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UNESCO/BIE/C.57/Proceedings and Decisions
Geneva, 28 November 2008
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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION

Fifty-seventh session

International Conference Centre, Geneva (CICG)
17 rue de Varembé, Geneva

25 and 28 November 2008

PROCEEDINGS AND DECISIONS

Proceedings and Decisions of the fifty-seventh session

According to the Statutes of the International Bureau of Education, the Council is responsible, in particular, for making: “*proposals for the preparation and organization of sessions of the International Conference on Education*”. According to a long-standing tradition, the Council meets at the beginning and end of each session of the International Conference on Education (ICE) to settle the final organizational arrangements and to make a preliminary evaluation of the results.

The fifty-seventh session of the Council of the IBE was therefore held, within the framework of the forty-eighth session of the ICE, on 25 and 28 November 2008.

Tuesday, 25 November 2008 (8:20 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.)

1. Opening of the session

H. E. Mr R. Vallejo Corral, President of the Council, welcomed warmly all participants and opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

DECISION:

- **The Council adopted its Agenda, which is reproduced in Annex 1**

3. Composition of the Bureau of the ICE: Candidates to the posts of Chairman and Rapporteur and ten Vice-Chairs

The President introduced the main items requiring a decision by Council, namely: the list of candidates to be proposed for the Chairman, the Rapporteur and the ten Vice-Chairs, who will form the Bureau of the forty-eighth session of the ICE (see Annex II).

DECISION:

- **In conformity with the decision of the fifty-sixth session of the IBE Council, which attributed the post of Chairman to Electoral Group Vb (Arab States), the Council decided, on the unanimous proposal of this Group, to present the candidature of H.E. Mr Abdusalam AL-JOUFI (Yemen), for the post of Chairman of the forty-eighth session of the ICE;**
- **In conformity with the same decision, attributing the post of Rapporteur to Electoral Group III (Latin America/Caribbean), the Council decided, on the unanimous proposal of this Group, to present the candidature of Ms Tibisay HUNG, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Venezuela, for the post of Rapporteur of the ICE;**

- **The results of the consultations of the Electoral Groups for the candidatures of the ten Vice-Chairs are the following:**

Group I (Western Europe / North America): CANADA, FINLAND

Group II (Central / Eastern Europe): AZERBAÏDJAN, LATVIA

Group III (Latin America / Caribbean): PANAMA

Group IV (Asia / Pacific): AFGHANISTAN, CHINA

Group Va (Africa): UGANDA, ZAMBIA

Group Vb (Arab States): SYRIA

4. **Subsidiary body of the 48th session of the ICE: Twelve candidates for the Drafting Group in charge of preparing the document “Conclusions and Recommendations”.**

In conformity with the decision taken by the Council at its fifty-sixth session, a Drafting Group consisting of twelve people (two for each Electoral Group), in addition to the six members of the Working Group responsible for assisting the IBE Director in preparing the 48th International Conference on Education (WG on ICE), for a total of 18 members (three per Electoral Group) would prepare the final document.

DECISION:

- **The Council decided to propose to the ICE that the following countries be members of the Drafting Group:**

Group I (Western Europe / North America): BELGIUM, CANADA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Group II (Central / Eastern Europe): CZECH REPUBLIC, LATVIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Group III (Latin America / Caribbean): ARGENTINA, BRASIL, VENEZUELA

Group IV (Asia / Pacific): JAPAN, INDIA, INDONESIA

Group Va (Africa): CAMEROON, KENYA, NIGERIA

Group Vb (Arab States): JORDAN, OMAN, SOCIALIST PEOPLE’S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

- **The Council also decided to propose to the Conference that observers be accepted to follow the works of the Drafting Group.**

The Council discussed the modality of preparation of the document “Conclusions and Recommendations” and the time-table of the Drafting Group.

DECISION:

- **The Council decided to propose that the Group be placed under the responsibility of the President of the Working Group on ICE, H.E. Ambassador Michael OMOLEWA, Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO.**

5. Any other business

Friday, 28 November (2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

6. Preliminary Evaluation of the 48th session of the ICE

The Council met after the closing of the forty-eighth session of the ICE in order to carry out a preliminary evaluation of the Conference. The President of the IBE Council and sixteen delegations took the floor during the debate and they all conveyed heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Ms C. Acedo, the IBE Director and her team for the extraordinary work accomplished and for the professionalism and dedication displayed during this outstanding, extremely successful and well organized Conference. The inspiring preparatory process was highlighted as the best example of involving the various stakeholders in the substance of the Conference and as a key element in its success. The personal involvement of over 100 ministers and vice ministers, the participation of experts and representatives of youth and civil society greatly contributed to the broad exchange of opinions and to the diverse perspectives expressed, and resulted in strong political commitment to Inclusive Education. The high quality Conference documents - in particular the Reference Document - presentations and interventions were also assessed as a success indicator and as a positive outcome of the regional meetings and conferences. A comment was made about the fact that workshops brought together Ministers from developed and developing countries in a frank dialogue showing how inclusive education is relevant in both cases. The fact that the OECD/PISA analysis was presented together with the GMR analysis on quality, equity and inclusion was also praised. The Round Table “Young people address ministers” was greatly appreciated and viewed as one of the Conference’s highlights, as well as the five videos. The productive work of the Drafting Group was praised as well, and the spirit on tolerance in which it operated under the leadership of its President.

The “Conclusions and recommendations” refocused the international community’s attention and resources on education, despite the global financial crisis, and this was considered as an essential reminder to countries that their commitment to education should be untouchable. The priority expressed in the final document to extending support to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was also appreciated. Some delegations placed emphasis on reaffirming the vital importance of education as a human right, on teaching and pedagogical approaches and on the central role of teachers. A comment was also made to consider the target group of people in natural disaster under point 21 of the ‘Conclusions and Recommendations’. In the process of planning for the next ICE, the format could be re-assessed in order to optimize discussion based sessions. Several suggestions were made as possible follow up to ‘make Inclusive Education a reality’. The preparation of a ‘Road map’ was mentioned, as well as the organization of regional conferences to support the implementation of the Conference recommendations and to share experiences, the organization of a forum, where multifaceted aspects of inclusion could be addressed more in depth, like issues related to indigenous populations. The use of the concept paper prepared by Canada as a possible template for future workshops was also proposed. There was an agreement that the Conference outcomes should be timely and widely disseminated and also highlighted in the three forthcoming UNESCO International conferences. A more comprehensive discussion on the ICE evaluation and on possible follow up mechanisms will be carried out at the 58th session of the IBE Council in January 2009.

At the end of the debate, the IBE Director, Ms C. Acedo expressed her thanks to the delegations for their recognition of the tremendous work that the IBE team was able to carry out and paid tribute to the Education Sector staff and to Mr P. Luisoni, former IBE Director a.i., for their support and advice throughout the preparations. Given the wealth of information and materials that IBE has gathered throughout the preparatory process, Ms C. Acedo mentioned the importance of developing a clearinghouse on inclusive education which could be useful in informing policies. She also highlighted the importance of comparatively exploring the database on inclusion gathered from the National Reports. She looks forward to more in depth discussions on the follow up of the ICE. Mr N. Burnett joined the IBE Director in highly appreciating the words of thanks from the delegations, and in recognizing the bigger UNESCO team that contributed to the success of the Conference. He also conveyed words of cautions about the timing and the financial implications of organizing future conferences that should be planned very carefully.

DECISION:

- **The Council congratulated the IBE and UNESCO on the success of the forty-eighth session of the ICE. It decided to return to this subject during its fifty-eighth session (January 2009), in order to carry out an in-depth evaluation of the entire work of the Conference.**

7. Confirmation of the dates of the 58th session of the IBE Council

DECISION:

- **The Council confirmed the dates reserved for its fifty-eighth session, namely on 28-30 January 2009. This will be preceded by the meeting of the Administrative Group, on 26 and 27 January 2009.**

8. Any other business

9. Adoption of the Report of the Decisions of the 57th session

DECISION:

- **In accordance with the Rules of Procedures, the Council approved the text of its decisions (*Document: UNESCO/BIE/C.57/Decisions Prov.*) and asked the Secretary of the Council to include possible amendments.**
- **The Council entrusted the Secretary of the Council with the task of publishing the Proceedings and Decisions of the fifty-seventh session by January 2009.**

10. Closing of the session

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UNESCO/BIE/C.57/Proceedings and Decisions

Annex I

Geneva, 16 July 2008

Original: English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION

Fifty-seventh session

International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG)
17 rue de Varembé, Geneva

25 and 28 November 2008

AGENDA

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION

Fifty-Seventh Session

25 and 28 November 2008

AGENDA

Tuesday, 25 November (8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda
3. Composition of the Bureau of the ICE: Candidates to the posts of **Chairman** and **Rapporteur** and ten **Vice-Chairs**
4. Subsidiary body of the 48th session of the ICE: Twelve candidates for the **Drafting Group** in charge of preparing the document "Conclusions and Recommendations".
5. Any other business

Friday, 28 November (2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

6. Preliminary Evaluation of the 48th session of the ICE
7. Confirmation of the dates of the 58th session of the IBE Council (28-30 January 2009)
8. Any other business
9. Adoption of the Report of the Decisions of the 57th session (UNESCO/BIE/C.57/Decisions Prov.)
10. Closing of the session

48th session of the International Conference on Education (ICE)
Geneva, 25 - 28 November 2008

1)	Group I <i>Western Europe & North America</i>	Group II <i>Eastern & Central Europe</i>	Group III <i>Latin America & Caribbean</i>	Group IV <i>Asia & the Pacific</i>	Group Va <i>Africa</i>	Group Vb <i>Arab States</i>
Composition of the Bureau *	Two Vice-Chairs: 1. CANADA (Quebec) 2. FINLAND , Republic of	Two Vice-Chairs: 1. AZERBAIDJAN , Republic of 2. LATVIA , Republic of	Rapporteur: 1. VENEZUELA , Bolivarian Republic of 1. Vice-Chair: PANAMA , Republic of	Two Vice-Chairs: 1. CHINA , People's Republic of 2. AFGHANISTAN	Two Vice-Chairs: 1. UGANDA , Republic of 2. ZAMBIA , Republic of	Chairman: 1. YEMEN , Republic of 1. Vice-Chair: SYRIA , Arab Republic of

* Revised Rules of Procedure of the ICE (Rule 4): *At the beginning of each session, the Conference shall elect a Chairman, ten Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution. The Chairman, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the Conference shall constitute the Bureau of the Conference, together with the Chairmen of any subsidiary bodies that the Conference might create. The Director-General of UNESCO or respective representative, the President of the Council of the International Bureau of Education (IBE) and the Secretary of the Conference or respective representative will participate ex-officio and without the right to vote in the meetings of the Bureau.*

2)	Group I <i>Western Europe & North America</i>	Group II <i>Eastern & Central Europe</i>	Group III <i>Latin America & Caribbean</i>	Group IV <i>Asia & the Pacific</i>	Group Va <i>Africa</i>	Group Vb <i>Arab States</i>
Composition of the Drafting Group **	Two members: 1. BELGIUM , Kingdom of 2. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 3. CANADA **	Two members: 1. RUSSIAN FEDERATION 2. CZECH REPUBLIC 3. LATVIA , Republic of **	Two members: 1. BRAZIL , Federative Republic of 2. ARGENTINE REPUBLIC 3. VENEZUELA , Bolivarian Republic of **	Two members: 1. INDIA , Republic of 2. JAPAN 3. INDONESIA , Republic of **	Two members: 1. CAMEROON , Republic of 2. KENYA , Republic of 3. NIGERIA , Federal Republic of **	Two members: 1. JORDAN , Hashemite Kingdom of 2. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya 3. OMAN , Sultanate of **

** Report of WG on ICE to the 56th session of IBE Council (Page 9): The IBE Council adopted the following proposal: *a) to have the members of the Working Group on ICE included in the Drafting Group ex-officio (Canada, Latvia, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Indonesia, Nigeria and Oman) and to have two more representatives from the six Electoral Groups elected as members.*

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UNESCO/BIE/C.57/Proceedings and Decisions
Annex III

Distribution: limitée

UNESCO/BIE/C.57/Compte rendu et Décisions
Annexe III

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE

COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION

CONSEIL DU BUREAU INTERNATIONAL D'EDUCATION

Fifty-seventh session / Cinquante-septième session

International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG)
17 rue de Varembé, Geneva

Centre international de conférences (CICG)
17 rue de Varembé, Genève

25 and 28 November 2008
25 et 28 novembre 2008

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