

Records of the General Conference

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Resolutions

United Nations
Educational
Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO and global action on climate change¹**I**

The General Conference,

Recalling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular Article 6 on education, training and public awareness, and *recognizing* the important work done by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),

Referring to the report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) "Acting on Climate Change: The United Nations System Delivering as One", and the leading role of UNESCO together with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on cross-cutting areas such as climate knowledge, *welcoming* the memorandum of understanding signed between UNESCO and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), and *underlining* the importance of identification of comparative advantages and avoidance of duplication,

Recognizing that efforts to address climate change play an important role in achieving sustainable development worldwide, and to that end *welcoming* educational responses to climate change as an integral part of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), as confirmed by the Bonn Declaration,

Acknowledging the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change and the intersectoral platform on UNESCO action to address climate change as essential tools for UNESCO's contribution to global action on climate change, and *emphasizing* the importance of and need for a results-oriented platform in order to ensure quality action on climate change,

Recalling 179 EX/Decision 15, 180 EX/Decision 16 and 181 EX/Decision 15 on the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, and *also recalling* 179 EX/Decision 16 on the development and management of intersectoral platforms,

1. Requests the Director-General to strengthen UNESCO's specialized capacity on climate change, building on UNESCO's unique interdisciplinary profile, by:
 - (a) taking the necessary measures to ensure the recognized legitimacy of the intersectoral platform on UNESCO's action to address climate change as an effective and efficient coordinator, within UNESCO as well as in relation to other United Nations agencies, in the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change;
 - (b) submitting proposals on how UNESCO, within the framework of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, may ensure an effective, targeted and impact-focused contribution to the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen, 7-18 December 2009 (COP15);

Further requests the Director-General to report to the Executive Board at its 184th session, in a clear and concrete format, on the above-mentioned measures and proposals.

II

The General Conference,

Recalling the adoption at its 32nd and 33rd sessions of resolutions specifically addressing the sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS) and the further implementation and review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (Barbados+10), with its operative paragraphs addressed to Member States and Associate Members, non-governmental organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO, and the Director-General,

Noting that implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (Mauritius Strategy for Implementation) adopted at the United Nations International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 10 to 14 January 2005, has now progressed for five years and will be due for a mid-term review in 2010,

Welcoming the priority status accorded to SIDS in the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4) and the decision by the Director-General to formalize the coordination of UNESCO inputs through the creation of the intersectoral platform on UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS,

Recalling the distinctive contribution made by UNESCO to date through the intersectoral platform on UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation in such areas as culture, climate change, and education for sustainable development,

Noting the growing international concern over the increased vulnerability of SIDS as a result of climate change and the recent world economic crisis,

Also noting the endorsement in July 2005 of the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation by the United Nations General Assembly, and United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/213, in which it was agreed to hold a review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation in September 2010,

Noting furthermore the invitation by the General Assembly to all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional economic commissions, among others, to take timely action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

1. *Calls upon* Member States and Associate Members to:

- (a) participate actively in the continued and enhanced implementation of the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;
 - (b) mobilize UNESCO's programmes and networks in their respective countries and regions to promote further the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation by taking advantage of synergies of action and expertise across the Organization's programmes and programme sectors, the intersectoral platform for SIDS, and the opportunities afforded by the Participation Programme, the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and other sources of extrabudgetary support;
2. Urges non-governmental organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO to:
- (a) work in close partnership with governments and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;
 - (b) strengthen cooperation with National Commissions and civil society in SIDS in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;
3. Invites the Director-General to:
- (a) continue to incorporate the Mauritius Strategy into the Organization's activities and work programmes in line with the priority status accorded to SIDS in the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4), with particular reference to, *inter alia*, climate change, sea level rise and risk mitigation, sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development, cultural heritage awareness and preservation, and related knowledge management;
 - (b) take appropriate steps to reinforce the intersectoral platform on UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation to ensure that UNESCO is able to sustain its delivery on the ground of essential intersectoral and interregional contributions to the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;
 - (c) collaborate fully with the United Nations family of institutions and with other international and regional organizations, in contributing to the timely follow-up and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort;
 - (d) facilitate the mobilization of extrabudgetary funds to enable experts from SIDS to participate in key conferences and other relevant fora held under the auspices of UNESCO;
 - (e) feed the progress of the Organization's SIDS-related activities into the United Nations General Assembly review process, and ensure the active participation of UNESCO in the mid-term review meeting and its preparatory process.