



UNESCO-PARIS

Statement of Mr. Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Permanent Representative of India and Chairman of the Group of 77 and China at the 187th Session of the Executive Board

1. I speak on behalf of the Member countries of the G77 and China. Please allow me to thank: Zimbabwe, Saint Lucia, Pakistan and Mongolia for giving up 1 minute of their allotted time so I could make the following statement:
2. The representatives of State members of the G77 and China Group wish to recall that, at the close of the 186th Session of the Executive Board, due to time constraints and other considerations, many members of the Board were deprived of the opportunity to express their opinions in the debate occasioned by the contentious reference to "the principle of decision-making by consensus" contained in the decisions on item 5 (35 C/Resolution 49 and 185 EX/Decision 5 relating to the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem) and on item 11 (Jerusalem and the implementation of 35 C/Resolution 49 and 185 EX/Decision 14).
3. We want to take this opportunity to recall that the sole and only method of decision-making that is recognized and provided for in the Constitution of UNESCO is that of voting. Even though Article IV. C of the Constitution refers specifically to the General Conference; it is equally applicable to the Executive Board. Section X, rules 48 - 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board elaborate the provisions for decision-making, by way of a vote, in the Executive Board.
4. We wish to further recall that at its 155th Session, the Executive Board, in adopting the recommendations of the Special Committee on the methods of work of the Executive Board (155 EX/Decision 5.4), affirmed the following: "To speed up the work of the plenary, while the most desirable

solution is to seek to achieve a consensus, the Board should, where necessary, resort to voting, and also to the adoption without discussion of recommendations adopted unanimously in any of the commissions". That position, which recognizes consensus-seeking as an aspiration, as a practice in decision-making and acknowledges voting as the principle of decision-making, is one our Group fully subscribes to.

5. In so stating, the representatives of the member countries of the G77 and China Group wish to assure all the other members of the Board of their determination and willingness to seek to achieve a consensus whenever possible on matters before the Board.
6. We wish further to underline that each and every decision that is adopted by the Executive Board in accordance with the Board's approved rules of procedure and accepted practices bears the same force of law and requirements of implementation. In this regard, we are deeply concerned by the serious implications of the second part of the decisions referred to earlier which "invites the Director-General, guided by this principle, to implement related decisions". It is our considered view that a state of chaos would be created if, as is implied in these decisions and invitations, the Executive Board were to authorize the Director-General to decide on the implementation of Board decisions on the basis of how they were adopted, whether by consensus or by a vote.
7. We request that this statement, in its entirety, be included in the records of this meeting.