

UNESCO

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53 Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images and proclamation of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage¹

The General Conference,

Noting with satisfaction the activities of UNESCO in the area of raising public awareness of the need to safeguard and preserve cultural heritage, and *considering* that an irreplaceable part of this heritage is represented by audiovisual documents, in the widest sense of this term, called for the purposes of this resolution "audiovisual heritage",

Considering that the different items of audiovisual heritage as well as its entirety constitute an important and often unique testimony to the economic, political and social development, the evolution of education, scientific knowledge, and diversity of cultures of different nations and communities, as well as to the evolution of nature and the universe and to other phenomena,

Considering that numerous items of this audiovisual heritage constitute an expression of the cultural identity of nations, communities, groups and individuals,

Considering that audiovisual heritage can play a positive role in enhancing the mutual knowledge of nations and communities, and that it can contribute extensively to the education and enrichment of each human being,

Stressing that the safeguarding and preservation of audiovisual heritage is in the interest of the freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to information, recognized as an essential part of human rights and fundamental freedoms established by existing international instruments relating to human rights, in the interest of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and also in the interest of the need to strengthen peace and cooperation, naturally while respecting the legitimate position of copyright holders and holders of neighbouring rights, as well as of all holders of other rights in respect of items of the audiovisual heritage,

Also considering that the original supports on which this heritage is often fixed and the methods of its fixation make this heritage very vulnerable, and that its safeguarding for future generations is therefore under threat,

Appreciating the results attained by specialized bodies in the development of appropriate new methods for the safeguarding and preservation of supports containing this heritage, while *realizing* that much work remains to be done, in particular with regard to promoting public awareness and recognition of the significance of audiovisual heritage, and increasing capabilities for action by the specialized institutions responsible for its preservation,

Noting that the General Conference has already adopted a series of international instruments relating to the safeguarding and preservation of audiovisual heritage, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the Recommendation on the Protection of Movable Cultural Property, the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images, and the Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage,

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 21st session, on 27 October 1980, and *noting with satisfaction* the positive impact thereof on the safeguarding of an essential part of the audiovisual heritage,

Considering that a global action for the promotion of the audiovisual heritage can provide recognition and important new stimuli to national, regional and international efforts in favour of the preservation of this heritage for future generations,

Further considering that the proclamation of a World Day for Audiovisual Heritage would be one of the most effective ways of undertaking such an action,

1. *Proclaims* 27 October World Day for Audiovisual Heritage;
2. *Invites* UNESCO Member States, National Commissions, non-governmental organizations, public and private institutions (schools, archives, museums, cultural associations, festival organizers and associations of creative and performing artists, and other institutions capable of enhancing public awareness and recognition of the significance of this heritage) to envisage appropriate forms of celebration on this Day, and to contribute, each according to their means;
3. *Requests* the Director-General to encourage initiatives at the national, regional and international levels

for the celebration of this Day.

1. Resolution adopted on the report of Commission V at its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 October 2005.
Programme and Budget for 2006-2007