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REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE SLAVE ROUTE PROJECT

PART I

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR THE SLAVE ROUTE PROJECT, TOGETHER WITH AN EVALUATION OF ITS WORK

SUMMARY

The Director-General hereby submits to the appreciation of the Executive Board a report on the results of the proceedings of the International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route Project and an evaluation of its work, in compliance with decision 172 EX/Decision 59, Article 11 of the Statutes.

Financial implication: none.

No proposed decision in Part I.

1. At its 172nd session, the Executive Board adopted 172 EX/Decision 59 in which it took note of the recommendations of the external evaluation of the Slave Route Project in 2005, and in particular, the need to restructure its International Scientific Committee. The Executive Board equally adopted the Statutes set for this Committee to make it more operational. Article 11 of these Statutes requests the Director-General to inform the Executive Board at its 181st session of the outcome of the deliberations of the International Scientific Committee, together with an evaluation of its work.

This document provides a brief history of the International Scientific Committee of the Slave Route Project, the results of the proceedings of the restructured Committee as well as an evaluation of its work. The proceedings of the second meeting of the restructured Committee held from 17 to 19 February 2009 will be provided in an Addendum.

A. Brief history

2. The Slave Route Project's International Scientific Committee (ISC) was created in 1994, immediately after the launching of the Project, in pursuance of 27 C/Resolution 3.13, adopted by the General Conference, at its 27th session in 1993, requesting "the Director-General to reinforce UNESCO's support by all appropriate means and through the intersectoral activities of the Organization's programmes, by establishing an international scientific committee for the Slave Route project, ...". Composed then of 44 members (from Africa, Latin America, North America, the Caribbean and Europe), ISC assisted the project from its inception in determining fields of intervention and defining programmes of activities to break the silence surrounding the slave trade and slavery.

3. Focusing on the development of research on this question, the Committee helped the Project to build a series of thematic research networks in different parts of the world on the following subjects:

- Development of an African Diaspora: the slave trade in the Nigerian Hinterland (1650-1900);
- Ideological and legal basis of slavery and the slave trade;
- African Diaspora: languages and forms of artistic expression;
- Afro-American religions;
- Slavery, economy and labour;
- Maroonage and forms of resistance;
- Impact of the slave trade on Senegambia;
- Women and slavery;
- Slavery in the Mediterranean;
- Bantu culture in the Americas and the Caribbean: languages, religions and society;
- Documentary sources: archives, oral traditions, iconography;
- Slavery in the Indian Ocean;
- Slavery and society;
- Archaeological research (on land and underwater);
- Slavery, museums and exhibitions;
- Slavery, tangible and intangible heritage and cultural tourism focused on remembrance of the past;
- Slavery and interculturality.

4. During its first phase, the ISC met six times:

- 1st session: Ouidah, Benin, 6-8 September 1994
- 2nd session: Matanzas, Cuba, 4-6 December 1995
- 3rd session: Cabinda, Angola, 6-8 November 1996
- 4th session: Lisbon, Portugal, 11-12 December 1998
- 5th session: Palermo, Italy, 26-30 September 2000
- 6th session: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 17-18 December 2001.

5. At the request of the Member States, a major external evaluation was conducted in 2005 reviewing the 10-year span of the project in order to measure the impact of the activities undertaken, to highlight the constraints and the obstacles experienced, and to define new prospects for the Slave Route Project (172 EX/22). Among several recommendations presented in the final report, the evaluators identified the necessity of restructuring the project's ISC in order to revitalize its field of actions, to provide fresh perspectives and renewed expertise. In 2006, the Director-General restructured the Committee and took the following measures for its future functions:

- The number of members was reduced from 44 to 20.
- The functions of ISC were redefined according to the lessons learned; statutes were defined and elaborated based on the model of a Category V Committee.
- The geographical representation was improved (experts from Asia and Middle East were included).
- New members were integrated in order to provide fresh perspectives and renewed expertise.
- These new members were selected on the basis of gender, discipline, regional balance, and involvement in regional networks and/or institutions active in the field of slavery.

6. Since its restructuring in 2005, ISC has met twice:

- 7th session: UNESCO Paris, France, 22-24 February 2006
- 8th session: UNESCO Paris, France, 17-19 February 2009

From 2006 to 2008, several informal meetings were held on the occasion of regional conferences on the slave trade and slavery, including one meeting of the Bureau of the Committee.

B. Redefinition of ISC's Statutes and mandate

7. The statutes adopted by the Executive Board at its 172nd session (172 EX/Decision 59) place ISC in category V of the consultative committees as defined by UNESCO regulations. In addition to redefining the role of the Committee, the statutes stipulate that members shall be selected for a four-year term, renewable once with the rotation of half of the members occurring every two years and that the Committee meets once every two years in order to restrain costs.

8. The following roles are assigned to ISC:

(a) *Consultative role:*

As a scientific committee, this is the most important and useful role that it can serve for the project. It provides credibility and legitimacy to the research activities concerning the identification of issues to be addressed to understand the causes, and the modalities of operation and the consequences of the slave trade and slavery. The advice of the Committee is particularly crucial for the following decisions:

- the granting of the "Associated Project of the Slave Route Project" label;
- the initiation of new researches;
- the proposing of new partnerships with universities and academic institutions;
- the examination of requests for either research assistance or the publication of works on the subject of the slave trade and slavery.

(b) *Advocacy role*

The members of the ISC serve as ambassadors on behalf of the Slave Route Project with various partners working in the field. The members are in the best position to explain the approaches, the selected themes and the research priorities of the project as well as promote the activities of the project to academic and cultural institutions, the media and the general public.

(c) Partnership role

As specialists of questions addressed by the project, the members of the ISC serve as significant partners for particular programme activities initiated/supported by UNESCO. They also assist the Secretariat to mobilize extrabudgetary funds, to build and/or activate networks concerned with pertinent issues, to inform UNESCO of relevant activities and research being conducted in their respective countries and regions, and to identify potential experts and resources.

(d) Mentoring role

The members of the ISC assist with the supervision and mentoring of young researchers and consultants working for the project to guide their research and facilitate their integration into relevant networks.

C. Proceedings of the first meeting of the restructured Committee

9. Inaugurated by the Director-General, the first meeting of the restructured Committee, held in Paris from 22-24 February 2006, focused on UNESCO's efforts to reinforce the Slave Route Project thematic and geographical fields of action. The following documents were examined by the Committee:

- Assessment of the 2004, International Year to commemorate the Struggle Against Slavery and its abolition;
- The report of the External Evaluation of Slave Route Project 1994-2004;
- The review of the ongoing activities of the Project;
- The New Strategy proposed for the Project.

Members of the intersectoral working group created to reinforce the intersectorality of the Project participated in the meeting and presented the activities of their respective Sectors/divisions related to the Slave Route Project.

10. The Committee welcomed the number of the project achievements despite its budget limitation. It also acknowledged the momentum raised by the commemorative events of International Year 2004 which stimulated great expectations for the Bicentenary of the Abolition on the Slave Trade in the United Kingdom (2007) and in the United States of America (2008). After having endorsed the strategy proposed, the Committee made the following recommendations for the Project's future actions pending availability of funds:

- (a) the publication of pedagogical tools, which will incorporate archival documents on the slave trade and slavery as well as maps, illustrations, posters, leaflets, to help educators in their teaching and awareness-raising; special attention to be given to those countries, which have difficulties to access the Internet and other ICT tools;
- (b) the pursuit of digitalization and preservation of records and collections, for the benefit of researchers should be encouraged. The need to protect the collection, preservation and exploitation of oral traditions, which are endangered by the displacement and disappearance of the owners;

- (c) the urgent extension of the activities of the Slave Route Project to the regions that were neglected, in particular in the Arab Islamic region, Andean America and Asia where the silence on the slave trade and slavery issues needs to be engaged. The pursuit and extension to other regions of the programme of inventory making and mapping of sites and places of memory related to the slave trade and slavery;
- (d) the necessity to develop research work on the psychological trauma and health issues relevant to slavery was requested. The focus should be on both the descendants of enslaved and slavers;
- (e) the need to capitalize on the commemorations of 2007 and 2008 by the United Kingdom and the United States of America respectively to maintain the momentum generated by the International Year (2004) and initiate activities that are likely to mobilize funds and partnerships in the countries concerned;
- (f) the launching of fund-raising campaigns towards donor governments and organizations to consider financing the major projects of the SLR and to foster partnership with affiliated institutions. In this regard, the possibility of a joint partnership with the government concerned to mobilize extrabudgetary funds should be explored;
- (g) the reinforcement of the Project's means of communication, notably its website, taking advantage of existing multimedia and websites with various links that could eventually give rise to wider dissemination and accessibility of information.

D. Assessment of the work of the Committee

11. The combination of scholars from different scientific disciplines, laypersons of recorded skills, cultural and political personalities and communication professionals makes ISC an interesting multi-disciplinary body equipped to assist UNESCO in achieving the goals of the Slave Route Project. The ISC advisory work has helped to shed light on the evolution of African, American, European and West Indian societies so as to provide an understanding of the interactions engendered by history, geography and culture. Central to this were efforts to broaden awareness of the multiple causes and modalities surrounding the transatlantic slave trade as well as slavery in the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean.

12. The ISC advisory work has contributed significantly in pursuing efforts (i) to raise awareness on the history of the Slave Trade and Slavery; (ii) to foster the research work which helps to produce publications and archival documents beneficial to intellectuals, research centres and the public at large through exhibitions and cultural activities, museums and festival; and (iii) to identify an increased number of sites of memory relevant to the Slave Trade and Slavery on both sides of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean, which generated large public interest.

13. The recommendations of ISC confirm UNESCO's efforts in managing the Slave Route Project as an in-house interdisciplinary project involving all programme sectors and divisions of UNESCO. A Task Force on UNESCO Activities relating to the Study of the Slave Trade and its Implications was established by the Director-General in July 2002 and an intersectoral working group created in order to reinforce this intersectorality.

14. The members of ISC played a crucial role in the creation of national Slave Route Committees in different countries. Their support was also instrumental in the choice of national or regional commemoration dates as well as the development of educational material. Most of them were active in using the media to popularize the work of the Project and the result of research on the issue.

15. Regarding the number of activities and initiatives recommended by ISC, it is worth noting the difficulty met by the Project to find a balance between often ambitious expectations and plans, and the very limited funds available. This conflicting situation sometimes leads to Committee members' frustration and concern on the Project's capacity to achieve its goals. Nevertheless, despite the

mentioned situation, the Project managed to make strategic choices and implement important activities of global significance.

16. Although the members of the Committee were active in initiating, managing, coordinating and supporting important research and awareness-raising activities, the communication among them to share information and experience appeared to be insufficient. The Project is called to explore new means of communication and mechanism of follow-up that would facilitate the exchange of information between the members of ISC. This concern was included in the agenda of the meeting of the renewed Committee held in February 2009.

17. Some members of the Committee suggested that, in addition to the statutory meeting once every two years, more opportunities be offered to bring them together in order to exchange the latest results of research and examine the trends in the debate on the slave trade and slavery. However, despite the budgetary constraints that do not facilitate such opportunities, the Project tried as much as possible to invite members of ISC to participate in and play leading roles in events it organized in different parts of the world. This was the case during the commemoration of the Abolition Acts in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America and during the realization of the documentary on the Slave Trade. New possibilities to increase the involvement and encounter of ISC's members should be further explored.

18. With the assistance of ISC, the Project will develop plans for raising extrabudgetary funds by defining sub-components for the Project that could be attractive to specific funding organizations or countries. It will also better exploit the potential of ISC members to play a strategic role in advocacy, networking, fund-raising and partnership mobilization in their respective countries and regions and within their field of expertise. The members of ISC in particular will assist authorities to activate National Committees for the Slave Route that were not operational.

19. The renewal of the Committee in 2008 with the inclusion of new expertise and experience will help address these gaps and reinforce the contribution of its members to the reinforcement of the Slave Route Project.

The Committee is composed as follows:

1. Ms Aisha Bilkhair Khalifa (United Arab Emirates)
2. Ms Benigna Zimba (Mozambique)
3. Mr David Richardson (United Kingdom)
4. Mr Jocelyn Chan Low (Mauritius)
5. Mr Jordi Tresserras Juan (Spain)
6. Ms Maria Elisa Velazquez Guitierrez (Mexico)
7. Ms Marta Beatriz Goldberg (Argentina)
8. Mr Michael A. Gomez (United States of America)
9. Mr Michel Hector (Haiti)
10. Ms Nelly Schmidt (France)
11. Mr Miguel Barnet (Cuba)
12. Mr Paul E. Lovejoy (Canada)
13. Mr Per Hernaes (Norway)
14. Mr Quince Duncan (Costa Rica)
15. Mr Rex Nettleford (Jamaica)
16. Ms Shihan De Silva Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka)
17. Mr Simao Souindoula (Angola)
18. Mr Ubiratan Castro Aroujo (Brazil)
19. Mr Wayne Dooling (South Africa)
20. Mr Yaw Bredwa-Mensah (Ghana)



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REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE SLAVE ROUTE PROJECT

PART II

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE PROJECT DOCUMENT FOR THE SLAVE ROUTE

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 180 EX/Decision 14, the Director-General submits for examination by the Executive Board the project document for The Slave Route, which defines a new strategy and a timetable of activities for its revitalization.

This strategy has financial implications for the regular budget and requires the mobilization of supplementary extrabudgetary funds. For more details, see paragraphs 25 and 26 of the document.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 28.

1. At its 180th session the Executive Board examined document 180 EX/14, which was submitted by Togo to draw its attention to the need to revitalize the project, and also document 180 EX/INF.23, "The Slave Route project: assessment and prospects" drawn up by the Secretariat. In 180 EX/Decision 14 the Director-General is invited, *inter alia*, in accordance with 172 EX/Decision 59, to prepare a project document providing for a long-term involvement in research, advocacy and education for submission to it at its 181st session. This document puts forward a long-term strategy to revitalize the Slave Route project, followed by a timetable of activities for the coming three years.

2. The long-term strategy proposed for the second phase of the Slave Route project is designed to respond to the various recommendations made to UNESCO, especially those formulated by:

- the required external evaluation of the project, which was conducted in 2005 by an independent multidisciplinary team (172 EX/22);

- the Executive Board at its 172nd and 180th sessions (172 EX/59, 180 EX/14, 180 EX/INF.23 and 180 EX/Decision 14;
- the restructured International Scientific Committee for the project at its previous meetings;
- the project's partners during various commemorations of the abolition of slavery.

3. It calls for two main lines of action to improve the project's effectiveness and universality:

- to lend strength and depth to the project's achievements by making strategic choices likely to improve its visibility and its impact;
- to expand the geographical areas covered and to explore new themes with a view to strengthening the project's universality.

A. The strategic choices of the project

1. Objectives

4. The new strategy retains the three objectives set for the project, their relevance and unifying force having been confirmed by the external evaluation. Those objectives are redefined as follows in order to bring out certain aspects more clearly:

- (i) to break the silence over the tragedy of the slave trade and slavery in the various parts of the world, by improving knowledge of its scope, underlying causes, issues and modus operandi through multidisciplinary scientific works;
- (ii) to highlight the effects of the slave trade and of slavery on contemporary societies and, in particular, the multiple transformations and cultural heritages that this tragedy has engendered;
- (iii) to contribute to mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence among peoples, in particular by promoting reflection about the prejudices inherited from slavery, intercultural dialogue, cultural pluralism and the building of new citizenships in modern societies.

2. Fields of action

5. The new strategy also retains the fields of action defined for the project, and reformulates them as follows:

- (i) developing multidisciplinary scientific research on the various aspects of the slave trade and slavery and their consequences in contemporary societies;
- (ii) producing teaching materials and curricula in order to strengthen the teaching of this tragedy at all levels of education;
- (iii) promoting the contributions made by Africa and by the African diaspora;
- (iv) promoting the living cultures and the artistic and spiritual expressions emerging from interactions generated by the slave trade and slavery;
- (v) collecting and preserving written archives and oral traditions linked to the slave trade and slavery;
- (vi) inventorying, preserving and promoting memorial places, sites and buildings relating to the slave trade and slavery.

B. Approaches and methodologies in support of the project's strategic choices

6. To consolidate achievements, the strategy puts forward new approaches and methodologies for implementing the strategic choices defined for the project. To that end, the project will emphasize the use of audiovisual and other information and communication technologies in order to reach a wider public and to facilitate access to the knowledge and information gathered by the project. In cooperation with several interested partners (the United Nations, professional film associations, television corporations, festivals, museums, educational institutions, etc.), the project's documentary production "**The Slave Routes: A Global Vision**" will be translated into several languages (French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic), copied in large numbers and distributed widely. Furthermore, the documentary is to be included in a kit of selected films on slavery to be put together with the same partners for use by educationists and festival organizers.

7. The Slave Route project website, currently under reconstruction, will be used as a knowledge portal on which the project's activities, publications and the findings from research initiated or supported by the project will be posted, as will information about initiatives carried out in various parts of the world.

1. Development of scientific research

8. During the first phase of the project, scientific research was its core activity. Since then, however, many universities and academic institutions have developed educational and research programmes that have contributed much to knowledge of this tragedy. The Slave Route project, which has neither the motivation nor the resources of a university or a specialist research centre, must consequently find a new niche that will enable it to make use of its comparative advantage, which lies in its status as an intersectoral international cooperation project. It must therefore place emphasis on its functions as:

- **a catalyst** in order to foster knowledge exchange and research networks;
- **a lobbyist** in order to encourage the actors involved, in particular national authorities, to address this tragic history and its consequences and to include it in their history teaching, and to contribute to forging the collective memory;
- **a forum** for debate and reflection with a view to building consensus around certain historical facts relating to the slave trade and slavery;
- **a platform for information** and communication about the many initiatives taken on the subject in the various parts of the world.

9. However, in order to fill in certain gaps in scientific research, the project will initiate research into less well-known aspects of the slave trade and slavery (psychological effects, knowledge transfer) and into less explored regions (Asia-Pacific, the Arab and Muslim World, Andean America and the Southern Cone of the Americas). To that end it will foster the establishment of new networks of researchers studying these little-studied themes and these little-covered regions so that they may take up the baton and subsequently pursue the necessary research.

10. In the coming biennium (2010-2011), the project expects in particular to pursue activities already undertaken in Africa and to launch a new series of studies in Asia, Andean America, the Pacific and around the Red Sea in order to improve knowledge of the importance of the slave trade and slavery in these parts of the world, which have not yet been sufficiently explored.

11. In order to involve more young researchers and to promote a new approach to the issue, the project will encourage the establishment of **research programmes** in universities and research centres of excellence in the various regions in order to guide doctoral students towards this issue and thus promote a new generation of specialists in the subject. The project's International Scientific Committee is accordingly called upon to play a crucial role in advising on the choice of

research topics to be explored and of partners to be involved, and in supervising the studies undertaken. The findings of some of this research will be posted on the project's website in order to facilitate access to this knowledge.

12. The project will continue work to produce an **Atlas of Interactions and of the African Diaspora**, which began in 2008, in order to draw up maps vividly illustrating the African presence in the world, especially in the Americas. This work, capitalizing on the results of various research endeavours initiated or supported by the Slave Route project, will entail intersectoral cooperation with other UNESCO programmes (SHS, WHC and ITH). The Atlas will be organized on the basis of four key fields: the tangible heritage based on the inventory of memorial sites and places, the intangible heritage, languages and religion. It will be produced in close cooperation with the members of the project's International Scientific Committee and several partner academic institutions.

2. Development of curricula and teaching materials

13. The use and popularization of research findings through the production of teaching materials and school curricula remains a priority for the project. The project will thus strengthen its cooperation with government institutions responsible for planning curricula and developing learning tools, with educationists, teachers, local authorities, civil society organizations and the media. Two approaches are recommended for that purpose.

- *Revision of school textbooks and university courses*: the project will continue to encourage and provide technical assistance for the revision of school textbooks at the various levels and of university courses with a view to placing greater emphasis on teaching about the slave trade and slavery. It will draw up a **strategic document** to support its lobbying of national authorities and, in particular, of the education professionals responsible for drawing up programmes, on the need to revise educational content and university courses and on the appropriate techniques. Specific action will be taken in respect of the African Union as part of the Second Decade of Education in Africa and, in particular, with regard to strengthening the interface between culture and education by revising and reinforcing the teaching of the history of Africa. In the context of the project concerning the use of the *General History of Africa* in education, content relating to the slave trade and slavery is to be integrated into school curricula and textbooks.
- *Production of teaching materials*: while awaiting and in order to facilitate the revision of school textbooks, the project will continue its work to translate research findings into teaching materials in order to raise public awareness and educate various audiences about the slave trade. These materials, for use in both formal and non-formal education, are intended both for educational circles and the public at large, and will draw on the potential of multimedia techniques and materials. The project will, in particular, pursue the production of examples of teaching materials specifically for subregions that share certain historical characteristics (Central America, Central Africa, West Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Horn of Africa). These materials might subsequently provide a basis for the production of materials that correspond to national or even local specificities.

3. Promotion of the contributions of Africa and of the Diaspora

14. The project will continue to initiate activities (studies, cultural events, colloquia, exhibitions, etc.) in order to improve knowledge of what Africa has contributed to the rest of the world. Special attention will be paid to the contributions of people of African descent to the development of both the receiving countries and their countries of origin. In the context of the Atlas of Interactions and of the African Diaspora project, emphasis will be placed on transfer of knowledge and technologies, the distribution of languages, spiritualities, religions and other forms of expression of Africa's intangible heritage to the rest of the world and, in particular, to the Americas. In the context of the African Union's strategy to strengthen the participation of the diaspora in the development of the

continent, the project will also contribute, through awareness-raising activities, to the strengthening of ties between Africa and the diaspora stemming from the slave trade, in particular in the context of the African Union's strategy towards that diaspora and on the occasion of particular major events (CIAD, Pan-African Festivals, etc.).

4. Promotion of living cultures and artistic and spiritual expressions

15. The project will strengthen its activities to improve knowledge of and to promote living cultures and the artistic and spiritual expressions arising from the slave trade and slavery. To that end, the project will be more closely associated with major cultural and artistic events that highlight Africa's intangible heritage, such as festivals of music, film, dance, crafts and arts, as well as celebrations and commemorations of the abolitions. To support these events, it will reinforce the use of its "**Slave Route-associated project**" label and so lend them the intellectual credibility of its International Scientific Committee.

16. The project will endeavour to create understanding of the process of *interculturality*, which has shaped slave-owning societies despite the prejudices, discriminations and policies of segregation suffered by the slaves. It will contribute to analysis of the impact of this intercultural dialogue on the construction of new identities and citizenships in modern societies. This process is still at work in modern societies, through the emergence and influence of new cultures and urban expressions that draw on the heritage of the slave trade and of slavery.

5. Preservation of archives and oral traditions

17. The project will pursue the collection and preservation of oral traditions and will carry out new studies in other subregions and countries, especially in Eastern and Southern Africa, North Africa, the Caribbean, Europe and in Asia. In addition to being posted online on the project's website and published in digital multimedia format, their results will also be used to produce teaching materials. Lastly, they will be used to identify memorial sites and places in the countries concerned.

18. The project will strengthen its efforts to identify, preserve and make use of written and iconographic archives relating to the slave trade and slavery. To that end, new fruitful partnerships will be established with archive centres, libraries, museums and private collections. The project will facilitate exchange of experience and materials between museums and archive centres in some countries that have major archival stocks, such as Cuba, Portugal, the United Kingdom, France and the United States of America, and similar institutions in African countries, particularly in the context of the commemoration of the abolitions.

19. The project will strengthen its cooperation with international and regional organizations of professional archivists to raise their awareness of the need to improve knowledge of these sources and to facilitate access for researchers. It will facilitate access for professionals (researchers, video producers) to its iconographic stock, much of which has already been digitized and will be available on the website.

6. Inventorying, preserving and promoting memorial sites, places and buildings

20. The project will pursue the application of the joint UNESCO-WTO (World Tourism Organization) programme on the identification, preservation and promotion, through suitable cultural tourism, of memorial sites, places and buildings of memory linked to the slave trade and slavery. On the basis of inventories already compiled (in Central Africa, West Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Latin Caribbean), the project will help to launch inventories in other parts of the world (Eastern and Southern Africa, the Scandinavian countries and Latin America).

21. In addition to setting up itineraries to promote memorial tourism, these inventories will in the longer term (i) permit the mapping of sites, buildings and places by region, subregion and country and (ii) encourage States Party to the 1972 Convention to nominate series of sites or cultural itineraries linked to the slave trade and slavery for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

22. In cooperation with the World Heritage Centre (WHC) and the Division of Cultural Heritage (CLT/CH/ITH), the project will help to improve knowledge of the close links between the slave trade and some sites included in the World Heritage List. In consultation with the Member States concerned, it will encourage a revision of the descriptions of these sites both on the WHC website and in UNESCO publications. Such information in the descriptions of sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List is important and helps to break the silence on the tragedy of the slave trade.

C. The project's new lines of emphasis

23. In response to the recommendations of the external evaluation and of the Executive Board, and to the expectations expressed by Member States, the following lines of emphasis have been identified for the project:

1. Expand the geographical regions covered

In order to emphasize the universal nature of this tragedy, the project will, having placed the stress on the transatlantic trade during the first phase, pursue an expansion of its activities to the following regions, which are still insufficiently covered.

- **The Arab-Muslim World.** Following the recommendations of the international colloquium on the slave trade and slavery in this region, held in Morocco in 2007, the project will help to set up a network of researchers from Arab-Muslim countries. To raise awareness of this issue among the public at large, it will translate into Arabic the documentary on the Slave Route made in 2008 and will support its distribution in the region. It will take part in the colloquium scheduled for Tunisia in 2009 as a follow-up to the Rabat meeting. The project will launch a study into the slave trade and slavery around the Red Sea, a region which still remains little documented.
- **Asia and the Pacific.** The project will contribute to following up the international conference on the African diaspora in Asia held in Goa, India, in 2006, and to the strengthening of the research network (TADIA) set up on that occasion. It will take part in the second conference of the network, scheduled for Mozambique in 2009. The project will launch a study into the slave trade and slavery in the Pacific and the Far East, regions which still remain largely unexplored from this viewpoint. It will encourage the establishment of a network of researchers in these regions.
- **Andean America.** The project will carry out a study to improve understanding of cultural interactions between the African and the Amerindian population groups in this region, which is little studied. It will also support the establishment and/or strengthening of a regional research network on this issue. The project will maintain its support for the Centre for Afro-Amerindian Dialogue established at Esmeraldas, Ecuador.

2. Introduce new themes

24. In order to grasp the other implications of the slave trade and of slavery, the project will support the initiation of research in the following areas.

- **The psychological consequences of slavery.** The project will carry out a study of the state of knowledge of traumas inherited from this tragedy and its consequences for the individual and collective behaviour patterns of population groups (descendants of both slaves and slave-owners). The project will organize a meeting of experts on the impact of these psychological legacies and the appropriate responses.
- **Struggle against racism and discrimination.** The project contributed to recognition by the United Nations of slavery "as a crime against humanity" at the World Conference against Racism in Durban in 2001. In the context of the evaluation of the application of the Durban

Declaration and Programme of Action, studies undertaken under the project will enrich this topical debate on the deconstruction of racist theories and prejudices which still nourish discrimination against African people and those of African descent. It will also take part in the reflection on the management of the plurality of memories and the formulation of suitable policies to facilitate the construction of new identities and citizenships protective of this cultural diversity in modern societies.

- **Transfer of knowledge and skills from Africa to the rest of the world.** The project will initiate a study to list the various contributions of knowledge and skills that African civilizations and cultures have made to the development of slave-owning societies. Some of these influences will be used in the production of the Atlas of Interactions and the African Diaspora.

D. Timetable of activities for the next three years

Year 2009

Scientific research

- Launch of a research project on the psychological consequences of the slave trade and slavery and discussion of the findings at a meeting of experts.
- Launch of a study to list the various contributions, particularly in the technical domain, that African civilizations and cultures have made to building the modern world.
- Participation in the colloquium on slavery in the Arab-Muslim World organized at Tozeur, Tunisia, in May 2009 by the Heritage Laboratory of the University of Tunis-Manouba: launch of a research network on the slave trade and slavery in the Arab-Muslim world.
- Meeting in Cuba on the findings of research carried out in the context of the network on Afro-American religions and on the exchange of experience among the National Committees of the Slave Route organized in collaboration with the Havana Bureau.
- Participation in the holding of a subregional seminar in Montevideo, Uruguay, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the African presence in the Rio de la Plata, organized in collaboration with the Montevideo Bureau with a view to stimulating the establishment of national Slave Route committees and the establishment of a project on memorial sites.
- Publication, in the context of the Atlas of Interactions, of a “world inventory of the principal memorial sites and places linked to the slave trade and slavery”.
- Publication of a study by Joel Quirk: *Unfinished Business: A Comparative Survey of Historical and Contemporary Slavery*.

Promotional activities

- Rebuilding and launch of the new Slave Route project website.
- Finalization and translation into French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic of the documentary “The Slave Routes: A Global Vision”.
- Production and distribution of the documentary to the various interested partners.
- Participation in the activities undertaken by the United Nations Department of Public Information to commemorate 25 March 2009, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery.

Years 2010 -2011

Scientific research

- Launch of research into the slave trade and slavery in the Pacific and Red Sea regions.
- Launch of research into the slave trade and slavery in Andean America and in Asia (Far East).
- Finalization of the Atlas of Interactions.
- Publication of the study on the psychological consequences of the slave trade and slavery.

Teaching materials

- Preparation of a strategic document for lobbying national educational authorities to secure the integration of slavery and the slave trade into school textbooks and curricula.
- Production of teaching materials based on the findings of research in the Central Africa, Horn of Africa and Andean America subregions.
- Preparation of a set of flagship films on the slave trade and the slave around the world.

Promotion of the contributions of Africa and the African Diaspora

- Online publication of the Atlas of Interactions.
- Organization of an event at the African Union Headquarters on the consequences of the slave trade and slavery.

Preservation of archives and oral traditions on the slave trade and slavery

Launch of collections of oral traditions in Southern Africa, North Africa and Asia.

Memorial places

Launch of an inventory of slave trade and slavery memorial places in the following regions: Europe, Southern Africa and Andean America.

E. Implementation of the strategy and financial and administrative implications

25. The limited resources available to the project will not be sufficient to carry out all the actions and activities defined above. To achieve these goals, the project Secretariat will be required to concentrate its efforts on the following fronts:

- establishing fruitful partnership with partners interested in the subject (universities, research centres, museums, NGOs, municipal authorities and the private sector) to achieve greater coordination and synergy in implementing projects of common interest;
- mobilizing extrabudgetary funds: in addition to exploring the possibilities of private sector funding, the project Secretariat must convince some Member States to make voluntary contributions in the form of Funds-in-Trust to finance specific activities likely to be of interest to donors;
- strengthening intersectoral cooperation within UNESCO to offset the shortage of staff and to improve the coordination and rationalization of resources and capabilities available in

the sectors or departments concerned: the intersectoral working group will be revitalized so that it may participate more effectively in the implementation of this strategy. Coordination with field offices will also be improved in order to meet specific country demands more effectively;

- strengthening cooperation with other agencies of the United Nations system, in particular with the United Nations Department of Public Information which has been tasked with the implementation of the General Assembly resolution on the slave trade (celebration of 25 March) and with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which has been tasked with following up the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

26. The implementation of the planned activities will require a minimum ordinary programme budget of US \$500,000 for the 2010-2011 biennium and the mobilization of extrabudgetary funds, particularly voluntary contributions by Member States in the form of Funds-in-Trust.

27. It is to be noted that pursuant to 180 EX/Decision 14, the Director-General has strengthened the structure of the project's management secretariat by allocating a FITOCA P-3 post for a duration of one year and a Young Professional P-1/P-2 post.

Action expected of the Executive Board

28. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 172 EX/Decision 59 and 180 EX/Decision 14,
2. Having examined document 181 EX/13 Parts I and II,
3. Takes note of the reports by the Director-General on the deliberations of the restructured International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route project, together with an evaluation of its work, and on the project document;
4. Thanks the Director-General for his efforts to strengthen the secretariat of the Slave Route project and for the formulation of a long-term strategy for the project;
5. Invites the Director-General to seek out the resources needed to ensure implementation of this strategy, with the strengthened contribution of the International Scientific Committee;
6. Invites the Director-General to submit to the Executive Board at its 182nd session a report on the implementation of this strategy.