



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Two hundred and sixth session

206 EX/47.I

PARIS, 15 April 2019
Original: English

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

PART I



Job: 201905345

1. The Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) held six (6) meetings; from Wednesday 10 April 2019 in the morning to Thursday 11 April 2019 in the night with Ms Samira Al Moosa (Oman) as Chairperson and Mr Ali Zainal (Qatar), as Temporary Chairperson, to examine the items listed below which had been referred to it by the Executive Board at its plenary meeting on 8 April 2019.

Item Title and documents

- 4 Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference**
- 4.I Programme implementation report (PIR)**
(206 EX/4.I and Add. and Corr.; 206 EX/PG/1.INF.3 and Corr.)
- 5 Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions**
- 5.I Programme issues**
- A. *International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH)* (206 EX/5.I.A)
- B. *Safety of journalists and the issue of impunity* (206 EX/5.I.B)
- C. *Plan of action to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation: "Together for Haiti"* (206 EX/5.I.C and Corr.)
- D. *Special post-conflict overall support programme for Côte d'Ivoire* (206 EX/5.I.D)
- E. *Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO* (206 EX/5.I.E)
- 5.II Management issues**
- E. *Reform of the United Nations system* (206 EX/5.II.E)
- 6 SDG 4 – Education 2030**
- 6.I Global/regional coordination and support** (206 EX/6.I)
- 6.II Education for sustainable development (ESD) beyond 2019** (206 EX/6.II)
- 6.III The future of education report** (206 EX/6.III; 206 EX/PG/1.INF.3 and Corr.)
- 7 Nominations of new UNESCO Global Geoparks** (206 EX/7 and 206 EX/7.INF)
- 8 Adoption of revised Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)** (206 EX/8)
- 9 Preliminary study of the technical, financial and legal aspects of the desirability of a UNESCO recommendation on open science** (206 EX/9)
- 10 Action plan for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme** (206 EX/10)
- 11 Mid-term review of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021** (206 EX/11)
- 12 Memory of the World Programme** (206 EX/12)
- 13 Mid-term evaluation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan** (206 EX/13)
- 32 Occupied Palestine** (206 EX/32 and Corr.)
- 33 Implementation of 39 C/Resolution 55 and 205 EX/Dec.29 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories** (206 EX/33 and Corr.)

Item 4 Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

4.I Programme implementation report (PIR)
(206 EX/4.I and Add. and Corr.; 206 EX/PG/1.INF.3 and Corr.)

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,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/4.I and Add. and Corr.,
3. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for the quality of information and evidence presented therein;
4. Notes with satisfaction the progress made towards the achievement of outputs,
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 209th session a programme implementation report (PIR) as well as the strategic results report (SRR) 2020, in accordance with 38 C/Resolution 99, and ensure that both reports give adequate visibility to the intersectoral activities of the Organization.

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

5.I Programme issues

A. International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) (206 EX/5.I.A)

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 201 EX/Decision 33, 202 EX/Decision 5.I.I, 204 EX/Decision 5.I.A and 205 EX/Decision 5.I.C,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/5.I.A and its Annex,
3. Takes note of the final Bylaws of the International Alliance of the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) as approved by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations on 5 October 2018, including the role of UNESCO as a non-voting member of the Foundation Board of ALIPH;
4. Requests the Director-General to provide, within the framework of future cooperation projects between UNESCO and the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), special support for the conventions aimed at protecting and preserving the cultural heritage;

5. Also requests the Director-General to report on UNESCO's cooperation with the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) in the statutory reports (EX/4) on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference.

B. Safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (206 EX/5.I.B)

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 202 EX/Decision 5.I.K and 39 C/Resolution 39,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/5.I.B,
3. Welcoming the progress presented in the report (206 EX/5.I.B), including on the safety of women journalists, and acknowledging the importance of voluntary implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
4. Noting with appreciation the increase and upscaling of United Nations interagency coordination in the field of safety of journalists, as well as of cooperation with relevant regional bodies, Groups of Friends, civil society, the media, academia and other stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity,
5. Deplores the sustained frequency of acts of violence, online and offline, in all situations, including armed conflicts, against journalists, media workers and social media producers who generate a significant amount of journalism;
6. Expresses deep concern at the high rate of impunity for killings, appreciates the efforts of the Member States that have provided information to the Director-General on the status of the judicial investigations into these killings and strongly urges Member States to provide, or continue to provide on a voluntary basis information on judicial investigations into these killings in response to the Director-General's requests, and to develop effective safety mechanisms for this purpose;
7. Encourages Member States to continue to ensure the voluntary implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity at the national level, *inter alia* through the development of national information, prevention, protection and prosecution systems, as well as reporting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 16.10.1 including, where relevant, at the upcoming review during the High-level Political Forum in July 2019;
8. Invites the Director-General to continue strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Plan on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity within the United Nations system, and coordinating with all relevant national, regional and international stakeholders;
9. Also invites the Director-General to prioritize activities addressing the specific threats to the safety of women journalists, both online and offline, as well as new and emerging threats to the safety of journalists;

10. Requests the Director-General to present a report to it at its 211th session on the continued implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

C. Plan of action to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation: "Together for Haiti"
(206 EX/5.I.C and Corr.)

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 204 EX/Decision 5.I.E,
2. Having examined documents 206 EX/5.I.C and Corr.,
3. Takes note of the results achieved in the implementation of programmes in UNESCO's fields of competence, in particular through activities for the restoration of education systems and capacity development in the post-disaster context;
4. Requests the Director-General to continue her efforts in favour of the plan of action to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation "Together for Haiti", and invites Member States to support it, including through the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources;
5. Invites the Director-General to report to it in the statutory reports (EX/4 document) on the implementation of the plan of action to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation "Together for Haiti".

D. Special post-conflict overall support programme for Côte d'Ivoire
(206 EX/5.I.D)

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 202 EX/Decision 5.I.M,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/5.I.D,
3. Takes note of its content.

E. Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO (206 EX/5.I.E)

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. Having examined document 206 EX/5.I.E, which provides an 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 the Organization's terms of reference.

5.II Management issues

E. Reform of the United Nations system (206 EX/5.II.E)

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 206 EX/5.II.E,
2. Takes note and encourages the Director-General for her efforts on the active inclusion of UNESCO in United Nations reform consultations, which will inform the Organization's own strategic transformation process;
3. Takes note of the active participation of UNESCO in the United Nations development system reform and encourages the Director-General to continue these efforts, in consultations with Member States to maintain UNESCO as a strong and credible organization delivering *inter alia* on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its areas of expertise and contributing to a more integrated and fit-for-purpose United Nations development system;
4. Requests the Director-General to report to it at its 207th session on UNESCO action in this regard.

Item 6 SDG 4 – Education 2030

6.I Global/regional coordination and support (206 EX/6.I)

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. Recalling 200 EX/Decision 7, 202 EX/Decision 6, 39 C/Resolution 10 and 205 EX/Decision 6.I,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/6.I,
3. Expresses its gratitude to Belgium for hosting the Global Education Meeting in December 2018 and commends the Brussels Declaration and its call for strengthened collective action on SDG 4 within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as the key message for the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the United Nations General Assembly;
4. Commends UNESCO's lead in the coordination of and support for SDG 4 – Education 2030;
5. Welcomes the convening of regional meetings on SDG 4 – Education 2030 as platforms for peer learning, policy dialogue, greater synergy and harmonization of efforts in advocacy, implementation as well as in the review, monitoring and reporting of progress towards SDG 4;

6. Welcomes the strong cooperation established through the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee as well as global and regional meetings to ensure an inclusive and comprehensive approach as well as the development of close partnerships with relevant actors and stakeholders;
7. Being aware of the need to make better progress to reach the SDG 4 targets, including the need for improved and coordinated data collection through the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, urges Member States to continue to support UNESCO's activities in the implementation of SDG 4 – Education 2030, including through extrabudgetary resources;
8. Stresses the need for UNESCO, in its mandated role to lead and coordinate the SDG 4 – Education 2030 Agenda, to follow up the outcomes of the regional meetings, notably the first Pan-African High-Level Conference on Education (April 2018) in line with Global Priority Africa;
9. Requests the Director-General to report to the General Conference at its 40th session on UNESCO's coordination of and support for SDG 4 – Education 2030 and to include in this report a brief overview of the implementation status of each of its targets, UNESCO's contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019 as well as preparations on the next Global Education Meeting to be held prior to the next High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) with the focus on SDG 4;
10. Further requests the Director-General to report to it at its 209th session on UNESCO's global, intersectoral and regional coordination of and support for SDG 4 – Education 2030, and notably, the first Pan-African High-Level Conference on Education (April 2018).

6.II Education for sustainable development (ESD) beyond 2019 (206 EX/6.II)

10. 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 206 EX/6.II,
2. Recalling 204 EX/Decision 28,
3. Reaffirms the importance of education for sustainable development (ESD) as a key enabler of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and notes with appreciation the work undertaken by UNESCO through the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (2015-2019);
4. Endorses the draft framework for the implementation of Education for Sustainable Development beyond 2019 contained in the annex to document 206 EX/6.II, entitled Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030);
5. Invites the Secretariat to produce a strategic one-pager based on the draft framework, outlining: (a) Mission and vision; (b) Target groups; (c) Priority areas; (d) Strategic objectives; (e) Support; (f) Communication and advocacy;
6. Requests the Director-General to:
 - (a) submit the ESD for 2030 draft framework with the strategic one-pager to the 40th session of the General Conference for its approval, and to the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly for its acknowledgement;

(b) mobilize all UNESCO programme sectors and networks and collaborate with relevant United Nations agencies and partners to ensure the full implementation of ESD for 2030;

7. Invites Member States to support the acknowledgement of ESD for 2030 at the United Nations General Assembly and to support its implementation through extrabudgetary funding.

6.III The future of education report (206 EX/6.III; 206 EX/PG/1.INF.3 and Corr.)

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 Article 1, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Constitution of UNESCO,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/6.III,
3. Welcomes the Director-General's efforts to strengthen UNESCO's intellectual leadership in the global debate on the future of education as well as its research and foresight function;
4. Acknowledges the need to rethink education and the organization of learning in the current context of transformation, complexity, challenges and uncertainty, and underscores the importance of humanities and skill development in a context increasingly dominated by technology and data
5. Further acknowledges the importance of equipping young persons with relevant skills and competencies that will allow them to work and to live in dignity in sustainable and peaceful societies;
6. Promotes the contribution of the steering committee of SDG 4 and the regional committees in the design of the report as well as the broadest and most inclusive participation of local communities in the identification of priorities;
7. Requests the Director-General to encourage the cooperation within the network of national coordinators on sustainable development goals to mobilize efforts at the national and international levels to develop the global report;
8. Expresses its appreciation for the Director-General's initiative to develop an evidence- and experienced-based global report on the future of education and learning;
9. Invites the Director-General to hold consultations with Member States to discuss the project the "Future of Education" prepared by the Secretariat of UNESCO as well as to provide for regular consultations of this nature throughout the preparation of this report;
10. Urges Member States to provide extrabudgetary support for the development of the global report on the future of education;
11. Requests the Director-General to report to it at its 209th session on the progress made towards the development of the global report on the future of education.

Item 7 Nominations of new UNESCO Global Geoparks (206 EX/7; 206 EX/7.INF)

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. Recalling 38 C/Resolution 23,
2. Having examined documents 206 EX/7 and 206 EX/7.INF,
3. Welcomes the important contribution of UNESCO Global Geoparks to the Organization's work with regard to the conservation and protection of the geological heritage;
4. Endorses the nominations of the UNESCO Global Geoparks decided upon by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council at its third statutory meeting, held in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, on 8 and 9 September 2018;
5. Calls upon the members of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and the UNESCO Secretariat to foster cooperation and capacity building and sharing of good practices in order to support the Member States that aspire to establish Global Geoparks, especially in under-represented regions;
6. Requests the Director-General to strengthen existing information mechanisms in order to raise UNESCO Member States' awareness of the benefits of Global Geoparks as well as the application procedures.

Item 8 Adoption of revised Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) (206 EX/8)

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. Recalling 39 C/Resolution 87,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/8,
3. Stressing the fact that water has taken a prominent role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as shown by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation that aims to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all", and water-related targets of other SDGs,
4. Underscoring UNESCO's expertise in the implementation and promotion of water resources management, water education policies and best practices, supported by its global network, which includes water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO, UNESCO Chairs and the University Twinning and Networking Programme (UNITWIN),
5. Emphasizing that the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) is the only intergovernmental programme of the United Nations system entirely devoted to water resources management, and to research, education and capacity building in the field of water,

6. Recommends to the General Conference to change Article X.2 of the Statutes for the Secretariat to meet travel expenses of least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) to the IHP Council and Bureau;
7. Takes note with satisfaction of resolution XXIII-1 (Annex II of document 206 EX/8) by which the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP-IGC) adopted its revised Statutes taking into account the modifications made at its 23rd session and requested the IHP Secretariat to submit the revised Statutes to the Executive Board at its 206th session and subsequently to the General Conference at its 40th session for approval;
8. Expresses its appreciation for the successful efforts of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP-IGC) in revising its Statutes and aligning them, where appropriate, on the recommendations approved by the General Conference at its 39th session by means of 39 C/Resolution 87;
9. Recommends that the General Conference at its 40th session approve the amendments to the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP-IGC) set out in the Annex to document 206 EX/8.

Item 9 Preliminary study of the technical, financial and legal aspects of the desirability of a UNESCO recommendation on open science (206 EX/9)

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. Having examined document 206 EX/9,
2. Decides to include an item on the technical, financial and legal aspects of the desirability of a standard-setting instrument on Open Science in the provisional agenda of the 40th session of the General Conference;
3. Invites the Director-General to submit to the General Conference at its 40th session the preliminary study on the technical, financial and legal aspects of the desirability of a standard-setting instrument on Open Science contained in document 206 EX/9, together with the relevant observations and decisions of the Executive Board thereon, in particular, the need to overcome the digital, technological and knowledge divides existing between developing and developed countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States;
4. Also invites the Director-General to continue holding intergovernmental consultations *in praesentia* with a view for a possible elaboration of a recommendation on Open Science;
5. Requests the Director-General to present the consolidated roadmap to the 207th session of the Executive Board.

Item 10 Action plan for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme (206 EX/10)

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 7 and 201 EX/Decision 8,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/10,
3. Keeping in mind the ongoing United Nations reform and UNESCO's Strategic Transformation process,
4. Welcomes the ongoing process of considering and enhancing the Action Plan to implement the comprehensive strategy for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, under the aegis of its Intergovernmental Council;
5. Encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the refinement of the aforementioned Action Plan by launching new initiatives to implement the comprehensive strategy for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme and improving the connection between existing national activities and the MOST Programme, including, where appropriate, by establishing MOST National Committees;
6. Also encourages Member States to consider pledging unearmarked financial contributions towards the implementation of the aforementioned Action Plan in order to permit the establishment by the Director-General of a Special Account for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme;
7. Invites the Director-General to increase visibility of the MOST Programme in the course of the strategic transformation process and in particular MOST's capacity to bring the desired impact on the ground, by enhancing cooperation between programmes within UNESCO and other United Nations agencies in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Item 11 Mid-term review of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021 (206 EX/11)

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. Recalling 186 EX/Decision 6.VI, and 202 EX/Decision 5.II,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/11,
3. Welcomes the mid-term review of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021 and notes with interest its findings and recommendations;
4. Takes note of the management response to the recommendations, annexed to document 206 EX/11;
5. Invites the Director-General to implement the actions as indicated in the management response to the recommendations annexed to document 206 EX/11, in close alignment with the ongoing strategic transformation process at UNESCO.

Item 12 Memory of the World Programme (206 EX/12)

17. 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 202 EX/Decision 15, 204 EX/Decision 8 and 205 EX/Decision 8,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/12,
3. Takes note of the contents of the progress report on the implementation of the action plan for the comprehensive review of the Memory of the World Programme (MoW);
4. Extends the mandate of the open-ended working group on the Memory of the World Programme (MoW) to September 2019, and calls upon Member States to provide voluntary contributions to support the cost of holding meetings of the open-ended working group;
5. Invites the open-ended working group on the Memory of the World Programme (MoW) to expedite its proceedings and deliberations in order to conclude its work by September 2019 based on the principle of consensus after in-depth discussions and broad consultations;
6. Also calls upon Member States and the Secretariat to continue to participate fully in the Memory of the World Programme (MoW) review process;
7. Invites the Director-General to continue pursuing her efforts with a view to the preparation and submission to it at its 207th session of the final consolidated report on the comprehensive review of the Memory of the World Programme (MoW).

Item 13 Mid-term evaluation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan (206 EX/13)

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. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 1.V, 199 EX/Decision 5.I.A and 201 EX/Decision 5.I.A,
2. Having examined document 206 EX/13,
3. Welcomes the mid-term review of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan (2016-2021) and notes with interest its findings and recommendations;
4. Takes note of the management response to the recommendations, annexed to document 206 EX/13;
5. Calls on all Member States, partners and donors to increase their active participation and financial support for the implementation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan;
6. Invites the Director-General to initiate an active fundraising campaign by the Secretariat, *inter alia* in the framework of the Partners' Forum and the Structured Financing Dialogue;
7. Calls upon the Director-General to facilitate a SIDS members meeting to explore a more targeted and measured approach to activities in the SIDS Action Plan, aligned with available resources, and to provide inputs towards the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review;

8. Invites the Director-General to reinforce the mechanism for a fully intersectoral approach with special emphasis on the field network, and concomitant SIDS Secretariat resources, to enable the adequate follow-up to all recommendations annexed to document 206 EX/13, with a view to the strategic preparation of the post-2021 phase;
9. Requests the Director-General to present to it at its 209th session a report on the strategic actions taken and the progress achieved to ensure an effective follow-up on the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the SIDS Action Plan.

Item 32 Occupied Palestine (206 EX/32 and Corr.)

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 considered documents 206 EX/32 and Corr. as well as the annexes attached to this decision,
2. Recalling its previous decisions concerning “Occupied Palestine”,
3. Decides to include this item in the agenda of its 207th session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a follow-up report thereon.

ANNEX I



Executive Board
Two hundred and sixth session

206 EX/PX/DR.32.1
PARIS, 8 April 2019
Original: English

PROGRAMME AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (PX)

Item 32 OCCUPIED PALESTINE

DRAFT DECISION

Submitted by: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar and Sudan

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 206 EX/32,
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),
4. Taking note of the letters addressed to the Director-General by the Permanent Delegations of Palestine and Jordan to UNESCO in 2018 and 2019 concerning the sub-sections below,

I Jerusalem

5. Reaffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions,
6. Bearing in mind 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,
7. Recalling the fifteen 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.I.D, 195 EX/Decision 9, 196 EX/Decision 26, 197 EX/Decision 32, 199 EX/Dec.19.1, 200 EX/Decision 25, 201 EX/Decision 30, 202 EX/Decision 38 and 204 EX/Decision 25, 205 EX/Decision 28, and the nine 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, 41 COM/7A.36, and 42 COM/7A.21;
8. Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent excavations, tunnelling, 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 stop all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
9. 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;

II Reconstruction and development of Gaza

10. Deeply deplores the ongoing military developments around the Gaza Strip and their heavy toll of civilian casualties as well as their continuous negative impact in the fields of competence of UNESCO;
11. 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;

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 lift the ban on access to it;

IV

16. Decides to include these matters under an item entitled "Occupied Palestine" in the agenda at its 207th session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.

ANNEX II

**THE UNESCO REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION
TO THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM AND ITS WALLS**

The Executive Board

1. Stresses the urgent need to implement the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls;
2. Invites the Director-General and the World Heritage Centre to exert all 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 effective measures in the report to it at its 207th session;
3. Expresses its commitment to exert its utmost efforts to resolve this issue at its next session.

Item 33 Implementation of 39 C/Resolution 55 and 205 EX/Dec.29 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories (206 EX/33 and Corr.)

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 considered documents 206 EX/32 and Corr. and 206 EX/33 and Corr., and the annex to this decision,
2. Recalling its previous decisions concerning "Educational and Cultural Institutions in the Occupied Arab Territories",

3. Decides to include this item in the agenda of its 207th session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a follow-up report thereon.

ANNEX



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Two hundred and sixth session

206 EX/PX/DR.33.2
PARIS, 8 April 2019
Original: English

PROGRAMME AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (PX)

Item 33 IMPLEMENTATION OF 39 C/RESOLUTION 55 AND 205 EX/DECISION 29 CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

DRAFT DECISION

Submitted by: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar and Sudan

The Executive Board,

I OCCUPIED PALESTINE

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 24, 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 206 EX/32, 206 EX/33,
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. Deplores the damaging impact of the military confrontations on the fields of competence of UNESCO in the Gaza Strip, particularly education and cultural institutions ;
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 207th session of the Executive Board;

III

12. Decides to include this item in the agenda of its 207th session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.