

40TH SESSION – UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE
DELEGATES INFORMATION BUREAU

CI COMMISSION

Date	19 November 2019	Room	XI
No. meeting	3	Hour	From: 10 am. To: 13 am.

Chairperson(s)	Christian Ter-Stepanian	Country	Armenia
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SUMMARY OF DEBATE(S)

Items examined	Item 5.26 – Strategic Outcome Document of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL)		
Debate no	1	Debate status	Opening and conclusion
Related documents	40 C/68		
DRs examined			
Countries that took floor	Canada, Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Estonia, Russian Federation, Lithuania, Sweden, China, Ecuador, Iceland, Australia.		
Summary of debate	<p>The Chairperson of the CI Commission opened the session and asked the Chief Littlechild of the Delegation of Canada to make a short intervention to mark the year of autochthone languages, joined with groups from autochthone people from Norway, Sweden, and Russian Federation.</p> <p>Following this short intervention, the Chairperson of the CI Commission gave the floor to the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information (ADG/CI), Moez Chakchouk, to present the report on Strategic Outcome Document of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL).</p> <p>The ADG/CI explained briefly the progress achieved in the follow-up to resolution 71/718 on the rights of indigenous peoples, by which the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages and gave UNESCO the role of lead UN agency for the International Year. The ADG/CI explained that draft report acknowledges the urgent need to protect, support, revitalize and promote indigenous languages around the world, and recognizes their role in peace building, good governance, sustainable development and reconciliation processes.</p>		

	<p>The Chairperson opened the floor to the Delegates. Twelve Delegations took the floor to support the draft resolution and highlighted the importance of promoting and safeguarding indigenous languages.</p> <p>The proposition of recommendation of the draft resolution to the General Conference was agreed by Member States of the CI Commission with an amendment.</p>
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Items examined	Item 8.2 – Proposal of a draft text of a Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER)		
Debate no	2	Debate status	Start and conclusion
Related documents	40 C/32		
DRs examined			
Countries that took floor	Slovenia, Argentina, Armenia, Canada, Belgium, Latvia, Malaysia, Greece, Denmark, Ghana, Finland, Democratic Republic of Congo, Russian Federation, Germany, Tunisia, Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait. International Federation of Library Associations (NGO).		
Summary of debate	<p>The Chairperson of the CI Commission gave the floor to the ADG/CI to present the report.</p> <p>ADG/CI presented briefly the main points of the recommendation on open educational resources (OER) to promote inclusive and free education policy. He recalled that OER are learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others. The recommendation builds on the Ljubljana OER Action Plan 2017 to mainstream OER to support Member States in the creation of inclusive Knowledge Societies and achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda through the application of open licenses to create, access, adapt and redistribute educational materials.</p> <p>The Chairperson gave the floor to the Assistant Director-General for Education (ADG/ED), Ms Stefania Giannini, who highlighted that UNESCO has played an important role in the emergence and promotion of the OER concept, starting in 2002. ADG/ED commended ADG/CI for the excellent cooperation with ED Sector on this important issue. She stated that OER should also contribute to addressing the learning crisis we are facing with critical figures such as the fact that many children around the world are not learning to read proficiently.</p> <p>The Chairperson opened the floor to the delegates for their comments. Eighteen Delegations and one observer from an NGO took the floor.</p>		

	<p>Member States underlined importance of the OER instrument to provide access to quality education in particular on digital platforms. A large majority of Member States expressed their appreciation of the draft recommendation as essential for achievement of Agenda 2030 in particular SGD 4. The delegation applauded UNESCO’s intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach.</p> <p>The Commission unanimously decided to recommend to the General Conference to adopt the draft resolution.</p>
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Items examined	Item 9.7 – Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to Documentary Heritage, including in Digital Form		
Debate no	3	Debate status	Start and conclusion
Related documents	40 C/39 and Corr (French Only) – 40 C/105		
DRs examined			
Countries that took floor	Cuba		
Summary of debate	<p>The Chairperson of the CI Commission gave the floor to the ADG/CI to present the report.</p> <p>The ADG/CI explained the importance of the report on the implementation of the Recommendation 2015 – an essential instrument to promote the preservation of, and access to documentary heritage, including in digital form, and to promote international and national cooperation.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the CI Commission opened the floor to delegations. The Cuban delegation took the floor to declare that the implementation of the Recommendation has been a priority for Cuba and that the country has come up with a benchmark programme for the preservation of documentary heritage.</p> <p>The Commission unanimously decided to recommend to the General Conference to adopt the draft resolution.</p>		

Items examined	Item 5.25 – Revision of the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP)		
Debate no		Debate status	Start and conclusion
Related documents	40 C/41; 40 C/LEG/16 – 40 C/112		
DRs examined			
Countries that took floor			

Summary of debate	<p>ADG/CI recalled that the Legal Commission gave their approval of modifications.</p> <p>Member States unanimously supported the recommendation of the CI Commission to the General Conference to adopt the draft report concerning IFAP status modifications.</p>
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Items examined	Items 3.1 and 3.2 – Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4), Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (41 C/5)		
Debate no	4	Debate status	Start and continuation
Related documents	40 C/11, C/INF.18, 40C/7		
DRs examined			
Countries that took floor	United Kingdom, El Salvador, Switzerland, Jamaica, Canada, Turkey, Finland, Russian Federation, Argentina, Denmark, Grenada		
Summary of debate	<p>The Director of Freedom of Expression and Media Development Division (DIR/FEM), Guy Berger, took the floor to recall the priorities of the CI sector for the Medium-Term Strategy. DIR/FEM underlined that the C/5 and C/4 were the last chance to achieve the SDG goals before the end of the 2030 Agenda. He stressed in particular SDG 16 target 10 (access to information and fundamental rights), which includes safety of journalists, and said that SDG 16 is an enabler for all SDG. He also mentioned other challenges such as digital rights, universality of internet, hate speech, disinformation, and the importance of media information literacy and media development.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the CI Commission gave the floor to the Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning (DIR/BSP), Jean-Yves Le Saux. DIR/BSP explained that the preparation of a draft C/4 and draft C5/ will be a two year cycle, and presented the essential steps of that process: the examination at this session of the draft roadmap and its approval. As these debates take place, a summary of the discussion in all Commissions will be provided for the use of the Joint Commission at the end of the General Conference. The next step will be at the beginning of 2020 with a consultation of Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO. He underlined that there were a considerable emphasis on the issue of increasing inequalities, and the idea of “leaving no one behind”, but also gender-equality and the need to face the growing pushback against women rights.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the CI Commission opened the floor to delegations. Eleven Delegations took the floor.</p> <p>Member States expressed their support of the 41C/5 and 41C/4 and in particular the intergovernmental programmes (IPDC and IFAP) and the Memory of the World programme. Emphasis also was put on access to information, UN Plan of Action on Safety of journalists and the Issue of</p>		

	<p>Impunity, gender equality, MIL, human rights based approach, and Internet universality and ROAM principles, as well as the two global priority of UNESCO.</p> <p>The Chairperson adjourned the session to resume the debate in the afternoon session.</p>
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Items examined			
Debate no		Debate status	
Related documents			
DRs examined			
Countries that took floor			
Summary of debate			