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FACILITATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FORMALITIES REGARDING TRAVEL

Travellers engaged in educational, scientific and cultural activities

The attached document reproduces the report from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization referred to in the annotated provisional agenda (E/CONF.47/2).

Granting of facilities to persons engaged in
educational, scientific and cultural activities and
travelling for purposes connected with
those activities

Report by the Secretariat of UNESCO

1. Under its Constitution, UNESCO has specific responsibilities regarding the reduction of obstacles to the free movement of persons engaged in educational, scientific and cultural activities wishing to travel for purposes connected with those activities.
2. The Preamble lays down the general principle that the States Parties "are agreed and determined to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples and to employ these means for the purposes of mutual understanding and a truer and more perfect knowledge of each other's lives". For this purpose, Article 1 provides for action by the Organization to promote the free flow of ideas and, amongst the most appropriate measures for encouraging co-operation among the nations, includes "the international exchange of persons active in the fields of education, science and culture".
3. While travel, in general, has always been one of the most important and most direct means of enabling people of different cultures to get to know each other, international understanding is promoted to an even greater extent by contacts between persons engaged in educational, scientific and cultural activities. The importance attached to such exchanges has long been noticeable in both intergovernmental relations and the activities of the international organizations. Recently, again the Group of Experts on International Travel and Tourism convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (Geneva, 29 January - 8 February 1962) expressed the view in its report to the Economic and Social Council, that as far as travellers engaged in educational, scientific and cultural activities are concerned, "it is desirable that such persons be regarded as a special category of traveller" (E/3590 - GEITT/1/Rev.2, Annex 3, Part II, I).
4. The General Conference of UNESCO has adopted, at several of its sessions, resolutions defining the functions of the Organization in this respect. In particular, it has instructed the Director-General, in collaboration with the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned, to study the obstacles to the exchange of persons between nations.

5. In this connexion it is particularly appropriate to mention the resolution adopted by the General Conference at its eighth session, in which it invited Member States "to grant the widest facilities possible to all persons engaged in educational, scientific and cultural activities" (IV.1.5.36). The General Conference renewed this invitation at its tenth session (resolution 5.22).

6. As a result of these resolutions, the following forty-three Member States supplied information to the Director-General on the facilities they grant to persons engaged in educational, scientific and cultural activities wishing to travel for purposes connected with those activities:

Australia	France	Libya
Austria	Ghana	Luxembourg
Belgium	Greece	Mexico
Bolivia	Guatemala	Netherlands
Cambodia	Honduras	Norway
Canada	India	Pakistan
Ceylon	Indonesia	Philippines
Chile	Iran	Spain
China	Iraq	Sweden
Costa Rica	Israel	Switzerland
Cuba	Italy	Turkey
Dominican Republic	Japan	United Arab Republic (Egypt)
El Salvador	Jordan	Uruguay
Federal Republic of Germany	Korea	Venezuela
	Lebanon	

7. The facilities mentioned by the above Member States concerned, in particular, the following matters:

- (a) visas: abolition, provision without charge, reduction of fees, prolongation of validity, facilitation of formalities;
- (b) residence permit: simplified prolongation, extension of authorized period of residence, permanent permits;
- (c) currency: authorization to import or export fixed amounts of currency, facilitation of formalities;
- (d) fares: transport free of charge, various reductions for individual or group travel;

- (e) accommodation: provision of reduced-price accommodation in educational centres, students' hostels, boarding schools;
- (f) admission to museums and other cultural establishments: admission without charge or at a reduced fee, reductions in the price of theatre tickets;
- (g) various facilities: assistance in drawing up itineraries or programmes of visits, free information services, introductions to cultural institutions.

8. At its twelfth session also, the General Conference of UNESCO considered a draft resolution submitted by India on the exchange difficulties which, in developing countries, stand in the way of the movement of students, teachers and artists wishing to travel for the purpose of continuing their studies or completing their training. The resolution requests that a programme be considered to enable such persons to pay their expenses in national currency. The General Conference noted this draft resolution and considered that it might usefully be brought to the attention of the United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism (12 C/44, Part C, Chapter V, paragraph 29).

9. For many years UNESCO has been endeavouring, in co-operation with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), to facilitate travel for persons engaged in educational, scientific and cultural activities. In 1962, the Association raised the age limit for African students to thirty. It also decided to apply to single journeys the reductions granted to students.

10. It should also be recalled that, at UNESCO's request, a special question (section AIV) concerning travel for educational, scientific or cultural purposes was included in the questionnaire on international travel and tourism sent to the Member States of the United Nations. An analysis of the replies to this questionnaire is contained in documents E/3438/Add.1 and E/3438/Add.2.

11. UNESCO has also invited all the international non-governmental organizations with which it has consultative arrangements to give their views on travel for educational, scientific and cultural purposes. Fifty-four organizations have replied. A list of their names and an analysis of their replies are annexed to this document.

12. So far as more particularly concerns Customs questions in relation to travel, reference should be made to the action taken by UNESCO in co-operation with the Customs Co-operation Council. In 1962, the latter organization, in consultation with UNESCO and GATT, adopted the following three Conventions:

Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Professional Equipment;

Customs Convention concerning Facilities for the Importation of Goods for Display or Use at Exhibitions, Fairs, Meetings or Similar Events;

Customs Convention on the ATA Carnet for the Temporary Admission of Goods;

The first two Conventions permit, in particular, the importation of a great variety of equipment necessary to representatives of the Press, sound broadcasting, television broadcasting, the cinema and the international organizations, and to other categories of persons, when they travel to another country in pursuit of their professional activities. The third Convention introduces the use of an international Customs carnet designed to replace national documents for the importation of objects covered by the first two Conventions.

13. Conclusions. The present report shows that it would be desirable, as stated by the Group of Experts on International Travel and Tourism convened by the United Nations in 1962, that travellers engaged in educational, scientific and cultural activities be regarded as a special category of traveller.

14. New facilities might be granted them in respect of the following:

- (i) visas
- (ii) residence permits
- (iii) currency
- (iv) fares
- (v) accommodation
- (vi) admission to museums and other cultural establishments
- (vii) establishment of itineraries or programmes of visits, free information services, introductions to cultural institutions.

With reference more particularly to currency, the Conference might perhaps consider the possibility of establishing a system whereby the persons in question could pay their travel expenses in national currency.

ANNEX

List of international non-governmental organizations
which have replied to the enquiry; and analysis of their replies

I. List

Associated Countrywomen of the World
Boy Scouts International Bureau
Catholic International Union for Social Service
Conference of Internationally-Minded Schools
Coordinating Secretariat of National Unions of Students
Coordination Committee for International Voluntary Work Camps
Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences
International Association for Child Psychiatry and Allied Professions
International Association for Vocational Guidance
International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism
International Association of University Professors and Lecturers
International Association of Wholesale Newspaper, Periodical and Book Distributors
International Association of Workers for Maladjusted Children
International Astronomical Union
International Castle Research Institute
International Chamber of Commerce
International Conference on Large Electric Systems
International Co-operative Alliance
International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies
International Council of Women
International Federation for Modern Languages and Literature
International Federation of Actors
International Federation of Musicians
International Federation of Secondary Teachers
International Federation of Senior Police Officers
International Federation of Tourism Journalists and Writers

International Federation of University Women
International Gas Union
International Institute of Administrative Sciences
International Organization for Standardization
International Radio and Television Organization
International Society of Bioclimatology and Biometeorology
International Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering
International Sociological Association
International Theatre Institute
International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences
International Union of Crystallography
International Union of Official Travel Organizations
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
International Union of Scientific Psychology
International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures
Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses
Salvation Army
Soroptimist International Association
The Experiment in International Living
The New Education Fellowship (International)
United Towns Organization
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations
World Assembly of Youth
World Association of World Federalists
World Council for the Welfare of the Blind
World Federation of Trade Unions
World Federation of United Nations Associations
World Union of Organizations for the Safeguard of Youth

II. Analysis

(a) Visas

The general opinion which emerges from the replies received is that visas should be gradually abolished. However, the organizations feel that it will be some time before this stage is reached. In the meantime, they favour the provision of visas free of charge and the facilitation of formalities. Some organizations report that they have met with difficulties in obtaining visas for delegates to their international congresses.

(b) Residence permits

The organizations favour the facilitation of formalities for obtaining and renewing residence permits.

(c) Currency

Most of the organizations believe that the difficulty of obtaining currency in many countries is an obstacle to the movement of persons engaged in educational, scientific and cultural activities, especially students and young people.

(d) Fares

Most of the organizations ask for fare reductions. In this connexion, attention should be drawn to the recommendation by some specialists that, so far as students and young people are concerned, arrangements be concluded between youth organizations and shipping companies whereby young people could travel free or obtain appreciable reductions during the holiday season in return for doing temporary work on board ship.

(e) Accommodation

Most of the organizations report the accommodation difficulties encountered by their members during the travel they undertake for educational purposes. They ask for facilities in this respect, and in particular that greater use be made of available university premises.

(f) Admission to museums and other cultural establishments

The organizations ask for the extension of existing facilities and recommend, in particular, that admission to museums and cultural establishments be free of charge.

(g) Various facilities

Some organizations mention the problem of establishing itineraries and programmes of visits. They ask that the competent authorities in the countries to be visited should co-operate with the travellers and consider carefully the facilities they already grant them.

(h) Criterion for travel for educational, scientific and cultural purposes

Some organizations favour a widening of the criterion for travel for educational, scientific and cultural purposes. They consider, in particular, that the facilities granted to travellers should be extended to members of the family who accompany them. The period of travel is often, in fact, quite long, and the persons concerned are frequently accompanied by members of their families.

(i) Cultural identity card

Some organizations suggest the introduction of a cultural identity card.
