

Dr. HAO Ping

President of the 37th Session of the UNESCO General Conference

On the occasion of the

**Leaders' Forum of the 37th Session of the UNESCO General Conference
UNESCO mobilizing for and contributing to the post-2015 agenda through
education, the sciences, culture and communication and information
UNESCO Headquarters, 6 November 2013**

Your Excellency Ms Laura CHINCHILLA (罗拉/持音/尺一拉), President of the
Republic of Costa Rica ,

Your Excellency Mr Moncef MARZOUKI (蒙塞夫/马赫祖ki), President of
Tunisia,

Your Excellency Mr Algirdas BUTKEVICIUS (阿了/日一厄/搭司 布特可为舍丝),
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania,

Madame Chairperson of the Executive Board,

Madame Director General,

Honorable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, in my capacity as President of the
37th General Conference, to this Leaders' Forum and I would like to thank you for
honoring us with your presence.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Leaders' Forum, as you may know, is a contemporary expression of the
ambition of the founders of UNESCO to harness the power of ideas and values
to prevent conflicts and foster peace and prosperity in the world.

As the international community examines the content of the global development agenda, I believe, the hour of UNESCO has come, to remind world leaders of their responsibility to engage in dialogue that will make a difference.

It is time to reaffirm UNESCO's mandate with energy and conviction, where knowledge, innovation and creativity, in a global economy, have become a major engine of growth, development cannot be realized without massive investments in education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.

UNESCO has much to contribute to the current debate by deploying its five functions as a laboratory for ideas, standard-setter, clearing house, capacity builder and a catalyst for international cooperation in an inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral manner.

I am therefore, honoured to welcome under this roof the wisdoms of the different countries and cultures, to enlighten us on the course we are about to take, as the contours of the global development agenda to follow 2015 are being debated worldwide.

Thank you for your attention.