



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Hundred and eighty-fifth session

185 EX/44

PARIS, 6 October 2010
Original: English

Item 44 of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEOUL AGENDA “GOALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION”, OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON ARTS EDUCATION

SUMMARY

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 185th session of the Executive Board at the request of the Republic of Korea.

In pursuance of 35 C/Resolution 40, the Government of the Republic of Korea and UNESCO jointly hosted the Second World Conference on Arts Education from 25 to 28 May 2010 in Seoul. The conference produced the “Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education” as the main outcome, containing a comprehensive plan of action for all arts education stakeholders.

This proposal calls on UNESCO and its Member States to make concerted efforts to raise awareness about the essential value of arts education in improving the quality of education as well as in encouraging collaborative action for more complete integration of arts education into education systems in both formal and non-formal environments by implementing the Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education.

This proposal has no financial or budgetary implications.

Decision proposed: paragraph 7.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

I. Introduction

1. In furtherance of UNESCO's long-standing objective to mainstream arts education within education systems, the Director-General of UNESCO launched the International Appeal for the Promotion of Arts Education and Creativity at School at the 30th session of UNESCO's General Conference in November 1999.

2. The International Appeal laid the ground for a series of actions and programmes to strengthen awareness of the important role of creativity and art disciplines in enhancing education for future generations. In response to the appeal, UNESCO initiated and supported six regional conferences (South Africa in June 2001, Brazil in October 2001, Jordan in May 2002, Fiji in November 2002, Finland in August 2003, and China in January 2004) in order to strengthen arts education curricula and to create the conditions for the integration of art education programmes into national education systems.

3. Proposed by the Portuguese Government and endorsed by the 32nd session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2003, the organization of the first World Conference on Arts Education began in earnest. Highlighting the significance of arts education in the teaching and learning processes, the first World Conference held in Lisbon in March 2006 was the culmination of multi-year international collaboration between UNESCO and its partners in the field of arts education. The Conference produced the Road Map for Arts Education as its major outcome, which provides guidance for advancing the qualitative development and growth of arts education.

4. As a follow-up to the First World Conference and in response to the proposal made by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the 34th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2007 decided that the Second World Conference be held in Seoul in May 2010. Without duplicating efforts, the Second World Conference continued to make ties with the legacy of the first World Conference to reinforce the value of quality arts education for all, while developing a capacity for creativity among the youth and lifelong learners of the twenty-first century. At the same time, it sought to highlight the social and cultural dimensions of arts education and reinforce research and knowledge of practices.

5. The Second World Conference had three main perspectives (Assessing the progress of the Road Map for Arts Education; Reinforcing socio-cultural dimensions of arts education; Building capacities for research on arts education), and produced the **Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education**¹ as the main outcome of the conference. The Seoul Agenda is designed to serve as a concrete plan of action that integrates the substance of the Road Map within a structure of three broad goals, each accompanied by a number of practical strategies and specific action items.

6. The main objective of this draft decision is to ensure that UNESCO will continue to make its efforts in raising awareness about the important values of arts education in improving the quality of education as well as in encouraging collaborative action for more complete integration of arts education into education systems in both formal and non-formal environments by implementing the Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education.

¹ Text in English, French and Spanish available at the following address: http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=39949&URL_DO=DO.16/09/2010.

Proposed draft decision

7. Following the inclusion of this item in the provisional agenda of the 185th session of the Executive Board at the request of the Republic of Korea, the draft decision hereunder is submitted by the following Member States of the Executive Board:

Egypt, Japan, Latvia, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea and United States of America

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 35 C/Resolution 40, which encourages the promotion of arts education through holding and following up the second World Conference on Arts Education, and development of an intersectoral partnership strategy,
2. Having examined document 185 EX/44, titled The implementation of the Seoul Agenda “Goals for the Development of Arts Education”, outcome document of the Second World Conference on Arts Education,
3. Welcomes the positive outcome of the “Second World Conference on Arts Education – Arts for Society, Education for Creativity”, held in Seoul in May 2010, which promoted the value of high-quality arts education for all in developing a capacity for creativity in the twenty-first century as well as strengthened collaboration between the main actors (national authorities, local governments, teachers, artists, researchers, associations and NGOs) to work together towards developing practices and reinforcing the position of arts education in schools as well as within societies;
4. Invites UNESCO and its Member States to ensure the follow-up of the Second World Conference by employing the proposed strategies of the Seoul Agenda, implementing the action items in a concerted effort to realize the full potential of high-quality arts education to positively renew education systems, achieve crucial social and cultural objectives, and ultimately benefit children, youth, and life-long learners of all ages;
5. Recommends to the General Conference to take into account the follow-up of the previous two World Conferences on Arts Education and support future conferences, namely the offer made by Colombia to host the Third World Conference;
6. Requests the Director-General to ensure adequate intersectoral cooperation between the Culture and Education Sectors of UNESCO in promoting arts education as well as integrating arts education into the plans of EFA and ESD;
7. Further requests the Director-General to proclaim the last week of every May as Arts Education Week to draw attention to the critical value of arts education and to encourage all Member States, civil society, professional organizations, and communities to organize relevant activities in this regard at the national, regional and international levels.