



**Conférence générale**  
30e session  
Projet de résolution

**Генеральная конференция**  
30-я сессия  
Проект резолюции

d

Paris 1999

**General Conference**  
30th Session  
Draft resolution

**المؤتمر العام**  
الدورة الثلاثون  
مشروعات القرارات

**Conferencia General**  
30ª reunión  
Proyecto de resolución

**大会**  
第三十届会议  
决议草案

30 C/DR.44\*  
(COM.III, V)  
13 October 1999  
Original: French

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Amendment to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2000-2001 (30 C/5)**

submitted by FRANCE

**Part II.A - Major Programmes, Transdisciplinary Project and Transverse Activities**

Major Programme	II	- The sciences in the service of development
Programme	II.1	- Advancement, transfer and sharing of scientific knowledge
Subprogramme	II.1.1	- Advancement, transfer and sharing of knowledge in the Basic and engineering sciences
Main line of action		- 30 C/5, paragraph 02113
Estimated budgetary increase		-
Proposed source of financing		-

The General Conference,

Considering that current developments in communication technology have altered the whole concept of telemedicine and may lead to radical changes in medical practice,

Considering that, in this age of communication, polydisciplinary tele-expertise is an answer to the need throughout the world for:

- sharing of knowledge,
- in-service medical training,
- access to tele-expertise and to a Second Opinion network, and
- scientific accreditation,

taking into account the constraints of health economics,

\* The Director-General's observations on this draft resolution, which was received by the Secretariat on 10 September 1999, will be published in document 30C/8, COM.III, V.

Considering that such needs are particularly evident in the developing countries,

Also considering the possibility of using, in developing countries which do not have an ISDN communication line, a satellite channel which could be shared at low cost between several stations in the same geographical area, thus making it possible to set up a large number of mirror sites in these countries,

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Considering the worldwide regard in which the International Organization for Statistical Studies on Diseases of the Oesophagus (OESO) is held in the specific field of oesophagus studies, by virtue of all the concrete achievements of its programme of fundamental and clinical research, regularly pursued since the organization was set up in 1978, and the scientific repute acquired by this world network and likewise by all who participate in it, in one of the 18 special fields represented,

Referring to statements made at UNESCO on 5 September 1996 on the occasion of the fifth World Congress of the OESO, in the debate on the topic "Towards the university of the future", focusing on ways in which UNESCO's standard-setting activities could help to establish criteria for the attribution of educational labels, while at the same time respecting the cultural specificity of each country,

Considering the advantages of transforming this network of excellence into an active instrument for acquiring, constantly updating and disseminating knowledge in each of the different branches of oesophagus studies, in the form of a telemedicine network known as "OESoline",

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Appreciating the fact that the specialized structure of OESoline is being extended, under the name of HOPES (*Health Operating Polydisciplinary Expertise Services*), to the other organs of the human body, by means of the programmed involvement in the functioning of this network of a number of international societies specializing in the study of the organs of the abdomen and the thorax,

Emphasizing the technological options chosen for the HOPES project, with the aim of developing it into an Internet-type network with very low operating costs, prioritizing text in the same way as the ISDN network's narrow passband,

Considering the opportunity open to all researchers or doctors, wherever they may be, of using this network for their own work or for the benefit of one of their patients,

Expressing interest in the network's multilingual nature, recognized as being a basic characteristic of the operation of HOPES, which is thus not restricted to the use of English but will be usable for texts published by their authors in their original language, hence avoiding the effective exclusion of certain researchers on linguistic grounds,

Also expressing interest in the opportunity flowing therefrom for the cultural institutions of different countries to promote their language and hence their culture,

Considering the particular advantage of setting up an effective Second Opinion network, enabling a developed country to provide another country with a number of points of access to expertise, thus giving solid substance to the dissemination of cultural cooperation,

Considering the suitability of the HOPES project for the setting up of virtual working groups, creating North-South links between individual scientists, and thus meeting one of UNESCO's objectives,

Considering the potential value of including, in the digital Virtual Library foreseen for UNESCO, the OESO database, which represents structured scientific responses to several thousand specific questions put by world specialists in various fields of the basic sciences,

Recalling the existing cooperation between UNESCO and WHO in health-related fields and the contacts already established between these two organizations with a view to their joint promotion of the establishment and expansion of the HOPES telemedicine network,

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1. Expresses appreciation of the contacts already established between UNESCO and WHO with a view to promoting the HOPES telemedicine project and welcomes UNESCO's sponsorship of this project;
2. Encourages Member States and Observers to promote telemedicine activities and to contribute actively to the establishment of the HOPES network for polysdisciplinary multi-organ tele-expertise, which has been modelled on OESOnline, of which UNESCO has followed the development, phase by phase, over the past seven years;
3. Requests Member States and Observers to facilitate the dissemination of information concerning the HOPES network among various administrative bodies such as embassies, UNESCO Bureaux or offices and the offices of representatives of other bodies and entities within the united nations system;
4. Urges each country to promote the positioning of the HOPES network, further developed, validated, and directed by acknowledged international leaders in each special field, as an organization for in-service medical training;
5. Requests each member State or Observer thus to contribute, by supporting such an emblematic project as HOPES, to the setting up of innovative systems of scientific research and health care in all countries of the world, through a form of coordination generating both efficiency and equity;
6. Invites the Director-General to support the implementation of the HOPES project and to make provision for an assessment of its achievements at the 31st session of the General Conference in 2001.