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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization

# 8 X/EX/Decisions

**Executive Board**  
**Eighth special session**

(Paris, 25 November 2024)

PARIS, 28 November 2024

**DECISIONS ADOPTED  
BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 8th SPECIAL SESSION**



Job: 2403368E

All the terms used in this collection of texts to designate the person discharging duties or functions are to be interpreted as implying that men and women are equally eligible to fill any post or seat associated with the discharge of these duties and functions

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**1 Agenda (8 X/EX/1 Prov. Rev.)**

The Executive Board adopted the agenda as set out in document 8 X/EX/1 Prov. Rev.

(8 X/EX/SR.1)

**2 Supporting the continuity of UNRWA's educational activities in the occupied Palestinian territory (8 X/EX/2 and Corr.)<sup>1</sup>**

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined documents 8 X/EX/2 and Corr.,
2. Reaffirming that education is a fundamental human right under international law as stipulated in various instruments, including the World Declaration on Education for All (1990), the Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960) and United Nations Security Council resolution 2601 (2021) pertaining to the protection of education in armed conflict,
3. Also reaffirming UNESCO's commitment to uphold the right to education for all, as enshrined in its Constitution,
4. Recalling the decisions in General Conference resolution 42 C/Resolution 54 and Executive Board decisions 220 EX/Decision 34 and 220 EX/Decision 5.I.I,
5. Also recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 302 (IV) (1949), which established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to provide relief and assistance to Palestinian refugees, and all other relevant subsequent General Assembly resolutions, and United Nations Security Council resolution 2601 (2021) pertaining to the protection of education in armed conflict, and other relevant subsequent General Assembly resolutions,
6. Acknowledging the alignment between UNRWA's mission and UNESCO's goals in providing equitable quality education for vulnerable populations in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 and relevant UNESCO recommendations,
7. Noting with appreciation the 75 years of longstanding cooperation between UNESCO and UNRWA to provide inclusive, equitable quality education and skills training to Palestinian children and youth that is reflected in successive Memoranda of Understanding between the two United Nations agencies, the most recent of which was dated 2022,
8. Emphasizing UNRWA's efforts and recognizing the need to work together with UNRWA to support the speedy implementation of the Independent Review Group on UNRWA

<sup>1</sup> The Executive Board adopted this decision following a roll-call vote: 50 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 2 abstentions:

**In favour:** Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Grenada, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Liberia, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

**Against:** Argentina, Czechia, Paraguay and United States of America.

**Abstentions:** Albania and Burkina Faso.

**Absent:** Cook Islands and Haiti.

appointed by the United Nations Secretary General (known as the Colonna Report), specifically the recommendations related to education;

9. Recognizing UNRWA's essential role in delivering education, healthcare and vital services to Palestinian refugees through its network of over 700 schools that service more than 500,000 children and eight vocational training centres that offer training to nearly 8,000 youth,
10. Gravely concerned by the recent legislative measures taken by Israel threatening the continuity of UNRWA's activity in providing educational services for Palestinian children,
11. Also recognizing that such measures, if implemented, would violate International Law and International Humanitarian Law, and contravene relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions concerning the immunities and protections of international organizations,
12. Condemns the tragic loss of over 246 UNRWA staff members, primarily in Gaza, amidst severe operational challenges faced by humanitarian workers, while recalling United Nations Security Council resolution 2730 (2024), adopted on 24 May 2024, on the respect for and protection of United Nations institutions and humanitarian personnel by States in accordance with obligations under international law;
13. Also condemns any measures that threaten Palestinian children's right to education and affirms their right to safe, uninterrupted learning opportunities;
14. Reaffirms UNESCO's commitment to support UNRWA to fulfill its mandate in educational service;
15. Stresses that Israel, the Occupying Power, has a responsibility to uphold and respect UNRWA's mandate and ensure that the agency can continue delivering educational services without hindrance or interference;
16. Emphasizes UNESCO's commitment to ensuring that all Palestinian refugee children have access to inclusive, equitable quality education, consistent with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 and the principles of inclusive education for all;
17. Requests the Director-General to collaborate closely with UNRWA to identify immediate concrete measures to support and assist in the safeguarding of all UNRWA's activities such as the temporary deployment of surge staff, support regarding educational materials, and other concrete measures, and to respond to educational needs and ensure the fulfillment of the fundamental right to quality and equitable education of Palestinian students and educators;
18. Also requests the Director-General to report to Member States at an information meeting to be held before 18 December 2024 with an elaborate description of the aforementioned measures, including a timeline, and to report to it at its 221st session on their implementation.

(8 X/EX/SR.2)