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للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Information Meeting of the Executive Board

with the Director-General

Opening Remarks

H.E. Ms Alissandra Cummins

Chairperson of the Executive Board

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

7 May 2012

Madame President of the General Conference,

Madame Director-General,

Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to welcome you to the first Information Meeting of the Executive Board with the Director-General for the 2012-2013 biennium. These meetings are intended to foster dialogue and exchanges of information between the Secretariat and the Board on issues of concern, and represent an important modality for the Board to take informed decisions during its sessions.

As we are all aware, the work of the 189th session of the Board this past February focused on responses to the difficult financial situation faced by the Organization. In this regard, the Board approved the Director-General's Roadmap to move forward with the implementation of the 36 C/5 in the context of a significantly reduced budgetary level, along with several key cost-cutting measures. Although the Organization has managed to address some of the more immediate and pressing operational issues, there is still a persisting budgetary challenge for the medium- to long-term implementation of the 36 C/5. Therefore, this concern remains a primary preoccupation for Board Members and non-Board Members alike, and represents one of two key topics for this Information Meeting.

While it is crucial for the Organization to ensure continued financial feasibility and sustainability of its programmes and overall operations, it is equally critical that UNESCO is actively and meaningfully engaged in ongoing reflections throughout the UN system on the MDGs and the post-2015 international development agenda. Considering the numerous international fora on these matters, including the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), this is a relatively fast moving process. UNESCO must be fully engaged in this process within all its fields of competence, so as to deliver on its mandate and strengthen its relevance in the international development discourse for years to come. Therefore, this issue represents the second key topic for the meeting today.

These two topics emerged as important items for today's meeting during my electronic consultations with Board Members. At this point, I would like to reiterate my thanks to Board Members for actively participating in this process. It seems that the use of electronic consultations is proving to be a viable and useful modality of work that does not incur additional costs, and I would like to continue with this option whenever appropriate.

I would also like to thank Board Members for submitting written questions prior to the meeting today, as well as for focusing their questions primarily on the two key topics identified. A total of 49 questions were submitted, with 18 questions related to the Roadmap, 12 questions on the post-2015 development framework, 3 programme

specific questions, 3 questions related to the C/4 and C/5, 3 questions on partnerships, and 10 management questions.

With regards to the Roadmap, some of the concerns raised include its implementation in terms of sharper prioritization and focus; shifting of resources from administration to the programmes; the use of consultants; leveraging UNESCO's broad network of partners; field network reform; the structure of the Secretariat in the next C/4 and C/5; and the use of and criteria applied to allocate resources from the Emergency Fund.

Concerning the Organization's preparations for the development of a new post-2015 framework, there were general questions about UNESCO's participation and substantive input into the wider UN process; framework of consultations with Member States; youth engagement in this process; and the specific role of education in the post-2015 international development agenda.

It is clear that we have a rich dialogue with the Director-General ahead of us, so I would now like to conclude my brief opening remarks and proceed to the crux of the meeting today.

Thank you.