



General Conference

40th Session, Paris, 2019

40 C

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Item 5.30 of the provisional agenda

40 C/73

29 October 2019

Original: English

PROCLAMATION OF WORLD DAY FOR AFRICAN AND AFRODESCENDANT CULTURE

OUTLINE

Background: This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 40th session of the General Conference following the decision of the Executive Board at its 207th session (207 EX/Decision 40).

Purpose: The document presents a proposal to proclaim 24 January as world day for African and afrodescendant culture, following the endorsement by the Executive Board at its 207th session. The objective of this day is to celebrate the cultures of the African continent and African diasporas around the world, and promote them as a lever for sustainable development.

Decision required: paragraph 4.

Background

1. The proposal to proclaim 24 January as world day for African and afrodescendant culture was submitted by Liberia, Mozambique and Togo and examined by the Executive Board at its 207th session (document 207 EX/40). The objective of this proposal is to celebrate the cultures of the African continent and African Diasporas around the world every 24 January, which coincides with the adoption of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance in 2006 by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

2.2. In her comments (document 207 EX/DG.INF Rev.), the Director-General welcomed this initiative and observed that the celebration of this day would help promote the widest possible ratification and implementation of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance by African States. She also expressed the view that activities celebrating the world day for African and afrodescendant culture should be financed and implemented by Member States, with support from the Secretariat to promote it to the extent possible within its existing capacities.

3. After having examined documents 207 EX/40 and 207 EX/DG.INF Rev., the Executive Board decided to endorse the proposal and to include this item in the agenda of the 40th session of the General Conference, and recommended that it adopt a resolution to proclaim 24 January as world day for African and afrodescendant culture.

4. In light of the above, the General Conference may wish to adopt a resolution along the following lines:

The General Conference,

Having examined document 40 C/73,

Recalling the importance of African and afrodescendant culture for humanity as a whole and for the African continent's development,

Recognizing that a world day for African and afrodescendant culture would provide an opportunity to promote the ratification and implementation of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance by African States,

1. *Proclaims* 24 January of each year as World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture;
2. *Invites* Member States to celebrate this day each year in memory of the date of the adoption by heads of State and government of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance;
3. *Encourages* Member States to finance and organize activities to celebrate this day;
4. *Requests* the Director-General to promote the celebration of World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture on 24 January of each year as one of the international days marked by UNESCO.

