

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and
Universal Access to Cyberspace

Preliminary report prepared in accordance with Article 10.1 of UNESCO's Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of its Constitution.

SUMMARY

The General Conference, in accordance with its 29 C/Resolution 36, considered it desirable that an international instrument concerning the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace be prepared, decided that the instrument should take the form of a recommendation to Member States.

At its thirtieth session the General Conference adopted 30 C/Resolution 37 in which it approved the interim report proposing a strategy and invited the Director-General to submit a draft recommendation on the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace at its 31st session.

In pursuance of Article 10, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of its Constitution, the Director-General has prepared the present preliminary report setting forth the position regarding the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace and to the possible scope of the proposed recommendation.

This preliminary report is submitted to Member States for their comments and observations. On the basis of these, the Director-General will prepare a final report containing a draft recommendation for submission to the General Conference at its thirty-first session for examination and possible adoption.

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INTRODUCTION

1. In pursuance of 29 C/Resolution 36 adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-ninth session the Director-General prepared and submitted to the General Conference at its thirtieth session a technical interim report on the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace (30 C/31), in accordance with provisions of Articles 2 and 3 of the “Rules of Procedure concerning the Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions » covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution.

2. This interim report provided a summary of the work that the Secretariat had carried out on the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution, proposed a strategy in support of linguistic and cultural diversity on the Internet - Initiative [B@bel](#), and informed the General Conference that further consultations were needed to prepare a recommendation. The General Conference adopted resolution (30 C/Resolution 37) inviting” the Director-General to submit to it at its 31st sessiona draft recommendation on the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace.” (Annex 1)

3. In pursuance of 30 C/Resolution 37 adopted by the General Conference at its thirtieth session which approved the new strategy, the Director-General pursued his consultations and submitted to the Executive Board at its 159th session (April-May 2000) a list of the first projects to be undertaken in the framework of this strategy (159 EX/15). The Executive Board took in June 2000 decision 159 EX/Decision 3.5.2 inviting “the Director-General to continue the elaboration of this strategy with a view to including it in the draft recommendation to Member States on the promotion of multilingualism and equal access to information on the global networks to be submitted for adoption by the General Conference at its 31st session, in conformity with the applicable rules of procedure, and to submit a progress report on the matter to it at its 161st session”. (Annex 2)

4. In pursuance of this resolution and in conformity with the provisions of Article 10.1 of the aforesaid Rules of Procedure, the Director-General has prepared the present preliminary report setting forth the status regarding the problem to be addressed in a recommendation and the possible scope of this proposed international instrument on the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace.

A. BACKGROUND OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PROMOTION AND USE OF MULTILINGUALISM AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CYBERSPACE

All countries have a vital interest in the development of a global information society and in the new opportunities that arise from better access to and provision of information. It is essential, however, that the global information society ensure that everyone is able to benefit from those opportunities by supporting, in particular, initiatives providing affordable and equitable access to information in all languages.

Nevertheless, there are still numerous political, legal, cultural, economic, educational, social and technological factors affecting this access. Disparities and inequalities among countries and communities in accessing and providing information – the so-called “digital divide” between information rich and information poor - are growing.

An increasing number of governments feel the need to establish national guiding principles for the formulation and implementation of policies on equal and affordable access to information in cyberspace. Many international and regional organizations¹ are also launching initiatives intended to reach an international consensus on common fundamental principles that should guide such policies. Others, including UNESCO, have been urging that an appropriate balance be maintained in matters concerning access to and production of information on the global networks by including, in particular, among those principles the development of multilingualism on the Internet.²

The increased awareness of the issues arising around the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace described in document 29 C/23³ was strongly reconfirmed by several major events that took place since that time.

The Ministers of Culture of seventeen countries⁴ reaffirmed, in 1999, the necessity to preserve and facilitate cultural and linguistic diversity in the information society. They insisted on the protection, promotion and diffusion of material and immaterial cultural diversity and human heritage through wider access to cultural goods and services including all audio-visual means, adoption of regulations and increased participation of the civil society. In this context, they expressed the wish that UNESCO continue to play its key role in the safeguarding and promotion of cultural diversity.

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Ministerial Declaration on the role of information technologies in the context of a knowledge-based global economy (11 July 2000)⁵ proposed national programmes that highlight the need for international dialogue, for bringing together best practices and for mobilizing available resources to improve the effective use of ICT, including in the developing countries.

¹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, International Chamber of Commerce, Council of Europe, European Union, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, etc.

² - International Symposium on Multilingualism in an Information Society, 4-7 December 1997.

- INFOethics 98 – Second UNESCO International Congress on Ethical, Legal and Societal Challenges of Cyberspace, 1-3 October 1998.

- Expert meeting on Cyberspace Law, 29-30 September 1998.

- Expert meeting on Multilingualism in the Information Society, 15 April 1999.

³ Preliminary report by the Director-General on the feasibility of an international instrument on the establishment of a legal framework relating to cyberspace and of a recommendation on the preservation of a balanced use of languages in cyberspace, September 1997.

⁴ Second meeting of the International Network on Cultural Policies, Oaxaca, Mexico, 20-21 September 1999

⁵ Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy. Draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment submitted by the President of the Economic and Social Council on the basis of informal consultations, New York, 11 July 2000.

The Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society⁶ reaffirmed its commitment to the formulation and implementation of strategies that will enable everyone to enjoy universal and affordable access to information and communication networks by “fostering conditions conducive to the provision of affordable communication services, exploring other complementary means, including access through publicly available facilities, giving priority to improving network access, especially in underserved urban, rural and remote areas, paying particular attention to the needs and constraints of socially under-privileged, people with disabilities, and other persons and actively pursue measures to facilitate their access and use; and encouraging further development of ‘user friendly’, ‘barrier-free’ technologies, including mobile access to the Internet, as well as greater utilisation of free and publicly available contents in a way which respects intellectual property rights”.

In July 2000, the ITU Administrative Council approved a recommendation to prepare a World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 in close cooperation with interested United Nations Agencies⁷ with a view “to develop a common vision and understanding of the information society and to draw a strategic plan of action for its concerted development” and to “articulate a clear statement of political will”. One of the core issues is equitable access in a digital global economy. UNESCO having been invited to be associated in the preparation of this Summit, it will be very timely if the scope of the proposed recommendation makes a substantial contribution to the objectives of this Summit.

B. SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

It is against this background that proactive measures need to be taken urgently at the national and international levels to encourage the application of common fundamental principles in support of governments that are at a critical stage in the formulation of the policies, regulatory frameworks, and infrastructure, addressing these concerns and determining the future of the global information society.

The draft recommendation to be submitted for examination and possible adoption by the General Conference at its thirty-first session will propose co-operative international action in the formulation of principles promoting multilingualism and facilitating an affordable and equitable access for all to cyberspace. Its essence is to foster an equitable and multicultural information society respecting the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Above all, it is a call to all stakeholders, in both the public and private sectors, to maximize ICT capacities so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of universal and affordable access to information and knowledge.

UNESCO proposes that the draft recommendation cover the following key aspects of universal access to cyberspace: provision of access to the telematics networks and services, promotion of multilingualism, provision of access to information in the public domain and application of exemptions to copyright.

⁶ G8 - Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society, Japan, 23 July 2000, (paragraphs 9 and 10) <http://www.g8kyushu-okinawa.go.jp/e/documents/it1.html>.

⁷ International Telecommunication Union, Council 2000 Session (19-28 July), Document C2000/87-E, Resolution 1158.

Four studies were carried out during May-June 2000 by experts in each of these fields closely linked to the concept of universal access to cyberspace. In the course of these studies references have been made to all current works in these domains. This preliminary report is based on these studies.

(a) Facilitating access to telematics services

Basic principles

The availability of publicly accessible telematics networks and services is the first prerequisite to ensure that all citizens gain benefit from the opportunities in accessing multicultural human heritage in cyberspace. Inequalities in access to these services are the most evident cause for disparities existing between the information « haves » and the « have nots » and between the developing and industrialized countries.

Among the many obstacles to this access, the economic constraints are particularly important as they relate to Internet service connection and access to telecommunication channels without which universal access to the Internet is not possible. The cost and tariffs applied to these services are adversely affecting the Internet affordability, especially in developing countries.

The provision of telecommunication facilities as a public service is subject to well defined regulatory frameworks at the national level, as well as international regulations and standards developed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), within which universal access of citizens to telecommunications has been defined and recognized at the national and international levels. The question of telecommunication infrastructure and access is thus principally the concern of the ITU, with UNESCO and its partners in Member States being concerned mainly as clients.

On the other hand, Internet service connection is considered by the ITU as a user application rather than as a telecommunication service within its mandate. While most industrialized countries do not regulate Internet connectivity, many developing countries restrict the establishment of Internet service providers, and many also require that international Internet traffic pass through a unique gateway at rates substantially above those available in a free market, factors which contribute to the fact that Internet access is substantially more expensive and less widely available in the developing countries. The historical development of the Internet has led to a strong market dominance of a very few major international providers, meaning that networks in most countries are generally obliged to assume the full cost of an international leased telecommunication channel to a backbone provider. This has led to distortions in traffic that have hindered the development of strong regional Internet backbones and, in the case of certain developing countries, also national backbones and peering arrangements.

Other factors limiting access are the purchase of the Internet identifiers (Internet addresses, domain names) which are particularly difficult to get for many developing countries, the insufficiencies of national policies on the regulation of the Internet connectivity due to the lack of experience in dealing with this new medium, the

severe inequality for the populations of rural and disadvantaged communities particularly in developing countries with inadequate public commodities such as electricity and telephone services, economic and administrative constraints of public service institutions wishing to participate in the information revolution, and insufficient understanding of public authorities of the potential of new technologies in improving public services.

Proposed measures

M1 - Solutions are needed first of all **at the policy level. The Internet should be considered as a public utility service in the same way as basic telecommunication services, water, and electricity.** Mechanisms should be established to provide the cross-subsidization of telecommunication and Internet access costs necessary to ensure universal access to the Internet and its multilingual contents, with special consideration for the needs of public service institutions.

M2 - National regulatory authorities could assist this effort by establishing **concessionary rates for Internet access in public service institutions** such as schools, academic organizations and public libraries. Reductions in taxes and customs duties on informatics and network equipment may also be considered in this context.

M3 - Member States should also support the development of "**public service sector information and community technology (ICT) consortia**", as developed in a joint study of the ITU and UNESCO,⁸ as a means of facilitating the access of public service institutions to telematics networks and services.

M4 - The international community should recognize and support the **concept of universal access to telematics networks and services as a basic human right.** Concerned international organizations, especially UNESCO in collaboration with ITU as part of a wider UN system effort, should promote the sharing of information and experience on the application of telematics networks and services in development, including evaluation of appropriate technologies, the formulation and application of appropriate policies and regulations at the national and international levels, and the strengthening of international support for capacity building in the developing countries.

M5 - On the basis of international solidarity, the **interconnection on an equal cost sharing basis should be encouraged between national Internet peering points in developing countries** (which bring together the traffic of private and non-profit ISPs) **and peering points in other countries** (whether developing or industrialized), independently of the respective traffic flows; such a principle could involve a "sunset rule", to be phased out as the Internet develops in the developing countries.

M6 - The issue of **strengthening intra-regional networks, combining commercial and public service traffic**, has to be brought forward high on the agendas of regional forums. Serious thought should be given to the possibility of establishing high capacity regional backbones to connect each country within a multi-hub global

⁸ ITU and UNESCO. *The Right to Communicate - At What Price? Economic Constraints to the Effective Use of Telecommunications in Education, Science, Culture and in the Circulation of Information.* Paris: UNESCO, May 1995 (CII-95/WS/2).

network in which nobody dominates connectivity - as is already under consideration, for example, in the Asia and Pacific region.

(b) Promoting multilingualism

Basic principles

Language is the most important method of communication between people and is also part of their cultural heritage. For many people, language carries far-reaching emotive and cultural associations embedded in their vast literary, historical, philosophical and educational heritage.

The users' languages cannot constitute an obstacle to the access to the pluricultural human heritage available in cyberspace. Although English is very likely to remain the basic means of communication among people in cyberspace, the presence of information in other languages on the Internet is increasingly in demand.

The growing diversity of the user population in terms of different languages is raising a host of technological challenges that will need to be overcome to achieve multilingualism on the Internet and to enable societies to derive full advantage of the potential they offer for self-expression, education, communication, advancement of science and dissemination of culture.

Proposed measures

M7 - Reaffirm the promotion, respect and use of all languages in cyberspace, which contribute to the preservation of the richness and diversity of the universal human heritage and to peaceful coexistence, objectives that are enshrined in many international declarations and conventions and in many national constitutions.⁹

M8 - Broaden language diversity in cyberspace by creating contents in all international widely used languages as well as in other languages at the regional, national and local levels, including languages that are spoken by few people or not used in the public administration

M9 - Prevent all forms of linguistic segregation in access to cultural and scientific information and knowledge. Assistance along with provision of financial resources should be developed at all these levels to ensure the presence of national and multilingual Web sites, for example through tax rebates, subsidies, research grants or prizes.

⁹ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 27, and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966; UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National, Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (Resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992); and many other regional intergovernmental and international NGOs Declarations.

M10 - Adopt strategies to **develop on-line freely accessible language education materials**.

M11 - **Encourage participation of all Member States' experts in research and development** of Web browsers and search engines with extensive multilingual capabilities, on-line dictionaries, and other on-line multilingual tools that will enhance on-line translation capabilities and inter-operability.

M12 – **Support global academic efforts to develop automated translation services accessible to all free or at a nominal charge** and to encourage the development of intelligent linguistic systems (e.g. recognition of languages).

M13 – **Formulate strong national policies on the crucial issue of language survival**. International assistance to Member States in framing and implementing language policies designed to promote mother tongues and foreign language teaching while respecting their cultural diversity on the global networks, including the preparation of appropriate methodological instruments and reaffirming the language rights as an integral part of human rights, should be strengthened.

M14 – **Maintain an international on-line observatory accessible on the different existing policies and regulations relating to multilingualism and multilingual resources and applications**. It will be useful in this context to create and make accessible free of charge, on-line and off-line, a database on the current experiences, software products and on-going innovations in the fields of computerization of languages.

(c) Facilitating access through development of public domain contents

Basic principles

A significant amount of world human heritage lies in information contents known as the public domain information or information commons. Those are, for instance, intellectual works, software and technologies that may be used without infringing the intellectual property rights provisions or breaching confidentiality. Such information may be subject to government or state/crown copyright, administered so as to ensure its use for the common goal of society. It includes works on which intellectual property rights have lapsed, anonymous works which are not considered the property of indigenous communities, factual material, ideas, meta-data (data on data) including catalogues of public libraries, official information produced and made available by government, information made available by its developer, etc.

As this enormous body of knowledge legacy, mostly but not only generated by governments, exists in every country, every culture and every language, facilitating its provision and dissemination on the global information networks will substantially contribute to universal access. It is primarily the responsibility of the public institutions such as libraries, archives, and governmental agencies to facilitate access to this type of information, but the importance of private sector contributions and participation of the citizens themselves cannot be underestimated.

The dramatic pace of innovations in information and communication technologies has sparked a race to lay claim to knowledge, resulting in increased privatization and appropriation of information in the public domain.

Proposed measures

M15 - Encourage legislative initiatives, such as freedom of information laws, protected disclosure policies and regulations on the digitization of government held records, their archiving and on-line accessibility. These initiatives should be based on some common fundamental principles that will facilitate their harmonization and interoperability in the global information society.

M16 - Define at the international and national levels and for all cultural and linguistic communities the stores of information and knowledge in the public domain, which constitute a common heritage of humanity and are freely accessible by all.

M17 - Promote partnering arrangements between the public and private sectors to balance interests in the access to information in the public domain in order to remedy the imbalances between the developing and the industrialized countries, and between the disadvantaged and the information rich communities. Incentives of different types should be worked out to encourage the private sector contribution to generating information on human heritage and facilitating access to it.

M18 - Support funding initiatives of public institutions to enable them to invest in digitization of public domain information, standards setting for data exchange, portability and interoperability, and education, training and skills up-grading in the use of ICTs, in order to develop this body of information and make it available on the global networks.

M19 – Assist communities in attitudinal changes required for electronic literacy and in building confidence and trust in the implementation and use of ICTs. Guidance is required for the formulation of policies establishing these measures.

M20 - Encourage co-operation between the different international governmental and non-governmental organizations (FAO, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, etc.) with a view to building up a universally accessible body of knowledge, particularly for the benefit of developing countries, from the massive amount of information produced through the different projects and development programmes.

M21 – Encourage the compilation of an international inventory of legislation, regulation, plans of action and programmes on the generation and dissemination of public domain information in close collaboration with leading organizations in this domain such as WIPO.

(d) Facilitating access through application of exemptions to copyright

Basic principles

Maintaining a balance between copyright and access to information is a major challenge for the information society and is regulated both nationally and internationally. Certain principles of copyright (limitations on the duration and scope of copyright, etc.) embody the quest for that balance. More fundamentally, the notion that a work can be protected by means of the criterion of originality is a vital instrument for drawing the borderline between protected work, information and works in the public domain. Users are also allowed several exceptions reflecting the need to strike a balance between the private interests of the creators of intellectual values and the larger public interest in being guaranteed not only access to information and culture but also the dissemination of knowledge through education, research and libraries.

Many international texts¹⁰ confirm the prerogatives of the author or the holder of neighbouring rights, and even extend the scope of their protection. The impact of these regulations and new technologies on the balance which copyright has traditionally maintained between protecting “authors’” works and guaranteeing the public interest and fundamental freedoms calls for analysis.

Three developments are worthy of consideration: the tendency for intellectual property rights to become a system for safeguarding investment, as illustrated in the current trend to protect databases (a right *sui generis*); the reduction in the exceptions to and limitations on copyright which are vital instruments and traditional guarantees of the fundamental balance between the interest of society and that of the author which lies at the very basis of copyright; and the increasingly frequent use of contracts and technical measures in the protection of copyright, not guaranteeing the exceptions provided for by law and seriously threatening the very institution of copyright.

All three are having a direct influence on the transfer of knowledge and access to the contents of culture and information, including access to humanity’s multicultural heritage, and must be adapted to the numerical environment of cyberspace.

Proposed measures

What must be done is to strike (or restore) a balance between, on the one hand, the concern to protect the legitimate interests of the authors and producers of contents and, on the other, the need to give official sanction to the interest of every individual and the general public in benefiting from technological progress, which offers the unique opportunity of improving everyone’s access to the human heritage. For this purpose it is necessary to:

¹⁰ See in particular the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, signed at Geneva on 20 December 1996.

M.22 – Reassert the principles underlying exceptions to the protection of intellectual property rights, in particular those relating to scientific, educational and journalistic purposes.

M.23 – Establish the right of universal access to the “public information domain”, covering all the information required by citizens in a modern democratic society (information on statistics, regulations, security and the environment), to be left under the control of each State without risk of confiscation by private companies.

C. PROPOSED PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

With a view to the preparation of the draft recommendation and following the Executive Board 159 EX/Decision 3.5.2 that reiterated UNESCO's «leading international role in promoting equal access to information that falls in the public domain, especially by encouraging linguistic and cultural pluralism on the global information networks », UNESCO has undertaken intensive inter-sectoral and expert consultations designed to deal with this challenge in a co-ordinated manner.

Member States are invited, according to Article 10.2 of the UNESCO's Rules of Procedure, to make comments and observations on this preliminary report, particularly on the proposed measures and to submit them to UNESCO by 31 January 2001. These issues will also be discussed during the Third UNESCO International Congress on Ethical, Legal and Societal Challenges of Cyberspace – INFOethics 2000 (November 2000) and five regional workshops (in September - October 2000) and thus contribute to the content of the final report and the draft recommendation.

The Director-General intends to set up a committee of governmental experts (Category VI), chosen in consultation with Member States, through the electoral groups, so as to ensure adequate geographical distribution. This group of experts will be entrusted to draft a recommendation based primarily on the comments and observations received from Member States by the date indicated above and also on the recommendations of the INFOethics 2000 Congress. The Director-General will then prepare a final report containing the draft recommendation which will be submitted to the Member States, at least seventy days before the opening of the session of the General Conference, with a view of its discussion and possible adoption by the General Conference in accordance with the provisions of 30 C/Resolution 37.

In view of the ITU Resolution 1158 approving the preparation of a World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 and inviting the UN Agencies to cooperate, UNESCO is also planning to include in the most appropriate way, as indicated by the high level Summit Organization Committee, the recommendation, if it is adopted, in its contribution to the objectives of the Summit. To this end, intensive consultations are being initiated within the Secretariat, with other concerned UN Agencies (ITU, WIPO, World Bank, etc) and with international NGO's.

ANNEX 1

General Conference 30 C/Resolution 37

“The General Conference,

Having examined the report submitted by the Director-General, in accordance with 29 C/Resolution 36, on the implementation of activities on the ethical, legal and societal aspects of cyberspace,

Taking note of the results of activities carried out by the Organization on the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace, as reported in document 30 C/31,

Also taking note of the establishment by the Director-General of the Advisory Committee for Linguistic Pluralism and Multilingual Education, in accordance with 29 C/Resolution 38 (para. 2.B(b)),

Recognizing the importance of multilingualism for the promotion of universal access to information, particularly to information in the public domain,

Recognizing also the importance of multilingualism for the promotion of multiculturalism on global information networks,

1. *Reiterates its conviction* that UNESCO should play a leading international role in promoting access to information in the public domain, especially by encouraging multilingualism and cultural diversity on global information networks;
2. *Invites* Member States, non-governmental organizations, the world intellectual community and the scientific institutions concerned to support and participate actively in the development of multilingualism and cultural diversity on the global information networks by facilitating free and universal access to information in the public domain;
3. *Invites* Member States to approve, in this light, the proposed new strategy “Initiative B@bel” outlined in paragraph 14 of document 30 C/31;
4. *Invites* the Director-General, after consultation with the Advisory Committee for Linguistic Pluralism and Multilingual Education, to submit for approval to the 159th session of the Executive Board a list of the first projects to be undertaken in this framework;
5. *Also invites* the Director-General to undertake the following concrete actions to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity on global information networks:
 - (a) to strengthen activities to make cultural heritage in the public domain which is preserved in museums, libraries and archives freely accessible on the global information networks;
 - (b) to support the formulation of national and international policies and principles encouraging all Member States to promote the development and use of translation tools and terminology for better interoperability;
 - (c) to encourage the provision of resources for linguistic pluralism through global networks, in particular by reinforcing the UNESCO international observatory on the information society;
 - (d) to pursue further consultations with Member States and competent international governmental and non-governmental organizations for closer cooperation on language rights, respect for linguistic diversity and the

expansion of multilingual electronic resources on the global information networks;

6. *Further invites* the Director-General to submit to it at its 31st session a report on the implementation of the actions outlined above and a draft recommendation on the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace.”

ANNEX 2

Executive Board 159 EX/Decision 3.5.2

“The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 159 EX/15,
2. Reiterating that UNESCO should play a leading international role in promoting equal access to information that falls in the public domain, especially by encouraging linguistic and cultural pluralism on the global information networks,
3. Encourages the continuation of work with a view to drawing up a list of specific projects within the framework of “Initiative B@bel” communicated by the Director-General, in accordance with 30 C/Resolution 37;
4. Invites the Director-General to continue the elaboration of this strategy with a view to including it in the draft recommendation to Member States on the promotion of multilingualism and equal access to information on the global networks to be submitted for adoption by the General Conference at its 31st session, in conformity with the applicable rules of procedure, and to submit a progress report on the matter to it at its 161st session;
5. Invites Member States, non-governmental organizations and the world intellectual community to encourage and support the development of this programme by strengthening linguistic and cultural pluralism on the national sites of the global information networks.”

ANNEX 3

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

UNITED NATIONS:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/index.htm>

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, entry into force 23 March 1976, in accordance with Article 49

http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a_ccpr.htm

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, entry into force 3 January 1976, in accordance with article 27

http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a_cescr.htm

- ACC Statement on Universal Access to basic Communication and Information Services

<http://www.itu.int/acc/rtc/acc-rep.htm>

- Guidelines for the Regulation of Computerized Personal Data Files, 1990

<http://www.hri.ca/uninfo/treaties/72.shtml>

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION:

ITU-T Series D Recommendations - General tariff principles

<http://www.itu.int/itudoc/itu-t/rec/>

(there is no public domain access to these recommendations)

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION:

- Universal Copyright Convention, 1952 text and text revised in 1971

http://www.unesco.org/culture/laws/copyright/html_eng/page2.htm#ARTICLE

- Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights/ Unesco/ Plurilinguisme

<http://www.linguistic-declaration.org/index-gb.htm>

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION:

- Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization , signed at Stockholm on July 14, 1967 and as amended on September 28, 1979

<http://www.wipo.org/eng/main.htm>

- Paris Convention for the protection of Industrial Property (1883) as revised and amended up to 1979.

- Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, Paris Act of July 24, 1971, as amended on September 28, 1979
http://www.wipo.org/eng/iplx/wo_ber0.htm
- Treaty on Intellectual Property in Respect of Integrated Circuits, adopted at Washington, D.C., on May 26, 1989
http://www.wipo.org/eng/iplx/wo_top0.htm
- Trademark Law Treaty, (adopted at Geneva on October 27, 1994)
http://www.wipo.org/eng/iplx/wo_tlt0.htm
- WIPO Copyright Treaty, adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on December 20, 1996
<http://www.wipo.org/eng/diplconf/distrib/94dc.htm>
- Nice Agreement , Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks of June 15, 1957, as revised at Stockholm on July 14, 1967, and at Geneva on May 13, 1977, and amended on September 28, 1979
http://www.wipo.org/eng/iplx/wo_nic0.htm

OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE:

- Council of Europe: Convention For the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data Council of Europe, European Treaty Series No. 108. Signed January 28, 1981. Entered into force October 1, 1985
http://www.privacy.org/pi/intl_orgs/coe/dp_convention_108.txt

EUROPEAN UNION:

- The European Union, Directive 95/46/EC on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data
http://www.privacy.org/pi/intl_orgs/ec/eudp.html

G8:

- Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society, July 23, 2000
<http://www.g8kyushu-okinawa.go.jp/e/documents/it1.html>