



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
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

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Intervention

by

H.E. Dr Hao Ping
President of the General Conference

Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Members of the Executive Board,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me to take this opportunity to express all my warm greetings and wishes for this session of the Board.

First of all, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Director-General for their coordination and mutual understanding between us so that the work of UNESCO can better serve the aims of the Organization.

Since the last session of General conference, I am glad to see that the resolutions are currently being implemented, thanks to the joint efforts made by all Member States and the Director-General.

I have listened, since yesterday, to the views expressed by each Member of the Executive Board. I have to express my appreciation to the hard work of the Preparatory Group and its members, whose contribution has laid a solid foundation to the success of the meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Next year, we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the creation of UNESCO. 70 is an age which Confucius considers as period in one's life time, when you with your experience become so precious that are not easy to find.

He said that:

At 30 years old, I know I should shoulder my responsibility.

At 40 years old, I am no more confused about my life.

At 50 years old, I know my destiny left,

At 60 years old, my ears are tolerant enough to hear everything and take it in positive sense,

At 70 years old, I become precious with my experience gained during your whole life

Ladies and Gentlemen,

69 years ago, 37 States signed the Constitution, which marks the birth of UNESCO. The constitution entered into force in 1946 ratified by the following 20 countries: South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, United States of America, France, Greece, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia and Turkey.

From the very beginning 37 countries to 195 countries of today, 70 years witnesses the growing and development of the organization. During these past 7 decades, our Organization has gone through many difficult times, including cold war period, in promoting cooperation among different countries in the fields of education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. Milestone achievements have been realized in EFA, GEFI, heritage preservation in all its forms, etc.

The core element to the success today is the solidarity and mutual support of all member states of this family. We may have some differences on a certain issue, but only should we respect the equal dialogue in a spirit of diversity and openness can we achieve the common wealth for the whole humanity.

In this family, we are all equal brothers and sisters, no matter the colour of our skin, no matter the country we are representing is big or small, the spirit of dialogue and mutual respect are what we need to stick to in this house to strive for universality and harmony.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to learn that the Director General has already established a taskforce for the preparation of the anniversary celebrations, and that all member states as well as the Executive Board are going to join efforts to make it a grand festival and precious moment that all 195 member states deserve to enjoy. We are looking forward to this moment, to trace back what we've been through, to review what we are facing today and to explore what is awaiting ahead. As President of General Conference, I will be happy and honoured to facilitate and contribute to this important task.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The emerging challenges, as climate change, terrorism, illiteracy that we are facing today request the solidarity of the whole humanity and joint efforts of all member states.

In this regard, I would like to quote two Chinese proverbs, which teach us that – (三人一条心, 黄土变成金) “*If people are of one heart, even the yellow earth can become gold.*” And “*only the joint efforts of all can remove the Mont Tai*”— that to say, we should never lose sight of the fact that only are we united in our mission, can any goal be achieved.

Thank you!