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Item 14.2 of the provisional agenda

## HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

### OUTLINE

**Source:** Rule 12.1 of the Rules of Procedures of the General Conference.

**Background:** This document concerns item 14.2 of the provisional agenda and is proposed by Australia, Canada, Israel, Russian Federation and the United States of America.

**Purpose:** An explanatory note concerning this item and a draft resolution are contained in an Annex to the present document.

**Decision required:** paragraph 6 (Annex).

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,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

## ANNEX

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. On 1 November 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the historic resolution 60/7 on Holocaust Remembrance. That resolution reaffirmed that “the holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one third of the Jewish people, along with countless members of other minorities, will forever be a warning to all people of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice.” It further set 27 January as an annual International Day of Commemoration of the Holocaust, and urged “Member States to develop educational programs that will inculcate future generations with the lessons of the Holocaust.”

2. On 26 January 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 61/255 on Holocaust denial. That resolution condemned “without any reservation any denial of the Holocaust” and urged all Member States unreservedly to reject “any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event, either in full or in part, or any activities to this end”. It further welcomed the inclusion by Member States within their educational programmes of measures to confront attempts to deny or minimize the importance of the Holocaust.

3. These General Assembly resolutions clearly express the importance that the United Nations attaches to active dissemination of knowledge regarding the facts and the moral lessons of the Holocaust, and the United Nations’ refusal to countenance any form of Holocaust denial.

4. As requested by United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7, the United Nations Secretary-General has developed an outreach programme on “the Holocaust and the United Nations”. Given UNESCO’s prominent role in the United Nations system on educational matters, the Director-General should consult with the Secretary-General on this outreach programme, with a view to examining possible options for UNESCO to participate in the United Nations’ effort to promote the awareness of Holocaust remembrance through education and to combat all forms of Holocaust denial.

5. The Director-General would be asked to report the results of his consultation and his recommendations to the Executive Board at its 180th session (Autumn 2008).

6. Proposed draft resolution<sup>1</sup>

The General Conference,

1. *Remembering* that the holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one third of the Jewish people, along with countless members of other minorities, will forever be a warning to all people of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice,
2. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 60/7 of 1 November 2005, which condemned any denial of the Holocaust,
3. *Noting* that 27 January has been designated by the United Nations as the annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust,

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<sup>1</sup> At the date of publishing of the present document the following Member States had officially expressed support to this draft resolution: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine and Uruguay.

4. *Noting* that the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, adopted in the aftermath of the horrors of the Second World War, states that “the great and terrible war which has now ended was a war made possible by the denial of the democratic principles of dignity, equality and mutual respect of men, and by the propagation, in their place, through ignorance and prejudice, of the doctrine of the inequality of men and races”,
5. *Bearing in mind* United Nations General-Assembly resolution 61/255 of 26 January 2007 and, in particular, its recognition that the Secretary-General has established a programme of outreach on the subject of “the Holocaust and the United Nations”,
6. *Requests* the Director-General to consult with the United Nations Secretary-General regarding his outreach programme, with a view to exploring what role UNESCO could play in promoting awareness of Holocaust remembrance through education and in combating all forms of Holocaust denial;
7. *Further requests* the Director-General to report the results of this consultations and his recommendations to the Executive Board at its 180th session.