

**THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF SESAME**

**Teleconference, 2-3 December 2020**

Decisions

The Council of SESAME took the following decisions at its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- 37 C/Decision 1 Iran's full membership in 2021 is unanimously approved. There will be no need for Iran to send a written notification of its decision to remain a full Member. (*Decision taken during the closed session*)
- 37 C/Decision 2 The President of the Council will write to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan enquiring what was meant by *temporary suspension of membership* mentioned in his letter of 15 September 2020 to the Director-General of UNESCO, what the expected time frame of this suspension was to be and what future steps Pakistan envisaged. The letter will be friendly in tone and will provide concrete information about the benefits Pakistan has so far derived from SESAME. However, it will firmly point to the need for Pakistan to settle its outstanding debts in full, albeit in instalments if required. It will also invite the Minister to send participants to the future meetings of the Council, or at the very least to appoint contact persons for SESAME. (*Decision taken during the closed session*)
- 37 C/Decision 3 A three-person committee to further promote membership, as well as associate membership, is set up. It will consist of the President of the Council, who will chair the committee, Professor Mahmoud Sakr, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group to sensitize the scientific community of potential members in the Arab States to the importance of SESAME for their scientific work, and the Director. The Secretary will be the Administrative Director. (*Decision taken during the closed session*)
- 37 C/Decision 4 Early in 2021, there will be an intermediate closed meeting of the Members to discuss SESAME's mission and priorities and how the Members will help to attain both, as well as the actions to be taken. When required, there could be such meetings between other meetings of the Council. (*Decision taken during the closed session*)
- 37 C/Decision 5 The creation of the status of Associate Membership is approved as are the Principles and Criteria governing Associate Membership (Doc SESAME/TELECONFERENCE/37-C/20-03(1)) and the Standard Terms for Agreements Granting the Status of Associate Membership at SESAME (Docs SESAME/TELECONFERENCE/37-C/20-03(2), SESAME/TELECONFERENCE/37-C/20-03(2a) SESAME/TELECONFERENCE/37-C/20-03(2b)).

There shall be two categories of Associate Members. One shall be *Observer cum Associate Member*, which shall be a status open to entities holding Observer status at SESAME at the time of approval of the Principles and Criteria, wishing to intensify their institutional links with SESAME. The second shall be *Prospective Member*, which shall be a status open to entities not yet holding, or having held, formal relations with SESAME, that are interested in becoming a Member of the SESAME Council, and wish to first better familiarize themselves with the governance and activity of the Organization. This second category is an optional stepping stone to full Membership. A Prospective Member may normally not hold this position for more than three years. No Member or former Member of the SESAME Council shall be eligible to be an Observer cum Associate Member or Prospective Member. The annual contribution to the operational budget of an Observer cum Associate Member or Prospective Member shall be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, always provided that such annual contribution shall not be less than 30% of what it would be were it to be a full Member. This decision supersedes all previous Council decisions concerning Associate Membership.

The status of Associate Membership will come into force on 15 December 2020. (*Decision taken during the closed session*)

- 37 C/Decision 6 Article 2.8 of the Rules of Procedure relating to the terms of office of a President of the Council is exceptionally and temporarily suspended; Professor Rolf Heuer is elected President of the Council for a third term of two years with effect from May 2021; Article 2.8 of the Rules of Procedure is reinstated. (*Decision taken during the closed session*)
- 37 C/Decision 7 The position of Administrative Director is offered to Dr Atef Abdelhamed Abdelfattah Elkadime (Egypt). He will work on a full-time basis and will take up the position in the first quarter of 2021. (*Decision taken during the closed session*)
- 37 C/Decision 8 The decision to have a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador to champion the cause of SESAME that was approved in an electronic vote taken in June 2020 is recorded. (*Decision taken during the closed session*)
- 37 C/Decision 9 The 2021 operational budget will be US\$5,288,613.20. It will be distributed among the Members as follows: Cyprus US\$518,551.45, Egypt US\$534,522.84, Iran US\$912,650.59, Israel US\$912,650.59, Jordan US\$518,551.45, Palestine US\$66,385.00, and Turkey US\$912,650.59.
- 37 C/Decision 10 The revisions to the SESAME User Policy contained in Document SESAME/TELECONFERENCE/37-C/20-11 are approved and the modified User Policy will come into force on 15 December 2020.