Item 26 of the provisional agenda

PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2018-2019 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 195 EX/Decision 25, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board the proposals by Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2018-2019 with which UNESCO could be associated.

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

Proposed decision: in paragraph 14.
I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 154 EX/Decision 7.7 (May 1998), the Executive Board adopted the criteria and procedures for consideration of the proposals by the Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in each biennium. The criteria and procedures were further developed in 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and amended at the 166th, 176th and 179th sessions of the Executive Board.

2. Following the programme’s evaluation in 2013-14, at its 195th session (October 2014), the Executive Board approved, in 195 EX/Decision 25, a revised anniversaries programme, with a view to improving impact, including methodology, funding, geographical and gender balance, monitoring and evaluation, periodicity and other relevant criteria. The revised programme includes, in particular, a recommendation to Member States to limit the number of anniversaries preferably to two requests per biennium, including one preferably to support gender equality, and to submit the requests with the support of two other countries and/or a regional group. The revised programme for UNESCO’s association with the celebration of anniversaries was applied for the first time in the 2016-2017 biennium.

3. The revised programme also requires Member States to submit to the Director-General, on completion of the project and before the submission of new requests, a detailed activity report on the results and their usefulness to the Member State(s) and UNESCO. This provision was implemented for the first time during the current exercise. The Member States had the opportunity to submit their requests and reports online, by means of electronic forms.

4. In accordance with these arrangements, the Director-General, in a letter dated 8 September 2016, invited the National Commissions for UNESCO to transmit to her their proposals for 2018-2019, the deadline being 15 January 2017.

5. As of 19 January 2017, the Secretariat had received 55 requests, submitted by 31 Member States. This number is stable in relation to the 2016-2017 biennium (58 proposals submitted by 32 Member States, although the first application of the new criteria and new procedure led to a significant reduction in the number of proposals in relation to the previous biennium (159 proposals for 2004-2015, submitted by 55 countries).

6. Despite the reiteration of the provisions for geographical and gender balance, the Secretariat has not noted any improvement in the current cycle. The situation remains of great concern, as geographical imbalance is as pronounced as it was earlier, with the Europe region alone accounting for more than 70% of the proposals. In addition, no proposals were received from the Africa region. It should also be noted that of the total of 55 proposals, only five concerned prominent women.

7. The intersectoral anniversary selection committee, statutorily consisting of representatives of the programme sectors, the Sector for External Relations and Public Information (ERI) and other central services, met on 27 January 2017 and reviewed all of the requests received, in accordance with the statutory procedure and criteria. It selected 39 proposals, deemed to comply with the established criteria, which are listed in the present document.

8. Furthermore, the Secretariat noted some unprecedented features, such as proposed anniversaries of an individual who had already been celebrated officially by UNESCO in the past. In addition, it was difficult in some cases to ascertain accurate dating of anniversaries that went back several hundred years.

9. It must be emphasized that of the 39 proposals selected by the intersectoral committee, the Europe region accounted for 80% of the total (25 of which had been submitted by group II, representing 64% in all). No anniversary was selected for Africa, as there were no proposals. A
A single anniversary was selected for the Arab States region. Two anniversaries were selected for the Latin America and Caribbean region.

10. As to proposals concerning prominent women, all five proposals received were deemed admissible by the intersectoral committee and are included in the list of anniversaries, accounting for 13% of the total.

11. Member States wishing to appeal will have a new period of two months from the end of the present session of the Executive Board to reformulate rejected proposals, if appropriate, should they wish to do so, and to submit any missing reports concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2016-2017. Moreover, in accordance with 195 EX/Decision 25, Member States from unrepresented or under-represented regions shall have the possibility of submitting new requests during that period. For the current biennium, this will apply to all groups except for Europe and North America. The reformulated and new proposals must be submitted by 15 June 2015 at the latest, and will then be re-examined by the intersectoral committee for submission to the Executive Board at its 202nd session if the proposals comply with the criteria in force.

12. The Executive Board is called upon to examine the list of proposals that were deemed to be admissible by the Secretariat after examination inasmuch as they meet the selection criteria in force (see 195 EX/Decision 25 of the Executive Board), which are as follows:

   (a) Each proposed anniversary must be indisputably linked to the Organization’s ideals and missions in the fields of education, culture, natural sciences, social and human sciences and communication and must promote closer relations among peoples, tolerance and the ideals of peace, cultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Preference shall be given to anniversaries linked to UNESCO’s current programme and priorities and if possible to high-level events that have already been planned.

   (b) Commemorations of the birth, independence or institutional regime of a State will not be eligible for consideration; similarly the anniversaries of military events will be excluded.

   (c) The anniversary must concern personalities of genuinely universal stature, nominated posthumously only, and events of universal scope or of regional significance, indisputably known outside the borders of their own country, in order to reflect the ideals, values, cultural diversity and universality of the Organization.

   (d) The anniversary must be a fiftieth anniversary, a centenary or a multiple thereof.

   (e) Subregional, regional or international events must be already planned for the anniversary and sufficient financial resources must have been allocated to hold them in the Member State or group of Member States directly concerned.

   (f) All anniversaries must preferably be proposed with the support of at least two other countries or a regional group. Any anniversary proposed involving more than one Member State must be jointly proposed by Member States concerned.

   (g) Requests relating to works of the intangible heritage – which comprise oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices and rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional crafts – cannot be considered owing to their timeless nature.

13. The Director-General submits to the Executive Board, for decision, the following proposals. The descriptions of each anniversary selected, together with the relevant historical and biographical information relating thereto, are set out in document 201 EX/26.INF.
II. DRAFT DECISION

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

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined documents 201 EX/26 and 201 EX/26.INF,

2. Recalling 195 EX/Decision 25 approving the new criteria and procedure for UNESCO’s association with the celebration of anniversaries.

3. Also recalling that Member States were encouraged to make proposals with a view to improving geographical distribution and gender balance, and to be more selective in making such proposals in order to enhance the quality, representativeness and visibility of the programme,

4. Recommends to the General Conference that UNESCO be associated in 2018-2019 with the celebration of the following anniversaries (listed in the English alphabetical order of Member States):

1. Armenia 150th anniversary of the birth of Hovhannes Toumanian, poet, writer, translator (1869-1923) (with the support of Georgia and Russian Federation)

2. Azerbaijan 100th anniversary of Baku State University (1919) (with the support of Kazakhstan and Georgia)

3. Azerbaijan 100th anniversary of the birth of Garayev Gara, composer (1918-1982) (with the support of Kazakhstan, Georgia and Russian Federation)

4. Belarus 300th anniversary of the birth of Regina Salomea Rusiecka (1718-1763) (with the support of Lithuania, Poland and Russian Federation)

5. Bulgaria 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1869) (with the support of Romania, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

6. Croatia 450th anniversary of the birth of Marin Getaldić, mathematician and physicist (1568 - 1626)

7. Egypt 50th anniversary of the completion of Abu Simbel safeguarding heritage (1968)

8. Georgia 100th anniversary of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) (1918) (with the support of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan)

9. Georgia 150th anniversary of the birth of Marjory Scott Wardrop (1869-1909) (with the support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

10. Germany 250th anniversary of the birth of Alexander von Humboldt, geographer, naturalist and explorer (1769 - 1859)

Nota bene: The “150th anniversary of the death of Alexander von Humboldt, scientist (1769 - 1859)” has been celebrated in 1999.
11. Germany 200th anniversary of the birth of Clara Josephine Schumann, musician and composer (1819 - 1896)

12. Hungary 100th anniversary of the death of Roland Eötvös (Eötvös Loránd), physicist, geophysicist and innovator of higher education (1848 - 1919) (with the support of Austria, Czechia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

13. Hungary 100th anniversary of the death of Tivadar Csontváry Kosztka artist/painter (1853 - 1919) (with the support of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

14. Iran (Islamic Republic of) 850th anniversary of the active life of Shahab al-Din Yahya ibn Habash Suhrawardi, philosopher and mystic (1154 - 1191) (with the support of Iraq and Syrian Arab Republic)

15. Iran (Islamic Republic of) 1750th anniversary of the foundation of the University of Gundi-Shapur (with the support of India and Iraq)

16. Italy 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci (1452 - 1519)

Nota bene: The “550th anniversary of the birth of Leonardo da Vinci” has been celebrated in 2002.

17. Kazakhstan 200th anniversary of the birth of Kurmangazy, composer (1818 - 1896) (with the support of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkey)

18. Kazakhstan 100th anniversary of the birth of Amina Umurzakova, actress (1919 - 2006) (with the support of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russian Federation)

19. Latvia 150th anniversary of Pēteris Šmits, linguist, ethnographer, folklorist (1869 - 1938) (with the support of Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Russian Federation)

20. Latvia 100th anniversary of Latvian National Institutions for Culture, Education and Science (1919) (with the support of Estonia, Lithuania and Poland)

21. Lithuania 200th anniversary of the birth of Józef Czechowicz, photographer (1818 - 1888) (with the support of Belarus, Latvia, Poland and Ukraine)

22. Mexico 50th anniversary of the National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography (ENCRyM in Spanish) (with the support of Chile and Honduras)

23. Mexico 100th anniversary of the birth of Juan José Arreola, writer (1918 - 2001) (with the support of Chile and Honduras)

24. Poland 50th anniversary of death of Krzysztof Komeda (Trzciński), composer (1931 - 1969) (with the support of Hungary and Lithuania)

25. Poland, Lithuania and Belarus 200th anniversary of the birth of Stanislaw Moniuszko, composer, conductor and teacher (1819 - 1872) (Poland, Lithuania and Belarus with the support of Latvia and Romania)

26. Romania 50th anniversary of the death of Cecilia Cuțescu Storck, painter (1879 - 1969) (with the support of Bulgaria and Germany)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>150th anniversary of the birth of Emil Racoviță, scientist (1868 - 1947) (with the support of Bulgaria and Poland)</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>150th anniversary of the birth of Maxim Gorky, writer (1868 - 1936) (with the support of Belarus, Italy and Kazakhstan)</td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>200th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Sergeyevich Turgenev, writer (1818 - 1883) (with the support of Belarus, France and Kazakhstan)</td>
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<td>30.</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>200th anniversary of the birth of Marius Petipa, dancer and choreographer (1818 - 1910) (with the support of Cuba, France and Japan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>100th anniversary of the birth of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, writer (1918 - 2008) (with the support of Germany and Switzerland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>300th anniversary of the birth of Adam Frantisek Kollar, scholar (1718 - 1783) (with the support of Austria, Bulgaria and Hungary)</td>
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<td>33.</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>500th anniversary of the first world circumnavigation by ship in history, by Fernando de Magellanes and Juan Sebastián Elcano (with the support of Andorra, Italy and Portugal)</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>700th anniversary of the creation of the Archive of the Crown of Aragon (ACA) (1318) (with the support of Andorra and Italy)</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>400th anniversary of the birth of Mirabid Saida Nasafi, poet (1618 - 1707) (with the support of Kazakhstan and Russian Federation)</td>
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<td>36.</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>100th anniversary of the birth of Kamphol Vacharaphol, educator (1919 - 1996) (with the support of Malaysia and Republic of Korea)</td>
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<td>37.</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>950th anniversary of the writing of Yusuf Khass Hajib’s KUTADGU BILIG (Wisdom of Royal Glory, 1069) (with the support of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan)</td>
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<td>38.</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>100th anniversary of the birth of Vasyl Sukhomlynsky (Vasil’ Sukhomlins’ky), educator (1918 - 1970) (with the support of University of Newcastle and of Monach University, Australia)</td>
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<td>39.</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>100th anniversary of the establishment of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (1918)</td>
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