



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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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

“UNESCO: Future Prospects” initiative

UNESCO Headquarters – Paris, 2 July 2014

“UNESCO’s role and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda”

Closing Remarks

by

H.E. Dr Hao Ping

**President of the General Conference
Vice-Minister of Education
of the People’s Republic of China**

Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Madame Director General,
Dr. Amina Mohamed, Secretary-General’s Special Adviser,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me first to congratulate all the participants in this debate especially our guest speaker Dr. Amina Mohamed, Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Post-two thousand and fifteen Development with his inspiring speech.

We all acknowledge that, our mission to build peace, prosperity and harmony in the world cannot be completed without efforts to help people living in poverty or in the margins of society. Progress has been made in the last 70 years, as demonstrated throughout our debate, but much still remains to be done.

One lesson I have learned from this meeting is that pursuit for *sustainable development and peace calls for approaches that put humans at the center. It calls for new models to help people develop their own potential for creativity and dialogue.*

In the debate, many delegates deepened all these leading thoughts on how to best promote sustainable development and lasting peace through a truly global development agenda. From these exchanges, it is easy to conclude that UNESCO’s mandate is more important than ever.

In closing, allow me once again to thank Dr Mohammed for her remarkable speech and to the Chairperson of the Board for chairing this debate.

This is just a start in series of debates we will be having in the next sixteen months. As the Chinese philosopher Lao-Tzu said “*a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.*” I look forward to seeing you again with the same enthusiasm and dedication for the next debate.

Thank you very much.