



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

21 DEC 2007

Ref.: CL/3839

Subject: **Participation Programme in the activities of Member States  
for 2008-2009**

Sir/Madam,

The Participation Programme, to which all Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO have access, provides a means of supporting activities in the Organization's regular programme priorities. In this biennium, in line with the Approved Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5 Approved), we should like you, when preparing your projects, to take particular account of the two top programme priorities, namely Africa and gender equality, and the priority target groups, namely youth, the Least Developed Countries, post-conflict and post-disaster countries and Small Island Developing States.

I invite you when formulating any request you may wish to make under the Participation Programme to be sure that there is a link between your proposals and the priorities set out in UNESCO's regular programme in accordance with 34 C/Resolution 52, enclosed herewith. Your projects should be submitted on the form provided with this circular letter, making clear their order of priority. **The closing date for submitting your requests is 28 February 2008.** The Participation Programme Section will provide you with any further information you may require (Tel.: +33 (0)1 45 68 13 56 – Fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 55 34).

I am also pleased to inform you that, under the provisions approved by the General Conference, each region may now submit three regional requests in an amount not exceeding \$46,000 each. These projects are not included in the quota (of 10 requests) submitted by each Member State if they so wish.

Furthermore, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that Member States and international non-governmental organizations which received financial assistance under the Participation Programme in previous biennia (up to and including 2006-2007) undertook to forward two reports to the Secretariat upon completion of each project.

The first is a **financial report** containing a detailed and accurate account of expenditure, which should correspond to the budget estimate that I have approved.

The second report is a **project evaluation report**, which should describe in full the implementation of the project and the results obtained.

I should also like to recall that, as stipulated by the resolution on the Participation Programme, no further financial contributions will be forthcoming in 2008-2009 until the Secretariat has received all the financial reports and evaluation reports on requests and emergency assistance paid before 31 December 2006. A similar provision applies to projects approved in the form of financial contributions for the next biennium, which must be implemented within the Organization's financial period, that is, by **31 December 2009 at the latest**.

Any sum not used for the purposes of the project should be reimbursed in the currency of payment.

Furthermore, you will recall that I appealed in the recent past to the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and more particularly those on its Development Assistance Committee, to refrain from submitting requests under the Participation Programme in order to increase the amount of resources available for allocations in response to requests submitted by the other Member States of the Organization, especially the poorest ones.

As you know, in 34 C/Resolution 52 on the Participation Programme adopted at the last session of the General Conference I am invited to identify ways and means of strengthening the Participation Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium for the benefit of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), developing countries, post-conflict and post-disaster countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and countries in transition. For that reason, I should like to renew my appeal **to these countries and suggest that they refrain from submitting requests, and to extend the appeal to all countries whose annual gross domestic product per capita exceeds \$10,000. The funds saved could thus be available for the Member States which need them most**, namely the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), developing countries, post-conflict and post-disaster countries (PCPD), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and countries in transition.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Koïchiro Matsuura  
Director-General

Enclosures: 5 annexes

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

**ANNEX I**

**UNESCO**

**PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME 2008-2009**

**FORM FOR SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST**

To reach UNESCO, ERC/RSC/PP Section – Fax +33 (0)1 45 68 55 34  
by **28 February 2008** at the latest

**This form is available on the Internet at the following address:**

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=32042&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=32042&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

Request number  
(leave blank)

1. Request submitted by (name of country, territory or international NGO):

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2. Title of project and place of implementation:

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3. Order of priority:

4. Dates of implementation of the project:

Commencement date \_\_\_\_\_

Termination date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please take account of the fact that the first approvals will not be granted before June 2008.**

5. Type of assistance requested:

Type of assistance	Implementation by UNESCO programme sectors, services concerned or field offices	Implementation by the beneficiary Financial contribution (in US \$)
Specialists and consultants – Not including staff costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Study grants and fellowships	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Publications, periodicals, documentation, translation, reproduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Supplies and equipment (other than vehicles)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Conferences, meetings, translation & interpretation services, participants' travel costs (not including those of UNESCO staff members)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Seminars and training courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Total	Total

6. Contribution from the Member State or INGO in US \$: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please enter the amount so that a full evaluation can be made.

7. (a) Description of the **project**:

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(b) Detailed description of **estimated budget**: The budget must be drawn up in US \$  
(provide a **pro forma invoice for equipment**)

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(continue on a separate page, if necessary)

8. 34 C/5 activity to which this project relates:

34 C/5 paragraph No.	
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9. Geographical coverage of the project (tick the appropriate box):

National	
Subregional (1)	
Interregional (1)	
Regional (2)	

(1) Project supported by at least two Member States: \_\_\_\_\_  
(attached form in Annex II  
to be completed by the Member States)

(2) Regional project supported by at least three Member States: \_\_\_\_\_  
(form in Annex IV)

10. Name of the body responsible for carrying out the project:

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11. Beneficiary institution(s): name, address, telephone no., fax no.

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12. In the case of financial contributions, please tick the appropriate box:

**method of payment**

by bank transfer to the National Commission (recommended for reasons of reliability and speed)

account holder: \_\_\_\_\_

account number: \_\_\_\_\_

SWIFT code and other bank code: \_\_\_\_\_

name of the bank in full: \_\_\_\_\_

name of branch: \_\_\_\_\_

address of the branch: \_\_\_\_\_

**(In addition, please supply a statement of account information)**

**currency of payment**

US dollars     euros     other \_\_\_\_\_

or  Exceptionally, via Field Office upon HQ UNESCO approval

13. The applicant accepts the conditions set out in 34 C/Resolution 52 on the Participation Programme, adopted by the General Conference at its 34th session.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Stamp and signature*

- of the Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO
- or of the recognized representative of the Government<sup>1</sup>
- or of the international non-governmental organization maintaining official relations with UNESCO

<sup>1</sup> In Member States where there is no National Commission.



**ANNEX II**

**PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME 2008-2009**

**MODEL LETTER OF SUPPORT**

(Such letters may be sent to the ERC/RSC/PP Section – Fax +33 (0)1 45 68 55 34  
and should be attached to the request)

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of:

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*(name of the country offering its support)*

wishes to support the project:

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*(title of the project)*

submitted by:

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*(name of the country or INGO submitting the project)*

within the framework of the Participation Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium.

*Place and date*

*Name, signature and stamp*

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(Secretary-General of the National Commission)  
(Permanent Delegate or recognized  
representative of the government)

**Note:** The fact that a Member State has given its support to a request submitted by another Member State has no implications for the 10 requests submitted on its own behalf.



**ANNEX III**  
**PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME 2008-2009**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Which must be sent to UNESCO, ERC/RSC/PP Section – Fax 33 1 45 68 55 34  
on completion of the project

Country (or NGO) \_\_\_\_\_

**Number and title of the request:** \_\_\_\_\_

In pursuance of 34 C/Resolution 52 adopted by the General Conference concerning the principles and conditions governing the Participation Programme:

1. I hereby certify that the financial contribution of US \$ \_\_\_\_\_ received from UNESCO for the above request has been fully/partially\* spent, in accordance with the purposes for which it was granted, as follows:

		US \$
(a)	_____	_____
(b)	_____	_____
(c)	_____	_____
(d)	_____	_____
(e)	_____	_____
(etc.)	_____	_____

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Unspent balance to be returned to UNESCO \_\_\_\_\_

2. I undertake to keep **all supporting documents (receipts, contracts, invoices, etc.)** in respect of the use made of this financial contribution for a period of five years after the end of the biennium concerned and to provide them to UNESCO when it or its Auditor so requests, failing which unsupported amounts will be reimbursed to UNESCO.
3. For a regional project, the Member State or group of Member States which submitted the request is responsible for filling in this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stamp and signature\*\*  
(of the financial officer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stamp and signature\*\*  
(name of the Secretary-General of the National Commission or of the international non-governmental organization)

\* Delete as appropriate.

\*\* Both signatures are required.



**ANNEX IV**  
**PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME 2008-2009**  
**MODEL LETTER OF SUPPORT**  
**REGIONAL PROJECT**

(Such letters may be sent to the ERC/RSC/PP Section – Fax +33 (0)1 45 68 55 34  
and should be attached to the request)

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(name of the country offering its support)*

wishes to support regional project No. 1, 2 or 3 of the region:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(title of the project)*

submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(name of the country or group of countries submitting the project)*

within the framework of the Participation Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium.

*Place and date*

*Name, signature and stamp*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Secretary-General of the National Commission)  
(Permanent Delegate or recognized  
representative of the government)

**Note:** The fact that a Member State has given its support to a request submitted by another Member State has no implications for the 10 requests submitted on its own behalf.



## ANNEX V

## 34 C/Resolution 52

52 Participation Programme<sup>1</sup>

*The General Conference*

I

1. *Authorizes* the Director-General:
  - (a) to implement the Programme of Participation in the activities of Member States, in accordance with the following principles and conditions;
  - (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$18,800,000 for direct programme costs.

**A. Principles**

1. The Participation Programme is one of the means employed by the Organization to achieve its objectives, through participation in activities carried out by Member States or Associate Members, or by territories, organizations or institutions, in its fields of competence. This participation is designed to strengthen the partnership between UNESCO and its Member States and make that partnership more effective through a sharing of contributions.
2. Priority under the Participation Programme will be given to proposals for the benefit of least developed countries (LDCs), developing countries and countries in transition.
3. Requests shall be submitted to the Director-General by the Member States through the National Commissions for UNESCO or, where there is no National Commission, through a designated government channel.
4. The projects or action plans submitted by the Member States under the Participation Programme must relate to the activities of the Organization, in particular to the major programmes, interdisciplinary projects, the activities on behalf of Africa, least developed countries, youth and women and the activities of the National Commissions for UNESCO. The selection of the Participation Programme projects will particularly take into account the priorities defined by the governing bodies for UNESCO's regular programme.
5. Each Member State may submit 10 requests or projects, which must be numbered in order of priority from 1 to 10. Requests or projects from national non-governmental organizations will come within the quota submitted by each Member State.
6. The order of priority laid down by the Member State may only be changed by the National Commission itself.
7. The international non-governmental organizations enjoying formal or operational relations with UNESCO, of which the list is established by the Executive Board, may submit up to two requests under the Participation Programme for projects with subregional, regional or interregional impact, provided that their requests are supported by at least the Member State where the project will be implemented and another Member State concerned by the request.
8. The deadline for submission of requests has been set for 28 February 2008, except for emergency assistance and regional projects.
9. The Secretariat shall advise Member States of the response by the Director-General to the requests within three months of the deadline of 28 February 2008.
10. *Beneficiaries.* Assistance under the Participation Programme may be accorded to:
  - (a) Member States or Associate Members upon request through their National Commissions or, where there is no National Commission, through a designated government channel, to promote activities of a national character. For activities of a subregional or interregional character, requests are submitted by the National Commissions of the Member States or Associate Members on whose territory they take place; these requests must be supported by at least two other National Commissions of participating Member States or Associate Members. For activities of a regional character, requests are limited to three by region and must be submitted by one Member State or a group of Member States. These requests must be supported by at least three Member States (or Associate Members) concerned and will not come within the quota (of ten requests) submitted by each Member State if they so wish; they will be evaluated and screened by the Secretariat in accordance with the procedure established for the processing of requests submitted under the Participation Programme;
  - (b) a non-self-governing or trust territory, upon the request of the National Commission of the Member State responsible for the conduct of the territory's external relations;
  - (c) international non-governmental organizations maintaining formal or operational relations with UNESCO as defined in paragraph 7 above;
  - (d) the Permanent Observer of Palestine to UNESCO, where the participation requested relates to activities in UNESCO's fields of competence in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

1. Resolution adopted on the report of the PRX Commission at the 19th plenary meeting, on 1 November 2007.

11. *Forms of assistance.* Assistance under the Participation Programme may comprise the provision of:
  - (a) the services of specialists and consultants, not including staff costs and administrative support;
  - (b) fellowships and study grants;
  - (c) publications, periodicals and documentation;
  - (d) equipment (other than vehicles);
  - (e) conferences, meetings, seminars and training courses: translation and interpretation services, participants' travel costs, the services of consultants, and other services deemed necessary by all concerned (not including those of UNESCO staff members);
  - (f) financial contributions.
12. *Total amount of assistance.* Whichever of the above forms of assistance is requested, the total value of the assistance provided for each request shall not be in excess of \$26,000 for a national project or activity, \$35,000 for a subregional or interregional project or activity, and \$46,000 for a regional project or activity; the financial provision made by the applicant must be sufficient to implement the activity satisfactorily. The activity must be executed and all funds disbursed in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Organization. The expenditures must be made according to the approved budget and any change thereto must be submitted to the Participation Programme Section for approval prior to expenditure.
13. *Approval of requests.* When deciding upon a request, the Director-General shall take into account:
  - (a) the total amount approved by the General Conference for this Programme;
  - (b) the assessment of the request made by the relevant Sector(s);
  - (c) the recommendation of the Intersectoral Committee chaired by the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation and responsible for screening the Participation Programme requests, which are to be in conformity with established criteria, procedures and priorities;
  - (d) the contribution that such participation can effectively make to the attainment of Member States' objectives in UNESCO's fields of competence and within the framework of the major priorities of the Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the Programme and Budget (C/5) approved by the General Conference, to which participation must be closely linked;
  - (e) the need to pursue a more equitable balance in the distribution of funds, by giving priority to the needs of developing countries and countries in transition, as well as those of Africa, the least developed countries, women and youth, which need to be mainstreamed throughout all programmes;
  - (f) the need to ensure that funding for each approved project is, as far as possible, allocated no later than 30 days before the date set for the start of the implementation of the project concerned, and in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph B.15(a).
14. *Implementation:*
  - (a) The Participation Programme will be implemented within the biennial programme of the Organization, of which it forms an integral part. The implementation of a request is the responsibility of the Member State or other applicant. The request submitted to the Director-General must show specific scheduled commencement and termination dates for the implementation of projects, cost estimates and promised or expected funding from the Member States or private institutions.
  - (b) The achievements of the Participation Programme will be made more widely known with a view to the planning and implementation of the Organization's future activities. An evaluation of the Participation Programme's impact and results in Member States and its consistency with the objectives and priorities set by UNESCO will be carried out during the biennium. The evaluation reports, submitted after completion of each project by Member States, will be used by the Secretariat for this purpose. An evaluation may also be undertaken while the project is being carried out.
  - (c) The use of UNESCO's name and logo for the activities approved under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the directives approved by the governing bodies, will give this programme a higher profile when it is carried out at the national, subregional, regional or interregional levels.

## **B. Conditions**

15. *Assistance under the Participation Programme* will be provided only if the applicant, when sending in the written requests to the Director-General, accepts the following conditions. The applicant shall:
  - (a) assume full financial and administrative responsibility for implementing the plans and programmes for which participation is provided; in the case of a financial contribution, submit to the Director-General at the close of the project an itemized statement accounting for the activities executed and certifying that the funds allocated have been used for the implementation of the project, and return to UNESCO any balance not used for project purposes, it being understood that no new financial contribution will be paid until the applicant has submitted all the financial reports certified by the Secretary-General of the National Commission in respect of contributions previously approved by the Director-General and for which payments were effected prior to 31 December 2006, and which have been certified by

the competent authority. Also, given the need for proper accountability, all the additional supporting documents necessary shall be kept by the applicant for a period of five years after the end of the biennium concerned and provided to UNESCO or the auditor upon written request. In certain exceptional cases or in unavoidable circumstances, the Director-General may decide on the most appropriate way to handle requests, provided that he duly informs the Executive Board;

- (b) undertake to provide on a compulsory basis, together with the financial report mentioned in subparagraph (a) above, a detailed evaluation report on the results of the activities financed and their usefulness for the Member State or States and UNESCO;
- (c) pay, where participation is accorded in the form of study grants, the cost of the grantholders' passports, visas, medical examinations and salaries while they are abroad, if they are in receipt of a salary; help them find suitable employment when they return to their countries of origin in accordance with national regulations;
- (d) maintain and insure against all risks any property supplied by UNESCO, from the time of its arrival at the point of delivery;
- (e) undertake to cover UNESCO against any claim or liability resulting from the activities provided for in this resolution, except where it is agreed by UNESCO and the National Commission of the Member State concerned that such claim or liability arises from gross negligence or wilful misconduct;
- (f) grant to UNESCO, with regard to activities to be carried out in connection with the Participation Programme, the privileges and immunities set out in the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies.

### C. Emergency assistance

#### 16. *Criteria for according emergency assistance by UNESCO.*

- (a) Emergency assistance may be accorded by UNESCO when:
  - (i) there are insurmountable circumstances nationwide (earthquakes, storms, cyclones, hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons, landslides, volcanic eruptions, fires, droughts, floods or wars, etc.) which have catastrophic consequences for the Member State in the fields of education, science, culture or communication and which it cannot overcome on its own;
  - (ii) multilateral emergency assistance efforts are being undertaken by the international community or the United Nations system;
  - (iii) the Member State requests UNESCO to provide emergency assistance, in accordance with (i) and (ii) above, in the fields of its competence, through its National Commission or an established government channel;
  - (iv) the Member State is prepared to accept the Organization's recommendations in light of the present criteria.
- (b) UNESCO emergency assistance should be restricted to the Organization's fields of competence and should only begin once the threat to life has been overcome and the physical priorities have been met (food, clothing, shelter and medical assistance).
- (c) UNESCO emergency assistance should be concentrated on:
  - (i) assessing the situation and evaluating the basic requirements;
  - (ii) providing expertise and formulating recommendations on resolving the situation in its fields of competence;
  - (iii) helping to identify outside funding sources and extrabudgetary funds.
- (d) Emergency assistance in cash or kind should be limited to the strict minimum and only provided in exceptional cases.
- (e) No administrative support or personnel costs shall be financed through emergency assistance.
- (f) The total budget for any emergency assistance project shall not exceed \$50,000. It may be supplemented by extrabudgetary funds identified for this purpose or other sources of funding.
- (g) Emergency assistance shall not be provided if the Member State's request may be met within the ordinary Participation Programme;
- (h) Emergency assistance shall be provided in coordination with other United Nations agencies.

#### 17. *Procedures to be followed when providing emergency assistance.*

- (a) Faced with an emergency situation, a Member State, through its National Commission or the designated government channel, will identify, as appropriate, its needs and the type of assistance it requires from UNESCO, within UNESCO's fields of competence.
- (b) The Director-General shall then inform the Member State, through the National Commission or established channel, of his decision.
- (c) When appropriate, and in agreement with the Member State, a technical assessment mission will be sent to appraise the situation and report back to the Director-General.
- (d) The Secretariat shall report to the Member State on the assistance and the amounts it envisages providing and the follow-up, if any, which could be considered; the total value of the assistance provided shall not be in excess of \$50,000.
- (e) In the case of goods or services to be supplied by UNESCO, there shall be no international competitive bidding if the situation requires urgent action.
- (f) An evaluation report, and, save in exceptional circumstances, a financial report, shall be submitted by the Member State after completion of the project.

II

2. *Invites* the Director-General:
  - (a) to communicate without delay, in order to enhance the presentation, follow-up and evaluation of the projects submitted under the Participation Programme, to the National Commissions or, where there is no National Commission, through the designated government channel, the reasons for modifying or denying the requested amounts;
  - (b) to inform the National Commissions, or where there is no National Commission, the designated government channel, of all projects and activities undertaken by international non-governmental organizations in their respective countries with support from the Participation Programme;
  - (c) to provide to the Executive Board at every autumn session a report including the following information:
    - (i) a list of applications for contributions from the Participation Programme received in the Secretariat;
    - (ii) a list of the projects approved under the Participation Programme and those under emergency assistance, together with the amounts approved to finance them, and any other costs and support connected with them;
    - (iii) with regard to international non-governmental organizations, a list drawn up along the same lines as that provided for in (ii) above;
  - (d) to ensure the percentage of the Participation Programme funds for emergency assistance, international non-governmental organizations and regional activities does not exceed 7%, 5% and 3% respectively of the allocated amount for the Participation Programme for a given biennium;
  - (e) to identify ways and means of strengthening the Participation Programme in the forthcoming biennium for the benefit of the least developed countries (LDCs), developing countries, post-conflict and post-disaster countries, small island developing States (SIDS) and countries in transition;
3. *Requests* the Director-General to carry out a review of management procedures in order to speed up the time it takes for decision-making and to improve the efficiency of the administration of the Participation Programme, and to present a report thereon to the governing bodies;
4. *Also requests* the Director-General to report in the statutory reports on the achievement of the following expected results, including information on the cost-efficient use of human and financial resources, particularly in the areas of travel, publications and contractual services, for each of the results reported, following the principles of transparency, efficiency and rationalization:
  - Formulation, evaluation and follow-up of requests improved in such a way as to enhance complementarity between the activities planned as part of the Programme and Budget and those supported under the Participation Programme, ensuring conformity with the major priorities of the Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the Programme and Budget (C/5)
  - Implementation of adjustable strategies to meet the special and urgent needs of certain groups of countries with common characteristics improved
  - Transparency of programme execution increased and accountability mechanisms strengthened to ensure improved management, monitoring and flow of information to Member States
  - Improved evaluation of reports on the results of the activities supported and a more effective record-keeping system put in place
  - Image of the Organization and impact of its action enhanced.