

## Impact and consequences of the current situation in the Gaza Strip/Palestine in all aspects of UNESCO's mandate

*The General Conference,*

*Keeping in mind* the fundamental principles of UNESCO enumerated in the Preamble to its Constitution, and international law as well as international humanitarian law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, other relevant international instruments and declarations, and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocol I thereto of 1977, as applicable, as well as relevant customary international law,

*Recalling* the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and the related Protocols, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003),

*Reaffirming* UNESCO's key role in ensuring education for all, protecting the cultural, historical and natural heritage of humanity, and in facilitating the free flow of ideas,

*Also recalling* 217 EX/Decision 33 and 217 EX/Decision 34,

*Having examined* document 42 C/COM.APX/DR.2,

*Further recalling* resolution ES-10/21 of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted on 27 October 2023,

*Reiterating* the urgent need for immediate action to guarantee protection from further damage and harm to cultural heritage in Gaza, in compliance with the relevant UNESCO Conventions, and *demanding* the immediate cessation of any attack on or further harm to civilians, especially children, women, youth, teachers and education workers as well as schools, colleges and universities, and the upholding of the right to education, in full respect of resolution 2601 (2021) of the United Nations Security Council,

*Recalling* global commitments of resolution 2222 (2015) of the United Nations Security Council on the protection of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of armed conflict, and *condemning* the continuous killing of journalists as well as the destruction of media and press centres,

*Also reiterating* concerns by various United Nations bodies about the recent deteriorating situation in Gaza and its impact on all fields of competence of UNESCO which harmfully affects, *inter alia*, the free and sustained movement of personnel and humanitarian relief and education material, and *noting with deep concern* the interruption of energy and full electricity blackout since 11 October, impacting the water supply as well as communication and other fundamental activities related to the fields of competence of UNESCO,

1. *Invites* the governing bodies of all relevant UNESCO conventions and intergovernmental programmes, facilitated by the Director-General and the Secretariat, to assess the deteriorating situation in Gaza and develop measures to address its repercussions across UNESCO's fields of competence;
2. *Requests* the Director-General to urgently prepare a programme of emergency assistance for Gaza including an Action Plan with immediate implementation and, to that end, to continue mobilizing all relevant partners, within UNESCO's fields of competence;
3. *Also requests* the Director-General to establish a special account for voluntary contributions, in conformity with the financial regulations of UNESCO, for the reconstruction of Gaza in its fields of competence and *calls upon* Member States and donors to contribute to this account;
4. *Further requests* the Director-General to actively monitor the situation in Gaza to ensure direct UNESCO participation in the implementation of relevant actions within its mandate and to organize an information meeting, prior to the 219th session of the Executive Board, to provide Member States with an update on this matter within the fields of competence of UNESCO;
5. *Asks* the Director-General to strengthen the UNESCO antenna in Gaza City in order to address the needs in its fields of competence;
6. *Also asks* the Director-General to report to the Executive Board at its 219th session on the implementation of UNESCO's emergency assistance programme for Gaza and *decides* to include this item in the agenda of the General Conference if the situation necessitates it.

*Resolution adopted on the report of the APX Commission at the 14th plenary meeting, on 21 November 2023.*