
Executive Board EX

Hundred and seventy-sixth session

United Nations Educational
Scientific and Cultural
Organization
(Paris, 26 September - 13 October 2006)
175 EX/Decisions
PARIS, 13 November 2006

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 175th SESSION

Jerusalem and the implementation of 33 C/Resolution 50 and 174 EX/Decision 12 (175 EX/15 and Add.; 175 EX/54)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 32 C/Resolution 39 and 174 EX/Decision 12, as well as the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and the related Protocols, and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the inclusion of the Old City of Jerusalem in the World Heritage List and in the List of World Heritage in Danger, and the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO on the protection of the cultural heritage,
2. Affirming that nothing in the present decision, which is aimed at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem,
3. Having examined document 175 EX/15 and its addendum concerning Jerusalem,
4. Expresses its sincere thanks to the Director-General for his sustained efforts for the safeguarding of the cultural and natural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, in compliance with 32 C/Resolution 39 of the General Conference and 171 EX/Decision 18 of the Executive Board, and reiterates its concern as to the obstacles and practices to the safeguarding of the cultural and natural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem;
5. Taking note of the declaration by the Director-General concerning Jerusalem at the 172nd session of the Executive Board, which appeals to all parties concerned to respect the outstanding universal value of the Old City of Jerusalem, and to refrain from anything that may jeopardize the distinctive character of the Old City of Jerusalem inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, invites him to pursue his efforts with the concerned authorities in regard to the safeguarding and preservation of the distinctive character of the Old City of Jerusalem;
6. Congratulates the Director-General on his initiatives in favour of the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, particularly the latest UNESCO mission (December 2005);
7. Expresses its gratitude to the Director-General for the progress made towards establishing a centre for the conservation of Islamic manuscripts in al-Ashrafiya Madrasa within the Esplanade of the Mosques (al-Haram ash-Sharif), requests him to intensify his efforts in that regard, and thanks the United Arab Emirates and the Welfare Association for their support and their generous contribution;
8. Takes note of the information provided in document 175 EX/15 and its addendum concerning the progress made towards the establishment of an action plan based on the guidelines proposed by the International Committee of Experts and the results of the missions on the spot;
9. Encourages UNESCO Member States to contribute to the efforts towards the implementation of the programme activities for the first phase of the action plan for the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem as identified by the experts and the concerned authorities,

notably through extrabudgetary resources;

10. Invites the Director-General to submit to it at its 176th session such an action plan, and decides to include this item in the agenda of the 176th session of the Executive Board.