

Records of the General Conference

39th session

Paris, 30 October – 14 November 2017

Volume 1

Resolutions

United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

3. *Invites* the Director-General to promote effective United Nations collaboration on climate change in consonance with the Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-wide Approach to Climate Action (CEB/2016/4) and the associated United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action (Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), dated 18 April 2017), taking into account the respective roles and mandates of the relevant entities;
4. *Invites* all Member States to engage fully with the UNESCO Secretariat, at Headquarters and in the field offices, for the effective implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (2018-2021), including, as appropriate, in relation to the preparation and achievement of their nationally determined contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement;
5. *Encourages* Member States to provide voluntary financial support to enable the scaling-up of UNESCO's climate change action, with particular emphasis on Africa, small island developing States (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs) and gender;
6. *Requests* the Director-General to report on progress made in the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (2018-2021) in the statutory reports to the Executive Board at its spring session in 2020.

Resolution adopted on the report of the SC Commission at the 18th plenary meeting, on 13 November 2017.

16 Proclamation of an International Day of Light

The General Conference,

Having examined document 39 C/40,

Recalling 200 EX/Decision 27

Considering that enhanced global awareness of, and increased education in, the science and technologies of light is vital in order to address challenges in areas such as sustainable development, energy, and community health, and for improving the quality of life in all countries, but *being aware* also of the adverse impacts of light pollution on nature and human lives,

Stressing that the applications of light science and technology are vital for advances in medicine, communications, entertainment and culture, and that light-based technologies respond to the needs of humankind by providing access to information and increasing societal well-being, as well as promoting peace through improved communications,

Noting the broad and significant impact of recent initiatives of UNESCO's International Basic Sciences Programme and the enthusiastic commitment by the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies consortium to continue working with UNESCO in the framework of internationally-coordinated outreach and education programmes,

Recognizing that it is essential to ensure that existing gains from previous UNESCO initiatives in science and education are effectively followed-up and strengthened,

Also recognizing the importance of light and light-based technologies,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 16 May of each year as International Day of Light;
2. *Invites* the Director-General to:
 - (a) promote the celebration of International Day of Light;
 - (b) encourage Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities, research centres, civil society associations, schools and other local stakeholders to actively participate in the event in a manner which each considers most appropriate and without financial implications for the regular budget of UNESCO.

Resolution adopted on the report of the SC Commission at the 18th plenary meeting, on 13 November 2017.

17 Proclamation by the United Nations of 2019 as an International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements

The General Conference,

Having examined document 39 C/60,

Recognizing the importance of chemistry and the advances in research and discoveries regarding the periodic table of chemical elements for sustainable development and for the benefit of humankind,

Stressing that the periodic table is widely used in vital spheres of scientific knowledge such as chemistry, physics, and biology,

Considering that the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the periodic table of chemical elements in 2019 will provide an unparalleled opportunity to highlight the continuous nature of scientific discovery in different contexts, with particular emphasis on promoting science education at all levels among young women and men, especially in developing countries, including in Africa,

Noting that 2019 coincides with the anniversaries of a series of important milestones in the history of the periodic table, specifically: the isolation of arsenic and antimony by Jabir ibn Hayyan circa 1,200 years ago; the discovery of phosphorus 350 years ago; the publication of a list of 33 chemical elements grouped into gases, metals, non-metals, and earths by Lavoisier in 1789; the discovery of the Law of Triads in 1829 by