

Recalling also that, in regard to the status of Jerusalem, UNESCO abides by United Nations Security Council and General Assembly decisions and resolutions, and in particular by resolutions 242 (1967), 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 271 (1969), 298 (1971) and 478 (1980) of the Security Council and by resolutions 2253 (ES-V) and 2254 (ES-V) of the United Nations General Assembly,

Concerned by the measures that continue to hamper free access by Palestinians to East Jerusalem and the Holy Places of the Old City of Jerusalem,

Having considered the report submitted by Professor Léon Pressouyre and transmitted to the General Conference by the Director-General (30 C/12),

1. *Notes that:*

- (a) the Old City of Jerusalem is affected by the urbanization of its surroundings;
- (b) changes in its social composition may, in the long term, have an influence on the urban fabric and the built heritage in the Old City;
- (c) archaeology and the conservation of monuments in the Old City and its surroundings continue to be a subject of concern;
- (d) the Israeli authorities have, on several occasions, affirmed their intention of preserving the green spaces in the Old City;

2. *Recalls and reaffirms* UNESCO's previous decisions and resolutions on the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of East Jerusalem and *reiterates its request* that no measure and no action likely to modify the religious, cultural, historical and demographic character of the city or the overall balance of the site be taken;

3. *Thanks* the Director-General for all the efforts he has made and is continuing to make to ensure the implementation of UNESCO's decisions and resolutions concerning Jerusalem;

4. *Invites* the Director-General to entrust an expert of his choice, in accordance with the spirit of the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, with a further mission to Jerusalem in order to prepare a report on the needs of the Old City and its surroundings with respect to protection of the environment and of the cultural heritage, and to submit this report to the Executive Board at its 160th session;

5. *Requests* the Israeli authorities to facilitate this mission;

6. *Decides* to place this question on the agenda of its 31st session.

29 World Poetry Day¹

The General Conference,

Having considered document 30 C/82, on the proclamation of 21 March as World Poetry Day, together with the Executive Board's decision on the subject (157 EX/Decision 3.4.2),

Endorsing the recommendations of the ad hoc meeting the conclusions of which are set out in document 157 EX/9 and which, following a detailed analysis of the state of poetry as the century draws to a close, regarded the proclamation of a day for poetry with satisfaction and enthusiasm,

Convinced that the initiative to hold a worldwide event in support of poetry would give fresh recognition and impetus to national, regional and international poetry movements,

Mindful that this event, which responds to aesthetic needs in the present-day world, must have repercussions on the promotion of linguistic diversity, since through poetry endangered languages will have greater opportunities to express themselves within their respective communities,

Mindful also that a societal movement towards the recognition of ancestral values entails a return to the oral tradition and acceptance of language as a factor contributing to the socialization and structuring of the human individual, and that such a movement, which could help the young to rediscover basic values, enables them to come face to face with themselves,

Recalling that, since poetry is an art rooted both in the written text and in the spoken word, any action to promote it should be conducive to an intensification of international intercultural exchanges,

1. *Proclaims* 21 March as World Poetry Day;

2. *Invites* the Member States to take an active part in celebrating this Day, at both local and national level, with the active participation of National Commissions, non-governmental organizations and the public and private institutions concerned (schools, municipalities, poetic communities, museums, cultural associations, publishing houses, local authorities and so on);

3. *Invites* the Director-General to encourage and support all national, regional and international initiatives taken in this respect.

1. Resolution adopted on the report of Commission IV at the 25th plenary meeting, on 16 November 1999.