



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and third session

(Paris, 16 November 2017)

# 203 EX/Decisions

PARIS, 15 December 2017

**DECISIONS ADOPTED  
BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 203rd SESSION**



Job: 201703474

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.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS****Page**

1	Opening of the session by the President of the General Conference .....	1
2	Adoption of the provisional agenda .....	1
3	Election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board .....	1
4	Election of the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Board.....	1
	Establishment of the permanent commissions and committees of the Executive Board and election of their chairpersons .....	1
5	Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) .....	1
6	Finance and Administrative Commission (FA) <sup>1</sup> .....	1
7	Special Committee (SP).....	2
8	Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) .....	2
9	Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) .....	3
	Terms of reference of the committees and revised terms of reference of the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board .....	4
10	Terms of reference of the Special Committee .....	4
11	Terms of reference of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) (30 members) .....	4
12	Terms of reference of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) (24 members) .....	5
13	Revised terms of reference of the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board.....	6
<b>GENERAL MATTERS</b>		
14	Date of the 204th session of the Executive Board and of the meetings of its subsidiary bodies .....	9
15	Tentative list of matters to be examined by the Executive Board at its 204th session .....	9

**1. Opening of the session by the President of the General Conference (Temporary Chairperson)**

The 203rd session of the Executive Board was opened on 16 November 2017 by Ms Zohour Alaoui (Morocco), President of the General Conference.

(203 EX/SR.1)

**2. Adoption of the provisional agenda (203 EX/1 Prov.)**

The Executive Board adopted the agenda for the session set out in document 203 EX/1 Prov.

(203 EX/SR.1)

**3. Election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board**

The Executive Board elected Mr Lee Byong Hyun (Republic of Korea) Chairperson.

(203 EX/SR.1)

**4. Election of the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Board**

The Executive Board elected the following Members Vice-Chairpersons of the Board:

Group I:	Portugal
Group II:	Serbia
Group III:	Brazil
Group IV:	Japan
Group V(a):	Nigeria
Group V(b):	Lebanon

(203 EX/SR.1)

**Establishment of the permanent commissions and committees of the Executive Board and election of their chairpersons**

**5. Programme and External Relations Commission (PX)<sup>1</sup>**

The Executive Board established the Programme and External Relations Commission, and elected Ms Samira Al Moosa (Oman) Chairperson of that commission.

(203 EX/SR.1)

**6. Finance and Administrative Commission (FA)<sup>1</sup>**

The Executive Board established the Finance and Administrative Commission, and elected Ms María Teresa Lizaranzu Perinat (Spain) Chairperson of that commission.

(203 EX/SR.1)

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with a decision adopted by the Executive Board at its 70th session (70 EX/Decision 3), all Members of the Board are members of this commission.

## 7. Special Committee (SP)

The Executive Board established the Special Committee, and elected Ms Venera Domi (Albania) Chairperson of that committee.

The Executive Board decided that the Committee would be made up of the following 18 members for the 2018-2019 biennium:

**Chairperson:** Ms Venera Domi (Albania)

**Members:** Albania  
Brazil  
China  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Egypt  
Grenada  
Italy  
Morocco  
Philippines  
Qatar  
Republic of Korea  
Russian Federation  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Serbia  
South Africa  
Turkey  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Zimbabwe

(203 EX/SR.1)

## 8. Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR)

The Executive Board established the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, and elected Ms Olivia Grange (Jamaica) Chairperson of that committee.

The Executive Board decided that the Committee would be made up of the following 30 members for the 2018-2019 biennium:

**Chairperson:** Ms Olivia Grange (Jamaica)

**Members:** Albania  
Bangladesh  
Bulgaria  
Burundi  
China  
Cuba  
Egypt  
Ethiopia  
Finland  
France  
Greece  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Jordan  
Lithuania  
Madagascar

Malaysia  
Morocco  
Nicaragua  
Pakistan  
Paraguay  
Philippines  
Qatar  
Russian Federation  
Senegal  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sudan  
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)  
Zambia

(203 EX/SR.1)

## 9. Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP)

The Executive Board established the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners, and elected Mr James Gichiah Njogu (Kenya) Chairperson of that committee.

The Executive Board decided that the Committee would be made up of the following 24 members for the 2018-2019 biennium:

**Chairperson:** Mr James Gichiah Njogu (Kenya)

**Members:** Albania  
Bangladesh  
Cameroon  
Equatorial Guinea  
Finland  
France  
Ghana  
Indonesia  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Kenya  
Lebanon  
Lithuania  
Mexico  
Oman  
Paraguay  
Qatar  
Russian Federation  
Saint Lucia  
Serbia  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Turkey

(203 EX/SR.1)

**Terms of reference of the committees and revised terms of reference of the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board (203 EX/DR.10 – 12; 203 EX/PLEN.DR.1)**

**10. Terms of reference of the Special Committee (SP) (18 members)**

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling its previous decisions concerning the terms of reference of the Special Committee,
2. Decides that:
  - (a) the Special Committee shall comprise 18 members, that is to say three for each electoral group;
  - (b) in the light of 192 EX/Decision 16. VII, the Special Committee will meet once a year as appropriate;
3. Also decides to refer to the Special Committee for consideration and the preparation of reports thereon:
  - (a) questions pertaining to the functioning of the Secretariat, in particular, those pertaining to evaluation, internal control, oversight and accountability systems and mechanisms;
  - (b) relations with the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), and reports prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit that are not referred to the commissions of the Executive Board;
  - (c) methods of work of the General Conference and the Executive Board, including those of their commissions and committees;
  - (d) any other questions that the Executive Board may refer to it.

(203 EX/SR. 1)

**11. Terms of reference of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) (30 members)**

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 98 EX/Decision 9.6.II, whereby it defined, in paragraph 12, the terms of reference of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations in Education, namely:
  - (a) to examine periodic reports by Member States on their implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education,
  - (b) to examine communications addressed to UNESCO in connection with specific cases alleging a violation of human rights in education, science and culture,

- (c) to examine the report of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers,<sup>2</sup>
2. Also recalling 104 EX/Decision 3.3, whereby it decided that the Committee would thenceforth be designated the “Committee on Conventions and Recommendations” and established the conditions and procedures for consideration of communications received by the Organization concerning cases and questions of violations of human rights within UNESCO’s fields of competence,
  3. Renews the terms of reference mentioned above, and decides that the Committee will also consider all questions entrusted to the Executive Board concerning the implementation of UNESCO’s standard-setting instruments, in accordance with Article 18.1 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, ensuring in particular the monitoring of the conventions and recommendations referred to, respectively, in the Annex to 177 EX/Decision 35.II as amended by 196 EX/Decision 20 and in 34 C/Resolution 87.

(203 EX/SR. 1)

## 12. Terms of reference of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) (24 members)

The Executive Board,

1. Recognizing the important contribution made by non-governmental partners to the preparation and implementation of UNESCO’s programme,
2. Taking into account the Directives concerning UNESCO’s partnership with non-governmental organizations, adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session, as well as the following resolutions adopted by the General Conference:
  - (a) 21 C/Resolution 7.11 concerning international non-governmental organizations maintaining relations with UNESCO and in which bodies or elements linked with the Taiwan authorities are still participating in the name of China,
  - (b) 26 C/Resolution 13.23, 28 C/Resolution 13.5 and 29 C/Resolution 64 on the Directives concerning UNESCO’s relations with foundations and similar institutions,
  - (c) 33 C/Resolution 92 concerning the recommendations of the ad hoc working group on relations between the three organs of UNESCO,
3. Decides that in the light of 192 EX/Decision 16. VII, and taking into account 202 EX/Decision 37, the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners will meet once a year, as appropriate;
4. Also decides that the terms of reference of its Committee on Non-Governmental Partners shall be as follows:

<sup>2</sup> Now the Joint ILO-UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART).



- (a) to continue improving its methods of work by, *inter alia*, carrying out thematic debates on the involvement of non-governmental partners in UNESCO's action in order to:
  - (i) encourage presentations by Members of the Committee, non-governmental partners and invited guest speakers on good practices and lessons learned at the international, regional, national and local levels for outreach to and partnership with non-governmental actors;
  - (ii) give further impetus to the involvement of youth in the work of NGOs;
  - (iii) strengthen coordination and cooperation between non-governmental partners and the National Commissions;
- (b) to examine once a year, at the spring session, matters within its competence relating to the establishment of relations between UNESCO and non-governmental organizations, as stipulated in the above-mentioned Directives, and notably to consider any proposals that the Director-General may submit to the Executive Board for the establishment or renewal of associate partnerships with non-governmental organizations;
- (c) to ensure that the above-mentioned Directives continue to be implemented in a spirit of openness to the relevant actors of civil society, in particular in those parts of the world where civil society remains isolated or fragile;
- (d) to examine all other relevant questions coming within the purview of the Executive Board in relation to UNESCO's cooperation with non-governmental partners in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the governing bodies.

(203 EX/SR.1)

### 13. Revised terms of reference of the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 193 EX/Decision 7.IV, 38 C/Resolution 101, 197 EX/Decision 28 and 44, 202 EX/Decision 21 and 39 C/Resolution 87,
2. Bearing in mind the relevant recommendations and Annex 1 contained in the report of the open-ended working group on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO and endorsed by 39 C/Resolution 87,
3. Welcoming informal consultations on draft decisions before the sessions of the Executive Board, without prejudice to the decision-making prerogative of the Executive Board at its formal session,
4. Referring to document 202 EX/21.INF.SP, as well as the oral report of the Chairperson of the Special Committee of the 202nd session of the Executive Board (202 EX/SR.10),
5. Taking into account the outcome of the discussions held during the 10th intersessional meeting of the Executive Board and the meeting of the Special Committee of the Executive Board at its 202nd session,
6. Reaffirming the importance of improving evolving practices of the Executive Board, and recognizing that inclusivity, efficient preparation of regular sessions of the Executive

Board, and cost-effectiveness should be the guiding principles for any future intersessional/preparatory mechanisms,

7. Decides, following the end of a two-year trial period of intersessional meetings of the Executive Board open to States Members of the Executive Board and to Member States non-Member of the Executive Board as observers with enhanced participation status, to amend the terms of reference and the methods of work of the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board as follows:

**I. Purpose**

- (1) The Preparatory Group of the Executive Board (hereinafter ‘the Group’) should contribute to the efficient preparation of regular sessions of the Executive Board and facilitate its decision-making. The Group should be inclusive and cost-effective.

**II. Composition**

- (2) The Group shall be open to all UNESCO Member States.

**III. Chairpersonship**

- (3) The Group shall be led by a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and these should be Members of the Executive Board but should not hold any chairperson positions in subsidiary bodies of the Executive Board nor be a member of the Bureau of the Executive Board. The Group shall elect at its first meeting, for the whole biennium, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from among its members.

**IV. Agenda**

- (4) The provisional agenda of the Group shall be drafted by the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson after consultations with the Bureau of the Executive Board, while ensuring that all electoral groups are consulted. The provisional agenda together with the available documentation shall be sent to Member States at the latest one week before the meeting of the Group.
- (5) The provisional agenda should include a limited number of strategic items from the draft agenda of the upcoming regular session of the Executive Board that the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson consider necessary to prepare that regular session. The Group should meet on the basis of Executive Board documents. The selection of items to be included in the agenda of the Group should be guided by the need to ensure that prior discussions on a given item will contribute to the ability of the Executive Board at its upcoming session to make decisions. These items may include, *inter alia*:
- (a) documents related to the preparation and follow-up of the C/5 document;
  - (b) presentation of new agenda items and/or possible substantial amendments to the draft decisions by Member States;
  - (c) reports from the Internal Oversight Service (IOS);
  - (d) the strategic results report (SRR) (EX/4); and
  - (e) reports from the External Auditor for initial comments.

## V. Working methods

- (6) The Group should, in principle, meet twice per year for one or two consecutive days, according to needs, at the latest three weeks before the regular sessions of the Executive Board. The preliminary dates of the meetings of the Group shall be determined by the Executive Board so as to ensure that the results of the work in the Group are transmitted to Members of the Executive Board at least ten working days before the opening of the regular session and taking into account the general organization of the work in the Executive Board session and the related budgetary allocations.
  - (7) The Secretariat should provide information, if needed, during the Group's discussions, and assist the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson during the meeting.
  - (8) The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson should produce and disseminate a report from each of the meetings of the Group in the form of a summary of discussions with flagged issues, fully respecting the decision-making prerogatives of the Executive Board. The drafting, production and dissemination of the report should be facilitated by the Secretariat and be promptly published as an information document at least ten working days before the Executive Board session.
  - (9) The working languages of the Group shall be the six official languages, whenever possible.
  - (10) The Chairperson may invite, in consultation and in agreement with Member States and on a case-by-case basis, in a cost-effective manner, representatives of international organizations, relevant official partners, as well as qualified individuals to take part in the exchanges on questions falling within their areas of competence.
  - (11) The Chairperson of the Group may be asked to report to the Bureau of the Executive Board, should the Bureau see fit, in order to assist it in carrying out its duties in the preparation of the regular sessions of the Executive Board, including for identification of proposals by the Bureau for agenda items without debate.
  - (12) To promote inclusivity, a room larger than Room X is recommended to serve as venue for the Group's meetings, with nameplates provided outside the room for each UNESCO Member State.
8. Also decides that the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board and its working methods should be evaluated by the Executive Board at its 207th session and by the General Conference at its 40th session, with a preliminary debate at the 205th session of the Executive Board;
  9. Invites the Director-General to hold regular open-ended interactive information meetings on issues of interest to all Member States.

(203 EX/SR.2)

**GENERAL MATTERS****14 Date of the 204th session of the Executive Board and of the meetings of its subsidiary bodies (203 EX/14.INF)****204th session****(Wednesday 4 April to Tuesday 17 April 2018)****(10 working days/14 calendar days)**

Bureau (BUR)	Wednesday 4, Friday 6 and Friday 13 April
Special Committee (SP)	To be determined
Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR)	Wednesday 4 (afternoon) to Friday 6 April
Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP)	Thursday 5 April (the NGP Committee shall meet at the 204th session in accordance with 202 EX/Decision 37)
<b>Plenary meetings</b>	Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 April, then Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 April
<b>Commissions</b>	Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 April

**N.B.:** Easter Monday: 2 April 2018School holidays in the host country are scheduled from Monday 16 to Sunday 29 April 2018 (Zone C: Paris and suburbs).**Dates for the Preparatory Group:** Thursday 15 and Friday 16 March 2018**Statutory deadline for the dispatch of Executive Board documents:** Friday 9 March 2018

(203 EX/SR.2)

**15. Tentative list of matters to be examined by the Executive Board at its 204th session (203 EX/15.INF and Corr.)**The Executive Board took note of the tentative list given in documents 203 EX/15.INF and Corr.

(203 EX/SR.2)