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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

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185 EX/Decisions

PARIS, 19 November 2010

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 185th SESSION

* Including the meetings of the subsidiary bodies before the plenary meetings.

41 UNESCO's contribution to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (185 EX/41; 185 EX/INF.15; 185 EX/INF. 20; 185 EX/52 Rev.)

The Executive Board,

1. Taking into consideration the United Nations Secretary-General's report on the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (A/65/115),
2. Also taking into consideration the United Nations General Assembly draft resolution A/65/L.2 and the Outcome Document of the High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS,
3. Recalling 32 C/Resolution 48, 33 C/Resolution 8 and 35 C/Resolution 33(II) regarding UNESCO's programme of action for the sustainable development of SIDS,

4. Also recalling the priority status assigned to SIDS in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4),
5. Acknowledging the commitment shown and action taken by SIDS in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy,
6. Also acknowledging the range of valuable activities and programmes conducted by UNESCO and the unique contribution made to date through the intersectoral platform in efforts to implement the Mauritius Strategy,
7. Strongly reaffirming, in the face of continuing limited institutional capacity and resource limitations, the necessity to strengthen the resilience of SIDS in overcoming their unique and specific vulnerabilities,
8. Notes with concern that the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy implementation has revealed that SIDS continue to face increasing sustainable development challenges caused by their unique vulnerabilities and that while SIDS have progressed in the area of gender, health, education and environment, their overall progress towards achieving the MDGs has been uneven;
9. Also notes with concern that the review has also revealed that SIDS have made less progress than most other groupings and, even in some cases, have regressed in economic terms, especially with regard to poverty reduction and debt sustainability, and have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth owing in part to the ongoing negative impacts of the financial and economic crisis;
10. Convinced that proactive, innovative, timely and targeted measures need to be taken to address those challenges;
11. Urges therefore the Director-General to further consolidate UNESCO's efforts to support SIDS in implementing the Mauritius Strategy, with particular emphasis on *inter alia* the following measures:
 - (a) continuing to mainstream the Mauritius Strategy in the Organization's activities and work programmes through the establishment *inter alia* of distinct SIDS subprogrammes for the different SIDS subregions and the elaboration of measurable goals and indicators for monitoring and evaluating the progress made by UNESCO in supporting SIDS in implementing the Mauritius Strategy;
 - (b) taking appropriate measures to reinforce the intersectoral platform on UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;
 - (c) strengthening UNESCO's efforts in providing capacity-building and expertise with regard to safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage, for the creation and development of cultural industries and for the protection of underwater cultural heritage in SIDS;
 - (d) supporting the development and implementation by SIDS of measures to promote sustainable tourism;
 - (e) further consolidating action taken by UNESCO to build the resilience of SIDS against the adverse impacts of climate change and sea-level rise with particular focus on climate change education, mitigation and adaptation;
 - (f) further enhancing action taken by UNESCO to help SIDS to deal with the damaging impacts of natural and environmental disasters by strengthening and establishing, if necessary, effective regional and national programmes aimed at developing a preventive approach to natural disasters, notably through tsunami

- early warning systems and other disaster-risk reduction, management and coordination programmes;
- (g) enhancing support to SIDS in strengthening the implementation of their integrated coastal zone management strategies and their scientific research capacity, and in building capacity in science and technology;
 - (h) facilitating the sharing of good practices, success stories, experiences and information among SIDS in the field of sustainable development;
 - (i) facilitating the mobilization of extrabudgetary funds to ensure that adequate funding is available for the effective implementation of the different programmes and activities for SIDS;
12. Invites the Member States to enhance their efforts to support SIDS in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;
13. Invites the Director-General to report on the above to it at its 187th session.

(185 EX/SR.9)