

The Speech of His Excellency the Minister in UNESCO 38th General Conference (Paris / 3-18 November 2015)

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

Your Excellencies:

- President of the General Session
- Chief of the Executive Board
- Director-General of UNESCO
- Chiefs of Delegations

Peace and Blessing of Allah Be Upon You

It is my great honor and pleasure to greet you on behalf of my country Bahrain, and to transfer to your revered conference the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

In the name of my country, I would like to thank Her Excellency Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director-General at the inveterate organization of UNESCO, for her sincere cooperation.

- I would like also to extend thanks to the President of the General Session, Chief of the Executive Board and to all members of the General Assembly who contributed in the good preparation for this 38th General Conference.
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Mr. the President,

We while meet here under the umbrella of the General Conference, a couple of years after the previous conference, the world around us is overburdened with tremendous challenges that threaten international peace in many parts of the world. Hence, it is a must for member states to help UNESCO assume its key role in all the fields of its work, mainly regarding a good and equal education for all, Communication and Information issues, building knowledge societies, enhancing concepts of citizenship and human rights, rejecting violence and fulfilling the goal of peaceful co-existence.

All these issues are strongly connected to the noble aim of UNESCO, which is "building peace forts in the human minds".

Actually, the Kingdom of Bahrain stresses the importance of concerted efforts and developed curricula and carries on spending additional efforts, in a way to enhance tolerance and co-existence values and awareness of human rights.

We have already started Human Rights-Enhancing Schools. Moreover, we strongly denounce targeting educational institutions through acts of terrorism and sabotage that deprive students of their right to study in a safe learning environment.

Unfortunately, schools in my country suffer from such acts and so far, the number of attacked schools has reached 430, which constitutes an infringement of UNESCO principles and charters.

Incheon Statement, issued in World Education Forum, held in South Korea in May 2015, included a clear condemnation of terror and sabotage acts in educational establishments, comprising schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which ensure man's right of education in a safe environment that has nothing to do with all forms of terrorism.

It is my pleasure to inform the honored members of this conference that these issues represent a key priority in the national plans of the Kingdom of Bahrain where the wise government endeavors to carry out those plans in conjunction with the UNESCO in many areas, as we believe in UNESCO's international expertise.

Among relevant fields, we can mention the work done by the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT), a Category 2 Centre supervised by UNESCO and aiming to improve information and communication technology, and to use it in the fields of education and development in Gulf Cooperation Countries countries and Yemen.

Concerning developing education, we began this year a national project to introduce digital empowerment into education.

We will also strive to build a strong collaboration between our country, the UNESCO and the brotherly countries, which had made great strides in this respect.

I would like also to underscore UNESCO-King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education as part of the support of the Kingdom of Bahrain to UNESCO since 2005. Countries all over the world are interested in this award, which is distinguished as it relates to two main sectors of UNESCO programs, the first is education and the second is IT.

On this occasion, I would like to extend thanks to the Executive Board for the approval to extend the prize for another six years.

There has been an ongoing collaboration between our country and the UNESCO represented by the International Bureau of Education, in the fields of human rights, education for citizenship, tolerance and co-existence.

We have been continuously working to instil those concepts and embed the policy of peaceful co-existence and respect for each other's opinion in order to educate successive generations on the human noble values of those concepts and inculcate them on their minds.

While assuming the responsibility of the Vice-President of the Board, my country has spent a great effort to bolster the bureau's work.

Mr the President,

Our contemporary world requires a UNESCO that is capable, efficient and open on the world with all its diversity, and that seriously tries to establish pillars of peace and cooperation between all humans. That's why, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, we support the priorities included in the program and budget project as well as the principle of consultation and sincere cooperation between the organization and the member states, so that to help UNESCO strengthen its ability to meet peoples' needs and requirements the world over.

I wish a lot of success to this conference.

Peace and Blessing of Allah Be Upon You