



General Conference

40th session, Paris, 2019

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

40 C/26

30 July 2019

Original: English

Item 5.12 of the provisional agenda

PROCLAMATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ISLAMIC ART

OUTLINE

Background: This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 40th session of the General Conference following 205 EX/Decision 31).

Purpose: The document presents a proposal to proclaim 18 November as International Day of Islamic Art. The objective of this international day is to encourage the appreciation of artistic expressions of Islam – past and contemporary – and understand the role of Islamic art in inspiring other artistic movements.

Decision required: The General Conference may wish to adopt the resolution contained in paragraph 4.



Job: 201906496

Background

1. The proposal to proclaim 18 November as International Day of Islamic Art was submitted by Bahrain and examined by the Executive Board at its 205th session (document 205 EX/31). The objective of this proposal is to encourage greater awareness of past and contemporary artistic expressions of Islam, and to celebrate diversity, freedom of expression and dialogue with other artistic movements.
2. In her comments (document 205 EX/DG.INF), the Director-General welcomed this initiative and underlined that the dissemination of knowledge about cultures to build mutual understanding was central in UNESCO's mandate. She also expressed the view that activities celebrating the International Day of Islamic Art should be financed and implemented by Member States, with support from the Secretariat to promote it to the extent possible within its existing capacities.
3. After having examined documents 205 EX/31 and 205 EX/DG.INF, the Executive Board decided to endorse the proposal and to include this item in the agenda of the 40th session of the General Conference, and recommended that it adopt a resolution to proclaim 18 November as International Day of Islamic Art.

Proposed resolution

4. In light of the above, the General Conference may wish to adopt the following draft resolution:

The General Conference,

Having examined document 40 C/26,

Recognizing the contribution of Islamic art in the preservation and dissemination of human civilization and culture,

Underlining the need to foster dialogue and tolerance between peoples, to encourage cultural rapprochement, and *stressing* the role that art can play in this regard,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 18 November of each year International Day of Islamic Art;
2. *Invites* Member States, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to observe international day of Islamic art through, *inter alia*, the dissemination of information on Islamic art, the sharing of experiences and the design of actions to ensure its protection;
3. *Requests* the Director-General to promote the celebration of the International Day of Islamic Art on 18 November of each year as one of the international days marked by UNESCO;
4. *Encourages* Member States to provide financial support to promote and celebrate this international day.