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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Discours de la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO,

Irina Bokova,

**à l'occasion de la 29e session du Comité de haut niveau sur la gestion
(HCLM) des Nations Unies**

UNESCO, le 19 mars 2015

Mesdames et Messieurs les Membres du Comité de haut niveau sur le
management,

Chers collègues,

Bonjour et bienvenue à l'UNESCO.

Je suis heureuse de vous accueillir à la 29e session de ce Comité, que j'ai
l'honneur de tenir au Siège de l'UNESCO.

C'est une année spéciale pour l'UNESCO, nous célébrons comme vous le savez le
70e anniversaire de l'Organisation et sa mission de construire les défenses de la
paix dans l'esprit des hommes et des femmes.

En ces temps tourmentés, cette mission n'a jamais été aussi pertinente - et je suis
convaincue que nous ne pouvons avancer qu'ensemble, en partenariat, au sein du
système des Nations Unies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this spirit, I wish to start by thanking Mr Francis Gurry, Director-General of the
World Intellectual Property Organization for chairing the High Level Committee on
Management for the last two years.

I am honoured to follow in his footsteps, to assume the chairmanship of the HLCM at a time when we are all called upon to lead system-wide action to adapt the United Nations to provide efficient and coordinated support to Member States on the transition to the post-2015 development agenda.

This is a turning point year.

The United Nations stands at the front of change, and must be shaped and equipped to lead it forward.

Expectations are high, we must rise to meet them – this is not a burden weighing down on us, it is a wind that must inspire us.

This spirit guides the reform I am leading at UNESCO, both on management and administrative issues, to strengthen the Organisation's efficiency and transparency.

I am committed to making innovation the hallmark of all UNESCO action today.

This same goal is inspiring efforts to make the United Nations system more 'fit for purpose.'

As you are aware, this raises also issues of governance, regarding also institutional structures that have shaped change and reform efforts over the decades.

I believe the HLCM should not shy away – we must consider also such crucial areas as the institutional alignment with the post-2015 agenda and the provision of financial resources across the system to align promise with performance.

I open this meeting with an appeal, therefore, for us to be bold, for us to consider transformative change ideas across the mandate of the HLCM.

Of course, the HLCM has already pioneered its own 'fit for purpose' initiative two years ago -- the resulting Strategic Plan (2013-2016) provides us with a clear road map, which we are leading forward, adjusting for changes, as they arise.

We must maintain our focus on the redesign of operational and management functions, and we must work hand-in-hand with the United Nations Development Group, to ensure coherence from global to country levels.

I am committed to ensure the success of common operations solutions, with reduced operational costs, and to ensure improved efficiency in programme and project delivery on the ground.

I believe the Business Operations Strategy and the integrated service centres will go a long way towards 'working as one' and 'delivering as one'.

As the High Level Committee on Management, we need to keep the pressure high, to address and resolve all bottlenecks, especially at the country level.

When we speak about the field, about country-level programme delivery other than the operations solutions, we must also consider the enabling conditions -- by this, I would underline the security conditions, the deterioration of which has a direct impact on delivery.

'Stay and deliver' means exposing personnel to high-risk environments --this means we need to focus more on security threat analysis capabilities and to think about how to mainstream security resources into planning and budgeting processes, globally and throughout our respective organizations.

In the Synthesis Report, the United Nations Secretary-General sets clear expectations for the United Nations system after 2015 – the system must make the most of the strengths of all its parts, including the normative, the technical, the operational and the emergency-response.

This echoes clearly with the mandate of the High Level Committee on Management, to promote and coordinate system-wide management reforms to shape a more innovative, more agile, more results-oriented United Nations system.

Our goals are clear, we must forge ahead full-steam, guided by the overarching principles of transparency, accountability, cost-effectiveness and results orientation.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a full agenda today -- I wish to say again how honoured I am to chair the High Level Committee on Management at this important juncture for Member States, for the Organisation.

I think each of us is deeply aware of the strategic importance of our work, and I look forward to working with each of you to take this forward.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome Dr Fang Liu, appointed as the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization from 1 August 2015.

As we all know, the High Level Committee on Management operationalized the United Nations system-wide policy on gender equality and empowerment of women, so it is especially heartening that Dr Fang Liu becomes the first ever woman to be appointed to this agency.

Congratulations, Dr Fang Liu – we will, of course, continue to work with you through the Chief Executives Board.

I wish also to take this opportunity to thank the Vice-Chair of the High Level Committee on Management, Ms Jan Baegle, for her effective and professional support in preparing this meeting, for which I am deeply grateful.