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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

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General Conference

42nd session, Paris 2023

42 C/83

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Original: French

THIRD REPORT OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

Item 5.4 of the agenda (document 42 C/28)

RECOGNITION OF BAHASA INDONESIA AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

1. The Legal Committee examined the item on the recognition of Bahasa Indonesia as an official language of the General Conference.
2. It took note of the explanatory note concerning this item proposed by Indonesia. It also took note of the additional information provided by the representative of Indonesia during the presentation of the item to the Committee.
3. In this respect, the Committee took note of Indonesia's commitment to cover all costs relating to the translation into Bahasa Indonesia of documents provided for under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, "Use of official languages".
4. After recalling the legal framework governing official languages, namely Rules 52 and 53 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the Committee recalled that it was not within its competence to decide upon the substantive aspects of this proposal by Indonesia. Consequently, if the General Conference were to endorse this proposal, the Committee deemed that it could amend the first paragraph of Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure as follows:

"Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese, English, French, Hindi, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish are the official languages of the General Conference."
5. While recalling the provisions of Rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference providing for a simple majority for any amendment to the Rules of Procedure, the Committee adopted without amendment the text of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 11 of document 42 C/28, which reads as follows:



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The General Conference,

Having examined document 42 C/28,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/262 regarding multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving the diversity of all languages and cultures globally,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/266, which endorsed the proclamation of 2008 International Year of Languages, pursuant to the resolution adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 33rd session,

Recalling Resolution 12 adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 30th session on 17 November 1999, proclaiming International Mother Language Day and calling upon Member States and the Secretariat to promote the preservation and protection of all languages,

Also recalling the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted on 2 November 2001 highlighting the importance of encouraging linguistic diversity,

Further recalling the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 20 October 2005, adopted by UNESCO, which states that linguistic diversity is a fundamental element of cultural diversity,

Taking into account that multilingualism contributes to achieving the attainment of the objectives set out in the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitution of UNESCO, fostering dialogue and mutual understanding, the spirit of tolerance, respect for identities and cultures, and cooperation among nations,

Recognizing the significant role of Bahasa Indonesia in promoting universal values of solidarity and peace, fostering national unity, serving as an auxiliary language, and facilitating smooth interethnic communication within Indonesia's diverse linguistic milieu,

Pursuant to Rule 52 (2) of the Rules of Procedures of the UNESCO General Conference, in which Member States are entitled to request the recognition of one language as an official language of the General Conference,

Decides to add Bahasa Indonesia to the list of official languages of the General Conference of UNESCO.