



## General Conference

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# 40 C

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

Item 5.37 of the provisional agenda

40 C/81  
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### ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, RACIAL HATRED AND RACIAL HATE CRIMES IN THE WORLD

#### OUTLINE

**Source:** 207 EX/Decision 49.

**Background:** At its 207th session, in decision 207 EX/Decision 49, the Executive Board decided to inscribe this item on the agenda of the 40th session of the General Conference.

**Purpose:** The document underscores that racial discrimination, incitement to racial hatred and racial hate crimes represent a threat for all peoples and the international community. With that in mind, the Director-General is requested to strengthen UNESCO's substantive contribution to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance and to report to the Executive Board, at its 210th session, on the progress made in this matter.

**Decision required:** Paragraph 8.



## Background

1. Acts of a collective or individual nature defending “the purity or supremacy of one race” are a threat to nations’ peace and security.
2. International law prohibits all crimes committed on the basis of racial discrimination, as well as incitement to hatred on the grounds of race. In the same way, it condemns any doctrine of superiority based on racial differentiation as being scientifically false, morally condemnable and socially unjust and dangerous, as there is no justification for racial discrimination, either in theory or in practice, anywhere.
3. All propaganda and organizations inspired by ideas or theories based on the superiority of one race or group of persons of a specific colour or ethnic origin, or seeking to justify or promote racial hatred and racial discrimination in any form, should be prohibited and rejected by all States, as they go against the ideals of human society as a whole, including peaceful coexistence.
4. Given the detrimental effects of such ideologies, the international community has committed to adopting all measures necessary to speedily eliminate racial discrimination, in all its forms and manifestations, and prevent and combat racist doctrines and practices, with a view to promoting understanding and building an international community free from all forms of racial segregation and discrimination.
5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was established precisely to reverse the devastating effects of a war that left behind the indelible trace of an ideology of racial superiority. Consequently, Article I of the Organization’s Constitution proclaims that “its purpose [...] is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations”.
6. Today, UNESCO must once again condemn acts such as those committed in Charleston, Charlottesville, Christchurch and El Paso.
7. UNESCO, the international forum best suited to facing this challenge and defending the right of cultures to coexist in peace on the basis of tolerance, respect and equality, in accordance with its mandate, should therefore: (1) strengthen dialogue between cultures and civilizations as the best guarantee of peace and respect for life; (2) speak out, because no culture can replace another; in our times, we are all called upon to coexist peacefully in a multicultural world, which implies respect and mutual recognition; (3) reject any act of racial discrimination, incitement to racial hatred and/or racial hate crimes as they represent a threat for all peoples and the international community; (4) urge UNESCO’s Member States to combat racial discrimination, incitement to racial hatred and/or racial hate crimes by all legal means, by detecting their networks of action and dismantling them; and (5) underline the importance of international cooperation in effectively tackling a challenge of such magnitude.

## Proposed draft resolution

8. In light of the above, the General Conference may wish to adopt a resolution along the following lines:

*The General Conference,*

*Recalling* 207 EX/Decision 49,

*Having examined* document 40 C/81,

*Reiterating* its full confidence in humanity and in the capacity of all Member States to contribute to making the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the UNESCO Constitution a reality,

*Placing* the utmost importance on the promotion of policies and programmes for the preservation of peace, intercultural dialogue and the fight against racism and xenophobia, as well as respect for human rights and gender equality through international cooperation,

*Considering* that racial discrimination, incitement to racial hatred and racial hate crimes represent a threat for all peoples and the international community,

*Bearing in mind* that international law condemns any doctrine of superiority based on racial differentiation as being scientifically false, morally condemnable and socially unjust and dangerous, as there is no justification for racial discrimination, either in practice or in theory, anywhere,

*Recalling* the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as well as the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

*Also recalling* the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001, in particular paragraph 2 of the Declaration and paragraph 86 of the Programme of Action, as well as the relevant provisions of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference of 24 April 2009, in particular paragraphs 11 and 54 (United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/139),

*Affirming* that no culture can replace another and that, in our times, we are all called upon to coexist peacefully in a multicultural world, which implies respect and mutual recognition,

*Recognizing* that UNESCO, in accordance with its mandate, is the United Nations organization best placed to promote the spirit of coexistence, dialogue within and between cultures and civilizations and the culture of peace,

*Further recalling* that it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed,

1. *Urges* UNESCO's Member States to reject any act of racial discrimination, incitement to racial hatred and/or racial hate crimes, and to combat them by all legal means, by detecting their networks of action and dismantling them;
2. *Reiterates* that incitement to racial hatred and racial hate crimes of any type represents a threat for all peoples and the international community;
3. *Underlines* the importance of international cooperation in effectively tackling a challenge as widespread as racial discrimination;
4. *Requests* the Director-General to redouble her efforts to establish an extensive, active, generalized dialogue between cultures and civilizations;
5. *Also requests* the Director-General to strengthen UNESCO's substantive contribution to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance including incitement to racial hatred and racial hate crimes;
6. *Further requests* the Director-General to report to the Executive Board, at its 210th session, on the progress made in this matter.