at its next session, to the need to safeguard the entire archaeological site of Tyre and its surrounding area, whose relics are of importance to the cultural heritage of mankind, so that it may decide on appropriate action”,
2. Also recalling 21 C/Resolution 4/13, 22 C/Resolution 11.7 and 121 EX/Decision 5.4.3,
3. Further recalling that the Director-General launched a Heritage Alert for the Safeguarding of Tyre in 1987,

4. Considering that the International Campaign to Safeguard the Site of Tyre and its Surroundings is an important initiative that should be revived as today's threats are very serious,
5. Aware of the importance of the archaeological and historical heritage of Tyre for all Mediterranean countries and for those on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean where Phoenician remains dating from the high point of Tyre as a centre of civilization, exchange, dialogue and culture are still to be found,
6. Takes note of the establishment by the International Association to Save Tyre (IAST) and the Tyre Foundation of the "League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities" (LCPPC), a vast network of cities united by a common past aiming to strengthen cooperation and exchanges of skills, experiences and know-how;
7. Also takes note of the League's four main lines of action: the themes of culture and education, cultural tourism, traditional crafts and maritime environment;
8. Further takes note that at the Fifth International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO, held in Beijing on 27 and 28 July 2015, the non-governmental organizations present recommended that the League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities (LCPPC), through its projects and concrete actions, participate in the implementation of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures;
9. Notes that this action also involves contributing to mutual understanding and dialogue between the cultures from both sides of the Mediterranean, through the promotion of cultural heritage, thus helping to carry the hope for peace and development;
10. Encourages the Director-General of UNESCO to cooperate with the International Association to Save Tyre (IAST) in implementing its activities, including those carried out in the framework of the League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities (LCPPC), with no financial or administrative implications for UNESCO;
11. Invites the Member States to support the League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities (LCPPC), and include it in activities promoting peace.

(197 EX/SR.8)

43 Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO⁵ (197 EX/43)

The Executive Board,

1. Considering the request of the Republic of Kosovo for admission to UNESCO, submitted on 4 August 2015,

⁵ The Executive Board adopted this decision following a roll-call vote: 27 votes in favour, 14 votes against and 14 abstentions:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Belize, Chad, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Italy, Kuwait, Montenegro, Netherlands, Pakistan, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Angola, Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Morocco, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain.

Abstentions: Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda.

Absent: Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine.

2. Having noted that the Republic of Kosovo accepts UNESCO's Constitution and is ready to fulfil the obligations arising from its admission, and to contribute towards the expenses of the Organization,
3. Also 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.

(197 EX/SR.7)

44 Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board (197 EX/44; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/DG.INF.2; 197 EX/54)

For this agenda item, see 197 EX/Decision 28.

(197 EX/SR.8)

45 Combating climate change/COP 21 – Contribution by UNESCO and its programmes (197 EX/45 and Corr.; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Affirming its concern about the grave consequences of climate change, especially on health, land and marine resources, access to water, food production and security, and stability and migration, and recalling that the consequences of climate change increase and exacerbate in particular the vulnerability of least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS),
2. Recalling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and in particular its Articles 4 and 5 on the commitment of the Parties regarding research and systematic observation of climate systems, as well as Article 6 on education, training and public awareness,
3. Considering the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and particularly the Fifth Assessment Report recalling the human influence on the current climate change,
4. Taking note of United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 29/15 on human rights and climate change, and affirming that human rights obligations, standards and principles have the potential to inform and strengthen international, regional and national policymaking in the area of climate change,
5. Also recalling 35 C/Resolution 33 on UNESCO and global action on climate change, as well as 179 EX/Decision 15, 180 EX/Decision 16 and 181 EX/Decision 15 on the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, and further recalling 179 EX/Decision 16 on the development and management of intersectoral platforms,
6. Welcoming UNESCO's activities undertaken with the United Nations system as a whole regarding the fight against climate change, which aim to promote mitigation of the effects of climate change and adaptation to it, and in particular the consolidation of an interdisciplinary scientific database essential to this purpose,
7. Welcoming in particular the programmes related to education and awareness-raising on climate change, including the Global Action Programme on Education for

Sustainable Development (ESD), and the activities led by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme and the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP),

8. Also welcoming the organization, with the active contribution of UNESCO, of events and initiatives aiming at promoting the mobilization of all non-State actors and especially the scientific community, before and during the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), that will be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015,
9. Underlining notably the conclusions of the international scientific conference “Our common future under climate change” held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, from 7 to 10 July 2015,
10. Further welcoming the conclusions of the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Lima in 2014, that reaffirmed the commitment of the Parties to the UNFCCC to reaching in 2015 an ambitious, universal and sustainable agreement, applicable to all, that reflects the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of national circumstances,
11. Noting the importance of limiting the increase in global warming to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels,
12. Commends those countries that have already submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), and encourages all other countries to do likewise;
13. Welcomes the launch of the “Lima-Paris Action Agenda” aiming at strengthening the mobilization of non-State actors and international cooperation;
14. Also welcomes the appeal launched by Morocco and France in Tangiers on 20 September 2015 to step up the fight against climate change;
15. Confirms the commitment of States Members of UNESCO to adopt at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) an ambitious, universal and sustainable agreement, applicable to all, that reflects the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of national circumstances;
16. Notes the importance of limiting the increase in global warming to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels;
17. Also confirms the commitment of UNESCO Member States to support the Organization’s activities and programmes in this essential field at the core of its mandate;
18. Requests the Director-General to continue the integration, within each sector of UNESCO, particularly the Education and Culture Sectors, of its recognized expertise in the field of climate change, by making the most of the interdisciplinary profile specific to UNESCO’s mandate;
19. Also requests the Director-General to submit proposals to the General Conference at its 38th session on the contribution of UNESCO in the framework of its Strategy for Action on Climate Change, with a view to implementing both the conclusions of the

21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and of its 22nd session (COP 22) to take place in Marrakesh in 2016, and the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

20. Invites Member States to make voluntary financial contributions to that end.

(197 EX/SR.8)

46 UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent violent extremism

(197 EX/46 and Corr.; 197 EX/DG.INF; 197 EX/53)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/46,
2. Expressing concern about the rise in terrorism and violent extremism which can be conducive to terrorism, and the worldwide challenge of recruitment and radicalization to violent extremism of youth in media, in communities and in schools,
3. Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and relevant human rights instruments,
4. Also recalling the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in 2006 by General Assembly resolution 60/288 and its Section I on Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in which Member States resolved “to promote a culture of peace, justice and human development, ethnic, national and religious tolerance and respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs or cultures by establishing and encouraging, as appropriate, education and public awareness programs involving all sectors of society” and “encourage the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to play a key role”,
5. Further recalling the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, United Nations General Assembly resolutions 53/25 entitled “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)”, and 53/243 entitled “Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace”,
6. Recalling the purposes of UNESCO to “contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world”,
7. Reaffirming UNESCO's commitment to promoting global citizenship education as one of the key areas of work in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (2014-2021) (37 C/4) in accordance with Strategic Objective 2 Empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens; one of the three priorities of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative and as target 4.7 of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education as adopted in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,
8. Reiterating 196 EX/Decision 32 regarding “UNESCO's role and responsibilities in implementing global citizenship education and promoting peace and human rights education and education for sustainable development”, and 196 EX/Decision 8, in which it called upon Member States and the Director-General to support and promote the role of human rights education and training in the framework of the post-2015

development agenda and of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and welcomed the establishment of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training;

9. Affirms the importance of education as a tool to help prevent terrorism and violent extremism, as well as racial and religious intolerance, genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity worldwide, and recognizing the catalytic role of education in helping to ensure stability and sustainable peace, human rights, social justice, diversity, gender equality and environmental sustainability, as well as to empower learners to be responsible citizens within their communities, countries and globally;
10. Noting the growth in interest in the role of education in countering violent extremism in other multilateral settings, such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), and the operationalization of this interest in documents such as the GCTF's Abu Dhabi Memorandum on Good Practices for Education and Countering Violent Extremism,
11. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for leading UNESCO activities to foster peace and global citizenship as well as prevent violent extremism through the promotion of global citizenship education and related activities and programmes, including human rights education and training;
12. Noting the report on the Second UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education, held in Paris from 28-30 January 2015, and also noting the UNESCO conference "Youth Online At Risk: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism on the Internet", held in Paris on 16 and 17 June 2015,
13. Welcomes the Director-General's participation in the Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism hosted by the United States of America on the margins of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 29 September 2015);
14. Looks forward to the 38th session of UNESCO's General Conference and the "Education to Prevent Violent Extremism" high-level side event for education ministers on 6 November 2015 so as to discuss opportunities and challenges in preventing violent extremism through education;
15. Invites Member States and other stakeholders to help ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
16. Encourages Member States and relevant stakeholders to support global citizenship education, including human rights education and training, to help prevent violent extremism and mobilize additional resources;
17. Encourages the Director-General, in accordance with UNESCO's purposes and functions, within its available regular budget and any extrabudgetary resources in coordination with the Member States:
 - (a) to enhance UNESCO's leading role in promoting and implementing education as an essential tool to help prevent violent extremism and promote human-rights-based global citizenship education, an important area of work in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy, 2014-2021 (37 C/4) under Strategic Objective 2 Empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens, and to enhance coordination across sectors at UNESCO on initiatives to prevent violent extremism, as well as to identify opportunities for collaboration within the United Nations system, and with non-governmental organizations in collaboration with UNESCO;

- (b) to enhance UNESCO's capacity to provide assistance to States as they work to strengthen education, including human-rights-based global citizenship education programmes, keeping in mind national contexts, and which is designed to contribute to the prevention of violent extremism, genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, by naming a focal point within the Education Sector on education to prevent violent extremism to be responsible for coordinating activities related to such education within UNESCO, and by implementing all the activities in close collaboration with all sectors of UNESCO;
 - (c) to develop new educational resources, including digital materials, to facilitate the prevention of violent extremism through education;
 - (d) to continue implementing global citizenship education for learners in collaboration with Member States, by involving all educational stakeholders, including youth, teachers, families, and parents' associations at the policy and programme implementation levels, and to assist Member States in improving teaching methods that may include active, participatory and exploratory activities;
 - (e) to continue efforts in assisting Member States' understandings of, and approaches to, creative educational pathways and strategies to help prevent violent extremism and to implement global citizenship education;
 - (f) to support Member States by establishing strategic partnerships in view of creating a global network of policy-makers, experts, practitioners, research institutes, media, the private sector, and other stakeholders to use educational strategies to prevent violent extremism;
 - (g) to help facilitate various efforts for the training and capacity building of key stakeholders, including educators, policy-makers, parents, and youth, in the area of education to prevent violent extremism through global citizenship education and human rights education and training;
 - (h) to take appropriate steps to enhance cooperation among Member States and relevant United Nations organizations and bodies to promote education to prevent violent extremism;
18. Requests the Director-General to report to it at its 200th session on UNESCO's intersectoral work to prevent violent extremism through education.

(197 EX/SR.8)

47 Establishment of UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education (197 EX/47; 197 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/47,
2. Welcomes the proposal to establish a UNESCO prize for girls' and women's education, which is in accordance with the Revised Overall Strategy for UNESCO Prizes (191 EX/Decision 12);
3. Approves the establishment of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education;
4. Reaffirming the provisions relating to management costs induced by the Prize as established by document 197 EX/47, paragraph 15,

5. Approves the Statutes of the aforementioned Prize, as set out in Annex I of document 197 EX/47;
6. Takes note of the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education" as set out in Annex II of document 197 EX/47.

(197 EX/SR.8)

[48 Promotion by UNESCO of exchanges, contacts and cooperation in the fields of culture, arts and media free from political pressure and discrimination]

This item was withdrawn at the request of the Russian Federation.

PRIVATE MEETINGS

Announcement concerning the private meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2015

At the private meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2015, the Executive Board considered items **3** and **19** of its agenda.

3 Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board (197 EX/PRIV.1)

In accordance with Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Director-General informed the Board on the general situation regarding staff at grade D-1 and above and the decisions she had taken regarding appointments and extensions of contract of staff members at grade D-1 and above whose posts come under the regular programme of the Organization.

(197 EX/SR.5)

19 Examination of the communications transmitted to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations in pursuance of 104 EX/Decision 3.3, and report of the Committee thereon (197 EX/CR/HR and Addenda; 197 EX/3 PRIV. (Draft and Add, and Corr.))

1. The Executive Board examined the report of its Committee on Conventions and Recommendations concerning the communications received by the Organization on the subject of cases and questions of alleged violations of human rights in UNESCO's fields of competence.
2. The Executive Board, having taken note of the Committee's report, endorsed the wishes expressed therein.

(197 EX/SR.5)