



United Nations
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Organisation
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la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Remarks by

H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Amr

Chairperson of the Executive Board

Ambassador and Permanent Delegate

of the Arab Republic of Egypt to UNESCO

on the occasion of the
High-level Roundtable on
“How to enhance policy support for Education for
Sustainable Development” at the
UNESCO World Conference on
Education for Sustainable Development

Aichi-Nagoya, Japan

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Mr Hakubun Shimomura,

Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan,

Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

Distinguished Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to address you during this important high-level round table discussion on enhancing policy support for ESD, held within the framework of the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD); and send you greeting on behalf of all Members of the Executive Board of UNESCO, for which I am its Chairperson.

I am particularly pleased to be here today, because the Executive Board of UNESCO has throughout the entire UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), acknowledged the importance of ESD as a response to today's challenges to sustainable development.

In recent years, the DESD generated considerable progress towards ESD. It is becoming an integral part of the global debates and discourses on education and sustainable development. The increasing number of Member States making a variety of efforts to address ESD is another important sign that it is being considered a critical component of governments' efforts to improve the quality of education and to make progress towards sustainable development. But much can still be done, and it is in this regard that I congratulate the Director General and Japan's Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for their initiative to bring together such a great number of Ministers to brainstorm ways and means of further integrating ESD into national, and local education policies and curriculum.

While the Final Report, entitled "Shaping the Future We Want", of the DESD has showed us, much progress has been made in ten years. Yet, taking action on ESD is becoming even more urgent.

Long-lasting change is altering our planet's environment in an unprecedented manner.

We know that education is one of the major drivers and enablers of sustainable development.

Education helps to acquire a better understanding and appreciation of other people and the world at large.

There is indeed now a growing international recognition of ESD as an integral element of quality education and a key enabler for sustainable development.

Both the Muscat Agreement, adopted at the Global Education For All Meeting, and the proposal for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the Open Working Group include ESD in the proposed targets for the post-2015 agenda.

The 196th session of the Executive Board closed only two weeks ago. Many Representatives agreed with me when I said that while education is accorded a prominent role as witnessed by these two documents, we cannot be complacent. We must continue to work and argue with determination, commitment and conviction to secure the inclusion of the education goal and its multiple targets, as it stands, in the ultimate post-2015 development agenda, when the decision will be taken by the UN General Assembly during the autumn of 2015.

I am convinced that if Governments provide the political environment for education to be of relevance and quality we would certainly be witnessing a better world in the future.

I look forward to the discussion.

Thank you for your attention.