

Item 24 of the provisional agenda

COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

**APPLICATION OF THE DIRECTIVES CONCERNING UNESCO'S PARTNERSHIP WITH
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE DIRECTIVES CONCERNING
UNESCO'S RELATIONS WITH FOUNDATIONS AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS**

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

SUMMARY

Pursuant to the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session ([36 C/Resolution 108](#)) and the Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with foundations and similar institutions adopted by the General Conference at its 26th session, as amended at its 28th and 29th sessions, the Director-General informs the Board of her decision to admit four new non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to consultative status, and two foundations to official relations. She also informs the Board of her decision as to the renewal or non-renewal of official relations with four foundations or similar institutions for a renewable term of six years.

This document is to be considered with document [195 EX/24](#).

SOUTH ASIA FOUNDATION (SAF)

<i>Official relations with UNESCO since:</i>		October 2006 (175 EX/38) (175 EX/Dec.40)	
<i>Established in:</i>	2000	<i>Headquarters:</i>	New Delhi, India
<i>Head(s):</i>		Mr N. Ram, President	
<i>Aims:</i>		South Asia Foundation (SAF) is a non-profit and non-political organization	
<p>Established in 2000 by Madanjeet Singh, Indian artist, writer and diplomat who was UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. SAF promotes regional cooperation and peace through education, mutual understanding and amity, in particular among the young people of South Asia to improve their quality of life. It also aims to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region as well as to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential.</p>			
<i>Geographical representation/ Members</i>		SAF extends membership throughout the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.	
<i>Internal structure:</i>		<p>The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Foundation, which uses a system of co-optation to increase or decrease its membership. SAF has autonomous chapters in the eight SAARC countries. Each Chapter is headed by a Chairperson, who is advised by an Advisory Board consisting of eminent people. Chairpersons meet annually as Governing Council to take joint decisions for implementation of projects in each member country.</p>	
<i>Activities:</i>		<p>Peace education programmes, cultural development, youth activities, scholarships and vocational training for the marginalized and deprived sections of society with particular focus on young girls and women.</p> <p>In addition, SAF sponsors teacher-training programmes using distance education in a number of countries in the SAARC region; it promotes the development of vocational training programmes, and provides support to SAF-Scouts Friendship Camps, and to the SOS International education programmes.</p> <p>SAF offers scholarships in the 12 Institutions of Excellence located in the SAARC countries,</p>	

	<p>where students from the region can pursue a postgraduate diploma in the discipline of their choice.</p> <p>During several years, a training programme of midwives was undertaken in Kathmandu, Nepal, funded by SAF.</p>
<p><i>Cooperation with UNESCO:</i></p>	<p>The objectives and ideals of the activities developed by SAF through its autonomous Chapters and its 12 UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institutions of Excellence (which enjoy the right of using UNESCO's logo) in the eight SAARC countries are in line with the principles proclaimed in UNESCO's Constitution, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</p> <p>Through establishing and developing research, capacity-building, awareness-raising and cultural activities, SAF has contributed to advancing the UNESCO's ideals and principles in the areas of preservation of cultural and natural heritage, promotion of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, cultural diversity, as well as strengthening regional and international cooperation which aims to promote and protect respect for human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of women, children, young people, people living in difficult life situation and other disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>SAF has made a significant input (including financial) to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation in the areas of education, education for girls and women's empowerment, culture, social and human sciences, ecology and water management, as well as communication and information.</p> <p>Through its scholarship programme, SAF has contributed to capacity-</p>

Decision by the Director-General: Renewal of official relations for a new six-year term