Third virtual meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board  
Wednesday 6 May 2020  

Summary of key recommendations

1. Agenda

Preparation of the Special Session of the Executive Board (28-29 May 2020):
   i) Technical and Legal note submitted by the Secretariat
   ii) Methods of work of the Executive Board under COVID-19
   iii) Items that could be discussed without debate, as proposed by the Director-General
      · Item 5.I.E UNESCO Global Geoparks
      · Item 10 Part I UNESCO-King Sejong Literacy Prize
      · Item 10.II Carlos J Finlay UNESCO Prize for Microbiology
      · Item 14 Parts I-VI Category 2 Centers and Institutes
   iv) Items that could be discussed without debate, as proposed by the Bureau

The Chairperson welcomed the Bureau members, the Director-General and ADG/ADM, who was invited on exceptional basis to assist Bureau members on item 1.i – Technical and legal notes.

The Chairperson recalled the purpose of the meeting, which in conformity with rule 14, was to recommend an agenda for the special session of the Executive Board that will take place on 28 and 29 May 2020.

2. Comments by the Secretariat

The Director-General confirmed that, given the current sanitary situation in the host country, the Special session could only be organized virtually. ADG/ADM stated that the current technological restraints allow only for such meetings to take place in two/three languages.

3. Recommendation by the Bureau

After a discussion during which all relevant elements were considered, the Bureau recommended that as the Special Session is called in light of the current exceptional situation, its agenda should only include exceptional items. Thus, the items cited in the agenda above (item 1.iii) will remain on the provisional agenda of the 209th session. In view of the consensus, the Member States that made proposals under the item 1.iv also accepted to postpone their proposals to the 209th session.

Following deliberations, the Bureau approved, by consensus, the following agenda items for the Special Session of the Executive Board that will take place on 28 and 29 May 2020:

1. Methods of work of the Executive Board under confinement
2. Impact of COVID-19 on UNESCO’s programmes and activities
3. The 209th session of the Executive Board: update from the Secretariat on the prevailing situation at Headquarters and possible impact on the 209th session

Considering the comments from the Secretariat above, the Chairperson informed the Bureau members that he will communicate with the Executive Board members in conformity with the rules and regulations.