



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Two hundred and tenth session

210 EX/37

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Item 37 of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 C/RESOLUTION 67 AND 209 EX/DECISION 25 CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

SUMMARY

The present document is submitted pursuant to 209 EX/Decision 25 and 40 C/Resolution 67.

It reports on assistance provided to the Palestinian Authority and to relevant Palestinian stakeholders, and on developments since the 209th session of the Executive Board.

There are no financial or administrative implications.

Decision required: paragraph 42.



Job: 202003286

INTRODUCTION

1. The reporting period is from June to September 2020.
2. Detailed information on UNESCO's activities in Gaza is provided in document 210 EX/36 "Occupied Palestine" and is therefore not reported on in the present document.
3. Following the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, when the Government closed schools and businesses, a spike in new cases hit Palestine at the end of June and is still ongoing at the time of writing this document. Consequently, the Government decided to proceed with local lockdowns, drastically limiting movements especially between governorates and imposing a total lockdown during weekends and national holidays in order to contain the spread of the virus; As of mid-August the Palestinian Authority (PA) had started to ease restrictions while applying strict health and safety measures.
4. In addition to the challenges of the rapid increase in infections in the West Bank and the urgent need to boost prevention efforts in Gaza between June and August 2020, the halt in PA coordination with the Israeli authorities, which started at the end of May as a response to statements of the Israeli Government regarding the possible annexation of part of the West Bank, has generated additional challenges in confronting the pandemic.
5. In response to the uptick in COVID-19 cases, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) decided to reconvene the work of the COVID-19 Task Force to integrate the development issues on top of the humanitarian ones in accordance with the UNCT COVID-19 Development System Response Plan¹ that was finalized in July covering a period of 12 to 18 months. UNESCO as an active member of the Task Force is leading the Education program area of the UNCT Response Plan and attends the weekly meeting aimed at closely monitoring the situation and providing support to the government as needed and in line with its national COVID-19 Response Plan.

EDUCATION

6. The protracted conflict and violent episodes of escalation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as the continuous closure of the Gaza Strip and physical access restrictions pose daily challenges and threats to the fulfilment of the right to education of children and youth.² The COVID-19 pandemic added another layer of challenge for Palestinians and led to the closure of all education facilities in March 2020 and to the introduction of alternative / distance learning, which has contributed to widening learning gaps for vulnerable students, especially those with disabilities.³ As of 20 September, all children across the West Bank have returned to schools. With the support of the Education Cluster, all schools in the Palestinian territories received cleaning and hygiene kits, copies of the safe schools and health protocols, and related training. Since the start of the school year, about 90 schools were either temporarily or fully closed for a period of one to 14 days, following confirmed COVID-19 cases among pupils or school staff. The current situation is posing additional challenges to ensuring face-to-face education.
7. In this context, UNESCO continues to support inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all Palestinians, through the provision of policy, technical advice and field interventions as well as through coordination as the technical advisor to the Education Sector Working Group, Local Aid Coordination Secretariat and Inclusive Quality Education thematic working group.
8. Within the Education Cluster, UNESCO is working with the Ministry of Education (MoE) on ensuring the safe reopening of schools. The MoE in the West Bank postponed the date for reopening schools to 6 September for grades from 1-4, 12th grade students returned to school on 9 August and

¹ [UNCT COVID-19 Development System Response Plan – United Nations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/indiaandpakistan/education/education-response-plan)

² <https://www.ochaopt.org/theme/education>

³ <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/covid-19-emergency-situation-report-18>

grades from 5-11 returned on 20 September. In the Gaza Strip, schools reopened on 8 August with approximately 595,000 students returning, however, they had to close again on 28 August due to the increase of COVID-19 cases. The MoE and UNRWA in the West Bank reopened schools, taking into consideration all protection measures necessary for the safe return of students and school staff, based on global and contextualized guidance and frameworks, notably the Framework for Reopening Schools developed by UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and UNFPA. ⁴

9. During the reporting period, UNESCO together with the MoE has been co-leading the Distance Learning Task Force in close cooperation with education partners from the Education Cluster in order to ensure alignment of the partners' response plans to COVID-19 with the interventions and needs of the MoE. Within this task force, UNESCO is currently providing support to upgrade the Ministry's official website to make it more interactive with the community and partners as well as upgrading its E-platform "Tammal" to provide an interactive platform for students. To support the MoE's Response Plan for COVID-19 and complement these efforts, UNESCO is supporting the development and operationalization of the online education platform and the establishment of an educational TV channel, including through the Global Education Coalition and the Capacity Development for Education Programme (CapED). Additional support has also been mobilized from the Education Cannot Wait First Emergency Response window through UNICEF. A needs and gap assessment for the establishment of the channel, identified as the top priority by the Ministry of Education, is currently being conducted. Furthermore, UNESCO provided teacher training to mainstream transversal and ICT competences and enhance teachers' capacities on the use of distance learning solutions to set up classes at home.

10. Supported by UNESCO in implementing the global Framework for Reopening Schools, the MoE launched its back to school plan for Palestine. The plan seeks to ensure children's safety, protection and emotional and psychological needs; to improve partnerships with all stakeholders in the education sector; to build the capacity of school staff to teach remotely; to ensure the implementation of the safe schools protocol; and to provide mental health and psychosocial support to students, including adequate support to children with disabilities. UNESCO and its partners in the Education Cluster are working with the MoE to identify the support needed to successfully implement this plan. ⁵

11. Within the context of the UNESCO Arab Regional Strategic Framework for Education in Emergencies (2018-2021), UNESCO continues providing technical guidance to the MoE on ensuring inclusive education, including through teacher training on inclusive education and child-centred teaching methods. This is mainly done within the Multi-Resilience Programme for the State of Palestine (MYRP) (2019-2021) funded by Education Cannot Wait, which aims at providing remedial education for children in hospitals, inclusive education training to teachers and staff in government schools, and assistive devices for children with disabilities. UNESCO together with the MoE and partners has developed a manual on the training of trainers on inclusive education, which will be used to train around 3,000 teachers in the most vulnerable schools in Palestine.

12. Within the EU-funded Youth for Employment in the Mediterranean Project (YEM) project, UNESCO, as part of its response to the COVID-19 crisis, held a webinar on 2 June 2020 to discuss trends in skills needs in the tourism sector as one of the most hit by the pandemic. UNESCO has developed data collection tools in the form of two surveys to be distributed to the supply and demand sides in order to analyse and inform its future interventions to support youth employment in this sector by identifying the gap between the skills of the graduates of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and the skills required by employers. In the area of higher education, UNESCO is currently supporting the Ministry of Higher Education in revising its sector strategy to integrate new developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the political situation.

⁴ [UNESCO and key education partners support the Ministry of Education on school reopening in Palestine](#)

⁵ [Reaching a Coordinated Response Plan The Education Sector Working Group Partners meet virtually to discuss the School Re-opening Plan](#)

CULTURE:

13. During the reporting period, information regarding cultural institutions in East Jerusalem is provided in document 210 EX/36 “Occupied Palestine” and is therefore not reported on in the present document.

14. The implementation of cultural activities, including physical rehabilitation projects, performances, exhibitions and cinema activities, continued to be significantly affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The second lockdown of public offices had an impact on several field work activities for built heritage while also affecting the collection of data and information on the culture sector in Palestine. However, overall, improved preparedness of both UNESCO Ramallah Office and its main partners, allowed for a smoother implementation of scheduled activities, despite the additional difficulties and constraints due to the pandemic and measures restricting movements. An overview of all ongoing activities in the field of culture and how they have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis is here below provided.

15. From the beginning of the pandemic, the UNESCO Ramallah Office took part in the discussions on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the culture sector and the required response, particularly in the framework of the broader UNCT Development Response Plan to the COVID-19. Some concrete initiatives are being implemented in coordination with relevant national stakeholders (Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, among others), such as the digitization of the Traveling Museum to give access to its objects online to all during the lockdown periods; the holding of four #ResiliArt debates focusing on youth, status of women, the production of online artistic forms and arts education in times of COVID-19 crisis; the production of four online videos of living heritage storytelling to be published on social media platforms in support of children’s education and entertainment as well as recreation within their families during lockdown. Beyond these activities, described in more details below, UNESCO is currently exploring the possibility to support the Ministry of Culture in a broader data collection exercise on the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on culture and creative industries to enhance the sharing of information and the dissemination of good practices in response to the crisis. Building on the situation analysis, UNESCO will help Palestine elaborate a full-fledged Covid-19 crisis response action plan.

16. UNESCO obtained the approval for the no-cost extension until 31 December 2020 of the project “Local development through the rehabilitation and revitalization of historic built environment in Palestine” funded by Sweden. The extension enabled the implementation of project activities and especially those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and laid the ground for the proper closure of the project by the end of 2020. Since the last reporting period, UNESCO completed the rehabilitation of two cultural heritage sites in the Old City of Jerusalem and the Old Town of Hebron. The rehabilitation of one other site in the Old City of Jerusalem is in progress. The rehabilitation activities generated around 2,000 working days as temporary job opportunities. Furthermore, UNESCO continued working on the following activities:

- The preparation of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) of Sebastia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA). Sebastia is a site listed on the Tentative List of Palestine and contains significant archaeological sites, landscape features as well as a living old town. The CMP will be a tool for managing the property in light of the challenges faced, such as urban development and poor maintenance. Currently, the CMP is in its final stage of drafting; a series of consultations with the relevant stakeholders is ongoing to ensure the full ownership of the CMP, knowing that this consultation process was hindered by the COVID-19 situation.
- Drafting a publication on the project experience, success stories and best practices, which will cover technical and community engagement aspects. Eight sites representing success stories as part of the project achievements have been selected and their stories will be narrated along with a brief on the policy support provided in the framework of the project.

- Four by-laws (on museums, excavations, inventory instructions, conservation and protection of built cultural heritage), which are being developed in support of the implementation of the Decree Law Concerning Tangible Cultural Heritage, are being submitted to the MoTA. The by-law on museums went through a round of consultation with civil society organizations (CSO) working in the museums field, and the final draft is being submitted to the Minister's cabinet for endorsement. UNESCO is still working with MoTA to finalize the consultations with the CSOs concerning the remaining three by-laws.

17. The preparation of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) for the World Heritage site of "Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town" funded through International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, is still in progress. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, and as per the request of the State Party, UNESCO extended the duration of the contract and date of final deliverable until February 2021 to adjust the implementing strategy and address the delays generated by the lockdown. UNESCO continues to provide technical support to MoTA in the elaboration of preparatory studies for the development of the CMP in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders.

18. Through the World Heritage Fund, UNESCO will also finance the preparation of a Nomination Dossier for Jericho cultural heritage site which is currently on the Tentative List of Palestine. While the International Assistance request was approved at the end of 2019, the contracts finalization was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNESCO resumed discussions with the MoTA on the terms of reference for the contract, an agreement has been recently reached and the corresponding contract is expected to be signed by end of August.

19. UNESCO, with its regular budget resources, is working with the MoTA to develop technical guidelines to manage the growing urban transformation in the World Heritage Property 'Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir', in line with the endorsed Management and Conservation Plan. Due to the COVID-19 situation, only preparatory virtual consultations with the relevant stakeholders took place to discuss the modality of implementation, which aims at providing revised detailed urban planning codes for selected spots of the site that respect the site's terrain and the landscape values.

20. UNESCO continues to supervise the rehabilitation works in the Riwaya Museum in Bethlehem, funded by Norway, to open a multimedia interactive exhibition on Palestinian culture. The project has been extended until December 2020, which will help UNESCO address the challenges of the project, especially those related to the renovation works, repair of damages caused by a fire accident that took place in 2018 in the site as well as integrate the Civil Defense safety requirements. The COVID-19 crisis delayed the implementation of the renovation and damage repair works especially in the period between 5 March and 31 May 2020. During this period UNESCO finalized architectural drawings to meet the safety requirement measures of the Civil Defense. As of early June 2020, UNESCO resumed renovation works and damage repair in the site.

21. In response to the COVID-19 crisis and as part of the UN Country Team COVID-19 Development System Response Plan, UNESCO, in close coordination with the MoTA, planned and started the preparation for digitizing a small size educational museum called the Traveling Museum established by the Ministry in 2019. The museum was designed to travel between schools in Palestine to introduce the history and culture of Palestine through a selected number of archaeological artifacts that date back from the Chalcolithic period until mid of the 20th century. However, due to the COVID-19 crisis and related home confinement, it was not able to travel. Therefore, as a response to overcome the situation, it will be digitized and exhibited using virtual platforms. A request for proposals is advertised and the implementation will start soon.

22. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to fully implement the activities originally foreseen, the project "Strengthening National Capacities for Safeguarding Palestinian Intangible Cultural Heritage" funded by the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism has been extended for six additional months until the end of 2020. This has already allowed UNESCO in the reporting period to continue supporting the Ministry of Culture (MoC) in the elaboration of an Intangible Cultural

Heritage Law. A policy paper necessary to accompany the draft law has been prepared and presented to the Ministry. UNESCO is also preparing to support consultations on the content of the new law with other line ministries, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, a second round of trainings on the preparation of intangible cultural heritage nomination files as well as on International Assistance requests planned for about 20 Palestinian professionals and officials were conducted from 16 to 18 August and on 25-26 August respectively, as part of efforts to build capacities in implementing the 2003 Convention.⁶

23. UNESCO Ramallah Office, in close coordination with the MoC, is producing videos on storytelling to support children's education and recreation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This activity will also contribute to the promotion of the Palestinian Hikaye, inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, through online videos of professional story-tellers that will be published on different social platforms.

24. Continued support was provided to the MoC through the project "Re|Shaping Cultural Policies for the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms and the Diversity of Cultural Expressions" funded by Sweden under the 2005 Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Since the last reporting period, the Quadrennial Periodic Report (QPR) was elaborated and a first draft was delivered in June 2020. A consultation meeting with the national team on the main findings and outcomes of the QPR was held virtually on 30 June 2020 in the presence of the Minister of Culture, Dr. Atef Abu Saif. The feedback and comments received from the participants were integrated in the QPR, and the updated version prepared by the MoC is being revised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice before its final submission. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for submitting the QPR has been postponed until 1 November 2020. Additionally, in the framework of the project, a number of Resiliart debates are being organized on youth, women, art education and future prospects for the independent cultural scene in times of crisis. The debates shall take place in the second half of August and in September.⁷

25. In coordination with the MoC and with the support of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), UNESCO in cooperation and co-financing with the Drosos Foundation, continued to conduct a comprehensive survey to measure and assess the contribution of the culture sector to the economic and social development in Palestine. Since the last reporting period, a mission was organized for the international expert, Mr. Alfonso Castellanos, to ensure smooth follow-up with the technical team on data assessment and the reporting process on the different indicators. Following the mission, UNESCO and the project partners decided to shift the implementation methodology from the Culture for Development Indicators Suits (CDIS) to the thematic Culture|2030 Indicators that were launched in November 2019 by UNESCO. The new methodology measures the transversal contribution of culture to four main dimensions including environment and resilience, prosperity and livelihood, knowledge and skills and inclusion and participation. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, delays were encountered, mainly in the data collection given the closure of all governmental bodies and civil society organizations. The first draft survey was submitted in early August, and the project is expected to be concluded in September 2020.

26. After the successful submission by the MoC of a project proposal to the UNESCO/EU Programme on Supporting new regulatory frameworks to strengthen the cultural and creative industries, UNESCO has, during the reporting period, continued discussing with the MoC the components of the project as well as the implementation strategy for the creation of a dedicated institution to support Palestine's film industry. UNESCO conducted several meetings with the MoC focal points, and the implementation is expected to be launched in September.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

27. During the reporting period, journalists in Palestine have continued to face a range of violations. Between June and August 2020, the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms

⁶ [Working together for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Palestine](#)

⁷ [ResiliArt online dialogue: Living heritage experiences in the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

(MADA) recorded 91 cases of violations of media freedom, including physical assault, seizure of equipment, detentions, and prohibition of coverage⁸. Among the incidents reported by MADA, three journalists covering a weekly protest in the village of Kafr Qaddum in the northern West Bank on 12 June were injured with rubber-coated metal bullets reportedly fired by Israeli security forces.

28. UNESCO, in collaboration with the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate continues to support the Safety Officers Network, which was established to connect safety focal points in newsrooms throughout Palestine.

The new national mechanism for monitoring the safety of journalists, created in 2019 as part of a UNESCO project, ensured coordination between relevant ministries, civil society organizations and the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate, to produce Palestine's report to the UNESCO Director-General on the Safety of Journalists, providing information on the judicial follow-up on the killings of journalists recorded by the Organization.

29. UNESCO continues to support Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists through the national celebration of World Press Freedom Day (WPFJ). This year, UNESCO supported the production of short videos related to the theme of WPFJ (Journalism Without Fear or Favor), in which 20 journalists were invited to share their personal experience on health threats faced in the COVID-19 context, as well as on other risks related to working in a high-risk environment. Attention was given to local radio stations, supporting the production of dedicated programmes tackling challenges in access to information, and fighting the spread of misinformation and rumours. Two daily morning radio programmes hosted representatives from UNESCO, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and the Media Development Centre, to share lessons learned on the impact of the COVID-19 context on media freedom.⁹

30. UNESCO produced communication materials in Arabic drawn from the UNESCO/Reporters without Borders' *Safety Guide for Journalists - a handbook for reporters in high-risk environments*.

31. UNESCO continued supporting the production of a Background Document on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Policy and Strategy in Palestine, which takes into account the local realities in the country and reflects the Government's response to COVID-19. It is based on the UNESCO MIL Policy Guidelines and model MIL Curriculum.

32. In collaboration with Al-Quds Open University, UNESCO launched in May 2020 the IPDC-funded project "Enhancing Media Research Field in Media Faculties" to set up a 3-year strategy for collaboration among media departments in local universities, including on research, curricula and/or e-learning responses taken in contexts such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The result of this project will be the establishment of a research center based at Al-Quds Open University media faculty by end of December 2020.

GENDER EQUALITY

33. UNESCO supports and promotes Gender Equality in Palestine through mainstreaming gender in all of its activities implemented in the field of culture, education as well as communication and information.

34. Within the Education Cannot Wait Project, UNESCO is currently developing a manual for training of trainers on inclusive education where the gender perspective has been taken into consideration. Within the same project, the training will be scaled up to reach 3000 teachers where the gender perspective is taken into consideration, the objective is to reach to 50% females and 50% males.

⁸ <https://www.madacenter.org/en/category/13/1/>

⁹ [UNESCO celebrates World Press Freedom Day 2020 in Palestine highlighting the global theme "Journalism without fear of favour" in the context of COVID-19](#)

35. UNESCO is currently developing key messages about stigma and discrimination of any kind to support the well-being of students, and preparing a calendar of events for public talks where violence against women in Palestine will be one of the topics to be addressed in order to emphasize and protect women's rights in all aspects of life.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

36. As part of the UN Thematic Group on Young People, UNESCO contributed to facilitate the creation of the Youth Task Force for the preparation of activities to celebrate the International Youth Day in Palestine (12 August 2020) under the theme "Youth Engagement for Global Action". The purpose of the Task Force is to encourage youth to take the lead in identifying ideas and topics for discussion and action, which shall be further addressed during the activities celebrating International Youth Day in Palestine. More than 30 young female and male participants met virtually on 29 July 2020 and identified topic related to fighting against social violence in the Palestinian society and the involvement of youth in decision-making especially in light of the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

37. UNESCO is celebrating the International Youth Day 2020 in Palestine by involving Palestinian youth to think and debate two topics in the fields of education and culture in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first is on Youth Visions on the Future of Education in Palestine and the second is on Youth, Arts and Creative industries, both happening in the second half of August 2020.

38. UNESCO Ramallah Office is also developing data collection tools to identify the skills needed to revive the tourism sector in Palestine. The analysis of those tools will inform policies and interventions that will increase youth employment opportunities as well as decrease the skill gap in order to meet the labour market needs.

39. Moreover, UNESCO is supporting the Ministry of Education in its distance learning where e-platforms are developed to ensure the engagement and communication with youth. In addition, an independent Educational TV channel will be established in order to ensure access to education for all students.

40. UNESCO is providing psychosocial support to students through sport, dance and story-telling activities. Also, UNESCO is developing messages through vines, games, and videos to promote healthy lifestyles and against discrimination for students with disabilities or those affected by the virus.

Occupied Syrian Golan

41. The project for Syrian students in the occupied Syrian Golan launched in 2009 and financed by Japanese Funds-In-Trust ended in March 2013. Without further extrabudgetary resources, this assistance could not be provided over the reporting period.

Proposed Decision

42. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having considered documents 210 EX/36 and 210 EX/37, as well as 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 211th session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a follow-up report thereon.

ANNEX I



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board
Two hundred and tenth session

210 EX/PX/DR.37.1
PARIS, 26 October 2020
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PROGRAMME AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (PX)

**Item 37 IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 C/RESOLUTION 67 AND 209 EX/DECISION 25 CONCERNING
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES**
DRAFT DECISION

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 210 EX/36 and 210 EX/37,
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 211th session of the Executive Board;

III

12. Decides to include this item in the agenda of its 211th session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.

ANNEX TO THE DOCUMENT

During the reporting period, the following correspondence was received by the Secretariat in relation to this item:

Date	From	Subject
14 September 2020	Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine	International Day to Protect Education from Attack