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PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2008-2009 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 159 EX/Decision 7.5, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2008-2009.

Decision proposed: paragraph 70.

INTRODUCTION

1. In 154 EX/Decision 7.7, the Executive Board adopted the criteria and procedures for considering the proposals by Member States relating to the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in each biennium.
2. Following an initial application of those criteria in the period 1998-1999, the Executive Board invited the Director-General in 157 EX/Decision 9.6 to ensure in the future that Member States were better informed about the procedure and criteria followed in selecting those requests.
3. In addition, the General Conference, by 30 C/Resolution 58, invited the Executive Board to review the modalities and procedure to be followed for establishing the list of anniversaries. Accordingly, at its 159th session, the Executive Board adopted new criteria and procedures for considering the proposals by Member States on the subject (**159 EX/Decision 7.5**), which were applied for the first time for the period 2002-2003.
4. With the dates for the Spring session being brought forward, the Executive Board, at its 166th session, changed the deadline for replies to 15 January of the second year of the biennium (**166 EX/Decision 9.3 and 32 C/Resolution 55**).
5. In accordance with those arrangements, the Director-General, in a letter dated 6 September 2006, invited the National Commissions for UNESCO to communicate to him their proposals for 2008-2009, for the celebration of the anniversaries of eminent personalities and historic events with which the Organization could be associated in 2006-2007, the deadline being 15 January 2007.
6. As at 20 February 2007, the Secretariat had received **107** requests, of which **55 have been selected** and form the subject of this document, in accordance with the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session.
7. The Secretariat's intersectoral selection committee, whose composition is annexed, considered all the requests received and drew up the preliminary list of those meeting the criteria adopted. It also ensured, insofar as possible, a geographical balance when it drew up the list, associating UNESCO with the celebration of anniversaries in each region provided that the criteria were met.
8. In relation to the total of 107 requests, some Member States failed either to follow the procedure for submission of proposals or to provide all the necessary information within the time limits. As a result, the Secretariat was unable to accept 52 requests which did not appear to meet the adopted criteria.
9. The Member States concerned do have a statutory period of two months following the present session of the Executive Board to revise, if appropriate, the proposals that have not been selected, in accordance with 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and 166 EX/Decision 9.3. Only appeals by Member States concerning proposals submitted before 15 January 2007 may be re-examined by the intersectoral committee. The revised proposals that meet the criteria in force will be submitted to the Executive Board at its 177th session.
10. The second edition of the publication listing the anniversaries with which UNESCO was associated during the period 2006-2007 was produced and distributed to Member States after the 33rd session of the General Conference to meet their request for information on UNESCO's association with such celebrations, publicize the programme more effectively and thereby encourage Member States to enhance their historical and cultural wealth.
11. The Executive Board is now called upon to consider the list of requests for 2008-2009, deemed admissible under the following selection criteria that were approved by the Executive Board at its 159th session:

- (a) each proposed anniversary should be indisputably linked to the Organization's ideals and missions in the fields of education, science, culture, social and human sciences or communication and should promote closer relations among peoples, tolerance, and the ideals of peace, cultural dialogue and mutual understanding among peoples;
- (b) commemorations of the birth, independence or institutional regime of a State will not be eligible for consideration; similarly, the anniversaries of military events will be excluded;
- (c) the anniversary should concern personalities of genuinely universal stature, and works or events of genuinely worldwide or at least regional significance in order to reflect the ideals, the values, the cultural diversity and the universality of the Organization;
- (d) the anniversary should be a fiftieth anniversary, a centenary, or a multiple thereof; some flexibility should nevertheless be used in applying this criterion;
- (e) the anniversary should be the occasion for nationwide events which are already planned and for the organization of which certain resources have been allocated in the Member State or group of Member States directly concerned;
- (f) any anniversary proposal involving more than one State should be submitted by all.

12. The Director-General submits to the Executive Board, for its decision, the proposals contained in Section II, which contains a description of each anniversary selected together with relevant historical and biographical information.

13. Given the poor representation of some regions and of women among the proposals submitted, the Secretariat encourages Member States from all regions to make more proposals which include eminent women, with a view to ensuring an improved geographical distribution and gender balance, within the framework of the above-mentioned criteria.

14. Finally, to ensure a more balanced distribution of celebrations among the different regions and a better selection of the proposals submitted, the Secretariat proposes that Member States submit a maximum of four proposals per country and per biennium for the celebration of anniversaries. Furthermore, proposals concerning the anniversaries of personalities must relate only to eminent personalities who are being honoured posthumously.

II. MEMBER STATES' REQUESTS CONSIDERED ADMISSIBLE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

15. **The Permanent Delegation of Afghanistan to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **150th anniversary of active life of Sayed Jamal-ud Din Afghani, philosopher (1858)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Sayed Jamal-ud Din Afghani, who is considered to be the founding father of Islamic modernism, was a philosopher, thinker and an Islamic reformist. He spent a great deal of his life to invoke the sense of freedom and understanding among the nations, democracy, and human rights, particularly the right of women to education and knowledge. (SHS)

16. **The Permanent Delegation of Afghanistan to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **850th anniversary of the death of Abu'l Majd Majdud Sana'i of Ghazna, poet and philosopher (circa 1080-1158)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session

and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Abu'l Majd Majdud Sana'i Ghaznawi was an eminent Dari language poet, philosopher and thinker who spent the entire of his life for advancement of knowledge and sciences. Sana'i was called by Mawlana Jalal-ud-Din Balkhi-Rumi, Mawlana's spirit and heart and he followed Sana'i's thoughts and mystic life. Abu'l Majd Majdud ibn Adam is most commonly referred to in historical texts as Hakim Sana'i, which he used as his pen name and is best known for his classic mystical poem *The Garden of Truth*. (SHS)

17. **The Argentine National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Atahualpa Yupanqui, music composer (1908-1992)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Singer, guitarist, poet, composer and humanist, defender of the humble and Amerindian people, Héctor Roberto Chavero, also known as Atahualpa Yupanqui, was born in 1908 in Campo de la Cruz, in the province of Buenos Aires. He is an emblematic figure of Argentine folk music of the twentieth century. Writer of more than 12,000 musical compositions, he became a troubadour and made solitary journeys on the back of a mule in the most remote areas of the continent, in search of accounts of experiences and musical relics of ancient Amerindian cultures. Married to French Canadian artist Antoinette Paule Pepin Fitzpatrick, Atahualpa Yupanqui composed his most famous work with her. He died in France in 1992. (CLT)

18. **The Austrian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **200th anniversary of the death of Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), Austrian composer and conductor, was one of the most prominent composers of the Classical period. He is considered as the "Father of the Symphony" and "Father of the String Quartet". He also wrote many piano sonatas, piano trios, divertimentos, and masses, which became the foundation for the Classical style in these compositional types. Although other composers were prominent in the earlier Classical period, Haydn had undoubtedly the strongest overall influence on musical style in this era. A life-long resident of Austria, Haydn spent most of his career as a court musician for the wealthy Esterhazy family. Isolated from other composers and trends in music until the later part of his long life, he was, as he put it, "forced to become original". (CLT)

19. **The Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of Musa Aliyev, geologist (1908-1985)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Musa Aliyev was a prominent scientist in the field of geology, palaeontology and biochemistry and his works contributed to the development of the world's science. His works were published in Azerbaijan, but also in Mexico, Egypt and Lebanon. (SC)

20. **The Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Mir Jalal Pashayev, writer (1908-1978)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria

adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Mir Jalal Pashayev (1908-1978) is recognized as both writer and literary critic. He was one of Azerbaijan's most gifted short story writers when it came to satirizing Soviet bureaucracy. A professor of literature at Baku State University, he wrote hundreds of short stories during his spare time. Seventy of his books are in print. Some have been translated into French, Czech, Persian, German and English. He also co-authored the three-volume, *History of Azerbaijani Literature* (1957-1960). His most well-known books include: *Resurrection Man* (Dirilan Adam, 1936), *Manifest of a Young Man* (Bir Ganjin Manifesti, 1938), *Where Are We Going?* (Yolumuz Hayanadir, 1957) and *People of the Same Age* (Yashidlar, 1984). (CLT)

21. **The Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Mikayil Mushfig, poet (1908-1939)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The poet Mikayil Mushfig (1908-1939) left his mark on Azerbaijani literature despite his short life. He was one of the gifted intellectuals from Azerbaijan. He was very courageous and did not fear the repressive machine. He became famous for his poetry in his twenties. He wrote numerous verses about love and beauty. Through his poems he also expressed his views on social and cultural issues. He welcomed the transition from the Arabic alphabet to the Latin alphabet in Azerbaijan in the 1920s. Through this modernization of the language he hoped that illiteracy would be eliminated in Azerbaijan and other Eastern countries. He defended traditional Azerbaijani musical instruments which were banned by the regime. (CLT)

22. **The Bahrain National Commission for Education, Science and Culture** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Ebrahim Al-Arrayed, poet (1908-2002)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Ebrahim Al-Arrayed (1908-2002) is one of the greatest poets of Bahrain and the Gulf. He grew up in Bombay, India without speaking any Arabic, and it was only after his family moved back to their home in Bahrain when he was 18 did he learn the language. His first poetry was published in Baghdad in 1931. A polyglot, he translated the works of poets between Farsi, Hindi, Urdu, English, and Arabic. Today, he remains one of the most popular writers in Bahrain.

He was also a noted reformer setting up a school, and was appointed head of the Constitutional Council. In 2006, his old house, in Gudaibiya, was turned into a cultural centre, the Ebrahim Al-Arrayed Poetry House, open to tourists and as a meeting-place for poets. (CLT)

23. **The National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **600th anniversary of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest Reserve**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The Belovezhskaya Forest is located in Brest and Hrodna oblasts (provinces) of Belarus and in Bialystok, Suwalki, and Lomza wojewodztwos (provinces) of Poland. Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest, the oldest nature reserve in Europe, is the largest remnant of the primeval lowland forests that have existed in Europe since prehistoric times. In 1979 the

Bialowieza National Park (the Polish part of the site) and in 1992 the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (the Belarusian part) were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. (SC)

24. **The National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **200th anniversary of the birth of Vincent Dunin-Martsinkevich, poet, playwright and actor (1808-1884), in 2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Prominent Belarusian writer, poet and playwright Dunin-Martsinkevich stood at the origins of the New Belarusian literature and the Belarusian literary language. The phenomenon of mixing the Belarusian and Russian language, which is nowadays denominated "trasianka", is older than the denomination itself and has a relatively long history. Examples can be found in the nineteenth century especially in a play by Vincent Dunin-Martsinkevich. Moreover he is considered to be a founder of the professional national dramatic art. His works have been translated into Czech, English, German, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, etc. (CLT)

25. **The Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Vaptsarov, poet (1909-1942), in 2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov was born on 7 December 1909 in the town of Bansko. He is among Bulgaria's most loved poets and also respected for his antifascist resistance activities which led to his arrest, trial and execution. His most famous book of poems is *Motor Songs*. Vaptsarov's poems have been translated into numerous languages. (CLT)

26. **The Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Lubomir Krastanov, scientist (1908-1977), in 2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Lubomir Krastanov (1908-1977) is a prominent Bulgarian meteorologist, physical chemist and geophysicist. An important achievement of Lubomir Krastanov is the solving of the question of the formation of ice particles in the atmosphere which cause the formation of precipitation products. The scientific and the practical importance of these studies is connected with the formation of cloud elements and precipitation and with the developing of methods for artificial precipitation, for the dispersion of mists or for their stabilization. With Prof. Dimitar Jordanov, he invented a new theory on the turbulence in the substratum of the atmosphere. (SC)

27. **The Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the celebration of the **100th anniversary of the birth of Rostislav Kaïchev, scientist and linguist (1908-2002), in 2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Rostislav A. Kaïschev is considered to be one of the founding fathers of the theory of crystal nucleation and growth. His research work on two- and three-dimensional nuclei thermodynamics made a significant contribution to the development of the crystal growth

theory. He founded the Institute of Physical Chemistry at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1958), and facilitated the birth of two academy institutions in the field of physical chemistry in his country. He was a member or fellow of national and international scientific organizations, including several academies of sciences, and served as Vice-President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. He worked as a professor and a researcher, and contributed to building an international reputation in the field of crystal growth theory for the Bulgarian School of Physical Chemistry. (ED)

28. **The Burkina Faso National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **50th anniversary of the intellectual career of Professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo (1922-2006)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Joseph Ki-Zerbo (1922-2006) is a Burkinabe historian and politician. He is one of the thinkers of contemporary Africa to have made an impact on his era. Together with Cheikh Anta Diop, he placed studies on the history of Africa on a new footing, and established the National Liberation Movement in Dakar in 1957. His famous *History of Black Africa, from the origins to our times* was published in 1972 and became the reference publication on African history. He refuted the description of Africa, then prevalent in Europe, as a continent with no culture and no history. The year 2008 will mark the 50th anniversary of the intellectual career of this great African thinker. (CLT)

29. **The Côte d'Ivoire National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **50th anniversary of the intellectual career of Georges Niangoran-Bouah, ethnosociologist and anthropologist (1935-2002)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Tenured professor of ethnology and founder of drumology, Georges Niangoran-Bouah dedicated his life to enhancing the status of African cultures. Although his work is restricted to specialized circles, it is of great value and importance and stands as a reference work in its field. (SHS)

30. **The Croatian Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **500th anniversary of the birth of Marin Držić, playwright and lyricist (1508-1567)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Marin Držić (1508-1567) is considered the finest Croatian Renaissance playwright and prose writer. He was trained and ordained as a priest in spite of his rebel temperament but he was extroverted and had a warm personality. He had different careers as Rector of the University of Siena in Tuscany, interpreter, scrivener and church musician. Držić's works cover many fields: lyric poetry, pastorals, political letters and pamphlets and comedies. His pastorals and comedies are still highly regarded as masterful examples of the genre, and are among the best in Renaissance European literature. (CLT)

31. **The Croatian Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **500th anniversary of the death of Ivan Duknović (Iohannes Dalmata), sculptor and architect (1440-1509)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Giovanni Dalmata was a famous sculptor who was active in Dalmatia, Italy and Hungary and considered to be one of the leading sculptors in Rome in the second half of the fifteenth century. He was born in the Dalmatian town of Mandoler (today Vinišće in Croatia). His creations can be admired in many places including the World Heritage properties of "Historic City of Trogir", Croatia and "Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura", Italy/Holy See. (CLT)

32. **The Permanent Delegation of Cuba to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the founding of National Library José Martí's magazine (1909), in 2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The Magazine of the José Martí National Library, in its one hundred years of existence, has published very important aspects of Cuban cultural life, as well as articles on and by major cultural figures of the country in every field: literature, arts, fine arts, etc. It provides information about collections of great value to the heritage, many of which have not been published and are held by the National Library of Cuba. It has also adapted to changing times, which has enabled archival and library specialists from prestigious specialized institutions in the country to publish their works, thus enriching and updating the Cuban technological culture. It is a publication that combines tradition and renewal and, by rigorously selecting articles and authors, informs readers about the work of the most outstanding Cuban intellectuals. (CI)

33. **The Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **50th anniversary of the death of Bohuslav Martinu, composer (1890-1959), in 2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Bohuslav Martinu is a great classical composer of Czech music. He made a very important contribution to twentieth-century music. Exiled to the United States of America during the Second World War, he acquired the nationality of that country. A prolific worker (he has left 387 compositions behind), his creative wisdom is reminiscent of Joseph Haydn whom he admired both as a man and as an artist, believing that creative spontaneity is the result of prolonged creative activity. Martinu's work evinces obvious joy, adding touches of hope or consolation to his most dramatic works, which are never melancholy. (CLT)

34. **The Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **400th anniversary of the death of Jehuda Löw ben Bezalel, writer and philosopher (1520(1512?)-1609), in 2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Jehuda Löw ben Bezalel, writer and philosopher (1520(1512?)-1609) was an important Talmudic scholar, Jewish mystic, and philosopher who served as a leading rabbi in Prague (now in the Czech Republic). He is widely known to scholars of Judaism as the Maharal of Prague and was the author of philosophical and mystical works. The Maharal also became famous among non-Jews for his great secular knowledge of mathematics, astronomy, and other sciences. He was a great friend of the astronomer Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler. (SHS)

35. **The Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to UNESCO, supported by the Permanent Delegation of Austria to UNESCO**, requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the death of Josef Hlavka, architect (1831-1908), in 2008**. The

Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Josef Hlavka (1831-1908) architect, entrepreneur and patron of the arts has made a great impact on the architectural physiognomy of several towns in central Europe; the historical centres of three of these (Prague, Kutna Hora and Vienna) are inscribed on the World Heritage List. (CLT)

36. **The Permanent Delegation of Ethiopia to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **1000th anniversary of the foundation of the Harar Jugol – the Fortified Historic Town and the celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium, in 2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The Government of Ethiopia has submitted to UNESCO the celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium (Ethiopia 2000), which will extend from 11 September 2007 to 11 September 2008. This celebration marks the uniqueness of the Ethiopian calendar which is the result of the association of a major African scientific discovery: the solar or sidereal year discovered by astronomers of the Alexandrian School, closely related to Ethiopia, with the cultural specificities and religious beliefs of different Ethiopian peoples. The Millennium is a unique occasion to celebrate major achievements which occurred in this part of the continent, of which some are recognized as World Cultural Heritage. The African Union, in its Summit of 29-30 January 2007, has declared the Ethiopian Millennium as an African Millennium, since Ethiopia was the epitome of the entire Sub-Saharan Africa ecosystem. The celebration of this event is an occasion for Africa and the international community to express their shared ownership and attachment towards with respect to the Ethiopian Millennium.

The solar Coptic (gbi) calendar is closely related to Ancient Egypt and it is one of the oldest in history. The new year of the ancient Egyptians started in Meskerem (just like the Ethiopian New Year) signalling the end of Noah's flood, in the highest point of the Nile. This calendar dates back to three millennia before the birth of Christ. The Ethiopic and Coptic calendars have 13 months in a year, 12 of 30 days each and an intercalary month at the end of the year of 5 or 6 days depending whether the year is a leap year or not. The year starts on 11 September in the Gregorian Calendar (G.C.) or on the 12th in (Gregorian) Leap Years. The Coptic Leap Year follows the same rules as the Gregorian so that the extra month always has 6 days as in a Gregorian Leap Year.

Within the framework of the celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium, Harar, a city in the eastern part of Ethiopia, founded between the seventh and eleventh centuries, will also celebrate the millennium of its birth. Harar, inscribed in 2006 on the World Heritage List is one of the most ancient cities in Africa and a symbol of the dialogue of different peoples, languages, cultures and religions in the continent during the Millennium. The Harari people represent the symbiosis produced amongst Amharic, Oromo and Arabic cultures, as well as an example of the capacity of Harar's citizens to preserve the cultural identity of this city. In the sixteenth century, Harar became the capital of an Islamic State and flourished as a commercial centre located between the hinterland and coastline. Due to the interaction of peoples and different cultures, this African city was also at the heart of intellectual and artistic life in the region, was visited by people from other continents and was where Moslems and Christians lived harmoniously for hundreds of years.

The UNESCO Cities for Peace Prize was awarded in 2002-2003 to this city (ex æquo with Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso). (CLT)

37. **The French National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the death of Henri Becquerel, physicist (1908)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Henri Becquerel received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903 in recognition of his extraordinary work on spontaneous radioactivity. Henri Becquerel was promoted to the rank of Officer of the Legion of Honour in 1900. He was a member of foreign academies, including the Reale Accademia dei Lincei, the Königlische Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften and the Royal Society of London. (SC)

38. **The French National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Olivier Messiaen, composer (1908)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

French composer, performer, teacher and ornithologist, Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992), developed an original and unique style which included innovations in harmony and melody in rhythm, colour and orchestration. Olivier Messiaen is often regarded as the second most important French composer of the twentieth century and one of the most influential composers of the century in any country. Messiaen's music is known for its devoted adherence to Catholic theological subjects and for its transcriptions of birdsong. He wrote music in every major genre, making special contributions to the organ repertoire and to the piano repertoire, due largely to the skills of his second wife Yvonne Loriod. His most famous works include *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*, a large-scale orchestral work *Turangalîla-symphonie* and an opera, for which he also wrote the libretto (*Saint François d'Assise*). (CLT)

39. **The French National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, professor (1809)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Louis Braille was the founder of the Braille system, the primary system of written communication for visually impaired persons around the world. The system offers numerous benefits, the most notable being the ability to both read and write using an alphabet that can be adapted to almost every major national language. Luis Braille contributed towards literacy, the Braille system being the only medium through which children with profound or total loss of sight can learn to read and write. (ED)

40. **The French National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **150th anniversary of the birth of Emile Durkheim, sociologist (1858)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Émile Durkheim (1858–1917) was a French sociologist and anthropologist, considered to be one of the founders of modern sociology. Trained in the Positivist school of thought, he turned sociology into a science with its own subject and methods, asserting the specificity of social facts in relation to organic and psychological phenomena. He was a professor at the Sorbonne and author of many sociological studies. (SHS)

41. **The German Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **250th anniversary of the birth of Friedrich Schiller, poet (1759-1805)**, in **2009**. The

Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Johann Christoph Friedrich (later: von) Schiller (1759–1805) was a German poet, philosopher, historian and dramatist. Schiller was a foremost German dramatist and, along with Goethe, a major figure in German literature's *Sturm und Drang* (Storm and Stress) period. He also wrote poetry and essays, including "Ode to Joy", which was later used by Ludwig van Beethoven in his Ninth Symphony. Influenced by the philosophy of Kant, Schiller developed his aesthetic theories, stressing the sublime and the creative powers of humanity. He wrote several important treatises on aesthetics, foremost among them "On the Aesthetic Education of Man", as much if not more of a moral treatise as an aesthetic one. (CLT)

42. **The German Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **150th anniversary of the death of Bettina von Arnim, writer (1785-1859)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Bettina von Arnim (1785-1859) was a Friend of Goethe, Beethoven and George Sand, and although she published little, is a key figure of the second phase of German Romanticism. A seductive, independent socialite, she is reputed to be a great epistolary writer, both sensitive and dangerously passionate. Her artistic influence remains nevertheless European. (CLT)

43. **The German Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **150th anniversary of the birth of Max Planck, physicist (1858-1947)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Max Planck (1858-1947) is considered to be the founder of quantum theory, and therefore one of the most important physicists of the twentieth century. He was the Nobel Prize winner in Physics in 1918 (awarded 1919). (SC)

44. **The Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **950th anniversary of the birth of Imam Mohammad Ghazali, philosopher (1058-1111)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Al-Ghazali was a Muslim theologian, philosopher and mystic and he remains one of the most celebrated scholars in the history of Islamic thought. There is no doubt about the importance and general relevance of the anniversary, which fully deserves UNESCO's support in view of the major significance of al-Ghazali not just within classical Persian and Arabic culture but also in the philosophy and theology of the European Middle Ages and Renaissance. (SHS)

45. **The Israel National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **150th anniversary of the birth of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, linguist (1858-1922)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Eliezer Ben-Yehuda was a prime mover in the transformation of Hebrew from a dormant language of culture to a living, spoken language currently used in all spheres of modern life by millions of Israelis and by Jews worldwide. A Committee of the Hebrew Language was

then established (1889). Later it became the Academy of the Hebrew Language, an organization that still exists today. The results of his work and the Committee's were published in a dictionary ("The Complete Dictionary of Ancient and Modern Hebrew" (1908-1959)). (CLT)

46. **The Italian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **400th anniversary of the birth of Evangelista Torricelli, scientist (1608-1647)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Evangelista Torricelli (1608-1647) was an Italian physicist and mathematician who invented the barometer and whose work in geometry aided in the eventual development of integral calculus. (SC)

47. **The Italian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Cesare Pavese, writer (1908-1950)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Italian poet, novelist, literary critic and translator, Cesare Pavese (1908-1950) is considered to be a major literary figure in post-war Italy. He brought American influence to Italian literature through his translations. His writings which dealt with social struggles revealed his sympathy for the oppressed. A recurrent theme in his novels is the search of urban man, who is caught in continually changing situations, for permanence and stability. (CLT)

48. **The Italian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **500th anniversary of the birth of Andrea Palladio, architect (1508-1580)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Andrea Palladio is widely considered the most influential architect in the History of the Western Architecture. The outstanding universal value of his work was also recognized with the inscription of the "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto" (Italy) on the World Heritage List. (CLT)

49. **The Italian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **400th anniversary of Galileo's discoveries (1609)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The year 2009 will mark 400 years since the invention of the telescope and the revolutionary celestial observations that Galileo made thanks to it.

In the autumn of 1609, strange objects known as *cannoni* (cannons) or *tubi ottici* (optical tubes) appeared in Venice. Distant objects appeared much closer to those who looked through the tube's ocular lens. Like many others, Galileo Galilei's attention was caught by this tool, generally considered a curious plaything. He then worked on perfecting it and soon built more effective lenses. In Galileo's hands the plaything became a real scientific instrument. During the last weeks of 1609, Galileo directed the cannon at the starry sky. This paved the way for the unexpected discovery of sensational celestial novelties that were to produce an epoch-making intellectual and anthropological revolution.

Galileo's first use of the telescope was indeed an event that deeply changed the world, leading to the affirmation of modern science and of a new rational anthropology.

These celebrations are an opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the role of astronomy in enriching all human cultures and will arouse strong interest and encourage specific cultural events and activities all over the world. (SC)

50. **The Permanent Delegation of the State of Kuwait to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **50th anniversary of *Al Arabi Magazine* (1958)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Al Arabi was an initiative of the Kuwaiti Government to provide a high-quality pan-Arab magazine that would rise above political and intellectual disagreements and provide a forum for Arab cultural dialogue, exchange and dissemination. The magazine united great intellectual and cultural figures from the Arab World, who regularly contributed articles and photographs to the magazine. *Al Arabi* quickly became a household name and was read by people of all ages across the Arab World, who found in its pages a unique blend of high quality social, economic and scientific reports as well as poetry, short stories, art reviews and illustrated articles on the Arab region. *Al Arabi* still enjoys widespread popularity and currently has a monthly circulation of 250,000 copies. (ERC)

51. **The Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the foundation of King's College, Lagos (1909)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

King's College was founded in 1909 as the first federal government secondary school with the aim of providing qualitative education, initially addressed to boys and later on to girls in Africa, particularly from Nigeria, Cameroon and Ghana. A first generation of civil servants, academics, jurists and other liberal professions has been trained by this regional educational institution, which also provided a sports and cultural education. King's College enabled the creation of a shared vision on the future of the continent. Its experience could inspire African educational institutions to make education and culture a tool to promote regional integration. (AFR)

52. **The Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Peru to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **400th anniversary of the publication of “Royal Commentaries of the Incas” by Garcilaso de la Vega (1609)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The book *Royal Commentaries of the Incas*, published in Lisbon in 1609, covers the history of the Incas in the first part and the conquest of Peru in the second part. It is a unique testimony to the history of the Incas written by the first great mixed-race Peruvian writer, Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, son of a noble Spanish captain and an Inca princess. This book reflects the meeting of the world of the Incas and the Christian world, the oral and written traditions and the future and the past. (CLT)

53. **The Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the creation of the University of the Philippines**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and

the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The University of the Philippines covers various faculties and disciplines which dovetail with UNESCO's mandate for the promotion of education as well as its other areas of competence, such as culture, science and communication, and contributes to the building of knowledge societies which safeguards UNESCO's objectives. Various educational activities have been planned to reinforce UNESCO's goal of providing quality education within the region and internationally. (ED)

54. **The Romanian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **200th anniversary of the birth of the Orthodox Archbishop Andrei Şaguna (1808-1873)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

A man of the church, a politician and a man of culture, Andrei Şaguna is undoubtedly one of the personalities who has made an impact on the ecclesiastical, political and cultural life of nineteenth century Romania, at the beginning of its modernity.

He undertook the task of consolidating Metropolitan Transylvania and reorganizing the Institute of Theology of Sibiu, at which priests and schoolteachers were trained and founded a printing press and the newspaper that is one of Romania's oldest newspapers today. Finally, Andrei Şaguna contributed to the development of teaching by organizing almost 800 primary schools as Bishop of Sibiu, by facilitating and aiding the publication of school textbooks and by sending a significant number of young people to pursue their studies abroad.

Through these forms of action, which he created and developed better than anyone of his time, Andrei Şaguna fully demonstrated his commitment to contributing to the building of a modern society. His ideas and actions and the values which he defended throughout his life have made an impact that has reached far beyond the borders of Romania.

This commemoration falls fully within the fields of competence of the Organization. Many activities relating to the commemoration will be organized in 2008, which will be proclaimed "Andrei Şaguna Year" in Romania. (ED)

55. **The Romanian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Eugène Ionesco, dramatist and writer (1908-1994)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Dramatist, essayist, novelist, lecturer, a French citizen of Romanian origin and one of the two pioneers of the theatre of the absurd, Eugène Ionesco (1908-1994) is one of the very few authors to be recognized during his lifetime as a "classical author". He had tremendous international recognition, first in Great Britain and then in France, where his plays enjoyed unwavering popular success. This public success was ultimately confirmed by institutional recognition, namely election to the French Academy, and many other prizes such as the T.S. Elliot-Ingersoll Prize in Chicago. (CLT)

56. **The Romanian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Şerban Ţiţeica, physicist and educationalist (1908-1986)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that

UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Șerban Țițeica (1908-1986), physicist and educationalist, was the most eminent Romanian professor of theoretical physics. His scientific work is highly varied and very profound: the absorption of heavy particles in matter, the theory of positrons, multipolar electromagnetic radiation, the propagation of heat, thermodynamics, static physics, and so on. (SC)

57. The National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **200th anniversary of the birth of N.V. Gogol, writer (1809-1852), in 2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Nikolai Gogol (1809-1852), dramatist, satirist, founder of the so-called critical realism in Russian literature, best-known for his novel *Dead Souls*, is the most famous Russian writer of Ukrainian origin. He tried to survive economically by working as a bureaucrat, a teacher and very briefly as a lecturer of history at Saint Petersburg University. In 1836 he left Russia and he lived abroad, mostly in Rome, until 1849, when he returned via Palestine to Russia. (CLT)

58. The National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Lev D. Landau, physicist (1908-1968), in 2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Lev Landau was one of the greatest physicists of the twentieth century. His pioneering results advanced various major fields of theoretical physics. Several generations of theoretical physicists learned their trade through the 10 volumes of his famous *Course of Theoretical Physics*. (SC)

59. The National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **1150th anniversary of the foundation of the City of Veliky Novgorod, in 2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Novgorod is the oldest Russian city, it being mentioned in chronicles since 859 A.D. The city itself was built gradually from the end of the ninth century, subsequently taking the name Novgorod (The New City). During the middle of the tenth century, Novgorod became a prosperous medieval city, situated on the trade route between the Baltic and the Byzantine empire. Its historical monuments were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992. (CLT)

60. The Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Serbia to UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Ljubica Marić, composer (1909-2003), in 2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Ljubica Marić (1909-2003) was considered to be one of the most original composers to emerge from Yugoslavia. She was known for being inspired by the Byzantine Orthodox church music. (CLT)

61. **The Permanent Delegation of Slovakia to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Margita Figuli, writer (1909-1995)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Margita Figuli (1909-1995) is considered to be the best female contemporary Slovak novelist and was voted "national artist" in 1974. After a collection of psychological short stories *Pokušenie* (Temptation, 1937), she excelled at lyrical prose, as demonstrated in her legendary novel *Tri gaštanové kone* (Three Chestnut Horses, 1940), the monumental history of *Babylon* in four volumes (1946), and *Mladosť* (Youth, 1956), based on her childhood memories. She has also published a children's book dedicated to the Slovak Robin Hood *Balada o Jurovi Jánošíkovi* (The Ballad of Jánošík, 1980). (CLT)

62. **The Permanent Delegation of Slovakia to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Eugen Suchoň, music composer (1908-1993)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Eugen Suchoň (1908-1993) was one of the greatest Slovak composers and music teachers of the twentieth century. He established modern Slovak opera and drew international attention through the success of his opera work *Krúžňava* (The Whirlpool, 1949) and contributed greatly to developing music education in its practical and theoretical aspects. Of particular significance was his second opera *Kral' Svätopluk* (King Svätopluk), completed in 1959. This historic opera represents the monumental dramatic fresco from the period of the Great Moravian Empire. (CLT)

63. **The Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **500th anniversary of the birth of Primož Trubar, ecclesiastic and writer (1508-1586)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Primož Trubar (1508-1586) was a Slovenian Protestant reformer, the founder and the first superintendent of the Protestant Church of Slovenia, a consolidator of the Slovenian language and the author of the first printed book in Slovenian. His work introduced reading and literacy as well as secular education, thus connecting the Slovenian nation with the Europe of his time. Primož Trubar was a significant regional figure in the European Reformation and Renaissance and continues to be widely quoted in discussion of the period. (SHS)

64. **The Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO with the support of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, the Permanent Delegation of Afghanistan to UNESCO, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tajikistan and the Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **1150th anniversary of the birth of Abuabduullo Rudaki, poet (858-941)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Abuabduullo Rudaki, also written as Abdullah Jafar Ibn Mohammed, Rudaki Rudagi or Rudhagi (859-c.941) was a poet, founder of Persian classical literature and the first great literary genius of modern Persian language. He composed poems in the "New Persian" Perso-Arabic alphabet script. He was born in Rudak, a village in Transoxiana, what is now Panjakent in Tajikistan. (CLT)

65. **The National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Maria Primachenko, painter (1909-1997)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Maria Primachenko (1908-1997), a peasant woman from the Kievan village of Bolotnia, showed a successful blend of natural talent. She is a legendary artist, whose creations link ancient Ukrainian folk art traditions with the present. Her pictorial flair for bringing to life ideas, feelings and impressions gradually ripened into true mastery. Exhibitions of her works have proved tremendously popular in the Russian Federation, Poland, Bulgaria, France and Canada. (CLT)

66. **The United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, poet (1759-1796)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Robert Burns (1759-1796) was a poet and a lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide. He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots language, although much of his writing is also in English and a “light” Scots dialect which would have been accessible to a wider audience than simply Scottish people. (CLT)

67. **The United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, naturalist (1809-1882)**, in **2009**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882) was an eminent English naturalist who achieved lasting fame by convincing the scientific community that species develop over time from a common origin. His theories explaining this phenomenon through natural and sexual selection are central to the modern understanding of evolution as the unifying theory of the life sciences, essential in biology and important in other disciplines such as anthropology, psychology and philosophy.

Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution is one of the most fundamentally important concepts in science, philosophy and human culture. (SC)

68. **The United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **400th anniversary of the birth of John Milton, poet (1608-1674)**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

John Milton (1608-1674) was an English poet, prose polemicist, and civil servant for the English Commonwealth. Most famed for his epic poem *Paradise Lost*, Milton is celebrated as well for his eloquent treatise condemning censorship, *Areopagitica*. Long considered the supreme English poet, Milton experienced a dip in popularity in the mid-twentieth century; but Milton’s reputation remains strong in the twenty-first century. (CLT)

69. **The National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **2200th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Toshkent**, in **2008**. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the

Executive Board at its 159th session and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Toshkent is one of the famous cultural and scientific centres of Central Asia. Historically, being situated on the Great Silk Road, Toshkent was the place where East and West met in brotherhood for intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Toshkent, the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, is one of the ancient cities of Central Asia. Toshkent was well known 2,200 years ago as Choch. The celebration of the 2,200th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Toshkent will certainly promote a new focus on the old city and on four world heritage sites at Shakisabyz, Samarkand, Bhkkhra and Khiva. (CLT)

III. Proposed draft decision

70. At the close of its discussion, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 176 EX/47,
2. Noting that the proposals sent by Member States to the Director-General listed below comply with the criteria adopted in 159 EX/Decision 7.5,
3. Encourages the Member States of all regions to make proposals with a view to ensuring an improved geographical distribution and gender balance;
4. Recommends to the General Conference:
 - (a) that UNESCO should be associated in 2008-2009 with the following celebrations:
 - (i) 150th anniversary of active life of Sayed Jamal-ud Din Afghani, philosopher (1858) (Afghanistan)
 - (ii) 850th anniversary of the death of Abu'l Majd Majdud Sana'i of Ghazna, poet and philosopher (circa 1080-1158) (Afghanistan)
 - (iii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Atahualpa Yupanqui, music composer (1908-1992) (Argentina)
 - (iv) 200th anniversary of the death of Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) (Austria)
 - (v) 100th anniversary of Musa Aliyev, geologist (1908-1985) (Azerbaijan)
 - (vi) 100th anniversary of the birth of Mir Jalal Pashayev, writer (1908-1978) (Azerbaijan)
 - (vii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Mikayil Mushfig, poet (1908-1939) (Azerbaijan)
 - (viii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Ebrahim Al-Arrayed, poet (1908-2002) (Bahrain)
 - (ix) 600th anniversary of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest Reserve (Belarus)

- (x) 200th anniversary of the birth of Vincent Dunin-Martsinkevich, poet, playwright and actor (1808-1884) (Belarus)
- (xi) 100th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Vaptsarov, poet (1909-1942) (Bulgaria)
- (xii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Lubomir Krastanov, scientist (1908-1977) (Bulgaria)
- (xiii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Rostislav Kaichev, scientist and linguist (1908-2002) (Bulgaria)
- (xiv) 50th anniversary of the intellectual career of professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo (1922-2006) (Burkina Faso)
- (xv) 50th anniversary of the intellectual career of Georges Niangoran-Bouah, ethnosociologist/anthropologist (1935-2002) (Côte d'Ivoire)
- (xvi) 500th anniversary of the birth of Marin Držić, playwright and lyricist (1508-1567) (Croatia)
- (xvii) 500th anniversary of the death of Ivan Duknović (Iohannes Dalmata), sculptor and architect (1440-1509) (Croatia)
- (xviii) 100th anniversary of the creation of National Library José Martí's magazine (1909) (Cuba)
- (xix) 50th anniversary of the death of Bohuslav Martinu, composer (1890-1959) (Czech Republic)
- (xx) 400th anniversary of the death of Jehuda Löw ben Bezalel, writer and philosopher (1520(1512?)-1609) (Czech Republic)
- (xxi) 100th anniversary of the death of Josef Hlavka, architect (1831-1908) (Czech Republic supported by Austria)
- (xxii) 1000th anniversary of the foundation of the Harar Jugol – the Fortified Historic Town – and the celebration of Ethiopian Millennium (Ethiopia)
- (xxiii) 100th anniversary of the death of d'Henri Becquerel, physicist (1908) (France)
- (xxiv) 100th anniversary of the birth of Olivier Messiaen, composer (1908) (France)
- (xxv) 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, professor (1809) (France)
- (xxvi) 150th anniversary of the birth of Emile Durkheim, sociologist (1858) (France)
- (xxvii) 250th anniversary of the birth of Friedrich Schiller, poet (1759-1805) (Germany)
- (xxviii) 150th anniversary of the death of Bettina von Arnim, writer (1785-1859) (Germany)

- (xxix) 150th anniversary of the birth of Max Planck, physicist (1858-1947) (Germany)
- (xxx) 950th anniversary of the birth of Imam Mohammad Ghazali, philosopher (1058-1111) (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- (xxxi) 150th anniversary of the birth of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, linguist (1858-1922) (Israel)
- (xxxii) 400th anniversary of the birth of Evangelista Torricelli, scientist (1608-1647) (Italy)
- (xxxiii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Cesare Pavese, writer (1908-1950) (Italy)
- (xxxiv) 500th anniversary of the birth of Andrea Palladio, architect (1508-1580) (Italy)
- (xxxv) 400th anniversary of Galileo's Discoveries (1609) (Italy)
- (xxxvi) 50th anniversary of Al Arabi Magazine (1958) (Kuwait)
- (xxxvii) 100th anniversary of the foundation of King's College, Lagos (1909) (Nigeria)
- (xxxviii) 400th anniversary of the publication of *Royal Commentaries of the Incas* by Garcilaso de la Vega (1609) (Peru)
- (xxxix) 100th anniversary of the creation of the University of the Philippines (Philippines)
- (xl) 200th anniversary of the birth of the Orthodox Archbishop Andrei Şaguna (1808-1873) (Romania)
- (xli) 100th anniversary of the birth of Eugène Ionesco, dramatist and writer (1908-1994) (Romania)
- (xlii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Şerban Ţiţeica, physician and educationalist (1908-1986) (Romania)
- (xliii) 200th anniversary of the birth of N.V. Gogol, writer (1809-1852) (Russian Federation and Ukraine)
- (xliv) 100th anniversary of the birth of Lev D. Landau, physicist (1908-1968) (Russian Federation and Ukraine)
- (xlv) 1150th anniversary of the foundation of the City of Veliky Novgorod (Russian Federation)
- (xlvi) 100th anniversary of the birth of Ljubica Marić, composer (1909-2003) (Serbia)
- (xlvii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Margita Figuli, writer (1909-1995) (Slovakia)
- (xlviii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Eugen Suchoň, music composer (1908-1993) (Slovakia)

- (xlix) 500th anniversary of the birth of Primož Trubar, ecclesiastic and writer (1508-1586) (Slovenia)
 - (i) 1150th anniversary of the birth of Abuabduullo Rudaki, poet (858-941) (Tajikistan with the support of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan)
 - (ii) 100th anniversary of the birth of Maria Primachenko, painter (1909-1997) (Ukraine)
 - (iii) 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, poet (1759-1796) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
 - (iii) 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, naturalist (1809-1882) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
 - (iv) 400th anniversary of the birth of John Milton, poet (1608-1674) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
 - (iv) 2200th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Toshkent (Uzbekistan)
- (b) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations will be financed under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that programme;
- (c) that proposals for anniversaries of eminent personalities, nominated posthumously only, and events with which Member States would like to associate UNESCO shall be limited to four per Member State for each biennium, and that the selection criteria and procedure for consideration of the proposals concerning the celebration of anniversaries adopted by the Executive Board at its 154th and 159th sessions and amended at its 166th session be amended accordingly, with effect from the next biennium, with paragraph II(c) reading as follows: “

“the anniversary should concern personalities of genuinely universal stature, nominated posthumously only, and works or events of genuinely worldwide or at least regional significance in order to reflect the ideals, the values, the cultural diversity and the universality of the Organization.” Further, paragraph III A(c) shall be amended to read as follows: “The Intersectoral Committee will ensure insofar as possible that there is a geographical balance by drawing up the list in such a way as to include anniversaries from all regions. Thus, to improve the distribution of celebrations among the various regions and the selection of proposals submitted, the proposals for anniversaries shall be limited to four per Member State for each biennium.”

ANNEX

Composition of the Intersectoral Committee established to consider proposals

The Intersectoral Committee established within the Secretariat to consider, in accordance with the criteria and procedures adopted, the list of proposals by the Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries shall be composed as follows (references: 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and 159 EX/32):

- (a) One focal point from each programme sector
 - Education Sector (ED)
 - Natural Sciences Sector (SC)
 - Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS)
 - Culture Sector (CLT)
 - Communication and Information Sector (CI)

- (b) The relevant units of the Sector for External Relations and Cooperation (ERC)

- (c) A representative of the central services
 - Africa Department (AFR)
 - Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP)
 - Bureau of Field Coordination (BFC)
 - Bureau of Public Information (BPI)
 - Secretariat of the Executive Board (SCX)
 - Secretariat of the General Conference (SCG)