

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

FINAL REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN  
INTERNATIONAL MEDITERRANEAN INTERCULTURAL CENTRE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

16-18 December 1980

Valetta, Malta

ON THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA AND UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNESCO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN STATES WAS CONVENED IN VALLETTA FROM 16 TO 18 DECEMBER 1980 FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL MEDITERRANEAN INTERCULTURAL CENTRE IN MALTA IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 4/1.2/9 UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED DURING THE TWENTIETH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO IN PARIS.

The preparation and organization of the meeting was entrusted to the Ministry of Labour, Culture and Welfare of the Republic of Malta in collaboration with Unesco.

Invitations were extended to:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Algeria | Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya |
| France  | Spain                                     |
| Italy   | Tunisia                                   |
| Morocco |   |

The following countries participated in the meeting:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Algeria | Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya |
| Malta   | Spain                                     |
| Morocco | Tunisia                                   |

Italy attended the meeting in an observer capacity. See Annex I.

The meeting was opened with an address by the Honourable Agatha Barbara, M.P., Minister of Labour, Culture and Welfare. The Honourable Minister expressed her thanks on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Malta for the response of Western and Central Mediterranean governments thus demonstrating their interest in a tangible manner in a new Mediterranean consciousness. She also thanked Unesco for assisting technically and financially to make the meeting possible and expressed her wish that the meeting will finalize and adopt the Statutes for the establishment of the International Mediterranean Intercultural Centre. Finally she assured all delegates of the assiduous support of the Government of the Republic of Malta in all efforts aimed at forging a Mediterranean identity.

Following the Honourable Minister of Labour, Culture and Welfare the meeting was addressed by Mr. Mohamed Aziza of Unesco who was representing the Director-General.

After recalling the historic decisions taken by the meeting of experts (September 1978) and the twentieth session of the General Conference of Unesco Mr. Mohamed Aziza expressed, in clear terms, the hope that no obstacles would hinder the materialization of the Centre and that Unesco will continue to assist even after it is established.

The meeting then went into closed session and unanimously elected the following officials:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Chairman:      | The Hon. Joe Grima, M.P. (Head of Malta Delegation) |
| Vice-Chairmen: | Prof. Rachad Hamzaoui (Head of Tunisian Delegation) |
|                | Mr. Mohamed T. Jerary (Head of Libyan Delegation)   |
| Rapporteur:    | Mr. Joseph N. Attard (Malta Delegate)               |

The Chairman, Mr. Joe Grima, thanked the delegates for their confidence in him, and emphasized how important it was for the meeting to conclude its work successfully in the interest of co-operation among Mediterranean States. He said that it is difficult to convince international forums to discuss Mediterranean problems and it is vital for Mediterranean people to speak more often about Mediterranean affairs and act in cohesion to promote common interests. He is convinced that the International Mediterranean Intercultural Centre could be a vital instrument in the service of Mediterranean peoples.

The Chairman then presented the agenda which was unanimously adopted.

#### Agenda

Opening of the meeting.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur.

1. Adoption of agenda.
2. Presentation of Working Document.
3. Terms of reference of I.M.I.C.
4. Definition of Preamble and Statutes.
5. Budgetary Recommendations.
6. Adoption of Final Report.

The meeting then proceeded to discuss in detail the agenda, following a procedure of consensus.

The Working Document, Preamble and Statutes are here presented as amended and finalized by the delegates.

N.B. Item 3 on the agenda, terms of reference of I.M.I.C., was, on a proposal by the delegate of Tunisia, Professor Rachad Hamzaoui, redrafted by a commission composed of delegates representing Tunisia, Malta, Libya and Morocco, and incorporated in the Statutes as Article 5.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ALGERIA

Mr. Brahimi Abdel Kader  
Technical Counsellor to the Minister  
of Information and Culture

ITALY

Mrs. Ida Dorigo  
Attaché to the Italian Cultural  
Institute, Malta

SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN  
JAMAHIRIYA

Mr. Mohamed T. Jerary  
Director of Libyan Historical  
Research Centre

Mr. Ellafi Belkhair  
Assistant Secretary-General  
Unesco Commission

Mr. Ramadan Ahmed Geddeda  
Director, Technical Affairs  
Department of Antiquity  
Tripoli

MALTA

Honourable J. Grima, M.P.  
Member of Parliament and head of  
delegation

Fr. Dionisius Mintoff  
Director of Culture

Mr. V.J. Castillo  
Chairman, Council for Culture

Dr. V.A. Depasquale  
Former Librarian of National Library

Mr. John Lanzon  
Principal Assistant Secretary

Mr. Alfred Falzon  
Counsellor; Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Joe Attard  
Secretary to Council for Culture

Mr. Mario Cacciottolo  
First Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Alfred Degabriele  
Administrative Officer  
Ministry of Labour, Culture and Welfare

MOROCCO

Mr. Mohammed Bellarbi  
Secretary-General of the Ministry of  
State for Cultural Affairs

Mr. Abdelmalek Fizazi  
Director of Museums  
Ministry of State for Cultural Affairs

SPAIN

Professor Dr. Eugenio Marinas-Otero  
Counsellor  
Ministry of Culture

TUNISIA

Professor Rachad Hamzaoui  
Director  
International Cultural Centre  
Hammamet

UNESCO

Mr. Mohamed Aziza  
Programme Specialist in Arab Culture,  
Cultural Studies Division  
Unesco

ANNEX II

WORKING DOCUMENT

From time immemorial, the Mediterranean area has been the cradle of civilization, both on its European and African littorals. It would not be amiss to make a reference to the Phoenicians, the Greeks, the Carthaginians and the Romans. Later on, Arab culture encountered the cultures of Spain, Sicily and Malta, besides other cultures.

Consequently, there has been, and its effects are still in evidence, an impact of Arab influence on the European character of all the islands (and other territories) within, or bordering, the Mediterranean sea.

Malta, being in the centre of the Mediterranean sea (one may perhaps say Mediterranean "lake"), has felt the most of this impact and of its effects. As a matter of fact, its language, although written in the Latin form, is subject to some Latin grammatical rules, and contains several European (mostly Sicilian) words, is fundamentally Arabic. The same reasoning applies to its folklore, while its religion is Christian.

On a suggestion put forward by Unesco, a meeting of experts from countries bordering the Central-Western Mediterranean was held in Malta between 11 and 14 September 1978, in which it was proposed that an International Centre for Mediterranean Culture be opened in Malta, and this proposal was made jointly by Tunisia and Malta, and later adopted unanimously. Although at the said meeting, it was decided that this Centre would be opened to countries bordering the Central-Western Mediterranean, it was also agreed that it would, at a later stage, be opened to other countries situated on the Eastern side of the Mediterranean.

The General Conference of Unesco at its twentieth session (held in October-November 1978), while approving the setting up of such a Centre authorized the Director-General "to assist the countries in the subregion to set up a Mediterranean Culture Centre in Malta:

- (a) to foster awareness of the Mediterranean cultural heritage;
- (b) to further its development;
- (c) and to this end to organize and sponsor cultural activities with the participation of all interested Mediterranean States".

To this end, Statutes have been drafted referring particularly to countries bordering the Central-Western Mediterranean Sea, but it may, at any time, be opened for signature, and adhesion, to other countries in the Mediterranean area.

According to these Statutes, the overall direction of the Centre shall be subject to the authority of a Council of Administration, while the Administration of the Centre shall be subject to the authority of an Executive Committee, composed of representatives of the Member States and of such other bodies (interested in culture) as may be invited by the Executive Committee. All Member States, as well as all other bodies invited to form part of the Executive Committee shall contribute their share towards the expenses necessary for the running of the Centre.

It is proposed that the Executive Director of the Centre, who will be responsible for the day to day running of the Centre and for the implementation of

the programme, shall be selected, in accordance with the Statutes, from a panel of candidates proposed by the member countries and assisted by a Deputy Executive Director who will be nominated by the Government of Malta.

The draft Statutes also provide as to the election of the Chairman of the Council of Administration, the election of the Chairman of the Executive Committee, their term of duration in office, and the manner in which the relative provisions may be amended.

Finally, the draft Statutes provide that the official languages of the Centre shall be Arabic, English, French and Spanish and that the accounts of the Centre are to be properly audited.

ANNEX III

PREAMBLE AND STATUTES

Preamble

The Governments of the States of Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia,

Desiring to establish an intercultural centre for the countries bordering the Mediterranean;

Considering that the meeting of experts from the Mediterranean region held in Malta in September 1978, under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the role of Mediterranean Islands as places of syntheses between Arab and European cultures, agreed that, in the first stage, the area studied will be the Central and Western Mediterranean;

Recalling that the experts present at the said meeting both from the Arab and European countries unanimously chose Malta to be the site for this intercultural centre;

Recalling the resolution adopted by the General Conference of Unesco at its twentieth session, which authorized the Director-General to assist in the setting up of a Mediterranean Cultural Centre in Malta:

- (a) to foster awareness of the Mediterranean cultural heritage;
- (b) to further its developments; and to this end
- (c) to organize and sponsor cultural activities with the participation of all interested Mediterranean States;

Agree to establish the International Mediterranean Intercultural Centre (IMIC) which shall be governed by the following Statutes.

Statutes

Part I - Introductory

Article 1

The Centre shall be named "International Mediterranean Intercultural Centre"; hereinafter referred to as IMIC.

Article 2

The office of the Centre shall be located at Auberge de Bowiere, Valletta, Malta or at such other place in Malta as its Executive Committee may, from time to time, determine.

Article 3

IMIC shall be endowed with an autonomous legal personality.

#### Article 4

The Centre shall be a regional institution for the Mediterranean established by common accord of the States which are signatory to these Statutes.

### Part II - Objectives and Activities

#### Article 5

The overall function of the Centre shall be to promote by all appropriate means and especially as laid down in its Statutes, the study of cultural interactions in the Mediterranean region and their application to everyday use.

#### 5.1 Documentation

- (i) To gather all documentation which is of interest to all the cultural organization of member countries, especially the statutes, the structures, the programmes of activities and information concerning the relations of an intra-regional nature.
- (ii) To centralize, conserve and make available all those documents which are of interest to all the institutions of member countries, to research institutes and to researchers, with a view to increasing awareness of Mediterranean cultures.
- (iii) To treat this documentation by the appropriate technological means so as to facilitate modern data applications.

#### 5.2 Diffusion

- (i) To compile a catalogue of all the documentation according to modern scientific criteria.
- (ii) To print all this material.
- (iii) To diffuse all these documents firstly in the member countries and afterwards in all other interested countries.
- (iv) To set up a permanent library containing all these documents and to make this library available to all research workers.
- (v) To keep a stock of documents for dissemination on demand.

#### 5.3 Co-ordination and Co-operation

- (i) To co-ordinate cultural activities between different organizations and also individuals who show interest in Mediterranean culture.
- (ii) To ensure that activities undertaken by the Centre are complementary to those of other organizations.
- (iii) To encourage all forms of co-operation between member countries with particular emphasis on a common programme for study and research especially the planning and financing for such projects through funds obtained from the governments of Member States, Unesco, ALESCO, FAO, UNEP and other international organizations as well as from private institutions and individuals. In the case of funds obtained from private institutions and individuals the approval of the Council of Administration is required.

#### 5.4 Organization of Study and Research on Intercultural Themes

To organize conferences, seminars and symposiums on the following themes:

- (i) Arab-European Cultural History.
- (ii) The Physical and Human Environment.
- (iii) The Sea and its Technical, Economic and Cultural Aspects.
- (iv) Popular Traditions and the Problems of their Preservation and their Integration within Modern Culture.

#### 5.5 Other Activities

To take care of all cultural activities which are agreed upon by the Council of Administration.

### Part III - Organization Structure

#### Article 6

- 6.1 The supreme organ of IMIC shall be a Council of Administration in which countries bordering the Western and Central Mediterranean interested in the work of the Centre will be represented by one member each, to be nominated by their respective governments.
- 6.2 The Council of Administration shall elect its chairman from its members for a period of two years, rotating among the Member States.

The members of the Council of Administration shall remain in office for a period of four years; but may be renominated for similar periods.

#### Article 7

- 7.1 The Council of Administration shall meet at least once a year to receive and review progress reports and other necessary information on the activities of IMIC from the Executive Committee.
- 7.2 The Council of Administration shall appoint an Auditor annually to examine the accounts of the Centre and to report thereon, a copy of which report shall be forwarded to each member of the Council.

#### Article 8

The Council of Administration may hold an extraordinary meeting if at least half of its members so request. Such extraordinary meeting shall be convened by the Secretariat in consultation with the current Chairman.

#### Article 9

The Council of Administration shall establish an Executive Committee, which shall consist of technical representatives, each nominated by the member countries from national institutions concerned with research on, and the promotion of Euro-Arab cultural interaction.

#### Article 10

The members of the Executive Committee shall remain in office for a period of four years and may be renominated for another term.



Article 11

The Executive Committee shall:

- 11.1 meet in Ordinary Session, at least once a year;
- 11.2 meet in Extraordinary Session convened at the request of at least one-half of the members of this Committee;
- 11.3 designate its Chairman from among its members for a term of two years and the office of Chairman shall rotate among the representatives of the member countries;
- 11.4 determine the annual programme of scientific research activities for the approval of the Council of Administration;
- 11.5 establish the budget and the financial contribution by each member country for the approval of the Council of Administration.

Article 12

The Council of Administration and the Executive Committee shall meet in special session convened at the request of at least half of its members in any member country.

Article 13

The Council of Administration shall confirm the appointment of the Executive Director upon recommendation and advice of the Executive Committee.

Part IV - The Secretariat

Article 14

The Secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Director, who shall be elected by the Council of Administration from a panel of candidates proposed by the member countries and nominated for a period of four years. The office of the Executive Director shall rotate among the representatives of the member countries.

Under his direction there shall be the necessary personnel, as recommended by the Executive Committee and after approval of the Council of Administration to look after all aspects of the centre, viz:

- (a) Finance.
- (b) Research and publications.
- (c) Technical Services.
- (d) General Administration.

Article 15

- 15.1 The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Council of Administration, and to the Executive Committee for the administration of IMIC and its day-to-day running.

15.2 The responsibilities of the Executive Director shall include:

the execution of the decision taken by the Council of Administration, and by the Executive Committee where these are not subject to the approval of the Council of Administration;

the liaison with the governments of member countries and regional and international organizations;

the organizing of seminars, symposiums and other meetings;

the supervision of research projects as decided by the Council of Administration, or the Executive Committee as the case may be;

requesting and accepting on behalf of the IMIC, bequests and other donations, provided this is approved by the Council of Administration;

the overall responsibility for all:

(1) finance in general;

(2) administrative matters pertaining to personnel and finance;

(3) office services; and

(4) upkeep of office equipment, buildings and properties;

the overall responsibility for all co-ordination of research activities, documentation and publications.

15.3 In addition the Executive Director shall be responsible for the Secretariat of the Council of Administration and of the Executive Committee.

15.4 The Executive Director shall be assisted in the performance of his duties by a Deputy Director who will be appointed by the Government of Malta.

15.5 The legal representation shall be vested in the Executive Director, or in the case of his absence of other legal impediment, in such other person as the Council of Administration may from time to time, by resolution designate.

15.6 Any such resolution shall be immediately brought to the notice of all Member States through their representatives on the Council of Administration.

Article 16

16.1 The personnel required for the purpose of taking charge of the aspects listed in Article 14 shall be recruited by advertisement of vacant posts in newspapers and other mass media of all the member countries.

16.2 Applications will be received by the Executive Director and after evaluation and recommendations by the Executive Committee, shall be submitted to the Council of Administration which alone has the power to approve appointments, which will then be made by the Executive Director.

16.3 Whenever possible, selection and appointment to the key posts listed in Article 14 shall be based on membership distribution. Other staff shall be recruited locally.

Part V - Budget

Article 17

IMIC shall have an autonomous budget consisting of financial contributions and donations by member countries, Unesco, ALECSO, FAO, UNEP and international organizations, as well as private institutions and individuals.

In the case of funds obtained from private institutions and individuals the approval of the Council of Administration is required.

Article 18

The financial contribution of member countries shall be calculated on a formula to be determined by the governments concerned.

Article 19

Besides the implementation of its ordinary programme, IMIC is encouraged to seek extra funds for the carrying out of special cultural programmes which may be proposed to it and accepted by the Council of Administration.

Part VI - Amendments to the Statutes

Article 20

These Statutes may be amended at the request of one or several of the Member States.

Modification of these Statutes shall require the approval of not less than two-thirds of the representatives on the Executive Committee and of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council of Administration.

Part VII - Final Provisions

Article 21

The IMIC representatives on the Council of Administration and the Executive Committee, its staff members and its property shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are provided for under Part III of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act enacted in Malta in 1966.

Article 22

- 22.1 These Statutes shall be open for adhesion thereto by all the States mentioned in the Preamble. Each State shall signify in writing to the Government of the Republic of Malta its adhesion to these Statutes which will enter into force after they have been adhered to by, or on behalf of, at least four of the same States.
- 22.2 On coming into force of these Statutes in accordance with this Article, the Government of the Republic of Malta shall designate an officer to act temporarily as Executive Director of the Centre, who will as soon as practicable take all such steps as shall be necessary for convening the first meeting of the Council of Administration which Council shall then take steps to nominate the Executive Director at its first meeting.

Article 23

The Government of the Republic of Malta shall notify all States mentioned in Article 22, of each adhesion mentioned in the same article.

Article 24

The original instrument shall be done in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, all texts being equally authentic; and shall be deposited with the Government of the Republic of Malta, which shall transmit certified copies thereof to all other States represented in IMIC.

Article 25

- 25.1 The instruments of adhesion shall be deposited with the Government of the Republic of Malta, which shall inform all other Member States, as well as other eligible States, indicated in the Preamble but not members of IMIC.
- 25.2 Any State as is referred to in the Preamble to these Statutes may at any time notify the Chairman of the Council of Administration through its Executive Director, through the Government of the Republic of Malta, of its intention to adhere to or accede to these Statutes. The Executive Director shall on receipt of such notification, as specified in the preceding paragraph, communicate a copy of it to all Member States.
- 25.3 The decision of each Member State shall be transmitted to the Executive Director who shall upon receipt communicate it to the Council of Administration, whose Chairman shall communicate the decision to the State concerned.
- 25.4 The admitted State shall then deposit its instrument of adhesion in accordance with provisions of the second paragraph of this Article.

Article 26

These Statutes shall, after coming into force, be registered with Unesco.

Article 27

Any question which may arise concerning the interpretation of these Statutes shall be resolved by decision of a simple majority of members present and voting of the Council of Administration, whose decision on the matter shall be final, provided that not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council of Administration are present.

Article 28

The working languages of IMIC shall be Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Article 29

Any Member State may withdraw from IMIC after the lapse of one year from the date on which it becomes a member by giving written notice of its withdrawal to the Chairman of the Council of Administration.

The Chairman of the Council of Administration shall forthwith notify the representatives on the Council of other Member States of the receipt of such notice of withdrawal.

Article 30

Withdrawal shall become effective at the date of receipt of such notice of withdrawal by the Chairman of the Council of Administration, but, the Member States withdrawing from IMIC shall nevertheless remain liable to the fulfilment of their current obligations towards IMIC including the full payment of their contributions in respect of all the current calendar year in which they withdraw from the Centre.

Article 31

Should at any time the IMIC cease to function, any funds at its disposal will be disposed of on a formula to be agreed upon by the Member States.

Until such agreement is reached, on a simple majority basis, the funds will be held in trust by the Government of the Republic of Malta.

Budget

A document headed Estimated Expenditure providing details of the basic estimated budgetary requirements for the setting up and running of IMIC, was circulated to the participants.

The posts indicated are envisaged in Article 14 of the Statutes and the salaries as proposed correspond to similar categories in the Malta Public Service.

INTERNATIONAL MEDITERRANEAN INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE

A. Annually Recurrent

Categories as defined in Article 14

| <u>Post</u>                          | <u>No.</u> | <u>Amount (Max. Incl. Cost of Living)</u> |                   |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---|-------------------|
|                                      |            | <u>EM</u>                                 | <u>US \$</u>      |
| Executive Director                   | 1          | 4,526                                     | 12,741.142        |
| Deputy Executive Director            | 1          | 3,510                                     | 9,881.001         |
| <u>(a) Finance</u>                   |            |   |                   |
| Administrative Officer               | 1          | 2,898                                     | 8,158.159         |
| Executive Officer                    | 1          | 2,274                                     | 6,401.537         |
| <u>(b) Research and Publications</u> |            |   |                   |
| Library Officer                      | 1          | 2,531                                     | 7,125.018         |
| Assistant Librarian                  | 1          | 2,372                                     | 6,677.417         |
| <u>(c) Technical Services</u>        |            |   |                   |
| Cultural Organizer                   | 1          | 2,898                                     | 8,158.159         |
| Carpenter                            | 1          | 1,895                                     | 5,334.614         |
| Electrician                          | 1          | 1,895                                     | 5,334.614         |
| Translators                          | 2          | 5,796                                     | 16,316.320        |
| <u>(d) General Administration</u>    |            |   |                   |
| Administrative Officer               | 1          | 2,898                                     | 8,158.159         |
| Executive Officer                    | 1          | 2,274                                     | 6,401.537         |
| Chief Messenger                      | 1          | 1,956                                     | 5,506.335         |
| Clerk 1                              | 2          | 3,790                                     | 10,659.229        |
| Messengers                           | 2          | 3,520                                     | 9,909.152         |
| Driver                               | 1          | 1,760                                     | 4,954.576         |
| Labourer                             | 1          | 1,580                                     | 4,447.858         |
| Charwoman                            | 2          | 3,160                                     | 8,895.716         |
|                                      | <u>22</u>  | <u>51,533</u>                             | <u>145,070.52</u> |
| Overtime                             |            | 800                                       | 2,252.080         |
|                                      |            | <u>52,333</u>                             | <u>147,322.6</u>  |

B. Other Charges

National Insurance Contributions (Employer's)

1/12 of each salary is paid for National Insurance Contributions. This amounts to:

|   | <u>£M</u>                | <u>US \$</u>            |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | 4,294.4166               | 12,089.21               |
| Water and electricity   | 1,000                    | 2,815.100               |
| Telephones  | 1,000                    | 2,815.100               |
| Petrol, oil and maintenance (2 cars)  | 1,000                    | 2,815.100               |
| Cleaning materials  | 200                      | 563.020                 |
| Stationery  | 1,800                    | 5,067.180               |
| Hospitality/expenses i.c.w.<br>cultural activities (including<br>hospitality) | 9,000                    | 25,335.900              |
| Rent of premises  | 18,000                   | 50,671.800              |
|   | <hr/>                    | <hr/>                   |
| B/F (from page 1)   | 36,294.416<br>52,333.000 | 102,172.41<br>147,322.6 |
|   | <hr/>                    | <hr/>                   |
|   | 88,527.416               | 249,495.01              |
|   | <hr/>                    | <hr/>                   |

C. Special Expenditure

Furniture and Equipment

Equipment for simultaneous translations

Audio-visual equipment and reproduction (copying)

Projector 35 mm slides/16 mm film

Photocopying machine

Magnetophone - Electrophone - Radio

Television receiver

Micro-reading apparatus

Video-recorder

Audio/cassette recorder

Overhead projector

10,000.00

28,151.00

Rate of exchange: £M1 equivalent to 2.8151 US dollars (as on 10 December 1980)

RESOLUTION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF AN INTERNATIONAL MEDITERRANEAN INTERCULTURAL  
CENTRE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

Representatives from Algeria, Malta, Morocco, Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriya, Spain and Tunisia met at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, Malta, from 16 to 18 December 1980 and passed this resolution at the conclusion of their meeting.

Considering that the promotion of cultural exchanges directed towards a mutual knowledge of achievements in the various fields of culture contributes to the enrichment of the culture involved,

Considering that due appreciation of the distinctive characters of different cultures is a most important contribution to world understanding, peace and security, since "wars begin in the minds of men",

Considering that the Mediterranean area has, during most of its history and until the present day, been an area of conflict,

Considering also that out of this region some of the greatest civilizations of the world have emerged,

Recalling the recommendation of the Meeting of Experts on Mediterranean Islands as Places of Synthesis between Arab and European Cultures,

Recalling further resolution 4/1.2/9 of the twentieth session of the General Conference of Unesco,

Considering that it is opportune and necessary that a focal point be established for the study of the interrelationships of these cultures and the promotion of all forms of cultural exchanges.

The delegates here present have agreed:

1. to transmit to their respective governments the projects of the Statutes finalized by government experts with a view to reply on the subject to the government of the Republic of Malta within a reasonable time;
2. to record with satisfaction the offer of the Government of the Republic of Malta to host IMIC in Malta;
3. to thank the Government of the Republic of Malta for its hospitality and warm welcome.