

## UNESCO

### Records of the General Conference

40<sup>th</sup> Session Paris, 12 -27 November 2019

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### **32 Proclamation of an international year of basic sciences for sustainable development (2022)**

*The General Conference,*

*Recalling* 207 EX/Decision 45,

*Having examined* document 40 C/76,

*Also recalling* that the Ministerial Round Table on “The Basic Sciences: The Science Lever for Development”, held during the 33rd session of the General Conference, called upon UNESCO to “place greater emphasis on promoting the basic sciences and science education with a view to the attainment of a science culture as a precursor of a knowledge-based society worldwide, through various means available at UNESCO, and in particular the recently launched flagship International Basic Sciences Programme” (document 185 EX/11),

*Further recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolutions 70/212 (22 December 2015) on International Day of Women and Girls in Science and 68/220 (20 December 2013) on science, technology and innovation for development, in which it recognized that full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation for women and girls of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

*Considering* the Organization’s Global Priority Africa, and *recognizing* that science, as a universal public good is an important tool for the achievement of the African Union Agenda 2063,

*Stressing the need* to build on the potential of UNESCO’s International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),

*Also considering* the high value for humankind of basic sciences, and that enhanced global awareness of, and increased education in, the basic sciences is vital to attain sustainable development, and to improve the quality of life for people all over the world,

*Stressing* that the applications of basic sciences are vital for advances in medicine, industry, agriculture, water resources, energy planning, environment, communications and culture, and that basic sciences rupture technologies respond to the needs of humankind by providing access to information and increasing societal wellbeing, and promoting peace through improved collaboration,

*Noting* the broad and significant impact of recent initiatives of UNESCO’s International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) and the enthusiastic support for an international year of basic sciences for sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that it is essential to ensure that existing gains from previous initiatives of UNESCO in science and education are effectively followed up and strengthened,

*Emphasizing* the importance of basic sciences to launching rational and innovative thinking and a knowledge-based society,

1. *Invites* the Director-General to support all efforts leading the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim 2022 as international year of basic sciences for sustainable development, emphasizing a broader participation of women;

2. *Recommends* that the United Nations General Assembly at its 75th or 76th session, adopt a resolution declaring 2022 as United Nations international year of basic sciences for sustainable development.

*Resolution adopted on the report of the SC Commission at the 16th plenary meeting, on 25 November 2019.*