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United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

214 EX/27 Rev.

Executive Board
Two hundred and fourteenth session

PARIS, 1 April 2022
Original: French

Item 27 of the provisional agenda

**THE ROAD TO PEACE: DIALOGUE AND ACTION FOR TOLERANCE
AND INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING**

SUMMARY

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 214th session of the Executive Board at the request of Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Oman, Paraguay, San Marino, Slovakia, Tunisia, and Uruguay.

An explanatory note, together with a proposed decision is attached.

Financial implications: extrabudgetary.

Decision required: paragraph 9.



Job: 202201047

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. In the current context of a global health crisis, violent conflict and increased violence against minorities and vulnerable groups, the concept of living together in peace has become more crucial than ever. Protecting shared values and promoting attitudes and behaviour conducive to dialogue, non-violence and socio-emotional resilience are key elements of democratic, inclusive and peaceful societies.
2. In response to these challenges, “The Road to Peace: Dialogue and Action for Tolerance and Intercultural Understanding” will help promote a systematic and participatory approach to finding innovative solutions and new commitments to advance concrete initiatives for dialogue for peace.
3. It will also aim to underline the indispensable contribution of intercultural dialogue to education for sustainable development (ESD), as a cornerstone for tolerance and intercultural understanding. Its implementation depends on inclusive and equitable quality education in all settings and on all levels of education, from early childhood and throughout life, recognizing the critical role of education for the consolidation of a democratic citizenship as well as appreciation of human rights, diversity and the environment.
4. Peacebuilding can only be achieved through intergenerational exchange. Young people play a crucial role in promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding and contribute to shaping the social, economic, political and cultural life of their communities and countries.
5. This project will also focus on the important role that women play for dialogue for peace and the sharing of common values. The full and active participation of women is a prerequisite for the development of a culture of peace, particularly in the context of conflict prevention and peaceful conflict resolution.
6. Acknowledging the important role intercultural dialogue can play in establishing the understanding and mutual respect needed to combat racism and discrimination, which have unfortunately become global problems during the pandemic, the programme will also aim to align itself on the emerging priorities of the UNESCO’s new roadmap against racism and discrimination, and the direction set by UNESCO’s annual Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination, which will take place in Mexico in November 2022, for the second time.
7. The Road to Peace is inspired by the *Tree of Peace*, a sculpture implanted in 16 symbolic places, which symbolizes intercultural understanding between nations, thus creating a universal path of dialogue and tolerance. The Tree of Peace will aim to accompany the Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination whenever it is held. UNESCO will receive an economic percentage for each Tree of Peace created within the framework of the Forum, and this income will be dedicated to financing the Road to Peace Programme.
8. The programme will be designed around four key pillars:
 - (a) research, so as to develop applied knowledge to strengthen policy and practice related to dialogue for peace at the national level;
 - (b) capacity building, so as to foster a transformative change in attitudes and behaviour, including through the development of new guidelines and toolkits and the leveraging of existing initiatives, such as the Art Camp project, the Art-Lab project, story circles for intercultural skills and master classes against racism and discrimination, UNESCO’s new toolbox against racism and discrimination and the initiative “Transforming MEN’talities”;
 - (c) public advocacy, including social media campaigns and the creation of educational technology resources;

- (d) activities to advance peacebuilding through intercultural dialogue, to be included during the UNESCO Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination.

Proposed draft decision

9. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 214 EX/27 Rev.,
2. Considering UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 and Output 7.SHS1 entitled "Member States' capacities strengthened to advance effective policies and practices to achieve inclusive development through the promotion of human rights, scientific freedom, intercultural understanding and by tackling all forms of discrimination and racism",
3. Acknowledging the commitment of UNESCO and its Member States to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
4. Recalling UNESCO's mandate to build the defences of peace in the minds of men and women through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information, which includes its role in preventing intolerance, discrimination and violence, and in creating the conditions for peaceful, inclusive and pluralistic societies, as reflected in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16,
5. Also acknowledging UNESCO's important role in promoting intercultural dialogue and a culture of sustainable peace and non-violence,
6. Further acknowledging the important strategic direction that will be set for intercultural dialogue by UNESCO's new roadmap against racism and discrimination, and the importance of UNESCO's annual Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination,
7. Requests the Director-General to promote and complement the existing programme on racism and discrimination with the initiative of the Road to Peace, subject to extrabudgetary funding;
8. Notes that artistic productions might accompany the Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination whenever it is held. A percentage of the revenue, which an artist will receive from the sale of his or her artistic work produced within the Road to Peace initiative, will be dedicated to UNESCO to reinforce the programme.
9. Encourages Member States to support this project by all appropriate means and invites them to mobilize partners and financial resources in the public and private sectors for the implementation of this project;
10. Also requests the Director-General to continue and strengthen UNESCO's action for peace through international cooperation and dialogue.