



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Two hundred and first session

201 EX/41

PARIS, 4 May 2017
Original: English

**DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE
PROGRAMME AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (PX)**



1. The Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) held six (6) meetings; from Friday 28 April 2017 in the morning to Tuesday 2nd of May 2017 in the afternoon with Mr Komlavi Francisco Seddoh (Togo) as Chairperson and Mr Ebenezer Njoh Mouelle (Cameroon), as Temporary Chairperson, to examine the items listed below which had been referred to it by the Executive Board at its plenary meeting on 24 April 2017.

Item	Title and documents
-------------	----------------------------

4	Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference
----------	---

Part I. Programme execution (201 EX/4 Part I; 201 EX/4 INF.2)

- *Programme Implementation Report (PIR)*

5	Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions
----------	--

Part I. Programme issues (201 EX/5 Part I; 201 EX/5.INF)

- A. *Report on the further implementation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan*
- B. *Final draft for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change*
- C. *UNESCO's contribution to the outcome of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22)*
- D. *Contributions of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to the implementation of the outcomes of COP 21 and COP 22*
- E. *Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the event of armed conflict*
- F. *Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO*
- G. *Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)*
- H. *Report of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) on the Review Process of the Memory of the World Programme¹*
- I. *Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity*

Part II. Evaluation issues (201 EX/5 Part II and Corr.)

- *Progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO*

¹ This agenda item was examined by the Executive Board meeting in plenary.

- 6 **UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples** (201 EX/6)
- 7 **Nominations of new UNESCO Global Geoparks** (201 EX/7; 201 EX/7.INF)
- 8 **Comprehensive strategy for the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)** (201 EX/8)
- 9 **International collaboration on Open Educational Resources (OER)** (201 EX/9)
- 13 **Revised Medium-Term Strategy of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics** (201 EX/13)
- 15 **Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)**
(Draft 39 C/5 and Corr.; 201 EX/15.INF; 201 EX/15.INF.2; 201 EX/15.INF.3)
- 19 **Implementation of standard-setting instruments**

Part IV: Preliminary Revision of the 1974 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (201 EX/19 Part IV)
- 26 **Proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2018-2019 with which UNESCO could be associated** (201 EX/26; 201 EX/26.INF)
- 28 **Draft Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)** (201 EX/28)
- 30 **Occupied Palestine** (201 EX/30)
- 31 **Implementation of 38 C/Resolution 72 and 200 EX/Decision 26 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the Occupied Arab territories** (201 EX/31)
- 32 **The importance of sound in today's world: promoting best practices** (201 EX/32 and Corr. (English, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese only); 201 EX/DG.INF)
- 34 **Plan of action to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation: Together for Haiti** (201 EX/34; 201 EX/DG.INF)
- 35 **Combating violence and bullying in schools: UNESCO's action** (201 EX/35; 201 EX/DG.INF)
- 36 **Twenty-fifth anniversary of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme: progress and prospects** (201 EX/36; 201 EX/DG.INF)
- 37 **World Humanities Conference: Challenges and Responsibilities for a Planet in Transition** (201 EX/37 and Corr.; 201 EX/DG.INF)
- 38 **Importance of the Multilateral Scientific Cooperation and the Leading Role of the International Basic Sciences Programme of UNESCO and its Promotion** (201 EX/38 Rev.; 201 EX/DG.INF)

Item 4 Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Part I. Programme execution (201 EX/4 Part I; 201 EX/4 INF.2)

– *Programme Implementation Report (PIR)*

2. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 38 C/Resolution 99 and 199 EX/Decision 4.I.A,
2. Having examined document 201 EX/4 Part I entitled “Programme Implementation Report (PIR) for 2014-2016”,
3. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for the quality of information and evidence presented in it;
4. Notes with satisfaction the progress made towards the achievements of outputs, and the measures taken to ensure programme delivery despite the challenges and the financial situation;
5. Invites the Director-General to continue her efforts to ensure the efficient implementation of the programme;
6. Requests the Director-General to present to it at its 204th session an Analytical Programme Implementation Report (APIR) covering the period 2014-2017, in accordance with 38 C/Resolution 99.

Item 5 Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Part I. Programme issues (201 EX/5 Part I; 201 EX/5.INF)

A. Report on the further implementation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan

3. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 196 EX/Dec.5.I.B, 197 EX/Dec.5.I.D, and 199 EX/Dec.5.I.A,
2. Having examined documents 201 EX/5 Part I (A) and its annex,
3. 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),
4. Expresses appreciation for the Director-General's report on the progress made with the further implementation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan, and takes note of its content;

5. Encourages Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the further implementation of the SIDS Action Plan and to further enhance coordination of bilateral technical cooperation;
6. Further requests the Director-General to report on progress made on the further implementation of the SIDS Action Plan in the Organization's statutory reports on programme implementation, with a special focus on leverages and synergies;
7. Invites the Director-General to consider the possibility of conducting a mid-term evaluation of the Action Plan to ensure the efficiency of its implementation.

B. Final draft for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change

4. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 45, 38 C/Resolution 21, and 200 EX/Decision 5.I.C,
2. Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change,
3. Underlining the importance of the Paris Agreement on climate change and, where appropriate, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for guiding UNESCO's actions on climate change,
4. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part I (B),
5. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for the final proposal for an updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change taking into due consideration the entry into force of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of COP 22;
6. Approves the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change as annexed to this decision;
7. Requests the Director-General to present the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change as annexed to this decision to the General Conference for endorsement at its 39th session;
8. Invites the Director-General to promote effective United Nations collaboration on climate change in conformity with recommendation 2 contained in the Review on the Activities and Resources Devoted to Address Climate Change in the United Nations Systems Organizations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations System (JIU/REP/2015/5) and, in this collaboration, take into account the Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-wide Approach to Climate Action adopted by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB/2016/4), taking into account the respective roles and mandates of the relevant entities;
9. Invites all Member States to engage fully with the UNESCO Secretariat, at Headquarters and in the field offices, for the effective implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, including, as appropriate, in relation to the preparation and achievement of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement ;

10. Encourages Member States in a position to do so, to provide voluntary extrabudgetary financial support to enable the scaling-up of UNESCO's climate change action, with particular emphasis on Africa, SIDS, LDCs and gender;
11. Further requests the Director-General to reflect succinctly on the progress made in the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change in the statutory reports to the Executive Board at its 2020 spring session.

C. UNESCO's contribution to the outcome of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22)

5. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 200 EX/Decision 29,
2. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part I (C),
3. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for UNESCO's contributions at COP 22;
4. Acknowledges the valuable efforts of Morocco towards the success of COP 22;
5. Notes with satisfaction the effective collaboration between Morocco and the UNESCO Secretariat in the lead-up to and during COP 22;
6. Recommends that the climate change challenges facing SIDS and other countries be given due attention in UNESCO's efforts related to COP 23;
7. Invites the Director-General to engage with Fiji as the convener and president of the 23rd conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be hosted at the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017;
8. Requests the Director-General to report on UNESCO's contributions to the conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the future as part of the reporting on the implementation of the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change.

D. Contributions of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to the implementation of the outcomes of COP 21 and COP 22

6. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 197 EX/Decision 45, and 36 C/Resolution 21, relating to UNESCO's efforts to combat global changes, in particular climate change,
2. Taking note with satisfaction of resolution XXII-7 and resolution XXII-9 of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), which encourages the Director-General to pursue actions, taking advantage of the interdisciplinary mandate of the Organization, to address climate change, on the basis

of the reflection, foresight and anticipation conducted by its Member States in the field of water,

3. Recalling 200 EX/Decision 30 requesting the Director-General to report on the IHP involvement in the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to establish an IHP special account,
4. Recognizing and expressing its gratitude for the successful organization by the governments of France and Morocco of the twenty-first and the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, respectively, and for their support to the implementation of a dedicated water day at both events,
5. Acknowledging IHP's contributions to the implementation of the outcomes of the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21 and COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
6. Welcomes with satisfaction the establishment of an IHP Special account by the Director-General, to which Member States may voluntarily contribute;
7. Invites Member States to make voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to support the UNESCO-IHP work on climate change and water resources management;
8. Requests the Director-General to report on the contribution of IHP to the Conferences of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the future, as part of the reporting on the implementation of the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change.

E. Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the event of armed conflict

7. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 38 C/Resolution 48, as well as 199 EX/Decision 5.I.D and 200 EX/Decision 5.I.F,
2. Having examined documents 201 EX/5 Part I (E) and its two annexes,
3. Welcoming UNSC Resolution 2347 (2017), which has emphasized that the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, and the looting and smuggling of cultural property in the event of armed conflicts, notably by terrorist groups, and the attempt to deny historical roots and cultural diversity in this context can fuel and exacerbate conflict and hamper post-conflict national reconciliation, thereby undermining the security, stability, governance, social, economic and cultural development of affected States, and has highlighted the importance of the "Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict";
4. Noting that UNSC Resolution 2347 (2017) reflects the work initiated by UNESCO, and still ongoing as regards the definition of the Plan of Action for the implementation of the above-mentioned strategy;

5. Taking note of the Conference on Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage, Abu Dhabi (2-3 December 2016), its Declaration, as well as the subsequent creation of the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Zones (ALIPH), whose objectives for the protection of heritage in danger are aligned with those of UNESCO,
6. Taking note of the ministerial meeting dedicated to Culture, which took place in Florence on March 30th, and in particular of its Final Declaration which has highlighted the role of UNESCO in the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in crisis areas,
7. Welcomes the progress made in implementing the above-mentioned *Strategy*;
8. Welcomes also the opportunities provided to Member States for coordination and consultation on the Action Plan, including in the context of three intersessional meetings, two information meetings, three meetings of the Group of Friends “Unite4Heritage”, an online questionnaire and a written consultation, as well as in the framework of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO’s normative instruments related to culture;
9. Takes note of and welcomes the Action Plan as a living document as well as the practical ways for implementing a rapid response mechanism in full coordination with the Member States concerned, as described in Annexes I and II, respectively;
10. Recognizes that the Action Plan, as described in Annex I, should be understood as a work in progress, that will be adjusted and enriched over time, in coordination and consultation with Member States, and within their international obligations, according to their evolving needs and the situation on the ground;
11. Notes that the activities foreseen in the Action Plan contribute directly to the strengthening of the UNESCO cultural conventions and will be conducted in strict accordance with relevant United Nations rules, with the express consent of States concerned, and in accordance with relevant international law;
12. Calls upon the Director-General to provide all necessary assistance to Member States, as well as to the relevant Departments of the United Nations, for the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2347 (2017), as appropriate;
13. Recognizes that many activities foreseen within the Action Plan are also relevant to crisis situations associated with disasters;
14. Decides, therefore, to include consideration for crisis and emergency situations associated with natural disasters within the scope of the Action Plan and to reflect this in its title, introductory note and, as appropriate, relevant activities; and recommends that the General Conference, at its 39th session, consider including natural disasters within the scope of the Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict, as appropriate;
15. Calls on all the Member States to support the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan, including by making additional voluntary contributions to the Heritage Emergency Fund, as well as providing in-kind contributions as appropriate;
16. Requests the Director-General to report on the implementation of the Strategy, and the Plan of Action including on its rapid response mechanism, to its 202nd session.

F. Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO

8. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part I (F), along with 201 EX/5.INF, containing the overview of recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO,
2. Takes note of its content, and encourages the Director-General to maintain UNESCO's leadership and coordination within the United Nations system, on matters that fall within its terms of reference.

G. Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)²

9. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part 1 (G),
2. Takes note of the information provided therein,
3. Invites the Director-General to report thereon at the 202nd session of the Executive Board.

I. Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity

10. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

² After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) recommended by a vote taken by roll-call that the Executive Board adopt the draft decision contained in document 201 EX/5 Part I (G), with 17 votes in favour, 5 votes against and 30 abstentions:

The following States having voted for the adoption: Albania, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The following States having voted against: China, India, Nicaragua, South Africa, Russian Federation.

Abstentions: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Viet Nam.

Absent: Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mauritius, Morocco, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Turkmenistan.

1. Recalling 196 EX/Decision 31 by which the Executive Board requested the Director-General to report on the actions taken by UNESCO on the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity,
2. Also recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/162 of 10 February 2016 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity and Human Rights Council resolution 33/2 of 29 September 2016 on the safety of journalists, which welcome the important work of UNESCO in this area,
3. Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNESCO's role, in coordination with other United Nations agencies, in advancing the Sustainable Development Goal 16.10 on public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms, and contributing to the monitoring, *inter alia*, through UNESCO's report *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development*,
4. Welcoming also the initiatives and commitments by news organizations during the conference *News organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals* organized by UNESCO in Paris 5 February 2016, as well as UNESCO's and Member States' implementation of the follow-up options emerging from the conference,
5. Further welcoming the establishment of an informal Group of Friends of the Safety of Journalists at UNESCO, open to all Member States committed to the strengthening and promotion of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity,
6. Acknowledging the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work, including sexual and gender-based discrimination and violence, intimidation and harassment, online and offline, and in this regard looking forward to the United Nations Secretary-General's report on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, which highlights the safety of women journalists, and to which UNESCO has contributed,
7. Having examined document 201 EX/5 Part I (I),
8. Commits to the safety of journalists and media workers, as well as those social media producers who generate a significant amount of public interest journalism;
9. Welcomes with appreciation the results achieved by UNESCO in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity;
10. Underlines the importance of engagement of all stakeholders for the successful implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and in this regard appeals to all stakeholders to redouble their efforts;
11. Notes with appreciation the steady increase in voluntary responses by Member States concerning the judicial investigations of killings of journalists, and strongly urges Member States to continue to actively provide this information to UNESCO as part of the Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and to develop effective monitoring mechanisms for this purpose;
12. Encourages Member States and all other stakeholders in media to continue cooperating with UNESCO on issues of freedom of expression, access to information and the promotion of professionalism through capacity building and exchange of good practice;

13. Also encourages Member States with the support of UNESCO to continue building capacity and setting up national safety mechanisms in order to prevent, protect against, and prosecute attacks on journalists and to combat impunity;
14. Invites Member States to provide input to, and engage in, the Multistakeholder Consultation on Strengthening the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which will be organized by UNESCO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva on 29 June 2017;
15. Requests the Director-General to present a progress report, containing results and impact of UNESCO's work on safety of journalists and proposals for how it can be strengthened, to the Executive Board at its 202nd session, taking into account:
 - (a) UNESCO's role as contributing agency to Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.1 of target 16.10;
 - (b) the outcome of the Multistakeholder Consultation on Strengthening the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity;
 - (c) the need for concrete measures to tackle the specific risks faced by women journalists online and offline;
 - (d) UNESCO's role in supporting capacity-building in Member States, including on an institutional level.

Part II. Evaluation issues (201 EX/5 Part II and Corr.)

- *Progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO*

11. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 189 EX/Decision 16, 190 EX/Decision 37, 191 EX/Decision 33, 37 C/Resolution 97 and 196 EX/Decision 5.III,
2. Having examined the Director-General's progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO, contained in document 201 EX/5 Part II,
3. Welcomes the efforts and progress made by both the National Commissions for UNESCO and the UNESCO Secretariat towards enhancing the Organization's cooperation with the National Commissions, and encourages them to submit their report in the context of the implementation of the Action Plan,
4. Invites Member States to continue to implement the Action Plan, notably by assuming their obligations and responsibilities to support their National Commissions as laid down in the UNESCO Constitution (Article VII) and in the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO,
5. Requests the Director-General to continue to implement the Action Plan, by taking necessary measures to improve the Secretariat cooperation with National

Commissions in liaison with the Permanent Delegations, and to report to the Executive Board on the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan in her statutory reports.

Item 6 UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples (201 EX/6)

12. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/6 and its Annex,
2. Bearing in mind the UNDRIP for indigenous peoples,
3. Expresses its gratitude to the Director-General for the efforts made to propose a UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples;
4. Notes the recent United Nations General Assembly proclamation of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages and welcomes the Director-General's decision to accept the invitation for UNESCO to serve as lead agency for the year, within existing resources;
5. Appreciates the presentation of the draft of the UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples;
6. Considers that this draft could serve as a basis for further consultations with Member States;
7. Requests the Director-General to organize the above-mentioned consultations to work out a revised draft to be presented to the Executive Board at its 202nd session;
8. Encourages Member States to make voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to support UNESCO's activities for indigenous peoples.

Item 7 Nominations of new UNESCO Global Geoparks (201 EX/7; 201 EX/7.INF)

13. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined documents 201 EX/7 and 201 EX/7.INF,
2. Recalling 38 C/Resolution 23 by which the General Conference approved the Statutes of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) as well as the Operational Guidelines of the UNESCO Global Geoparks,
3. Endorses the nominations of the UNESCO Global Geoparks decided upon by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council at its first statutory meeting, on 24 and 25 September 2016, held in Torquay, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Item 8 Comprehensive strategy for the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) (201 EX/8)

14. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling its decision 199 EX/Decision 7,
2. Having considered document 201 EX/8,
3. Thanks the government of Malaysia for hosting the 13th Ordinary Session of the MOST Intergovernmental Council, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 16 and 17 March 2017;
4. Welcomes the Action Plan to implement the MOST Strategy as submitted to the 13th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Council of the MOST;
5. Expresses its gratitude to the Russian Federation for the International Master Programme on Social Transformations elaborated by the Lomonosov Moscow State University on the initiative of its UNESCO Chair;
6. Encourages the Secretariat and the Member States to contribute to the further refinement of the Action Plan by launching new initiatives to implement the MOST Strategy and improving the connection between existing national activities and MOST;
7. Encourages all Member States that have not established a MOST National Committee to consider the possibility of doing so;
8. Further encourages Member States to consider pledging non-earmarked financial contributions towards the implementation of the Action Plan in order to permit the establishment by the Director-General of a MOST Special Account;
9. Encourages the Director-General to raise extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the Action Plan;
10. Requests the Director-General to submit at the 206th session a follow-up report on the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy of the MOST programme including the outcomes of the periodic review thereof by the Bureau of the MOST Intergovernmental Council.

Item 9 International collaboration on Open Educational Resources (OER) (201 EX/9)

15. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 199 EX/Decision 24,
2. Having examined document 201 EX/9, presenting a preliminary study on international collaboration on OER, which includes technical and legal aspects, and taking into account administrative and financial issues,

3. Expresses its appreciation to the national authorities of Slovenia for their generous support of UNESCO's OER work by organizing the 2nd World Open Educational Resources Congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 18-20 September 2017;
4. Decides to include this item on the provisional agenda of the 39th session of the General Conference;
5. Invites the Director-General to submit to the General Conference, at its 39th session, the findings of this study, together with the relevant observations and decisions of the Executive Board thereon on how international collaboration on OER can continue to progress, taking into account the outcomes of:
 - (a) OER Regional Consultations organized by the Commonwealth of Learning; and
 - (b) the 2nd World OER Congress;
6. Recommends, on this basis, that the General Conference, at its 39th session, considers the possibility of a Recommendation, taking into account budgetary and resource implications for the Secretariat, to reinforce international collaboration in the field of OER.

Item 13 Revised Medium-Term Strategy of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (201 EX/13)

16. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/13,
2. Takes note of the rationale and the work undertaken on the review of the UIS Medium-Term Strategy;
3. Endorses the revised UIS Medium-Term Strategy included in the annex of this document.

Item 15 Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)

(Draft 39 C/5 and Corr.; 201 EX/15.INF; 201 EX/15.INF.2; 201 EX/15.INF.3)

17. The Programme and External Relations Commission decided to refer discussion of this item to the joint meeting of the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) and the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA).

Item 19 Implementation of standard-setting instruments

Part IV: Preliminary Revision of the 1974 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (201 EX/19 Part IV)

18. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/19 Part IV,

2. Reaffirming the importance of promoting academic mobility by facilitating mutual recognition of qualifications in higher education,
3. Acknowledging the important role UNESCO plays in this field, particularly through its conventions and recommendation on the mutual recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education,
4. Conscious that significant changes have taken place in higher education in a more globalized world and that there is a need therefore for a new generation of recognition conventions to respond to new challenges;
5. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 39th session, adopt a resolution in which it:
 - (a) decides to convene, during the 2018-2019 biennium, an international conference of States (category I), with a view to examination and adoption of amendments to the 1974 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - (b) authorizes the Executive Board to take appropriate measures, if any, for the successful convening of this conference;
 - (c) calls for the necessary extrabudgetary funding.

Item 26 Proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2018-2019 with which UNESCO could be associated (201 EX/26; 201 EX/26.INF)

19. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

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, referencing as priority criteria for the selection of anniversaries their indisputable link to the Organization's ideals and missions in the fields of education, culture, natural sciences, social and human sciences and communication and the promotion of closer relations among peoples, tolerance and the ideals of peace, cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,
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) (with the support of Hungary and Switzerland)

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) (with the support of Austria and Luxembourg)
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 Suhrawardī, 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 (ENCReM in Spanish) (with the support of Argentina, Chile, El Salvador and Honduras)
23. Mexico 100th anniversary of the birth of Juan José Arreola, writer (1918 - 2001) (with the support of Argentina, Chile, El Salvador 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 Stanisław 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)
27. Romania 150th anniversary of the birth of Emil Racoviță, scientist (1868 - 1947) (with the support of Bulgaria and Poland)
28. Russian Federation 150th anniversary of the birth of Maxim Gorky, writer (1868 - 1936) (with the support of Belarus, Italy and Kazakhstan)
29. Russian Federation 200th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Sergeyevich Turgenev, writer (1818 - 1883) (with the support of Belarus, France and Kazakhstan)
30. Russian Federation 200th anniversary of the birth of Marius Petipa, dancer and choreographer (1818 - 1910) (with the support of Cuba, France and Japan)
31. Russian Federation 100th anniversary of the birth of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, writer (1918 - 2008) (with the support of Germany and Switzerland)
32. Slovakia 300th anniversary of the birth of Adam Frantisek Kollar, scholar (1718 - 1783) (with the support of Austria, Bulgaria and Hungary)

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 33. Spain | 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) |
| 34. Spain | 700th anniversary of the creation of the Archive of the Crown of Aragon (ACA) (1318) (with the support of Andorra and Italy) |
| 35. Tajikistan | 400th anniversary of the birth of Mirabid Saida Nasafi, poet (1618 - 1707) (with the support of Kazakhstan and Russian Federation) |
| 36. Thailand | 100th anniversary of the birth of Kamphol Vacharaphol, educator (1919 - 1996) (with the support of Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) |
| 37. Turkey | 950th anniversary of the writing of Yusuf Khass Hajib's KUTADGU BILIG (Wisdom of Royal Glory, 1069) (with the support of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan) |
| 38. Ukraine | 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) |
| 39. Ukraine | 100th anniversary of the establishment of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (1918) (with the support of Austria, Lithuania and Poland) |

Item 28 Draft Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) (201 EX/28)

20. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/28,
2. Acknowledges that UNESCO maintains formal cooperation relations with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), created by UNESCO at its 9th General Conference in 1956 (9 C/Res.4.53);
3. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) as contained in the Annex to document 201 EX/28;
4. Requests the Director-General to report on the activities carried out in the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding in her statutory reports on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference.

Item 30 Occupied Palestine³ (201 EX/30)

21. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/30,
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 additional 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-Khalil/Hebron and in Bethlehem,
3. Affirming that nothing in the current decision, which aims, *inter alia*, at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Palestine and the distinctive character of East Jerusalem, shall in any way affect the relevant Security Council and United Nations resolutions and decisions on the legal status of Palestine and Jerusalem, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),

30.I Jerusalem

4. Reaffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions,
5. Reminding that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the “basic law” on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,
6. Further recalling the 11 decisions of the Executive Board: 185 EX/Decision 14, 187 EX/Decision 11, 189 EX/Decision 8, 190 EX/Decision 13, 192 EX/Decision 11, 194 EX/Decision 5.D, 195 EX/Decision 9, 196 EX/Decision 26, 197 EX/Decision 32,

³ After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) recommended by a vote taken by roll-call that the Executive Board adopt the draft decision contained in document 201 EX/PX/DR.30.1, with 22 votes in favour, 10 votes against and 23 abstentions:

The following States having voted for the adoption: Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chad, China, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Viet Nam.

The following States having voted against: Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Paraguay, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstentions: Albania, Argentina, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, India, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda.

Absent: Nepal, Serbia, Turkmenistan.

199 EX/Dec.19.1, 200 EX/Decision 25 and the seven World Heritage Committee decisions: 34 COM/7A.20, 35 COM/7A.22, 36 COM/7A.23, 37 COM/7A.26, 38 COM/7A.4, 39 COM/7A.27, 40 COM/7A.13,

7. Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent excavations, tunneling, works and projects in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law and reiterates its request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
8. Also regrets the Israeli refusal to implement the UNESCO request to the Director-General to appoint a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, the above-mentioned representative;
9. Stresses again the urgent need to implement the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, and invites the Director-General and the World Heritage Centre, to exert all possible efforts, in line with their mandates and in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, decisions and resolutions, to ensure the prompt implementation of the mission and, in case of non-implementation, to propose possible effective measures to ensure its implementation;

30.II Reconstruction and development of Gaza

10. Deplores the military confrontations in and around the Gaza Strip and the civilian casualties caused, as well as the continuous negative impact in the fields of competence of UNESCO, the attacks on schools and other educational and cultural facilities, including breaches of the inviolability of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools;
11. Also deplores the continuous Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip, which harmfully affects the free and sustained movement of personnel, students and humanitarian relief items and requests Israel to immediately ease this closure;
12. 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, calls upon her to continue her active involvement in the reconstruction of Gaza's damaged educational and cultural components and reiterates, in this regard, its request to her to upgrade the UNESCO Antenna in Gaza and to organize, as soon as possible, an information meeting on the current situation in Gaza in the fields of competence of UNESCO and on the outcome of the projects conducted by UNESCO;

30.III The two Palestinian sites of *Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi/Tomb of the Patriarchs* in Al-Khalil/Hebron and the *Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosque/Rachel's Tomb* in Bethlehem

13. Reaffirms that the two concerned sites located in Al-Khalil/Hebron and in Bethlehem are an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and shares the conviction affirmed by the international community that the two sites are of religious significance for Judaism, Christianity and Islam;
14. Deplores the ongoing Israeli excavations, works, construction of private roads for settlers and of a Wall inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron which are illegal under international law and harmfully affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, and the subsequent denial of freedom of movement and freedom of access to places of

worship and asks Israel, the occupying Power, to end all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

15. Regrets the visual impact of the Wall on the site of Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosque/Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem as well as the strict ban on access of Palestinian Christian and Muslim worshippers to the site, and demands that the Israeli authorities restore the original character of the landscape around the site and to lift the ban on access to it;

30.IV

16. Decides to include these matters under an item entitled "Occupied Palestine" in the agenda at its 202nd session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.

Item 31 Implementation of 38 C/Resolution 72 and 200 EX/Decision 26 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the Occupied Arab territories⁴ (201 EX/31)

22. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

I. OCCUPIED PALESTINE

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 185 EX/Decision 36 and 38 C/Resolution 72 as well as Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with regard to the right to education, Articles 4, 50 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 additional Protocols and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), 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",
2. Having examined documents 201 EX/31 and 201 EX/30,
3. 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,

⁴ After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) recommended by a vote taken by roll-call that the Executive Board adopt the draft decision contained in document 201 EX/PX/DR.31.2, with 38 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 18 abstentions:

The following States having voted for the adoption: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chad, China, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Ukraine, Viet Nam.

The following State having voted against: United States of America.

Abstentions: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sri Lanka, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Absent: Turkmenistan.

4. Deplores the damaging impact of the military confrontations on the fields of competence of UNESCO in the Gaza Strip, particularly education and cultural institutions and calls for ending measures that prevent the reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of schools in the Gaza Strip;
5. Deeply concerned by the Israeli army violations against Palestinian universities and schools, demands that the Israeli authorities immediately halt actions that violate UNESCO principles and the provisions of the world declaration for education for all (1990) and reaffirms, in this regard, that schools, universities and cultural heritage sites enjoy special protection and should not be targeted;
6. Expresses its growing concern about the harmful impact of the Wall on the activities of educational and cultural institutions, and demands, in this regard, that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, including 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 and the Cremisan Monastery in the Bethlehem Governorate, which harm the social fabric of Palestinian society and prevent Palestinian school children and students from exercising fully their right to education;
7. Notes with deep concern the Israeli censorship of the Palestinian curricula of schools and universities in East Jerusalem, and urges the Israeli authorities to immediately halt this censorship;
8. 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 as well as for building of schools for Palestinian children such as the school of Tana, near Nablus and the two schools in Khan Al-Ahmar and in Abu Nuwar near Jerusalem, and appeals to them to continue assisting UNESCO in this endeavour;
9. Deeply regrets the destruction by the Israeli authorities of schools, including the school in Abu Nuwar and the school in Tana, and calls on the Israeli authorities to halt plans for further demolition, including of the school in Khan Al-Ahmar;
10. Thanks the Director-General for the results that have been obtained in favour of the protection, reconstruction, rehabilitation and restoration of the Palestinian archaeological sites and cultural heritage, invites her to reinforce her action in this regard and to strengthen UNESCO's assistance to the Palestinian educational and cultural institutions in order to address the needs for capacity building in UNESCO's fields of competence by, *inter alia*, expanding the financial assistance programme for Palestinian students and school children, and requests her to organize, as soon as possible, the ninth meeting of the Joint UNESCO-Palestine Committee;

II. OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

11. 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 202nd session of the Executive Board;

III.

- 12. Decides to include this item in the agenda of the Executive Board at its 202nd session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.

Item 32 The importance of sound in today's world: promoting best practices (201 EX/32 and Corr. (English, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese only); 201 EX/DG.INF)

23. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/32 and Corr.,
2. Convinced that the sound environment is so important that it shapes our personal and collective behaviour;
3. Noting that human beings and other living organisms are both dependent on and agents of a sound environment that makes increasing use of sound and audiovisual equipment at increasingly high and often continuous harmful noise levels, and that this matter has already been addressed at the international level by organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and World Health Organization (WHO), as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,
4. Also noting that in every part of the world, the densification of communities and the intensification of urbanization in relation to the increase in the noise level, make the soundscape a matter of concern for professionals and citizens who are actively transforming their environment and that of other organisms,
5. Further noting that the sound production technique called “dynamic range compression” has accustomed us to hearing voices and music without nuance,
6. Aware that in a context of widespread audiovisual and multimedia access, sound is an aspect that determines visual perception and perceived final quality,
7. Considering that musical expression, by voice and by musical instrument, favours listening to one's self and to others and helps develop and maintain cognitive performance at all ages of life,
8. Also considering that harmful noise of human origin generates stress with negative consequences on the ecosystem and on the immune system of humans and animals,
9. Noting that the sound environment, health, sound recording, reproduction and conservation technology, the relation between image and sound, and musical and sound expression are the five important sectors of activity affected by sound-related issues,
10. Recalling the Director-General's support for the Week of Sound Charter, promulgated in her presence at the opening event of the thirteenth Week of Sound in 2016,

11. Also noting that the different sectors of UNESCO, education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture and communication, are concerned by sound-related issues,
12. Expresses the hope, for these reasons, that UNESCO might work towards an understanding of sound-related issues at the international level, and encourages Member States to foster the mobilization of extrabudgetary contributions to UNESCO, to enable it, in association with the National Commissions and the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, to promote best practices in sound in all areas of life from early childhood;
13. Expresses its satisfaction at seeing the Director-General promote initiatives inspired in particular by the Week of Sound;
14. Requests the Director-General to include this item in the agenda of the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference;
15. Recommends that the General Conference adopt, at its 39th session, a resolution on the importance of sound in today's world, so as to promote best practices, in the spirit of the present decision.

Item 34 Plan of action to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation: Together for Haiti
(201 EX/34; 201 EX/DG.INF)

24. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/34,
2. Underlining the special status accorded to small island developing States (SIDS) by UNESCO as a priority group in its Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4) and the fact that Haiti belongs to the category of least developed countries (LDCs), a priority group for UNESCO,
3. Recalling paragraphs 16, 18 and 19 of the overarching objectives in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4) as well as paragraph 97 concerning UNESCO's response to post-conflict and post-disaster situations (PCPD) under that Strategy,
4. Considering the submission of the document assessing the damage, loss and needs "post-Hurricane Matthew" in which the Republic of Haiti formulates its sectoral strategies and priority needs in order to move rapidly towards long-term recovery,
5. Thanks the Director-General for her efforts in leading and facilitating UNESCO's contribution to the reconstruction and building of capacities in the management of disaster-related and climate-related risks through teaching, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), implementation of the methodology "Visual Inspection for defining the Safety Upgrading Strategies" (VISUS) to assess the vulnerabilities of school infrastructures, and in the framework of biosphere reserves under the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB);
6. Expresses its appreciation for the voluntary contributions of Chile, Spain and the European Union towards the financing of UNESCO's action in favour of the Haitian people;

7. Invites the Director-General to continue building capacity through a plan of action “Together for Haiti” for projects as identified by the Government of Haiti:
 - (a) action on damaged school infrastructure from a post-disaster perspective;
 - (b) technical and vocational education and training;
 - (c) reducing the vulnerability of lands and peoples by protecting the environment and restoring fragile ecosystems affected by Hurricane Matthew, in particular in biosphere reserves;
8. Requests the Director-General to support efforts for the plan of action “Together for Haiti” and its follow-up and to mobilize partners and extrabudgetary resources for the effective implementation of activities;
9. Also invites the Director-General to report to it at its 204th session on the implementation of this decision.

Item 35 Combating violence and bullying in schools: UNESCO’s action
(201 EX/35; 201 EX/DG.INF)

25. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989),
2. Recalling UNESCO conventions and recommendations in the field of education, namely the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education and the 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
3. Recalling that in 2015 it adopted 196 EX/Decision 30 “Learning without fear: preventing and combating school-related gender-based violence”,
4. Bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by which Member States established the goal of ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children,
5. Recalling the data and recommendations contained in the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General “Protecting children from bullying” (A/71/213), submitted in response to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 69/158, and presented to it at its 71st session in 2016,
6. Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/176, which requests the Secretary-General to draw up a second report on the implementation of that resolution, to be presented to the General Assembly at its 73rd session,
7. Noting resolution 25/10 adopted by the Human Rights Council entitled “Ending violence against children: a global call to make the invisible visible”,
8. Noting that violence in schools may take the form of physical, psychological and sexual violence and that bullying is a specific and very widespread form of school violence, and its perpetrators and victims include students, teachers and other school staff,

9. Expressing concern about the global scale of violence and bullying in schools and the negative impact such violence and bullying can have on the academic performance, as well as the physical and mental health and emotional well-being of students,
10. Emphasizing that violence and bullying in schools can create a climate of anxiety, fear and insecurity that is incompatible with learning, and has harmful repercussions on the school environment as a whole,
11. Also emphasizing the importance of a respectful and inclusive school environment,
12. Raising awareness of new types of bullying in schools, including through new communication technologies, in particular cyberbullying by means of different social media, blogs, emails and mobile telephones,
13. Recognizing the importance of involving parents and parent-teacher organizations in combating violence and bullying in schools,
14. Drawing the attention of Member States to the often serious and detrimental consequences and impact of violence and bullying in schools that may lead to dropping out of school, desocialization, somatization and self-destructive and even suicidal behaviour,
15. Noting with concern that, according to UNESCO's January 2017 Global Status Report on School Violence and Bullying, it is estimated that 246 million children and adolescents experience school violence and bullying in some form every year,
16. Also emphasizing that to promote a culture of peace a school environment of respect and inclusion and global citizenship education are essential tools in preventing and combating school violence and bullying,
17. Recalling the release by UNESCO on 17 January 2017 of a report entitled "Global Status Report on School Violence and Bullying" and the production by UNESCO in 2016 of "Global Guidance on Addressing School-Related Gender-Based Violence",
18. Taking note of the organization by UNESCO of a number of international meetings concerning school violence and bullying, including in particular the International Symposium on School Violence and Bullying: From Evidence to Action, held in Seoul (Republic of Korea) from 17 to 19 January 2017, in conjunction with the Institute of School Violence Prevention at Ewha Womans University of Seoul (Republic of Korea),
19. Further welcomes the establishment by UNESCO of a platform to collect data regarding school violence and bullying, which will include the following elements: (a) a dedicated website page; (b) a biennial world report; and (c) a space for exchange to improve data-gathering tools;
20. Condemns school violence and bullying;
21. Encourages UNESCO to support Member States, upon their request and within the framework of the established platform, in combating school violence and bullying and promoting the 2030 Agenda, including by pursuing partnerships with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and other key actors in the field;
22. Invites UNESCO to carry out other actions, as appropriate and in accordance with the resources made available to the Organization, to support Member States upon their

request, to take steps to prevent and combat school violence and bullying at the national level, which may include the following elements:

- (a) Making recommendations to improve the legislative and regulatory framework at the national level;
 - (b) Introducing intersectoral strategies that promote the participation of the entire education community, and in particular children;
 - (c) Encouraging schools to put students at the centre of all activities, so that their participation helps to effectively prevent the phenomenon of violence and bullying;
 - (d) Strengthening the capacity and training of teachers and other education staff so as to prevent and respond to cases of school violence and bullying;
 - (e) Introducing effective support systems as well as mechanisms to report cases of school violence and bullying;
 - (f) Improving the collection of data and evidence of effective practices;
 - (g) Identifying causes/roots of violence and bullying in schools and focusing on activities for eliminating them;
23. Invites UNESCO, on the one hand, to encourage partnerships and exchanges of experience between Member States, so as to contribute to the implementation of effective approaches to preventing and combating school violence and bullying and, on the other hand, to promote the consistency and coordination of its actions with other United Nations agencies;
24. Encourages the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources in support of relevant activities;
25. Requests the Director-General to keep Member States informed, at its 205th session, of the efforts made by UNESCO to support them in preventing and combating school violence and bullying.

Item 36 Twenty-fifth anniversary of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme: progress and prospects (201 EX/36; 201 EX/DG.INF)

26. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

- 1. Having examined document 201 EX/36,
- 2. Recalling the strategic approach to the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, set out in document 176 EX/10,
- 3. Looking forward to the revised Guidelines of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme,
- 4. Taking into account the importance of the effective participation of UNESCO in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

5. Noting with satisfaction the effectiveness of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme over the 25-year period of its existence and the transformation of the UNESCO Chairs into centres of excellence,
6. Welcoming the further strengthening and development of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme,
7. Expresses its gratitude to the Director-General and Secretariat of UNESCO for the attention paid to the development of the UNITWIN network in UNESCO's Member States;
8. Underscores the usefulness of actively involving UNESCO Chair experts in research, analytical surveys, the design of international events and preparation of documents on the priority orientations of UNESCO's activity in close cooperation with the Organization's Secretariat and National Commissions and the role that National Commissions play in the process of establishing and monitoring UNESCO Chairs;
9. Welcomes the strengthening of cooperation between UNESCO Chairs and the education-related category 1 institutes, regardless of region: UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, UNESCO International Bureau of Education, UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development;
10. Encourages category 1 institutes and category 2 institutes and centres, field offices, National Commissions and the Secretariat, within the framework of their competences, to cooperate with and provide assistance to UNESCO Chairs in seeking partners through the UNITWIN network so as to develop triangular North-South-South cooperation;
11. Recommends strengthening interaction between UNESCO's education networks: UNITWIN, UNESCO Associated Schools and UNEVOC centres by means of developing joint flagship projects;
12. Requests the Director-General to increase the attention paid by UNESCO's programme sectors to coordinating and supporting the activities of Chairs so as to achieve the tasks associated with attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and to submit to the General Conference at its 39th session a report on the activity of the UNITWIN network in connection with its 25th anniversary.

Item 37 World Humanities Conference: Challenges and Responsibilities for a Planet in Transition (201 EX/37 and Corr.; 201 EX/DG.INF)

27. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 201 EX/37 and Corr.,
2. Affirming the importance of discussing the specific role of the humanities, in dialogue with the social sciences and the natural sciences, in a twenty-first century characterized by cultural diversity, the failure of different forms of one-track thinking,

and the need to reintroduce the medium- and long-term dimension into everyday reasoning,

3. Recalling that the humanities have the historic task of combating xenophobia, intolerance and fundamentalism by enriching the understanding of the increasing complexity of our world,
4. Recognizing the necessity to promote spaces for intellectual and political exchanges on the role of the humanities in a world in transition in order to promote the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity,
5. Welcoming the initiative of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, which spearheaded the World Humanities Conference, and its efforts to co-organize the Conference along with UNESCO,
6. Referring to the comprehensive strategy for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, endorsed in 199 EX/Decision 7, whose thematic priorities are reflected in the major themes of the World Humanities Conference,
7. Taking note of the Action Plan to implement the comprehensive strategy for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, as presented in document 201 EX/8, and in particular the role of the humanities therein,
8. Also taking note of the works of the World Humanities Forum, which has been co-organized by the Republic of Korea and UNESCO since 2011,
9. Appreciating the commitment of Mali, the Republic of Korea, Brazil, China, Lebanon, Jamaica and Portugal to host regional preparatory meetings,
10. Expressing thanks also to the Kingdom of Belgium, and in particular to the University, City and Province of Liège, for hosting the World Humanities Conference and for the financial and institutional efforts made in connection with it,
11. Encourages Member States to offer their financial support to the organization of the World Humanities Conference, in the form of contributions to the Foundation for the World Humanities Conference or assistance to the travel and accommodation of their nationals participating in the Conference;
12. Requests the Director-General to take all measures deemed necessary to ensure the visibility and impact of the World Humanities Conference, in particular through the mobilization of UNESCO's various means of communication;
13. Also requests the Director-General to include in the agenda of the 39th session of the General Conference an item relating to the outcome of the World Humanities Conference;
14. Invites the Intergovernmental Council of the MOST Programme to take into account in the forthcoming revision of the Action Plan to implement the comprehensive strategy for the MOST Programme the outcome of the World Humanities Conference and the corresponding resolutions adopted by the General Conference at its 39th session, in order to ensure the contribution of the humanities to the understanding and management of social transformations.

Item 38 Importance of the Multilateral Scientific Cooperation and the Leading Role of the International Basic Sciences Programme of UNESCO and its Promotion
(201 EX/38 Rev.; 201 EX/DG.INF)

28. After considering this item, the Programme and External Relations Commission recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined 201 EX/38 Rev.,
2. Recognizing the importance of the basic sciences which have led *inter alia* to advances in the research and discovery of new elements of the Periodic Table, sustainable development and for the benefit of humankind,
3. Recalling that in 2019 the world scientific community will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table of chemical elements as a very basis of modern chemistry,
4. Taking note of the International Colloquium, held in March 2017 in the Russian Federation, dedicated to the naming of the three superheavy elements of the Periodic Table with numbers 115, 117 and 118 and the ceremony to commemorate the naming of the new element Nihonium with number 113, held in March 2017 in Japan,
5. Expressing its appreciation to the contribution of the international scientific community to completing the 7th row of the Periodic Table by discovering new elements, knowledge which is now available for the use and study of scientists of the world,
6. Welcoming international multilateral and interdisciplinary scientific cooperation as an important tool nowadays for major advances in most spheres of knowledge,
7. Stressing the important role of international expert organizations, such as International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), and the International Basic Sciences Programme of UNESCO, in promoting international multilateral scientific cooperation,
8. Stressing the UNESCO's specific mandate to advance and promote science in the interests of peace, sustainable development and human security and well-being, in close collaboration with its Member States and a wide variety of partners,
9. Encourages UNESCO, specifically within its International Basic Sciences Programme, to contribute to the worldwide recognition of the significance of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements for science, technology and sustainable development;
10. Invites the Director-General to support all efforts leading to the reinforcement of the International Basic Sciences Programme of UNESCO;
11. Requests the Director-General to present to the Executive Board at its 202nd session a plan of UNESCO's participation in international celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements in 2019;
12. Encourages Member States to foster the mobilization of extrabudgetary contributions to UNESCO in support of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements in 2019.