Item 36 of the provisional agenda

PROPOSALS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES
WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED IN 2018-2019,
AND APPEALS BY MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THEIR PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 195 EX/Decision 25, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board the revised proposals by Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2018-2019 with which UNESCO could be associated and new proposals introduced by Member States from unrepresented or under-represented regions.

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

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 8.
I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Board, at its 201st session, decided to recommend that the General Conference endorse the list of 39 proposals submitted in document 201 EX/26 for inclusion in the calendar of anniversary celebrations with which UNESCO could be associated in 2018-2019, in accordance with the revised programme for UNESCO’s association with the celebration of anniversaries, approved by its 195th session, and which was applied for the first time during this biennium.

2. The Secretariat informed the Member States concerned of the anniversaries that it proposes to select or to strike off the list, providing, in the latter case, the relevant explanations. Member States which had already made proposals had a statutory period of two months as from the end of the 201st session of the Executive Board, in order to reformulate, should they so desire, the requests that were rejected in this first exercise. The deadline for new proposals and/or appeals was set at 30 June 2017.

3. Moreover, in accordance with 195 EX/Decision 25 of the Executive Board, Member States from unrepresented or under-represented regions had the possibility of submitting new requests during this period. For the current biennium, this applied to all groups except for Europe and North America.

4. In total, three appeals and eight new proposals were submitted to the Secretariat by 12 Member States. Two Member States provided missing information (reports on celebrations of anniversaries in the previous biennium) concerning two proposals that had been positively evaluated on the substance, and which are now recommended for inclusion in the list.

5. Despite the new provisions for geographical and gender balance and the numerous appeals to Member States, geographical distribution and the number of eminent women in the list have not improved. No anniversaries of female personalities were proposed. Only one anniversary was proposed for the Africa region, three proposals for the Arab States, two proposals for Latin America and four proposals for Asia and the Pacific.

6. The Secretariat has studied all of the proposals. The Executive Board is now called upon to examine the list of new and reformulated proposals that were deemed admissible by the Secretariat after evaluation inasmuch as they meet the selection criteria in force (see 195 EX/Decision 25 of the Executive Board).

7. 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 202 EX/36.INF.

II. Draft decision

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

   The Executive Board,

   1. Having examined documents 202 EX/36 and 202 EX/36.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 UNESCO also be associated in 2018-2019 with the celebration of the following anniversaries:
1. 150th anniversary of the birth of Soghomon Soghomonian, known as Komitas Vardapet, composer, ethnomusicologist, researcher and singer (1869-1935) (Armenia with the support of France and Germany)

2. 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) (China)

3. 250th anniversary of the birth of Francisco José de Caldas y Tenorio (1768-1816) (Colombia with the support of Spain and Honduras)

4. 500th anniversary of the foundation of Havana (1519) (Cuba with the support of Ecuador and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

5. 150th anniversary of the birth of Sagymbay Orozbakov, epic chanter (1868-1930) (Kyrgyzstan with the support of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan)

6. 100th anniversary of the death of Milan Rastislav Štefánik, scientist, astronomer, meteorologist, aviator, traveller, democracy activist, humanist and diplomat (1880-1919) (Slovakia with the support of Czechia, France and Hungary)

7. 100th anniversary of the birth of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (1918-2013) (South Africa with the support of Namibia and Swaziland)

8. 750th anniversary of the heyday of Alaa al-Din Ali Ibn Abi al-Hazm al-Qurashi, known as Ibn al-Nafis, scientist and scholar (1210-1289) (Syrian Arab Republic with the support of Cuba and Ecuador)

9. 100th anniversary of the first publication of Atebetül-Hakayık (1918) (Turkey with the support of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)

(b) that the list of anniversaries with whose celebration UNESCO will be associated in 2018-2019 which supplements the list contained in 201 EX/Decision 26, be definitively closed according to the procedure approved by the Executive Board at its 195th session (195 EX/Decision 25);

(c) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations will be financed under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that Programme.