

Tenth plenary meeting of the 38th session of the General Conference

Monday 9 November 2015 at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa (Namibia)

Reply by the Director-General to the general policy debate

1.1 The President:

Good morning, honourable ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Before we start with this morning's meeting, I wish to inform you that there will be a plenary meeting this afternoon at 5.30 p.m. to hear the addresses from His Excellency, Mr Evo Morales, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and His Excellency, Jose Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde. May I request that you be in your seats by 5.15 p.m. sharp so that we can welcome these distinguished and honourable guests. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this regard.

1.2 Ladies and gentlemen, honourable heads of delegations, we have all listened carefully to almost 200 statements that were made over the past week during the course of the general policy debate. Members of the Secretariat of UNESCO have paid close attention to Member States' remarks including recommendations that were made. The time has now come for the Director-General to reply to the general policy debate. I now have the pleasure to give the floor to the Director-General for her reply. Madam Director-General, you have the floor.

2.1 The Director-General:

Thank you very much, Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen. I wish to thank all heads of State and governments, all ministers, all representatives of UNESCO Member States. I am grateful for the renewed commitment to UNESCO by all of you in the year when we celebrate the Organization's 70th anniversary. You, Mr President, spoke so eloquently of UNESCO's importance in your opening speech after your election as President of the General Conference. You said: "The historic narrative of a humane world order characterized by lasting peace has never been as relevant and as profound as it is today, when the world and humankind continue to experience unending conflicts and natural disasters."

2.2 The distinguished head of delegation of France spoke of the "spirit of London" that created UNESCO in 1945 and called for the same ambition today. From across the world we have the call for stronger cooperation against challenges. We heard the appeal for a more robust and effective international order. We heard a resounding call for unity, for humanity to act as one. And I believe all of you agree. Challenges are multiple and complex and pay no respect to borders. There is no room for unilateralism. No place for exclusion. No society stands alone today. We all stand together. I see this as the spirit of this general policy debate: resolution, solidarity, renewal; to stand together, to move forward together.

2.3 We heard this from representatives of societies undergoing deep social transformation, economic pressures. We heard this from Myanmar, leading, in the words of the distinguished head of delegation, a "historic transition". We heard this from Liberia, resilient, ever more determined after the end of the Ebola virus crisis. We heard this from Sri Lanka in the words of its distinguished head of delegation, "rebuilding after 30 years of conflict". We heard from the Maldives when the distinguished head of delegation spoke for all small island developing States. "We, small States, do not want to be defined only by our vulnerabilities. We are ready to be part of the solution." This was a message from the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands.

2.4 We heard from States determined to respond to climate change, to protect biodiversity, to deepen the sustainability of the ocean. All of you agreed, we are living a historic moment. The distinguished head of delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco was clear. We are standing at a historical political and economic turning point. The distinguished head of delegation of Pakistan was equally clear. The world stands at a critical juncture facing serious issues and challenges including xenophobia, illiteracy, inequality, gender issues and climate change. Humanity and the planet stand at a crossroads. This was your clear message. And allow me here to quote the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon when he said: "We don't have any 'Plan B' because we don't have any 'Planet B'." So ladies and gentlemen, I believe we must act now. Change is racing across the world and this cannot be undone.

2.5 The distinguished head of delegation of Bangladesh put it eloquently: "The world is ever-changing. Building on experience, we must respond to the demands of new situations while remaining true to our long-term commitments". I see this as our main goal – to embrace change on the basis of principles and commitments, to shape it in positive directions for all societies globally. But to embrace change, we have to craft a future that is more just, inclusive, and sustainable for every woman and man. We have to respect the rights and dignity of every woman and man. I believe this is the bottom line.

2.6 His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway spoke precisely about this when he said: "Every human being has the right to live a dignified life. And it means having a common responsibility to strengthen the dignity of others and ultimately, our own." I believe, ladies and gentlemen, this will be the measure of the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Many of you touched upon the Millennium Development Goals which were a great humanistic agenda but the 2030 Agenda is bolder, more universal, more transformative. The new Agenda answers the question all societies are asking today: what world do we want to live in? The answer, I believe, is clear. A world of solidarity, equality, tolerance, a world where no one is left behind. UNESCO stands at the heart of this vision. And all of you emphasized this.

2.8 The Distinguished head of delegation of Lithuania was clear: "UNESCO's achievement: the role of culture, education, human rights, and women empowerment was clearly highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development.” I would like to thank all of you for your leadership. I understand the responsibilities involved, and I am determined for UNESCO to lead support to States.

2.9 All of you highlighted the importance of the forthcoming climate change conference, COP 21. Here again, the message was clear. The 2030 Agenda and tackling climate change are interlinked. They are the same agenda. Poverty eradication cannot be separated from the environment. Peace cannot be delinked from the sustainability of the planet. This was the message of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. All societies are sending this same message today.

2.10 UNESCO will continue to support States in every way to prepare the climate change conference and the implementation of its decisions. It included the Business and Climate Summit in May at UNESCO Headquarters; the World Ocean Day event on 8 June, with Monaco, Sweden, France, Belgium and Norway; the Scientific Conference on Our Common Future under Climate Change, in July, held here at the Headquarters of UNESCO; the Water and Climate Change Conference, also in July.

2.11 But UNESCO is accelerating in the run-up to COP 21: decision-taking, with thematic days on 3 and 4 December on the Ocean and Climate Platform and the Global Ocean Forum; with the International Conference on Water, Megacities and Global Changes at UNESCO; with an event on Climate Change and Mountains, and side events on Key Findings of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and the Pivotal Role of Water in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. The forthcoming Conference on Indigenous Populations and Climate Change, organized with France, is another key UNESCO contribution.

2.12 The lessons of the Millennium Development Goals are clear. Success requires ownership. Ownership by societies, by governments, taking forward policies they have crafted in strategies they have framed. Ownership must be the leitmotif of the 2030 Agenda. Ownership means capacities. Every society and government must have the ability to achieve the goals it has set for itself. Every woman and man must have the ability to become everything they wish. Here again, capacities are key. We heard this loud and clear from small island developing States in the Pacific, in the Indian Ocean, in the Caribbean. Capacities are the way forward – capacities in disaster risk reduction and early warning, capacities in education for sustainable development, capacities across the sciences, capacities to preserve biodiversity, capacities to set the right education strategies, and capacities to protect tangible and intangible heritage.

2.13 Let me underline the importance of the Action Plan for Small Island Developing States I will present to Member States next spring during the meeting of the Executive Board. The Action Plan will cover the full range of UNESCO’s mandate – from ICTs in education and safeguarding cultural heritage to ocean science and strengthening disaster risk reduction and resilience. The distinguished head of delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines put it clearly: “We cannot wait for more disasters to strike.” I agree fully. Capacities, capacities, capacities. This is, I believe, the name of the game. This begins with education – capacities for education systems, training for teachers, skills for learners.

2.14 The distinguished head of delegation of Thailand spoke for all when he said: “Education is a key tool to achieve security, prosperity, sustainability and resilient democracy.” Not just any education – quality education, education for relevant skills, for decent jobs, education for new ways of thinking and acting, for sustainability, for global citizenship, education in tune with the twenty-first century. In this respect, let me underline the importance of the launch of UNESCO’s latest publication, *Rethinking Education: Towards a Global Common Good?* – this will be a reference for dialogue and debate.

2.15 Across the world, States are building UNESCO’s holistic vision of education into national strategies. After the adoption of the important Plan, an important decision of the global Incheon Education forum. The distinguished head of delegation of Zambia laid emphasis on its comprehensive education policy. The distinguished head of delegation of Peru presented the comprehensive strategy guiding the country’s historic educational reform. The distinguished head of delegation of Sierra Leone spoke of the central role of education in the post-Ebola recovery and transition programme – and UNESCO stands ready to support the government as it moves forward.

2.16 Every State, every government, expressed their determination to leave no one behind, to reach all girls and women, to bring in the most disadvantaged. Let me highlight here the importance of the Gender Summary of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2015, launched on 4 November in the margins of this General Conference. I think this is to highlight once again the importance of girls’ education and gender priority for UNESCO. This was an opportunity to share the commitment of governments across the world, from Paraguay to Niger. As the distinguished head of delegation of Ethiopia stated: “Empowering women and girls, ensuring their sexual and reproductive health and human rights is essential to an inclusive society.”

2.17 I thank all of you for the resounding support to UNESCO’s action to advance Global Priority Gender Equality, through education, across all areas of UNESCO’s competence. You are making the Global Priority your own – including, for instance, through the Girls’ Right to Education Programme, funded by the Malala Funds-in-Trust established in UNESCO by the Government of Pakistan.

2.18 The adoption of the Education 2030 Framework for Action is a milestone in this General Conference, attended by some 70 Ministers. The Education 2030 Framework sets bold benchmarks and it is indeed a historic moment. Twelve years of free education for all. Qualified and duly trained teachers in every classroom. A strong focus on technical and vocational education and training, on quality, on girls’ education. This calls for a new emphasis on monitoring – the role of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics will be essential, along with the Global Monitoring Report. This calls for new funding, to bridge the annual \$40 billion funding gap, to invest where needs are most acute. I would like to thank all of you for this ground-breaking commitment, along with all partners, across the United Nations system, the Global Partnership for Education, as well as civil society, Education International, and the private sector. Because I do believe partnership is the way forward.

2.19 This same spirit underpinned the inaugural ceremony of the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development, with the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. This Prize was awarded to three outstanding projects – from El Salvador and Guatemala, Indonesia, and Germany – empowering individuals and local communities, connecting the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

2.20 Strengthening capacities and capabilities stood at the heart of the meeting on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) within the 2030 sustainable development agenda. I would like to thank Sweden and the friends of TVET and appeal to all States to join this initiative. Let me express gratitude also to His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, for the new agreement on curriculum design and development in the Arab region.

2.21 On 6 November, I hosted the third Meeting on UNESCO's Capacity Development for Education for All – the CapEFA. This brought States and donors together, to share experience with capacity-building at every level – for systems and ministries, for teachers, in curriculum design, for gender equality. I call once again for greater support to this flagship programme which is one of the big successes of the Organization. In this respect, let me thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the new agreement I signed last week to support the UNESCO International Task Force on Teachers.

2.22 Building capacities guides all UNESCO's action in the sciences. Knowledge is essential to every society today. Creating knowledge, and sharing knowledge, and applying knowledge is critical to eradicate poverty, to tackle the consequences of climate change and at the end of the day, to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals on the 2030 Agenda. This idea underpins the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, launched on 26 September, with UNESCO as a convening United Nations agency during the General Assembly session in New York.

2.23 The distinguished head of delegation of Nigeria spoke for many in underlining: “Science, technology and innovation are main pillars of the agenda for change.” This spirit guides UNESCO's support to governments in bolstering science, technology and innovation policies, in advancing science education, especially science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), especially for girls, as noted by many of you. The event on 7 November on STEM Education for Adolescent Girls was extremely important, to advance gender equality, chaired by Dr Hayat Sindi, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2.24 The outstanding role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) was underlined by many of you, ladies and gentlemen, for ocean science, for ocean observation, for early warning. This is why I am determined to continue to enhance support across the board to IOC. I am also grateful to the support expressed to UNESCO's “water family”, led by the International Hydrological Programme (IHP). UNESCO's action for water governance, for water diplomacy, has never been so important. I welcome the support also expressed to the new Man and the Biosphere Strategy, the importance of biosphere reserves as innovative platforms for preserving biodiversity, including most particularly from Viet Nam, the Philippines and many others.

(The Director-General continues in French)

2.25 Mesdames et messieurs, cette assemblée a toujours été la chambre d'écho des tendances du monde, le lieu pour anticiper les futurs possibles. En 1999, dans cette même salle, la délégation de l'Afghanistan prenait la parole pour alerter la communauté internationale sur le danger de l'extrémisme, sur les violences perpétrées dans le pays envers les filles empêchées de se rendre à l'école, et demandant l'inscription d'urgence des Bouddhas de Bâmiyân sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril. C'était deux ans avant la destruction des Bouddhas de Bâmiyân. C'était deux ans avant le 11 septembre. Oui, Mesdames et Messieurs, il existe un système mondial d'alerte précoce des conflits à venir, des défis de demain. Il est ici, dans cette salle.

2.26 Durant toute cette semaine, j'ai entendu des mises en garde, des inquiétudes, des signes avant-coureurs de violences futures. J'ai écouté le Burundi qui cherche à se relever difficilement d'une dure crise politico-sociale. Et la seule réponse passe par le dialogue et la culture de la paix. J'ai entendu l'appel vibrant du Honduras en faveur de la justice qui est le seul chemin possible pour construire la paix. J'ai écouté avec attention le récit de transformations nationales considérables des îles Fidji en éducation à la Zambie et au Myanmar pour la liberté d'expression, l'engagement des jeunes dans les radios communautaires du Malawi.

2.27 La stratégie de Singapour pour intégrer la culture, le design, l'innovation dans les politiques d'aménagement urbain donne pleinement raison au plaidoyer de l'UNESCO sur le lien entre eux. Je ne pouvais imaginer de meilleure introduction pour la Conférence que nous organisons au mois de décembre à Hangzhou, sur la culture et le développement urbain durable, en prévision de la Conférence d'Habitat III, l'année prochaine.

2.28 De nombreux pays font la preuve de mouvements de solidarité considérables dans l'accueil de réfugiés climatiques ou des conflits au Liban, en Turquie, en Jordanie, au Cameroun, au Bangladesh, au Pakistan, qui montrent la capacité des peuples à tendre la main et nous devons la tendre à notre tour. Dans cet esprit, j'ai pris la mesure de dizaines de propositions concrètes, des idées, des projets pour avancer. Une stratégie contre l'extrémisme et des fonds pour l'éducation, à l'initiative du Président du Kazakhstan, M. Nazarbayev, en soutien de la *Décennie internationale pour le rapprochement des cultures*, avec un « Forum sur l'Islam contre le terrorisme », les conférences sur le dialogue interculturel portées par l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine, le programme international pour la culture de la paix et du dialogue du roi Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz. Je voudrais saluer les efforts financiers, juridiques exprimés par l'Allemagne, le Royaume-Uni, la Suisse, le Qatar, le Koweït et de nombreux autres pour la protection du patrimoine en danger.

2.29 L'UNESCO est engagée contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels. Vous connaissez très bien les efforts que nous avons déployés, et je veux saluer les mesures prises par des dizaines d'entre vous pour coordonner les services, renforcer les contrôles, partager les informations à nos côtés, dans le cadre de la Convention de 1970 et de la Résolution 2199 du Conseil de sécurité. L'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs, a lancé plusieurs programmes d'urgence, pour le renforcement des musées en Iraq, avec le Japon et la Norvège, pour la documentation et la protection du patrimoine syrien, à partir de Beyrouth, avec l'Union européenne et nous avons besoin davantage de votre soutien car

ces efforts donnent des résultats, et nous savons que si les objets ont pu être mis à l'abri en Syrie, en Libye, au Yémen, c'est aussi grâce à des années de formation de professionnels sur le terrain, par l'UNESCO, depuis des années.

2.30 Cet engagement pratique doit s'accompagner d'une réflexion théorique davantage entre les experts sur le sens de la protection du patrimoine mondial aujourd'hui et la mise en œuvre des Conventions de l'UNESCO, en réponse à ces conflits modernes sur le sens de la sauvegarde, de la réhabilitation. Je pense à la proposition du Ministre de la culture d'Italie, M. Dario Franceschini, d'une *Équipe spéciale pour le patrimoine* qui unit des experts civils et militaires – qui ouvre de nouvelles perspectives pour la protection du patrimoine, plus réactive, plus mobile, plus intégrée. Et je remercie le soutien du Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Russie, M. Sergei Lavrov, à l'envoi de missions de l'UNESCO pour évaluer les dégâts et préparer la réhabilitation des sites détruits, dès que possible.

2.31 Chaque pays connaît des défis particuliers et la violence revêt de nombreux visages – celui de l'injustice sociale, celui des groupes armés, des narcotrafiquants, du terrorisme. Personne ne peut prétendre avoir de solution définitive mais chacun ici peut partager son expérience concrète, qui est chaque fois une leçon d'humilité et un devoir de précision. Ensemble, nous avons lancé le dernier rapport des tendances mondiales sur la liberté d'expression, avec le soutien de la Suède, pour la *Journée mondiale contre l'impunité des crimes envers les journalistes*. Ensemble, experts et responsables politiques se sont réunis pour l'événement parallèle sur le rôle de l'éducation dans la prévention de l'extrémisme violent, à l'initiative des États-Unis, dont je salue l'initiative, et du Secrétaire d'État adjoint, M. Antony Blinken, à la suite de la résolution du Conseil exécutif adoptée à l'unanimité.

2.32 La violence ne pourra pas être vaincue par la force des armes uniquement, ni par de nouvelles violences. La majorité d'entre vous l'a exprimé clairement : il faut s'attaquer aux causes profondes. Par l'éducation de qualité. Par la compréhension mutuelle. Par le respect des cultures, de la sienne et de celle des autres. Par une culture de la paix. Ce sont des domaines où moins qu'ailleurs les discours ne suffisent pas, et l'UNESCO doit mettre en œuvre des programmes plus efficaces, des outils de haute précision au plus près du terrain, car l'esprit des hommes et des femmes est une matière complexe, qui ne se satisfait pas de réflexions générales sur le « dialogue des civilisations » ou la « citoyenneté mondiale ». Comme il existe des armes de précision de haute technologie, il faut des programmes éducatifs de pointe et des outils de dialogue interculturels de dernière génération.

2.33 Et je rejoins totalement les appels du Danemark et du Royaume-Uni sur ce point : la réforme de l'UNESCO va bien au-delà d'une réflexion sur les coûts et les processus : elle est une exigence de mettre en œuvre des programmes toujours plus efficaces, adaptés aux situations en mutation permanente. À cet égard, je salue la proposition de la France de lancer une coalition d'États en vue de préparer une initiative stratégique pour la prochaine Conférence générale. Lors de ce débat, et dans les dizaines d'événements parallèles dans nos entretiens bilatéraux, avec beaucoup parmi vous, j'ai vu déjà de nombreuses initiatives et de l'énergie pour proposer des outils concrets. Des Ministres de l'éducation – de la Tunisie à la République dominicaine – ont donné des clés USB où l'on trouve l'intégralité des supports éducatifs d'un pays, à glisser dans sa poche.

2.34 Le savoir et la connaissance circulent plus facilement mais la propagande et les messages de haine aussi, malheureusement. J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'intervention de l'Algérie qui a lutté depuis 10 ans contre l'extrémisme et qui a des enseignements irremplaçables à partager. On peut avoir passé 10 ans à renforcer le système scolaire d'un pays, à former des professeurs pour enseigner la paix et la tolérance, la citoyenneté dans les écoles mais si le soir, dans leurs chambres, par la magie des satellites et des réseaux sociaux, les jeunes sont abreuvés de messages de haine, tout est à recommencer. L'UNESCO est bien placée pour le savoir : nous sommes nés d'une guerre mondiale qui a éclaté sur un continent – l'Europe – le plus alphabétisé de son époque, doté des moyens de communication les plus puissants. Toute éducation reste fragile tant qu'elle n'est pas fondée sur les droits humains, capable d'enseigner l'esprit critique et le sens du devoir – vis-à-vis de soi, vis-à-vis des autres, pour la tolérance et la paix.

2.35 Voilà pourquoi, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis convaincue que l'UNESCO doit renforcer le soutien auprès des jeunes, et sur ce point, la stratégie opérationnelle de l'UNESCO pour la jeunesse (2014-2021) est plus essentielle que jamais – et je vous remercie pour le soutien apporté à de nombreuses initiatives de l'UNESCO dans ce domaine. Que ce soit l'initiative contre la radicalisation des jeunes sur l'Internet ou bien le projet Youth NET-MED dans 10 pays à travers la Méditerranée, qui vient justement de réunir un atelier de formation pour les jeunes journalistes palestiniens de Gaza, ou encore le programme MOST pour l'inclusion sociale, le droit à la dignité, comme l'ont souligné l'Indonésie, Madagascar, la Roumanie, la Mongolie, l'Allemagne, le Paraguay ou la République démocratique du Congo. Et je veux souligner sur ce point la campagne des jeunes pour une culture de la paix en Afrique, lancée avec l'UNESCO en Angola, au Gabon, en Côte d'Ivoire, et qui se développe, au cœur de nos efforts, pour notre Priorité globale Afrique.

2.36 Contre la globalisation de l'intolérance, il faut faire entendre d'autres messages, proposer une vision positive, de l'entraide contre les fausses promesses de l'extrémisme. Il y a vingt ans exactement, le Premier Ministre israélien Itzhak Rabin affirmait que « *la paix a ses chances* » car une majorité de gens veulent la paix – et c'est leur voix que nous devons faire entendre et mettre en valeur les liens qui nous unissent. C'est le sens de la campagne #UnisPourLePatrimoine que vous avez été nombreux à soutenir, et je vous en remercie. Nous aurons l'occasion de nous retrouver cette semaine avec des archéologues et des témoins venus parler de leurs efforts pour amplifier ce mouvement. C'est le sens également de la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles, portée par la Norvège, déjà soutenue par plus de 50 pays – et j'appelle à nouveau tous les États membres de l'UNESCO à en faire autant. C'est le sens de ma proposition pour la création « d'aires culturelles protégées » dans les zones de conflits.

2.37 Dans la diversité de vos pays, de vos trajectoires, vous avez exprimé, finalement, des aspirations fondamentales à des principes vitaux, simples, qui sont partagés universellement. Le droit de mener une vie digne. Le droit à une éducation de qualité pour nos enfants et nos adolescents, filles et garçons, pour qu'ils deviennent des citoyens responsables, avec un métier digne, engagés dans la société. Le droit de faire valoir son identité, de participer à la mondialisation sans peur de voir son histoire effacée et de miser, au contraire, sur notre diversité comme source d'innovation et de renouvellement. Cette idée était au cœur de l'intervention de l'Union européenne, en soutien à la

Convention de l'UNESCO de 2005 sur la diversité des expressions culturelles, dont nous célébrons le 10^e anniversaire cette année, et des paroles très fortes du Premier Ministre des îles Cook quand il soulignait le besoin de préserver le patrimoine sous toutes ses formes matérielles, immatérielles et naturelles. Il a dit : « *Notre patrimoine n'est pas constitué seulement de monuments mais de pratiques centenaires de pêche et de plantation* ».

2.38 L'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs, occupe une position de pivot central sur ce sujet. Dans votre diversité, dans notre diversité, vous avez pointé le besoin d'identifier et de protéger un certain nombre de « biens publics mondiaux », l'éducation, l'eau, l'environnement, le patrimoine matériel, immatériel, la diversité culturelle. Les inégalités entre les pays et au sein des pays, les écarts immenses dans l'accès à ces biens publics mondiaux sont des atteintes à l'essence indivisible de l'humanité. Elles perpétuent les injustices aujourd'hui et préparent les violences de demain. Dans un monde interdépendant, le dialogue interculturel n'est pas juste un impératif de paix : c'est une méthode de travail, le seul chemin possible pour élaborer des solutions communes à des enjeux qui nous dépassent.

2.39 Plusieurs futurs sont possibles : aucun n'est écrit et le rôle de l'UNESCO est de mettre en avant les initiatives qui nous rassemblent, de promouvoir tout ce qui renforce notre humanité commune, les rencontres, les cultures partagées, la coopération, pour que cet avenir l'emporte sur les autres. Et je crois que ce n'est pas une utopie – ce n'est pas ici un rassemblement d'observatoire du monde mais de décideurs politiques, et vos décisions peuvent changer le cours des choses. Il n'y a pas besoin d'attendre ou de s'en remettre à d'autres, il n'y a pas de fatalité, et c'est le cœur du projet humaniste, comme le soulignait avec force le Ministre de la République dominicaine : « *Ce monde peut être meilleur si nous le décidons* ». À nous de le décider. Je vous remercie.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. On behalf of the General Conference, I would like to thank you most sincerely for a very clear and elaborate and comprehensive reply to the general policy debate. Once again, thank you very much Madam Director-General. Ladies and gentlemen, as announced earlier, the next item on our agenda for today is item **8.3**, "Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO", and this item, as you recall, has been scheduled for examination at 11.30 a.m. this morning. We will therefore suspend the plenary meeting now and reconvene at 11.30 a.m. sharp. Thank you very much for your attention. The meeting is suspended until 11.30.

The meeting is suspended from 10.55 a.m to 11.40 a.m.

4. **The President:**

Good morning again, ladies and gentlemen. We will now continue our plenary meeting in which we will be examining item **8.3**, "Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO". This item, as you recall, has been placed on the agenda in conformity with 197 EX/Decision 43 of the Executive Board, a decision that was adopted at its 197th session. I would therefore like to give the floor to the Chair of the Executive Board, who will present the Board's recommendation on this particular item. Your Excellency, Ambassador Amr, you have the floor.

5. **Mr Amr (Egypt), Chair of the Executive Board:**

Thank you very much Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The Executive Board at its 197th session considered the item entitled "Request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO" proposed by Member States in accordance with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board. Following a vote taken by roll call with 27 votes in favour, 14 votes against and 14 abstentions, the Executive Board adopted 197 EX/Decision 43 by which it recommends that the General Conference admits the Republic of Kosovo as a member of UNESCO. Mr President, on behalf of the Executive Board and in conformity with Article 2, paragraph 2 and Article V.b, paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Constitution of our Organization, may I therefore recommend that the General Conference consider the text of the aforementioned Executive Board decision. Thank you very much Mr President.

6. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. Ladies and Gentlemen, we have now heard the recommendation of the Executive Board. You have in front of you document 38 C/PLEN/DR.1 submitted on this item by 37 Member States. May I invite one of the co-sponsors to introduce the draft resolution, but in between I see Serbia raising their flag. The distinguished representative of Serbia, you now have the floor sir.

7. **Serbia:**

Mr President, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are asking for the adjournment of the debate of this item, in accordance with Rule 75 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, until the next General Conference in order to give a chance to the dialogue with the aim of achieving a sustainable and mutually acceptable solution. In case there is no consensus of this procedural motion, we ask that the decision be taken by roll call. Thank you, Mr President.

8. **The President:**

Thank you very much. According to Rule 75 of our Rules of Procedure, during the discussion of any question a Member State or Associate Member State may move adjournment of a debate on the item under discussion. I now give the floor to the Legal Adviser for all our benefit who will read out the relevant Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. Madam Legal Adviser, you have the floor.

9. **Legal Adviser:**

Thank you, Mr President of the General Conference. Rule 75 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference entitled: "Adjournment of debate" provides as follows: "During the discussion of any question a Member State or Associate Member present may move adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Any such motion shall have precedence. In addition to the proposal of the motion one speaker may speak in favour of and one against the motion. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule". Thank you.

10. **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam Legal Adviser. As we have heard Rule 75 provides that in addition to the proposal of the motion one speaker may speak in favour of this motion and one may speak against. It seems that there is a point of order from the United States of America. You have the floor.

11. **United States of America:**

Thank you, Mr Chair. I do not think that the item has been formally submitted before the Board. You were about to recognize one of the Member States to submit the item and therefore it is our view that the item is not currently under discussion, and therefore the motion to postpone and close the debate was premature. We believe that it is important that the item first be introduced, at which point any other motions can be considered. Thank you.

12. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I think I will once again request the Legal Adviser not to re-read what is contained in terms of Rule 75 but to give us the correct interpretation of what is reflected in Rule 75 in an attempt to try and determine whether the intervention made by the United States of America can be carried forward. Thank you very much.

13. **Legal Adviser:**

Thank you Mr President. Rule 77 provides, as I announced at the outset, that during the discussion of any question a Member State or an Associate Member present may move adjournment. I think that as soon as the item has been open for discussion it is therefore legitimate at that point for a Member State or Associate Member to already move for adjournment of the debate. Therefore I think that the adjournment of the debate has been legitimately proposed. Thank you.

14. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, let us proceed with the motion to adjourn the debate. I was saying that in terms of these rules, in addition to the proposal of the motion one speaker may speak in favour of the motion while one may speak against. I will therefore give the floor, first to another member who supports the motion of adjournment and then thereafter to a member who is against this motion. The time limit for each speaker is three minutes. Thank you very much. I see that the Russian Federation would like to speak in favour of the motion. You now have the floor.

15. **Российская Федерация:**

Спасибо, господин Председатель. Российская Федерация поддерживает предложение Сербии.

16. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Can I invite the distinguished representative of Germany to speak against the motion?

17. **Germany:**

Thank you Mr President. Germany objects to a postponement of the decision concerning item 8.3. The Executive Board has given a clear recommendation after thorough deliberation and thought and we think the time is right to decide today. Thank you.

18. **The President:**

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. As I understand, the room is divided on this sensitive subject. I therefore propose that we proceed immediately to vote on this proposed motion for the adjournment of the debate to the next session of the General Conference. Let me remind you that according to Rule 83 the decision which will be voted on ... I see a point of order from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. You have the floor.

19. **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

Thank you Mr President. Under Rule 89 of the Rules of Procedure, Member States are permitted to explain their votes before or after voting. If we are going to vote on this procedural motion I wish to give an explanation of vote. Please tell me that I can do it before.

20. **The President:**

Thank you very much. May I request the Legal Adviser to just reflect briefly on that so that we can get a clear direction.

21. **Legal Adviser:**

Thank you Mr President. Rule 89 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference provides, and I quote: "The President may permit delegates to explain their votes either before or after the voting, except when the vote is taken by secret ballot. It further provides that the President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations." Thank you.

22. **The President:**

Thank you very much. That being the case, indeed I will exercise my discretion but I hope we limit our explanations please because we need to have progress and grant the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the latitude to explain their vote on this. You have two minutes for that.

23. **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

Thank you Mr President. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland opposes the postponement of the consideration of the membership of Kosovo. Mr President, in the 70 years that UNESCO has existed the General Conference has never refused to accept a member that has been recommended for admission by the Executive Board and it has never refused to consider such a request and therefore we would be establishing a terrible precedent today. Mr President the United Nations mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has said that this is a decision for the General Conference of UNESCO to take. The previous administrators of UNMIK have recommended that Kosovo be admitted to UNESCO. The International Court of Justice has declared that Kosovo's declaration of independence was fully compliant with all United Nations resolutions on the matter. Kosovo has been able to join the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the International Olympic Committee. Kosovo should be able to join UNESCO. We understand the point that is being made about dialogue, and that dialogue will be enhanced by Kosovo's membership of UNESCO. One final point – as a

European Union member, I wish to affirm that there is absolutely no link between the European Union dialogue and Kosovo's membership of UNESCO. They are not linked. All those countries who wish to vote in favour of Kosovo's membership, all those that wish to allow Kosovo to benefit from UNESCO's programmes, education, science and culture should vote against the motion to postpone. Thank you.

24. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Argentina has requested for the floor to explain its vote.

25. **Argentina:**

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente. La delegación argentina considera que la solicitud de Kosovo de ser admitido como miembro pleno de la UNESCO no debe prosperar ya que carece de sustento legal. De acuerdo a la resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad, Kósovo y Metohija es un territorio bajo administración de las Naciones Unidas que forma parte constitutiva de la República de Serbia. Es por eso que la República argentina no reconoce la Declaración Unilateral de Independencia realizada en 2008 por el Parlamento de Kósovo dado que considera que implica una violación al principio de soberanía y de integración territorial. Asimismo la mencionada resolución del Consejo de Seguridad establece un sistema de solución de controversias mediante un acuerdo mutuamente aceptado por las partes involucradas. En este sentido se están llevando a cabo negociaciones que, entendemos, deben finalizar antes de que la Conferencia tome tan importante decisión. La decisión sobre este tema que fue adoptada en el último consejo ejecutivo carece de legitimidad porque la constitución de la UNESCO establece claramente en su artículo 2.3 que este tipo de territorios deben ser admitidos en calidad de miembros asociados. La República argentina se opone categóricamente a la nación de Kósovo como miembro pleno de la organización. Gracias.

26. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellencies. Let me now call upon Indonesia, followed by Cuba to take the floor.

27. **Indonesia:**

Thank you very much, Mr President. This issue has polarized and divided the Member States of UNESCO. Hence, Indonesia seconds the motion proposed by Serbia for postponement. I thank you.

28. **The President:**

Thank you very much. The distinguished representative of Cuba.

29. **Cuba:**

Gracias Señor Presidente. Mi delegación desea expresar que la República de Cuba reitera su posición de respeto absoluto a los principios del derecho internacional consagrados en la carta de las Naciones Unidas, incluyendo el de la integridad territorial de los Estados. Cuba apoya de forma irrestricta la integridad territorial de la República de Serbia y no reconoce a la autoproclamada República de Kosovo como un estado independiente. Por tales motivos, mi delegación se opondrá al proyecto de resolución que recién ha sido presentado ante esta Conferencia General. Gracias.

30. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Before I call upon the next speaker, can I request the distinguished delegates to kindly indicate in case they would like to explain their votes, so that we can have a complete list of those who want to take the floor so that we can close the list and then exhaust it, and then get on with the business. Let me invite the Secretary to read the list that we have.

31. **Le Secrétaire:**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Les États membres qui ont demandé à expliquer leur vote sont la Serbie, la Fédération de Russie, les États-Unis d'Amérique, le Venezuela, l'Érythrée, l'Éthiopie, l'Uruguay, le Bénin, l'Espagne, l'ex République yougoslave de Macédoine, l'Albanie, le Belarus et le Costa Rica. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

32. **The President:**

Thank you very much. That is the list that we have established so far. Let me then invited the distinguished Representative of Serbia to take the floor. Excellency, you have the floor.

33. **Serbia:**

Mr President, the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland mentioned here the precedent and said that the Executive Board recommended this resolution and that never in the history of UNESCO, has a General Conference rejected such a proposal. For me, this precedent is a logical one because it never existed in the history of UNESCO that such a proposal has such a candidate because Kosovo is not a State. It is accorded to Resolution 1244, the territory administrated by United Nations. It is only logical to reject it. It was not logical just to support that and to recommend it at the Executive Board. So this precedence would be logical in the line of functioning of UNESCO and international law. Thank you.

34. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Sir. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

35.1 **Российская Федерация:**

Спасибо, господин Председатель. Во-первых, я хотела бы сказать, что несмотря на то, что мы не хотели открывать эти дебаты, мы все-таки их открыли. Но поскольку открыли, я тоже позволю себе выступить и отметить, что Резолюция Совета Безопасности ООН 1244 сохраняет силу в полном объеме в качестве обязательной для всей международно-правовой базы косовского урегулирования. Она предусматривает функционирование в Косово временных органов самоуправления, подконтрольных международному присутствию.

35.2 Как показало состоявшееся в августе 2015 г. заседание Совета Безопасности ООН по косовскому урегулированию, ситуация в этом Крае далека от стабильной и должна оставаться под пристальным

международным контролем. Таким образом, заявка на вступление Косово в ЮНЕСКО противоречит Резолюции Совета Безопасности ООН 1244 и представляется преждевременной.

35.3 Край Косово, находясь под управлением ООН, не может рассматриваться в качестве государства, обладающего правосубъектностью и, следовательно, претендовать на членство в международной организации. Само рассмотрение заявки противоречит основным принципам ЮНЕСКО, поскольку ведет к политизации этой ведущей гуманитарной организации и разрушает принятую в ней культуру принятия решений консенсусом. Спасибо за внимание.

36. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of the United States of America. You have the floor.

37.1 **United States of America:**

Thank you, Mr Chair. The United States believes strongly that postponing consideration on Kosovo's application for UNESCO membership serves no purpose. The arguments both for and against Kosovo's membership are not likely to change. As Deputy-Secretary Anthony Blinken stated in our national statement, there is an undeniable path for Kosovo membership in the Organization; a path which is not diverted and not blocked by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. This is not a question of recognition or non-recognition. Countries that do not recognize Kosovo have supported its membership in specialized United Nations agencies including the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

37.2 Moreover, the United Nations mission in Kosovo confirmed that Kosovo's application is quote – “solely for UNESCO and its organs to determine” – end quote. The European Union-facilitated Kosovo-Serbia dialogue for normalization of relations does not divert or block a path for UNESCO membership either because both parties committed in the dialogue principles to not block each other's progress on their respective European Union paths. The issue of Kosovo's admission to multilateral international organizations is not a subject of the dialogue, and completion of the dialogue is not a prerequisite for Kosovo's continued development and integration. With UNESCO membership, Kosovo's citizens would benefit from collaboration, shared-knowledge and best practices of the international community in education, sciences, culture, communication and information. Membership in UNESCO would also boost accountability and transparency in the preservation and conservation of the diverse cultural heritage represented in Kosovo including important Serbian Orthodox sites. Kosovo's application makes clear that it is willing and able to abide by the UNESCO Constitution to accept the obligations contained therein and to contribute to the expenses of the Organization. The Constitution of UNESCO is clear on this issue as well. Therefore, this General Conference should be given the opportunity now to vote on Kosovo's application to join this Organization. Thank you.

38. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor.

39. **República Bolivariana de Venezuela:**

Gracias Señor Presidente. En nombre del gobierno de la República bolivariana de Venezuela, deseo expresar nuestro rechazo a la solicitud de admisión de Kosovo como miembro de la UNESCO y, por tanto, expresar nuestro apoyo a la delegación de Serbia. Consideramos que Kosovo no es elegible como miembro de la UNESCO porque no es un estado independiente. En el caso de Kosovo, la secesión no cumple con las condiciones previas a la invocación del principio de la libre determinación tales como haber estado sujetos a un régimen de colonización o haber sido una República independiente. Efecto: según la resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU, Kosovo es parte de Serbia. Reconocerla como miembro de la UNESCO sería una clara violación del derecho internacional de la Carta de la ONU y de la Constitución de la UNESCO. En este sentido una posible admisión de Kosovo en la UNESCO crearía un precedente peligroso y negativo para todos los estados que enfrentan situaciones similares con otras entidades u otros territorios atentando contra la integridad territorial, la paz y la seguridad internacionales. Muchas gracias.

40. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I see a point of order from Germany.

41. **Germany:**

Thank you Mr President. The question from my side is are we discussing and deciding on the substance of item 8.3? Then we can continue the debate as it started or do we still have to decide about the Serbian motion concerning postponement? If it is postponement, which Germany clearly opposes, then the General Conference has to take an immediate decision about it and I propose to do it by a roll-call vote. On the substance, we would then debate afterwards and I would be happy to participate in this debate. Thank you.

42. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Before I react to that, let me recognize Albania. Please, you have the floor.

43. **Albania:**

Thank you Mr President. I would like to second what Germany just said. We are now debating on the substance on the item, and this is not the right place to do so. We are now under consideration of the motion of postponement and we would agree to go ahead with a roll-call vote. Thank you.

44. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your points of order raised, but the crux of the matter, ladies and gentlemen, is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland set the process in motion by requesting to take the floor to explain their vote. In terms of this motion on adjournment, a request that I, as President, granted and in all fairness, I am sure you will all agree with me that although the explanation of the vote has digressed into discussing the substance of the item that we are looking at, it is only fair that I grant the same opportunity to each and every Member State. Having

granted that opportunity to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, it will be procedurally unfair for the President to deny all the others to take the floor to then explain their vote on the motion to adjourn. I think it is only fair enough that we continue and continue quickly so that we can exhaust our list and then we vote by roll-call as has been requested. Is that fair enough? I think so. So let us proceed. Eritrea, you now have the floor.

45. **Eritrea:**

My delegation understands that the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo is bearing fruits. Eritrea thinks that the chance should be given for this dialogue to reach a mutually beneficial conclusion. Therefore, we support Serbia's suggestion to postpone the debate on the item of the inclusion of Kosovo to UNESCO to the next session of the General Conference. Thank you very much.

46. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me invite Ethiopia to take the floor.

47. **Ethiopia:**

Thank you, Mr President. Ethiopia does not recognize Kosovo. Negotiations between the parties are going on and this should be appreciated. Mutual consent will bring lasting peace for which UNESCO is mandated. This mutual consent for peace from all sides is very important. We support the postponement as proposed by Serbia. Thank you.

48. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me invite Uruguay to also explain their vote.

49. **Uruguay:**

Gracias Señor Presidente. Uruguay mantiene una posición de no reconocimiento a Kosovo. Nuestro país ha destacado la importancia del respeto al principio de integridad territorial de los estados como norma imperativa del Derecho Internacional. Dicho principio constituye un elemento central para la convivencia pacífica y la cooperación entre los estados miembros de la Comunidad Internacional. Uruguay ha apoyado la resolución presentada por Serbia en el marco de la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas en el año 2008, cuyo objetivo fue solicitar una opinión consultiva a la Corte Internacional de Justicia relativa a la declaración unilateral de independencia de Kosovo. Como resultado de la adopción de dicha resolución, la Corte emitió un dictamen en julio del 2010 mediante el cual se señala que el derecho internacional general no contempla prohibiciones sobre las declaraciones de independencia y, por tanto, la declaración del 17 de febrero de 2008 no viola el derecho internacional general, pero no juzgó si existe o no derecho de secesión. Asimismo en el 2010 Uruguay aprobó una nueva resolución presentada por Serbia en la Asamblea General de ONU, en la cual se acogía con beneplácito la disposición de la Unión Europea a facilitar un proceso de diálogo entre las partes: Serbia y Kosovo. En el entendido que este proceso de diálogo sería en sí mismo un factor para la paz, la seguridad y la estabilidad en la región, y el diálogo tendría por objetivo promover la cooperación, avanzar en el camino hacia la Unión Europea y mejorar la vida de la población. Muchas gracias Señor Presidente.

50. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Before I invite Benin to take the floor, let me invite the Secretary to read the list of speakers. Once again I am emphasizing, speakers who want to explain their vote to adjourn or not to adjourn let the Secretary read that list. It is fairly long. Excellency, it is fairly long.

51. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La liste des orateurs restants est la suivante : le Bénin, l'Espagne, l'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine, le Belize, la Guinée équatoriale, le Zimbabwe, la France, le Nicaragua, l'Estonie, l'Allemagne, l'Arabie saoudite, l'Albanie et Chypre.

52. **The President:**

Thank you very much. You know, like I said, it is a fairly long list. Are there any other Member States who would like to take the floor because I will be closing the list. Let the Secretary read the last additions.

53. **Le Secrétaire :**

Donc, Monsieur le Président, nous avons aussi relevé après l'Arabie saoudite, l'Albanie, Chypre, l'Autriche, le Costa Rica, la Chine, le Mexique et la République dominicaine.

54. **President**

Thank you very much. On that basis, the list of speakers is now closed.

55. **Bénin :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je crois qu'il y a une erreur au niveau du Secrétariat. Le Bénin n'a pas demandé à prendre la parole sur ce point. Merci.

56. **The President:**

Thank you very much for saving us two more minutes. We appreciate that. Indeed, we will take off Benin from the list. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Spain to take the floor. You have the floor, Sir.

57. **España:**

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente. España es favorable al aplazamiento del debate por varios motivos. En primer lugar, por sólidas razones de fondo que han sido señaladas por otras delegaciones. Ha sido mencionado el pleno respeto al principio de integridad territorial, también la plena vigencia de la resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas, así como la propia decisión del Tribunal Internacional de Justicia al respecto a la declaración unilateral de independencia, que no hace referencia a la estatalidad o no del territorio, sino a su correlación con dicha resolución. A estas razones de fondo se añaden muy importantes razones que nos llevan a favorecer un diálogo, no solamente un diálogo entre las partes, como ha sido también mencionado por varias delegaciones, hay que permitir que ese diálogo entre Pristina y Belgrado siga trayendo frutos positivos, pero también para lograr un mayor consenso, un mayor consenso como se acaba de demostrar en este mismo foro, que no existe hoy en día ya que las intervenciones

que ha sido hechas por anteriores delegados muestran que hay una división respecto a la solicitud de admisión de este territorio en la UNESCO. Muchísimas gracias Señor Presidente.

58. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to take the floor.

59. **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:**

Thank you very much, Mr President. I will briefly just remind us of what has been said as regards international law by my honourable colleague of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and restated by the United States of America. I would also recall that as regards the former Yugoslavia's disintegration, there came out seven States, and out of these seven States which are neighbours, and as neighbours we want a good neighbour, a prosperous neighbour. Of these neighbours, four of them recognize Kosovo, which means that in order to have regional stability we have the recognition of neighbours: Slovenia, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Montenegro. I would remind you as well that Kosovo is out of UNESCO. If we adjourn now, we will deprive Kosovo's citizens and children of education, of the programme which will enhance also the capacity of the new States, which will enhance cooperation between States, as stated in the process of European Union integration. European Union integration means no borders. European Union integration means elevation to the status of a free democratic society. As Serbia has applied for European Union integration, Kosovo has just signed a stabilization and association agreement. Now we hear countries that have already lost in the Executive Board repeating all the same arguments over and over again, countries which I am sorry to say are successors of Tolstoy, successors of Cervantes and Mandela, great men. Here we are discussing universal values not temporary conjecturally *raison d'état*. Thank you.

60. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Sir. I will now invite the distinguished representative of Belize. You now have the floor, Sir.

61. **Belize:**

Thank you, Mr President. Belize opposes the postponement of item 8.3. Belize totally supports the resolution of Kosovo to become a member of UNESCO. We, as a people of peace and love, need to include all peoples because as I said in my statement during last week, "we are the world". We need to respect people to determine their own future and stop being the big police to suppress and intimidate others. When I see human beings I see more similarities than differences. I see hairs and feet and legs and arms and we wear clothes and shoes and regardless of creed, race, colour, religion or political affiliation. So we need not fear anyone. Kosovo becoming a member of UNESCO can only become an asset to strengthen us and not a deficit to weaken UNESCO. So Belize co-sponsored this resolution and we are proud of it. Thank you, Mr President.

62. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Sir. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Equatorial Guinea to take the floor. You have the floor, Sir.

63. **Guinea Ecuatorial:**

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente. Señor Presidente Guinea Ecuatorial considera que es prematura la admisión de Kosovo en el seno de la UNESCO ya que hasta tanto sigue el diálogo entre las partes bajo los auspicios de las Naciones Unidas y del Consejo de Seguridad mediante su resolución 1244 que todavía sigue vigente. Guinea Ecuatorial considera que sería un precedente equívoco de aceptar su admisión ya que va en contra de la integridad territorial de los estados que preconiza la carta de las naciones unidas. Muchas gracias

64. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Zimbabwe to take the floor. You have the floor.

65. **Zimbabwe:**

Thank you Chairperson. Zimbabwe supports the proposal by Serbia to postpone the debate. We feel that this debate on this vote will polarize our Organization and that there are other bodies within UNESCO and other methods by which Kosovo can benefit, and at the moment it is not the right time to vote on membership. We want to give time to dialogue and all the efforts that are being made to build peace which is what UNESCO stands for. Thank you.

66. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of France to take the floor. Your Excellency you have the floor.

67. **France :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La France a voté en faveur de la recommandation du Conseil exécutif dont elle avait d'ailleurs co-signé le projet. Elle a également co-signé le projet de résolution qui est, ce matin, soumis à cette Conférence générale. La France est contre la motion d'ajournement et pour l'admission du Kosovo comme le 196^e État membre de l'UNESCO. Nous pensons, en effet, qu'en droit, rien ne s'y oppose, ni la résolution du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies 1244 ni l'avis de la Cour internationale de justice ni le droit international général. Nous pensons, en outre, qu'en opportunité, la mission du Kosovo est de l'intérêt bien compris de toutes les parties comme de l'UNESCO et de tous ses États membres. Je vous remercie.

68. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of Nicaragua to take the floor.

69. **Nicaragua:**

Gracias Señor Presidente. La Delegación de la republica de Nicaragua respalda la moción de Serbia de aplazar este debate. Hay que dar espacio al diálogo entablado y respetar la integralidad del territorio serbio. Sería grave sentar precedentes de incorporar a una región de un país soberano a este organismo. Gracias presidente.

70. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Let me now invite the distinguished representative of Estonia to take the floor.

71. **Estonia:**

Thank you, Mr President. Estonia clearly opposes the adjournment and I am not going to reread all the arguments which have been put forward about the statehood of Kosovo. I think the fact is that a majority of the world's countries have acknowledged Kosovo and there is no legal obstacle in fact to do so. If we are serious about the protection of heritage in Kosovo, I am sure we can do it better when Kosovo is a member of this valuable Organization which can provide excellent support and assistance in organizing this protection and we think it is time to move forward. Thank you.

72. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Germany to take the floor.

73. **Germany:**

Thank you Mr President. Thank you for giving me once more the floor although I have not asked for it because I have already spoken against the adjournment. Let me take this opportunity to say that what has just been said by Estonia, France and Macedonia and other countries against the postponement, we fully subscribe. Thank you.

74. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. I thought you would have stopped the match earlier if you did not ask for the floor. But nevertheless you restated your position again. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia to take the floor.

٧٥ المملكة العربية السعودية :

شكراً سيدي الرئيس، المملكة العربية السعودية تؤيد المداخلة الحكيمة التي سبقنا بها سفير مقدونيا. والمبررات التي ساقها، نحن نصوت لكوسوفو من منطلقات ثقافية وتعليمية أكثر مما هي سياسية كلنا يفهم الأوضاع الصعبة التي تعيشها المسألة الثقافية والتراثية أيضاً المواقع التراثية سواء الإسلامية أو الأرثوذكسية في كوسوفو وبالتالي فإن قبولنا لكوسوفو في منظمة اليونسكو سيسهل مراجعة هذه الأوضاع ومحاولة تحسينها. أما ما يشار بأن كوسوفو ليست عضو في الأمم المتحدة فأذكر الزملاء بان هناك دول أخرى هم أعضاء في منظمة اليونسكو قبل أن يكونوا أعضاء في الأمم المتحدة وبالتالي هذه ليست سابقة لكوسوفو. السابقة ستكون كما ذكر السفير البريطاني بأننا نكسر هيبة قرار المجلس التنفيذي الذي صوّت لإدراج كوسوفو كدولة ونأتي في المؤتمر العام لننقد القرار وستكون هذه هي المرة الأولى لذا نحن المملكة العربية السعودية تعارض التأجيل وتؤيد انضمام كوسوفو لليونسكو وشكراً.

76. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Cyprus to take the floor.

77. **Cyprus:**

Thank you Mr President. Very briefly I would like to support the request by Serbia to postpone this issue to the next session of the General Conference. We consider the issue to be premature and counter to Security Council Resolution 1244. Furthermore it is obvious that this decision is divisive and we believe that time should be given to dialogue. Thank you.

78. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Austria to take the floor.

79. **Austria:**

Thank you, Mr President. Austria is very close to Serbia and Kosovo. We have excellent relations with both countries. Cooperation, dialogue and membership in international organizations, including in UNESCO, contributes to the development, progress and stability of a country and a region. That is why Austria supports Kosovo's membership in UNESCO and is against the postponement. Rejecting Kosovo means rejecting dialogue and cooperation with Pristina, rejecting the aspirations of youth and cultural educational communities of Kosovo, rejecting development opportunities and also rejecting Kosovo's commitment to take advantage of UNESCO's know-how in heritage protection. It is rejecting also the idea that like us all Kosovo has a right to a voice here at UNESCO. Cooperation, support, dialogue and integration are what we should aim for, not isolation and rejection. That is why Austria is in favour of Kosovo's membership and against postponement.

80. **The President:**

Thank you very much Sir. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Belarus to take the floor.

81. **Беларусь:**

Спасибо, господин Председатель, что дали мне слово. Я думаю, курьез с Бенином возник как раз из-за того, что Беларусь записывалась в прения, и немножко неправильно записали. Беларусь полностью поддерживает территориальную целостность Республики Сербия, и поэтому мы считаем необходимым поддержать предложение Сербии о переносе рассмотрения вопроса о вступлении Косова на следующую сессию Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО. Спасибо.

82. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I know that Albania you took the floor deferring the motion. I take it that you want to take the floor to explain your vote. You have the floor now.

83. **Albania:**

Yes, thank you Mr President. Albania opposes the motion of adjournment proposed by Serbia protesting that it would harm the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo in Brussels. Mr President, Kosovo and Serbia will continue their dialogue regardless of the decision of UNESCO. The General Assembly of the United Nations has mandated the European Union to normalize relations between the two countries and these talks have produced results. Dialogue is a fundamental tool that should not be used to block Kosovo and to isolate it, but to allow it to better integrate into the international community. Postponement of Kosovo's membership would only harden dialogue in Brussels and on the contrary we are convinced that membership of Kosovo in UNESCO will only strengthen the cooperation in the region and help dialogue. Mr President, the issue of Kosovo's accession to UNESCO is ready now for decision and it is timely. It is very unlikely that UNESCO Member States' positions would be any different in two years' time. We should not deny the benefits of membership to Kosovo's population any longer because it would run counter to our joint interest in strengthening cooperation in south-east Europe and strengthening the protection of cultural heritage. Therefore, we invite all the countries that support Kosovo's bid to vote against postponement. Thank you.

84. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Can I then invite the distinguished representative of Costa Rica to take the floor.

85. **Costa Rica:**

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente. Costa Rica reconoció la independencia de la República de Kosovo el 17 de febrero del 2008, fue el primer país del mundo en hacerlo, mediante aquella manifestación nuestro país acepto la personalidad del estado con todos sus derechos y obligaciones mediante aquella manifestación también se asevero la igualdad entre los estados, igualdad de derechos e igualdad de capacidad para ejercerlos, un pilar de la política exterior costarricense es el fortalecimiento del derecho internacional y el desarrollo del multilateralismo efectivo, que requiere de la participación de todos los actores interesados y en particular de los estados. Resultaría incoherente negar esa posibilidad de contribución a un estado al que se le ha reconocido en pie de igualdad, la activa participación en los foros multilaterales resulta especialmente importante tratándose de los temas centrales de UNESCO, Educación, Ciencia y Cultura, la mejor manera para que Kosovo acepte sus desafíos en estos campos es que la comunidad internacional lo incorpore como estado en su pleno derecho, en concordancia con las ideas anteriores, Costa Rica apoya la solicitud de Kosovo para ser admitido como miembro de la UNESCO y apoya que este tema sea tratado en la presente Conferencia General y no esta a favor de un aplazamiento, muchas gracias

86. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of China to take the floor.

87. **中国:**

谢谢主席先生。中国赞成推迟审议, 因为我们认为, 鉴于联合国安理会就科索沃问题已经做出相关决议, 在目前情况下讨论接纳科索沃作为教科文组织会员国的条件尚不成熟。接纳科索沃不利于科索沃问题当事方业已开展的务实和建设性的对话进程, 也无助于教科文组织发挥维护世界和平与安全、促进可持续发展的积极作用。谢谢主席。

88. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me then invite the distinguished representative of Mexico to take the floor.

89. **México:**

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente, México apoya la moción para el aplazamiento de Kosovo como estado miembro de la Organización de Naciones Unidas para la educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura. En opinión de mi gobierno la solicitud de admisión no es consistente con la resolución 12-44 1999 del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas la propuesta de reconocer a Kosovo como parte de las Naciones Unidas mediante su admisión a la UNESCO prejuzga además las conversaciones que mantienen las partes y que el gobierno de México espera que arriben a buen puerto en beneficio de la estabilidad de la región, muchas gracias Señor Presidente.

90. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Finally, ladies and gentlemen, the Dominican Republic, to explain their vote. You have the floor.

91. **República Dominicana:**

Gracias Señor Presidente es la República Dominicana está en contra del aplazamiento de la entrada de Kosovo a la Organización y está a favor de que está treinta y ochoava Conferencia reconozca el tema y se pronuncie sobre el mismo Nosotros estamos de acuerdo con Reino Unido que sería un mal precedente el dejar de lado una recomendación explícita del Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO y sobre todo estamos convencidos que el diálogo entre Serbia y Kosovo va a ser profundamente favorecido por la entrada de Kosovo a la UNESCO, es la entrada de Kosovo a la UNESCO va a garantizar una mejoría en las condiciones que va a tener ese diálogo, por nosotros es esencial que Kosovo desde la UNESCO y con el apoyo de la UNESCO pueda favorecerse este diálogo, muchas gracias.

92. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Having exhausted the lengthy list we will now proceed with the roll call vote. Can I then invite the Secretary, but before I do that let me remind you that according to Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference the decision which will be voted on requires a simple majority of the members present and voting. May I also remind you that in accordance with Rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure the expression "Members present and voting" means Members casting an affirmative or a negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered "non-voters". The Secretary will now call on each Member State in French alphabetical order, beginning with Angola whose name has been drawn by lot at the 196th session of the Executive Board as the first member in that order for this General Conference. In addition, following the decision taken by the General Conference on Saturday, the names of the nine Member States which were declared as having no right to vote in this General Conference will not be called upon to vote. The voting Members, which Mr Secretary will call on, shall vote on whether they are in favour of the proposal to

adjourn the debate on this until the next General Conference, meaning the 39th session of the General Conference. Those in favour should loudly say “yes”, those against should again loudly say “no”. Member States that wish to abstain must state their intent equally. Finally, I wish to remind you that, in accordance with Rule 88, after the President has announced the beginning of voting, no one shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The vote begins now. Mr Secretary, please call on each voting Member State.

93. **Bahamas:**

Bahamas wishes to vote “no”. Bahamas wishes to change its vote from a “yes” to a “no”.

94. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Can we please have some order. I will have to request the Legal Adviser to carefully examine the request from the Bahamas and see whether that is legally permissible. So Madam Legal Adviser you have the floor now.

95. **Legal Adviser:**

Thank you Mr President. After a vote has been made during a roll call vote it is not possible to change it. Thank you.

96. **The President:**

Thank you very much. So Bahamas, in terms of the Rules, once you have given your vote the vote is taken and therefore it cannot be changed. Thank you very much. That is the ruling unfortunately.

97. **Bahamas:**

We drew your attention here during the vote. We thought that this was a recognition to draw your attention immediately afterwards we discussed it and found out that it was a misunderstanding of the question. So we raised this, and did not interrupt.

98. **The President:**

I am very sorry, distinguished representative of Bahamas. The vote has already been taken. Legally speaking, I do hear your explanations but in terms of our doing things right, which we have an obligation to do, your vote will be taken as you initially indicated to us. Thank you very much. Let the Secretariat now tally all the votes.

99. **The President:**

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. I am sure at this particular point in time I will have your attention. The votes have now been counted. I now give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference to announce the results.

100. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Mr President. The number of Members present and voting is 170. The number of votes in favour is 59, the number of votes against is 89, the number of abstentions is 22. The majority required is 75. Thank you, Mr President.

101. **The President:**

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. That outcome clearly indicates that the requested adjournment is not carried and that being the case we need to go back to considering the draft resolution on this particular issue. At a particular moment in time when the motion of adjournment came I was on the verge of inviting one of the co-sponsors for the admission to introduce the draft resolution. I do recognize Albania. You have the floor for three minutes. Thank you very much.

102.1 **Albania:**

Mr President, Albania has presented the draft resolution on the admission of Kosovo to UNESCO. This request is about making a further step away from the dividing lines and walls of the past. It is about inclusiveness. It is our responsibility as good neighbours to always strengthen cooperation as an instrument to foster security. South-east Europe is today a much more stable, developed and integrated region than ever before. Kosovo's successful membership in major international bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank and regional organizations have given a true meaning to the idea of regional cooperation. Most recently the signing of the stabilization and association agreement with the European Union has firmly anchored Kosovo into European waters.

102.2 In this regard I would like to draw your attention to the open letter recently sent by former United Nations administrators of Kosovo clearly supportive of Kosovo's membership to UNESCO. They testify to the country's tremendous progress thanks to the actions of the United Nations. Many are also the voices in our region that express a clear support for Kosovo's bid. In fact many of those voices are from Serbia, such as the President of the Helsinki Committee, highlighting that, first, the integration of Kosovo into the international community has brought peace, stability and development in the region; that second, Albanians and Serbs alike deserve the chance to better interact with others and contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding and respect. UNESCO could help Kosovo's people to address social and ethical challenges, foster cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

102.3 Kosovo's membership in UNESCO will no doubt create additional support for better dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. A vote in favour of Kosovo joining UNESCO is not a vote that will bring politics into UNESCO's work. It is not a request for recognition of its statehood; it is not a request to join the United Nations. Kosovo's request to join UNESCO is first of all about promoting universal values through education, science and culture. Secondly, it is a vote that would grant Kosovo and its people full access to the valuable work of UNESCO, and finally, it is a vote that would support UNESCO's mission. Therefore, the real question today is do we want to embrace a new member amongst us in order to further promote peace and security, education in collaboration, human rights and religious harmony in a region which until recently was plagued by wars, strife and tensions. The answer can only be a resounding yes. Dear friends, Albania calls on all UNESCO Member States to vote in favour of the request by Kosovo to join the UNESCO family. Thank you.

103. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency for the introduction. Is there any other Member State that wishes to take the floor? Serbia please.

104. **Serbia:**

I will take this opportunity to recall once again that under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 Kosovo and Metohija constitute the territory of the Republic of Serbia under the interim administration of the United Nations where the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) constitutes to be active today. Therefore it is not a State. All this testifies to the fact that the application for admission by the so-called Republic of Kosovo is unprecedented in UNESCO's history thus far. By opposing this act, Serbia is defending international law, the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Security Council as the supreme authority for safeguarding international peace and security. These principles must be fully respected, for only in this way will the existing system of international relations found in the United Nations Charter be preserved and the universal character of international law maintained. We call for a roll call vote on the proposed draft resolution, and please vote against.

105. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I see that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has requested the floor. You have the floor.

106. **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

Thank you Mr President. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is pleased that the previous motion to postpone consideration failed. We would like to note that there would be something very strange about a world where Kosovo was able to be a member of the International Olympic Committee but not a member of the Organization that is against doping, where Kosovo would be able to be a member of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which deal with economic policy but not a member of an organization like UNESCO which helps them deal with social policies. So we will vote in favour of Kosovo's membership. Mr President, I propose to ask you now to close the debate. I think we heard all the arguments and to go straight to the roll call vote.

107. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Is the proposal seconded to close the debate? It is indeed seconded. Thank you very much.

108. *A vote by roll-call is taken. The results are as follows:*

Pour:

Afghanistan, Albanie, Allemagne; Andorre, Australie, Autriche, Bahamas, Bahreïn, Belgique, Belize; Benin; Brunéi Darussalam, Bulgarie, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chine, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatie, Danemark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Émirats arabes unis, Estonie, ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine, Fidji, Finlande, France, Gabon, Gambie, Ghana, Grenade, Guinée, Guyana, Haïti, Honduras, Hongrie, Îles Cook, Îles Salomon, Irlande, Islande, Italie, Jordanie, Koweït, Lesotho, Lettonie, Libéria, Libye, Lituanie, Luxembourg, Malaisie, Malawi, Malte, Monaco, Monténégro, Nauru, Niger, Norvège, Nouvelle-Zélande; Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée, Pays-Bas, Portugal, Qatar, République Dominicaine, République tchèque, République-Unie de Tanzanie, Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et Irlande du Nord, Rwanda, Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis, Saint-Marin, Sainte-Lucie, Samoa, Sénégal, Sierra Leone, Slovénie, Somalie, Soudan, Suède, Suisse, Tchad, Thaïlande, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turquie, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Yemen.

Contre: Afrique du Sud, Angola, Arabie saoudite, Argentine, Arménie, Belarus, Bolivie, Botswana, Brésil, Chili, Chypre, Congo, Cuba, Équateur, Émirats, Espagne, Éthiopie, Fédération de Russie, Géorgie, Guatemala, Guinée équatoriale, Inde, Indonésie, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Liban, Maroc, Maurice, Mexique, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibie, Nicaragua, Ouganda, Palestine, Paraguay, Philippines, République de Moldova, République démocratique du Congo, République démocratique populaire lao, République populaire démocratique de Corée, Serbie, Soudan du Sud, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Slovaquie, République arabe syrienne, République bolivarienne du Venezuela, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

Abstention: Algérie, Bangladesh, Barbade, Bhoutan, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Burundi, Cameroun, Colombie, Égypte, Grèce, Guinée-Bissau, Jamaïque, Japon, Kenya, Mali, Népal, Nigéria, Pérou, Pologne, République centrafricaine, République de Corée, Roumanie, Saint-Vincent-et-les-Grenadines, Seychelles, Singapour, Trinité-et-Tobago, Tunisie, Viet Nam, Zambie.

Droit de vote suspendu: Antigua and Barbuda, Comoros, Dominique, Israël, Kiribati, Micronésie, Niue, Sao Tome and Principe, and the United States of America.

Absent: Azerbaïdjan, Cabo Verde, Cambodge, Îles Marshall, Iran, Iraq, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritanie, Mongolie, Ouzbékistan, Swaziland, Tadjikistan, Turkménistan, Ukraine.

109. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. The Secretariat will now proceed and tally the votes. So we have to patiently wait for them. I am sitting here and say that we are punishing ourselves, because in future we need a better system where we do the voting electronically. Then you are done and you have the results. But I believe we will be improving in the near future.

110. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Can I have again your absolute attention, Excellencies. The votes have now been counted. I now give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference to announce the results.

111. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Mr President. Number of Members present and voting: 142; number of votes in favour: 92; number of votes against: 50; number of abstentions: 29; majority required: 95. Thank you.

112. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Can I have your attention once again, Excellencies. I know that you are still trying to absorb the outcome of the vote, but can I have your attention. Ladies and gentlemen, the General Conference has thus voted against the adoption of the draft resolution that is advanced in document 38 C/Plen.DR.1. That is now the decision of this session of the General Conference. Ladies and gentlemen, we have thus come to the end of our deliberations this morning. May I remind you again that the plenary will meet this afternoon at 5.30 p.m. to hear the addresses from His Excellency, Mr Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and His Excellency, Mr Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde. May I request all of you to be here in your seats by 5.15 p.m. so that we can welcome the distinguished and honourable guests. *The meeting is now adjourned.* Thank you very much. The vote is now finished, and the Secretariat is counting the votes.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.