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Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

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## REPORT OF THE SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES COMMISSION

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Board, at its 186th session, recommended to the General Conference the nomination of Mr Ivan José Avila Beloso (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) for the office of Chairperson of the SHS Commission. At the second plenary meeting, on 25 October 2011, Mr Ivan José Avila Beloso was elected Chairperson of the SHS Commission.

2. At its first meeting, on 3 November 2011, the Commission approved the proposals submitted by the Nominations Committee for the offices of Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur. The following were elected by acclamation:

*Vice-Chairpersons:* Ms Linda Nielsen (Denmark)  
H.E. Mr Oleg Serebrian (Republic of Moldova)  
Mr Ali Hawat (Libya)  
Ms Françoise Medegan (Benin)

*Rapporteur:* Mr Tetsuhito Minami (Japan)

3. The Commission then adopted the timetable of work as published in document 36 C/COM.SHS/1 Prov.

4. The Commission devoted four meetings, between 3 November and 5 November 2011, to the examination of the items on its agenda.

5. The Commission adopted its report at its fifth meeting on 9 November 2011.

## DEBATE 1

### Item 5.7 Conclusions of the Youth Forum

### Item 4.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 – Part II.A: Major Programme III – Social and Human Sciences

6. During its first, second and third meetings, the Commission examined jointly item 5.7 – Conclusions of the Youth Forum and item 4.2. – Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, Part II.A: Major Programme III – Social and human sciences (36 C/5 and Add., 36 C/6, 36 C/8, 36 C/8 SHS, 36 C/47).

7. The representatives of 66 Member States, and of six Observers, of which one non-Member State, and five non-governmental organizations, took the floor.

### Draft resolutions proposed in document 36 C/5 and Addendum (Volume 1) and draft resolutions relating to the Draft Programme and Budget

8. The Commission recommended to the General Conference that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 03000 of document 36 C/5 Add. Volume 1 concerning Major Programme III – Social and Human Sciences, as amended by the following draft resolutions:

- 36 C/DR.23 (Iran (Islamic Republic of), and co-sponsored by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) for paragraph 1(b)(viii), as amended by document 36 C/8 SHS;
- 36 C/DR.38 (Dominican Republic, and co-sponsored by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) for paragraph 1(b)(vi).

9. The resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

1. *Authorizes* the Director-General:

- (a) to implement the plan of action for Major Programme III, structured around the following two biennial sectoral priorities and three main lines of action, with special emphasis on the needs of Africa, gender equality, youth and the most vulnerable segments of society, LDCs, SIDS, and countries in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- (b) to resort also in the implementation of the plan of action for Major Programme III to South-South and North-South-South cooperation as complementary modalities for delivery of the programme and to continue to develop partnerships with civil society, the private sector, organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations at all stages of programme development, in order to:

**Biennial sectoral priority 1: Promoting the ethics of science and technology**

- (i) support prospective studies and foresight with respect to new and emerging ethical challenges, in particular within the framework of an ethical approach to sustainable development;
- (ii) promote existing standard-setting instruments in the field of bioethics (Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, International Declaration on Human Genetic Data, Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights) and science ethics (1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers and 1999 Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge), and support Member States in their implementation, and explore the appropriateness of a standard-setting instrument in ethical principles pertaining to climate change;
- (iii) build capacities to support the development of bodies, institutions and policies at national level to enable developing countries to address the ethical challenges of science and technology, with particular reference:
  - to the role of national bioethics committees in enhancing the capacity of Member States at national level to identify and address bioethical challenges with due regard to appropriate human-rights and gender equality frameworks;
  - to the development of ethically grounded policies to respond to development challenges arising from converging technologies and global environmental change;
- (iv) ensure, through education and awareness-raising, that relevant audiences are familiarized both with key ethical challenges and with the resources available to address them, in particular through the maintenance and development of the online Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs) and the development and dissemination of appropriate pedagogical materials;
- (v) foster international, regional and national debate on ethical issues relating to the development of science and technology, especially bioethics, through the work of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge

and Technology (COMEST) the International Bioethics Commission (IBC) and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC);

**Biennial sectoral priority 2:** Supporting Member States in their responses to social transformations, notably to promote democracy and sustainable development for the consolidation of a culture of peace and non-violence

- (vi) address social transformations and other global challenges on the basis of human rights, particularly in the context of the social inclusion of vulnerable groups; responding to the social and human dimensions of global environmental change; supporting youth development and participation in society; and contribute to preventing and overcoming violence affecting youth and women;
- (vii) advance knowledge on human rights in the fields of competence of UNESCO, with particular emphasis on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and to freedom of expression for scientists and intellectuals, and contribute to human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations Development Group through training on the human rights approach to programming;
- (viii) foster the social inclusion of vulnerable populations through the MOST Programme and the implementation of UNESCO's Integrated Strategy to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance for the purpose of improvement of public environments in cities to promote social inclusion and to enhance opportunities for social innovation led by youth by:
  - reinforcing capacities to design inclusive and democratic policies including at the level of local authorities, working through the coalition of cities against racism and discrimination and similar city networks, with particular reference to the situation of migrants;
  - combating HIV/AIDS related discrimination;
  - promoting analysis and studies of the gender-related impact of social transformations in order to support the design of targeted policies;
- (ix) develop innovative actions for the fostering of a culture of peace through enhancement of democratic processes, reconciliation and non-violence, with particular emphasis on:
  - the prevention of violence against women and girls, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations and the development of programmes in the area of prevention of youth violence;
  - the role of youth as partners in national and community development, peace and non-violence by promoting a rights-based policy environment for successful transitions to adulthood and constructive social engagement, particularly through the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy on African Youth and by building on findings and best practices in this area in other regions, especially in Latin America;
  - the continued development of the organization of the UNESCO Youth Forum, benefiting from a review of past experiences;

- (x) foster philosophical reflection and capacities for critical thinking within contemporary societies to identify and analyse the current and emerging challenges that need to be addressed for the establishment of a robust culture of peace, in particular through the promotion of spaces of exchange and of the inclusion of philosophy teaching in formal and non-formal education;
- (xi) strengthen social science capacities, especially in developing countries, in order to mobilize the skills, capacities, knowledge and infrastructures that reside within the social sciences as drivers of growth and innovation, within a framework of social development and inclusion, particularly through the mechanisms and activities of the MOST Programme;
- (xii) promote inclusion in international agendas of the inherently social and human dimensions of global environmental change, drawing on the contributions of the social and human sciences and paying priority attention to the situation of LDCs and SIDS, notably with respect to climate-driven migration, working in particular through the MOST Programme, the work of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), cooperation with the International Social Science Council, notably in connection with the Second World Social Science Forum and the World Social Science Report; and United Nations processes including the United Nations Task Force on the Social Dimensions of Climate Change;
- (xiii) capitalize on the potential of sport for social transformation, social inclusion and development, and peace processes, working where appropriate through the Intergovernmental Committee on Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) and its advisory body, the Permanent Consultative Council (PCC):
  - by setting up strategic partnerships to promote the role and potential of sport as a developmental engine; and
  - by providing advice and good practice to Member States to integrate the social dimension of sport into public policy and programmes, particularly with regard to physical education and community sport;and engage in international efforts to tackle doping in sport through administration and monitoring of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, as well as continuing to provide technical assistance, policy advice and financial assistance to States Parties (with priority given to Africa, LDCs and SIDS) from the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport for the implementation of effective anti-doping activities;
- (c) to allocate an amount of \$8,674,100 for activity costs, and \$20,556,600 for staff costs;

2. *Requests the Director-General:*

- (a) to implement the various activities authorized by this resolution, working as appropriate through intersectoral platforms;
- (b) to report periodically to the governing bodies, in the statutory reports, on the achievement of the following expected results, including relevant performance indicators:

**Main line of action 1:** Supporting Member States in the development of policies and advocacy in the ethics of science and technology, especially bioethics:

- (1) Capacity of Member States enhanced at national level to identify and address bioethical challenges with due regard to appropriate human-rights and gender equality frameworks.
- (2) Promotion and implementation of the International Convention against Doping in Sport ensured.

**Main line of action 2:** Promoting a culture of peace and non-violence through action pertaining to human rights, democracy, reconciliation, dialogue and philosophy and including all political and social partners, in particular youth

- (3) Understanding improved of the implications of social inclusion for the promotion of a culture of peace, integrating human rights and democratic principles.
- (4) Social change conducive to peace and non-violence promoted through youth-led social innovation and engagement of young women and men in their communities.

**Main line of action 3:** Supporting Member States in responding to social transformations by building and strengthening national research systems and promoting social science knowledge networks and research capacities

- (5) Improved capacities and awareness in Member States and at the international level for developing, implementing and monitoring policies that promote social inclusion of all groups in society, especially youth, women, migrants, and people with disabilities.
- (6) International agendas on global environmental change informed and national policy responses enhanced by emphasis on its inherently social and human dimensions, drawing on the contributions of the social and human sciences.

3. *Also requests* the Director-General to report in her six-monthly statutory reports on the implementation of the programme adopted by the General Conference on measures taken to optimize the use of resources in the implementation of programme activities, including travel, contractual services and publications;
4. *Further requests* the Director-General to implement the programme in such a manner that the expected results defined for the two global priorities, Africa and gender equality, pertaining to Major Programme III are also fully achieved.

**Draft resolutions recommended for consideration by the Joint meeting of Commissions:**

10. The following draft resolution was referred by the SHS Commission for consideration by the Joint Meeting of Commissions:

- 36 C/DR.8 (Egypt, co-sponsored by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), for paragraph 1(c).

### **Draft resolutions withdrawn or not retained**

11. The Commission informed the General Conference that the draft resolutions listed below were withdrawn by their authors or not retained:

- 36 C/DR.24 (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 36 C/DR.25 (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 36 C/DR.27 (Cuba, co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Sri Lanka, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 36 C/DR.45 (Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Turkey, co-sponsored by Israel).

### **General recommendations by the Executive Board**

12. Having examined the Recommendations by the Executive Board on the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/6), the Commission recommended that the General Conference take note of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 42 to 44 of document 36 C/6.

### **Budget**

13. The Commission recommended to the General Conference that it approve the budget provision of \$29,230,700 in paragraph 03000 of 36 C/5 Add. Volume 1 for Major Programme III – Social and Human Sciences, corresponding to \$8,674,100 for activity costs and \$20,556,600 for staff costs, it being understood that this amount is subject to adjustment in the light of the decision taken by the General Conference on the budget ceiling and by the Joint Meeting of the seven Commissions (ADM, PRX, and the Commissions of each of the five Major Programmes).

## **DEBATE 2**

### **Item 5.6 – Revision of the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) (36 C/22 and Add.)**

14. During its fourth meeting, the Commission examined without debate item 5.6 – Revision of the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport.

15. The Commission recommended to the General Conference that it take note of document 36 C/22 and Add. and that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the resolution proposed in paragraph 1 of document 36 C/22 Add. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

*Recalling* 35 C/Resolution 39,

*Having examined* document 36 C/22,

1. *Approves* the proposed amendments to the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport as annexed to document 36 C/22.



### DEBATE 3

#### **Item 5.8 – Consideration of the desirability of preparing a draft universal declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change (36 C/21)**

16. During its fourth meeting, the Commission examined item 5.8 – Consideration of the desirability of preparing a draft universal declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change.

17. The representatives of 39 Member States, and of one non-governmental organization took the floor.

18. The Commission recommended to the General Conference that it take note of document 36 C/21 and that it adopt the resolution proposed in paragraph 15 of document 36 C/21. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The General Conference,

*Recalling* 35 C/Resolution 36, requesting the Director-General to consult on and to study the desirability of preparing a declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change,

*Considering* the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, as approved by the Executive Board at its 180th session (180 EX/16 Rev.), the Enhanced Plan of Action for the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (182 EX/INF.7 Annex – September 2009), and the Director-General's Climate Change Initiative (December 2009), which foregrounds ethical and social questions in relation to climate change,

*Having taken note* of 185 EX/Decision 13 and of 186 EX/Decision 9,

*Considering* that it would not be appropriate at the present time to proceed with the drafting of a declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change,

1. *Requests* the Director-General to maintain and enhance the proposed linkages between activities in environmental ethics, including through the work of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), and the social and human science dimensions of climate change, including through the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme focus on social transformations arising from global environmental change, with a view to contributing to the understanding of adaptation challenges and the development of adaptation capacities through sustained national policies;
2. *Also requests* the Director-General, on the basis of the report to be submitted to the Executive Board at its 189th session and of such follow-up as may be requested thereto, to report to the General Conference at its 37th session on the issues relevant to the assessment of the desirability of preparing a declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change, taking account in particular of scientific and scholarly findings, of relevant international negotiation processes, and of the impact of ethically-informed support for national adaptation policies, as implemented through Major Programme III and through the Intersectoral Platform on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

#### **Reports of CIGEPS, COMEST, IBC, IGBC and MOST**

19. Having examined the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) (36 C/REP/18), Report of the Director-General on the work of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) (36 C/REP/12), the report by the Director-General on the work done by the World Commission on

the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) since its sixth session (36 C/REP/20 and Add.), and the Report of the Intergovernmental Council on the activities of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme in 2010-2011(36 C/REP/17), the Commission recommended that the General Conference take note of these reports.