



## General Conference

40th session, Paris, 2019

# 40 C

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
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Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للترربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

40 C/66

30 July 2019

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Item 5.23 of the provisional agenda

### PROCLAMATION OF WORLD OLIVE TREE DAY

#### OUTLINE

**Background:** This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 40th session of the General Conference following the decision of the Executive Board at its 206th session (206 EX/Decision 41).

**Purpose:** The document presents a proposal to proclaim 26 November as World Olive Tree Day, following the endorsement by the Executive Board at its 206th session. The objective of this world day is to encourage the protection of the olive tree and to promote the values of peace, wisdom and harmony that it symbolizes.

**Decision required:** The General Conference may wish to adopt the resolution contained in paragraph 4.



Job: 201907949



## Background

1. The proposal to proclaim 26 November as world olive tree day was submitted by Lebanon and Tunisia and examined by the Executive Board at its 206th session (document 206 EX/41). The objective of this proposal is to encourage the protection of the olive tree and promote the values of peace, wisdom and harmony that it symbolizes.

2. In her comments (document 206 EX/DG.INF), the Director-General welcomed this initiative and, while recalling that protecting cultural and natural heritage, including cultural landscapes, are at the heart of UNESCO's mandate, recommended that the activities that may be undertaken by Member States to mark "world olive tree day" be developed to promote heritage protection and encourage environmental sustainability. She also expressed the view that activities celebrating world olive tree day should be financed and implemented by Member States, with support from the Secretariat to promote it to the extent possible within its existing capacities.

3. After having examined documents 206 EX/41 and 206 EX/DG.INF, the Executive Board decided to endorse the proposal and to include this item in the agenda of the 40th session of the General Conference, and recommended that it adopt a resolution to proclaim 26 November as World Olive Tree Day.

4. In light of the above, the General Conference may wish to adopt the following draft resolution:

*The General Conference,*

*Having examined* document 40 C/66,

*Recognizing* the values of peace, wisdom and harmony that the olive tree symbolizes,

*Underlining* the important social, cultural, economic and environmental significance of olive tree cultivation,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 26 November of each year as World Olive Tree Day;
2. *Invites* the Director-General to:
  - (a) promote the celebration of World Olive Tree Day on 26 November of each year as one of the world days marked by UNESCO;
  - (b) encourage Member States, as well as non-governmental organizations, to observe World Olive Tree Day through, *inter alia*, the organization of activities to promote heritage protection and environmental sustainability around the olive tree and the dissemination of information and best practices in this regard.