

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Records of the General Conference
34th session Paris, 16 October – 2 November 2007
Resolution 19 adopted by the General Conference at its 34th session

19 Further promotion of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)¹

The General Conference,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/254 proclaiming the 10-year period beginning 1 January 2005 the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and *further recalling* that UNESCO has been designated lead agency for the implementation of the Decade,

Considering the challenges that confront humanity with regard to the pursuit of sustainable development, including climate change,

Acknowledging sustainable development as central to ensuring a future in human dignity and a process of globalization that is beneficial for all,

Emphasizing that education plays an important role in achieving sustainable development worldwide, as confirmed, inter alia, by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

Acknowledging the Decade as a unique opportunity for Member States and for UNESCO to strengthen sustainable development through educational efforts,

Reaffirming that the Decade promotes quality education, which is one of the education for all (EFA) goals, and supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the field of education,

Welcoming the many initiatives Member States have initiated in the course of the Decade thus far,

Appreciating the International Implementation Scheme adopted by the Executive Board at its 172nd session in 2005,

Welcoming the various activities UNESCO has undertaken to implement the Decade thus far, as evidenced, among other things, in the UNESCO Action Plan for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014),

Recognizing that further substantial initiatives need to be taken by Member States and by UNESCO in order to reorient teaching and learning towards sustainable development worldwide,

1. *Invites* Member States to:
 - (a) implement the Decade as a multistakeholder endeavour, and where appropriate, establish steering committees for its implementation;
 - (b) include sustainable development as an important element of their educational strategies;
 - (c) assist each other in the implementation of the Decade through, among other things, exchange of good practice in education for sustainable development (ESD);
2. *Calls upon* the Director-General to take all necessary measures within existing resources and to seek extrabudgetary funds as appropriate to further ensure UNESCO's response to United Nations General Assembly resolutions 57/254, 58/219 and 59/237, and to ensure the steady implementation of the Decade according to the International Implementation Scheme, inter alia through:
 - (a) strengthening UNESCO's strategic leadership on the Decade, building upon the Organization's unique interdisciplinary profile;
 - (b) contributing to increasing the visibility of ESD through concerted public awareness and advocacy measures;
 - (c) continuing and further increasing the dialogue with various stakeholders from all regions in order to facilitate regional cooperation within the Decade;
 - (d) providing further guidance for identifying good practices in ESD worldwide, respecting the different needs and approaches of Member States;
 - (e) improving UNESCO's function as a clearing house for information on educational programmes and good practice in ESD by, among other things, developing and applying suitable ICT tools and other means, as appropriate, to make widely available information on ESD activities around the world, bearing in mind extrabudgetary funding, inter alia, Japanese funds-in-trust;
 - (f) identifying existing ESD materials and making them available, via suitable ICT tools and other means, as appropriate;
 - (g) making full use of the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) as a laboratory of ideas for innovative methods and teaching and learning projects in ESD, thus also strengthening UNESCO's outreach to young people in the field of ESD, as outlined in document 34 C/5;
 - (h) facilitating cooperation between the ASP Network and the Network of Biosphere Reserves;
 - (i) developing, in consultation with Member States, tools to promote effective monitoring and evaluation of the Decade, and regularly providing information, as appropriate, on Decade implementation worldwide;
3. *Welcomes* the offer made by Germany to host and finance in 2009 the mid-term review conference, which is to be held under the tentative title of World Conference on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;
4. *Requests* the Director-General to present a progress report on the implementation of the Decade to the General Conference at its 35th session.

1. Resolution adopted on the report of the ED Commission at the 20th plenary meeting, on 1 November 2007.