



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organisation
des Nations Unies
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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Executive Board
Conseil exécutif
执行局

Consejo Ejecutivo

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Actas resumidas

Краткие отчеты

المحاضر المختصرة

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(*Chair of the Programme and External Relations
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(Chair of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners- NGP)

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Mr. Ram Babu DHAKAL

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Sweden

Representative

Ms Amelie Von ZWEIGBERGK

Alternates

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Ms Frida GUSTAFSSON
Ms Kerstin LUNDMAN
Mr Per MAGNUSSON
Ms Julia LODÉN

Thailand

Representative

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Alternates

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Ms Churairat SANGBOONNUM
Mr Pramote DUANG-IM
Ms Nattinee PROMPRASIT
Ms Supranee KHAMYUANG

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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Mr Agron BUDJAKU

Alternate

Mr Afrim JASHARI

Togo

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Alternates

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Alternates

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Ukraine

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Ms Anna SEGALL (Legal Adviser)

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and other members of the Secretariat

AGENDA

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- 1 Agenda and timetable of work
- 2 Approval of the summary records of the 195th session
- 3 Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board

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 - 4.I Programme Implementation Report (PIR) (1 January-31 December 2014)
 - 4.II Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37 C/5) as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited), Budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited)
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 - 5.IV **Management issues**

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FIRST MEETING

Monday 13 April 2015 at 10.10 a.m.

Chair: Mr Amr

OPENING OF THE 196th SESSION

Opening of the session by the Chair of the Executive Board

١،١ رئيس المجلس التنفيذي النص الكامل:

السيد هاو بنغ رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا المديرية العامة، السيدات والسادة أعضاء المجلس، السيدات والسادة الحضور، يسعدني أن أرحب بكم في مستهل أعمال الدورة السادسة والتسعين بعد المائة للمجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة اليونسكو. هذه الدورة هي الثالثة منذ انتهاء الدورة السابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام للمنظمة التي انعقدت في تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٣. وكما تعلمون فإن دورة الربيع التي تسبق انعقاد المؤتمر العام هي أهم دورات المجلس على الإطلاق، حيث يتم خلالها الاتفاق على الموضوعات التي سيتم إقرارها خلال المؤتمر العام مثل الميزانية والبرامج التي ستنفذها المنظمة خلال العامين القادمين. وبالإضافة إلى ذلك، تتميز دورات المجلس هذا العام بطابع خاص حيث نحتفل بالذكرى السبعين لتأسيس هذه المنظمة العريقة التي ألقى عليها مؤسسوها بمسؤولية كبيرة وهي "بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر". وبإلها من مسؤولية سامية وعظيمة هدفها الارتقاء بالإنسان والحفاظ عليه. الإنسان الذي هو مصدر الإبداع ومحرك الحياة. وعليه، أرحو أن تكون هناك مساحة خلال هذه الدورة والدورة القادمة لهذا المجلس كي نتناقش ونفكر سوياً في الدور المستقبلي لليونسكو في ضوء تجربتها الطويلة التي استمرت لمدة سبعين عاماً وبما يتناسب مع المتغيرات المتسارعة التي نشهدها خلال هذه المرحلة الدقيقة.

١،٢ ولعلني بهذه المناسبة أسمح لنفسي اليوم بأن أشارككم بعض ما يشغلني، وإني على يقين تام بأن ما يشغلني يشغلكم جميعاً. ففي لحظة علمنا بخبر هجوم مسلح على جامعة أو مدرسة أو تدمير عمدي لمنحف أو موقع أثري أو الاعتداء على روح إنسان بسبب فكره أو عقيدته، أجد نفسي أتساءل بشكل تلقائي: ما هو دورنا؟ وكيف يمكن لمنظمتنا أن تواجه تحديات العصر الذي نعيش فيه؟ وأين نحن من هذه التحديات التي تحيط بنا من جميع الجهات؟ وكيف نعد أنفسنا والأجيال القادمة لمنع تكرار هذه الحوادث؟ وما يؤلمني أن البعض يحاول تفادي الإجابة على هذه التساؤلات، أو يتفادى البحث والدراسة بشكل متعمق مبرراً ذلك بالقول بضعف الإمكانيات أو مصادرها المالية، أو يكتفي بصدور رسالة تنديد أو إدانة مع كل حدث، ويدخل الحدث دائرة النسيان إلى أن نواجه بحدث جديد مماثل فنطرح نفس التساؤلات، ويتكرر ذات المشهد. ولعل إثارة التساؤلات بين الحين والآخر هو مظهر من مظاهر محاولتنا للبحث عن الحقيقة. والتساؤل معنا أننا نكثر ونهتم، وإلا لما نتساءل؟ وهذا ليس هو حال اليوم، ولكنني وجدت أن ظاهرة طرح التساؤلات تظهر على السطح بين الحين والآخر. ويمكنني أن أسوق هنا ما قاله باولو بيريدو كارنيزو: "إن من رسالة اليونسكو أن نتساءل دائماً".

١،٣ وفي محاولة مني لفهم الواقع والتوصل إلى بعض الإجابات على التساؤلات التي نطرحها على أنفسنا، وجدت نفسي مدفوعاً إلى البحث عن سبب المنادة بتأسيس هذه المنظمة. ففي بعض الأحيان، يتطلب فهم الحاضر الرجوع إلى الماضي أملياً أن يساعدنا في فك الشفرة الكودية (إنجاز لي استخدام هذا التعبير) الخاصة بهذه المنظمة التي تصبو دائماً من خلال برامجها وأنشطتها إلى الارتقاء بسلوك الإنسان وتحقيق التنمية لبني البشر. وقد قادني البحث إلى الرجوع إلى لحظة انطلاق فكرة تأسيس هذه المنظمة وما عبر عنه من سعي إلى ذلك. فقد بدأت المنادة بتأسيس هذا الكيان الدولي في ظروف غاية في التعقيد دولياً، وخلال مرحلة كانت من أصعب المراحل في تاريخ العالم، ألا وهي فترة الحرب العالمية الثانية. ومن المدهش أن المنادة بتأسيس هذه المنظمة تعود إلى عام ١٩٤٢ بمدينة لندن بينما كانت هذه المدينة تعيش تحت صوت القنابل ودوي المدافع. وعادة في مثل هذه الظروف يأتي من يقول ولم العجلة؟ دع الحرب تضع أوزارها أولاً ثم نفكر في ما سنفعل، إلا أن هذا، لحسن الحظ، لم يحدث، حيث عقد الآباء المؤسسون من السياسة والقانونيين

والمفكرين والفلاسفة والكتاب والباحثين اجتماعاتهم ولم ييخلو بأوقاتهم وطاقاتهم لوضع الفكرة موضع التنفيذ.

١،٤ واتضح لي أن الباعث الأساسي على تأسيس المنظمة كان تحقيق "التعاون الفكري". وهنا، أود أن أعيد على مسامعكم هذه العبارة، "التعاون الفكري". وهذا ما نادى به آنذاك فرنسا بدعم من الصين وعدد من دول أمريكا اللاتينية. ولعل ذلك كان هو السبب في أن تقوم منظمتنا على أكتاف "المعهد الدولي للتعاون الفكري" الذي أنشئ في باريس عام ١٩٢٥، باعتباره الأداة التنفيذية لتحقيق التعاون الفكري في ظل منظومة عصبة الأمم. فقد كان هذا المعهد بمثابة "يونسكو عصبة الأمم". وكان هذا المعهد يضم كوكبة من العلماء والرواد في مجال الفكر. وتساءلت عما هو المقصود بعبارة "التعاون الفكري" وما أهمية هذه العبارة؟ ووجدت عدة تفسيرات لهذه العبارة من بينها ما قاله جورج بيدو، وزير خارجية فرنسا، عندما نادى بتأسيس هذه المنظمة، إذ قال إن ذلك يعد "الضرورة الباقية لإضافة نقطة ارتكاز ثالثة إلى حجري الأساس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي". كما ذهب بول فاليري إلى القول: "إننا إذا منحنا العقل مكاناً أرحب وسلطاناً حقيقياً أكبر في شؤون هذا العالم، فإن هذا خلق بأن يزيد من فرص هذا العالم في الانتعاش وبسرعة أكبر". وفي ذات الإطار أقتبس ما جاء في كلمة رئيس وزراء بريطانيا في ذلك الحين "كليمينت أتلي" التي ألقاها بمناسبة انعقاد المؤتمر الدولي للعمل على تأسيس منظمة اليونسكو حيث قال: "إن شعوب العالم اليوم أشبه بالجزر التي تتبادل فيما بينها نداءات ترسلها عبر محيطات من سوء التفاهم. ولقد قال المثل القديم "اعرف نفسك" ولكننا نقول الآن "اعرف جارك" لأن جازنا اليوم هو العالم بأكمله"، انتهى الاقتباس. ووجدت نفسي أتفق مع ما قاله، إذ شعرت أنه يعبر عن حالنا الراهن.

١،٥ السيدات والسادة، لقد خرجت هذه المنظمة إلى عالم النور حاملة رسالة من أهم رسائل الإنسانية، ألا وهي بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر. وإذا ما وضعنا ذلك في الاعتبار، وفي ضوء السبب الرئيسي الذي سعى إليه مؤسسوها وهو تحقيق "التعاون الفكري"، فإن ذلك يجعلني أقول وبكل ثقة إن هذه الحصون التي نسعى إلى تشييدها، ونستمر في السعي إلى تشييدها، تُؤسس على "الفكر" باعتباره حجر الزاوية لتشييد هذه الحصون. إن عالمنا اليوم في حاجة ماسة إلى إعمال العقل، وإلى أن يقودنا هذا الفكر بشكل مستدير إلى تحقيق الإبداع والتطور والتنمية. ويجب علينا أن نعمل على تحقيق التعاون الفكري، ليس فقط فيما بيننا هنا داخل اليونسكو، وإنما يجب أن تكون رسالة تسود العالم. وقد يقول البعض كيف لمثل هذا التعاون أن يتحقق في ظل وجود اختلافات في وجهات النظر بين الثقافات إزاء الموضوعات المختلفة، وهذا قول محل نظر وقد لا يكون الغرض من جانب من يروجونه إلا محاولة منهم كي يسود الفكر المتطرف ويقودنا إلى موجات من الإرهاب الأعمى في أرجاء المعمورة. وإني على يقين بأن ما يجمعنا أكثر بكثير جداً مما يفرقنا. وإن علينا أن نوحّد الرؤى ونعاون فكرياً لمواجهة من يسعون إلى بث روح العنف والتطرف والحض على الكراهية بين الشعوب. إن عدونا المشترك هو التطرف والإرهاب، ولكن هذا العدو لا يهاجم أي إقليم أو دولة من الخارج، وإنما يسعى إلى التوغل داخل مجتمعاتنا ليحاربتنا في عقر دارنا. ولست بحاجة هنا إلى أن أسوق عدد الأحداث المؤسفة التي وقعت خلال الأشهر الستة الماضية منذ انتهاء دورتنا السابقة ضد المؤسسات التعليمية والثقافية في كل قارات العالم، فالأرقام مؤسفة والمؤشرات خطيرة. وأين نحن مما رده قادة الفكر في العالم عبر العصور. فهي "فولتير" يقول في القرن الثامن عشر "قد اختلف معك في الرأي، ولكنني على استعداد للموت دفاعاً عن حقك في أن تبدي رأيك". كما قال في موضع آخر "كن شديد التسامح مع من خالفك الرأي، فإن لم يكن رأيه كل الصواب فلا تكن أنت كل الخطأ بتبشك برأيك". وكما قال الفيلسوف ابن رشد في تعليقه على ما ذكره الحكيم أرسطو: "من العدل أن يأتي الرجل من الحجج لخصومه يمثل ما يأتي به لنفسه وأن يقبل لهم من الحجج النوع الذي يقبله لنفسه". ويقول غاندي "عليك أن تكون أنت التغيير الذي تريده للعالم".

١،٦ السيدات والسادة، إن الجمود هو مصدر التطرف الفكري. وعلى النقيض فإن معارضة النظر في كل الأمور هو أهم مفاتيح التقدم. ومن أجل ما يمكن الاسترشاد به هنا هو ما قاله العالم العربي ابن النفيس: "إذا تساوت الأذهان والهمم فمتأخر كل صناعة خير من متقدمها". فليعبنا أن نظهر إلى

المشكلة بعين الطائر. وعلينا أن ننظر إلى المشهد من جميع زواياها بنظرة تتسم بالتحديث. وعلينا أن ننظر إلى واقعنا بحكمة. وعلينا أن نجد صيغاً متجددة للحوار بما يتناسب وطبيعة وآليات العصر ونوعية التحديات. وعلينا أن نتحمل مسؤوليتنا تجاه الأجيال الحاضرة والقادمة بأن نهيئ البيئة المواتية ليس فقط لضمان حرية التعبير عن الرأي وإنما أيضاً لضمان أن ما يتم التعبير عنه لا يُساء فهمه أو لا يُستغل تفسيره لتدمير مجتمعاتنا وعلما ذاتياً. وعلينا العمل بلا كلل ودون توقف قبل أن يمضي الوقت ونصبح عاجزين فعلاً عن مواجهة الأمر بالعقل والمنطق، وقبل أن تسود لغة العنف واستخدام القوة. وعلينا أن ننشر ثقافة السلام والتسامح. وعلينا أن نعزز التنوع الثقافي كحق وواجب. وعلينا أن نعيد النظر في مناهج التعليم التي تُدرّس للتلاميذ في المدارس، سواء من حيث الأسلوب أو المنهج. وعلينا أن نتقارب أكثر فأكثر. وعلينا أن نعود إلى رسالة هذه المنظمة الأساسية وأن نتكامل مع المنظمات الدولية الأخرى من منظور "التعاون الفكري".

١,٧ وأرجو أن تصل رسالتي إليكم جميعاً، وأن يكون احتفالنا بالذكرى السبعين للمنظمة هو بداية عهد جديد نستعد له خلال هذا العام ببرنامج عمل متكامل يُطرح على المجلس التنفيذي في دورته القادمة وعلى مؤتمرنا العام في الحزيف القادم. وأرجو أن يكون شعارنا هو كيفية تحويل رسالة ومبادئ اليونسكو إلى واقع أكثر رسوخاً وأكثر قدرة على مواجهة تحديات التطرف والتمسك بالرأي الواحد ومجاهة التعصب. ومن هذا المنطلق، إنني أناشد أعضاء المجلس وزملائي السفراء ومثلي الدول الأعضاء أن يتكروموا بتزويدي بأي أفكار أو مقترحات تساهم في تحقيق هذا الهدف الذي أشرت إليه في كلمتي من أجل تغيير وجه المنظمة لتكون أكثر فعالية. وسوف أحاول جاهداً التجاوب مع هذه المقترحات للاستفادة منها والبناء عليها، والتشاور والتواصل مع السيدة المديرية العامة التي لا تألو جهداً في العمل لصالح هذه المنظمة. كما أناشد السيدة المديرية العامة أن تستمر في أداء دورها البناء في هذا الشأن، الذي عهدناه فيها منذ توليها مسؤولية إدارة المنظمة، أناشدها أن تهيئ المناخ وتطرح الآليات والبدائل المختلفة للخروج ببرنامج عمل يستجيب لطموحاتنا ويجعل من الاحتفال بالذكرى السبعين نقلة نوعية نحو تحقيق مستقبل أفضل.

(1.1) **The Chair in extenso**
(translation from the Arabic):

Mr Hao Ping, President of the General Conference, Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you to the Executive Board of UNESCO as the work of its 196th session gets under way. This is the Board's third session since the end of the 37th session of the General Conference, which was held in November 2013. As you know, the spring session of the Board immediately preceding the General Conference is the most important Board session of all because it is at that session that agreement is reached on the matters to be approved by the General Conference, such as the programme and budget to be executed by the Organization over the coming biennium. Furthermore, this year's Board sessions are particularly important given that we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of this venerable Organization, whose founders gave it the great responsibility of ensuring that "it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". What a lofty and great responsibility it is to seek to advance and preserve humankind! Human beings are the source of creativity and the engine of life. That is why I very much hope there will be, at this and the next session of the Board, a space for us to debate and reflect together on the future role of UNESCO in the light of the long experience it has accumulated over 70 years, a role which is commensurate with the accelerating changes we are witnessing at this delicate point in time.

(1.2) Allow me, on this occasion, to share with you some of my preoccupations, which, I am certain, are

also your preoccupations, indeed the preoccupations of all of us. Whenever we hear of an armed attack against a university or a school, the deliberate destruction of a museum or an archaeological site, or an aggression against the soul of a human being because of his or her thoughts or beliefs, I find myself automatically wondering "What is our role?" How can our Organization meet the challenges of the age in which we live? How do we stand with respect to these challenges which assail us from all sides? How can we prepare ourselves and future generations in order to avert a repetition of such events? What hurts me is that some people seek to avoid answering these questions, or avoid discussing and examining them in depth, on the grounds of our lack of capacity or our poor resources, or they remain content to issue statements criticizing or condemning each fresh incident, which is soon lost to oblivion ... until we are confronted with yet another, similar incident, and we voice the same questions and the same scene is repeated. It may be that raising questions from time to time is one facet of our attempt to seek the truth. Raising questions means that we care and are interested, or else we would not be raising them! But this is not the case today: I find that the phenomenon of asking questions appears on the surface from time to time. And here I may quote what Paulo de Berrêdo Carneiro said: "It is UNESCO's mission for us always to be asking questions".

(1.3) In my attempt to understand reality and to arrive at some answers to the questions we ask ourselves, I find myself prompted to seek to understand why there was an appeal for the establishment of this Organization. At times, understanding the present requires you to go back to the past, in the hope that that may help us to decipher the code (if I may be permitted that expression) governing this Organization, which is constantly, through its programmes and activities, seeking to advance human behaviour and achieve development for human beings. This search took me back to the time the idea of founding this Organization was first mooted and what those who did so said at the time. The appeal for the establishment of this international body came at a time of extremely complex international circumstances, at one of the most difficult moments in the history of the world, namely the Second World War. It is surprising that the appeal for the establishment of this Organization goes back to 1942, in London, which was living under the pounding of bombs and the roar of artillery. In such circumstances, it is more usual for people to say: "What's the rush? Let the war finish, and then we'll think about what we will do." But fortunately, that is not what happened. The founding fathers: politicians, jurists, thinkers, philosophers, writers and researchers held their meetings, and spared none of their time or energy in putting the idea into practice.

(1.4) It became clear to me that the fundamental motivation behind the establishment of the Organization was to achieve "intellectual cooperation". Let me reiterate that phrase to you: "intellectual cooperation". That is what France was then urging, supported by China and a number of countries of Latin America. That is probably why our Organization stands on the shoulders of the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, which was founded in Paris in 1925, and was the instrument by means of which intellectual cooperation was achieved under the

auspices of the League of Nations. Indeed, that institute was a kind of League of Nations UNESCO, with its own galaxy of scientists and pioneers in the field of thought. I wondered: "what is meant by 'intellectual cooperation' and how is that important?" I found a number of explanations of that phrase, including the words of Georges Bidault, French Foreign Minister at the time of the appeal for the establishment of this Organization, to the effect that it remained "necessary to add a third mainstay to the twin cornerstones of the economy and social policies," and those of Paul Valéry that "if our intellect gives us more room and greater power over the affairs of this world, this is conducive to increasing the chances of this world to recover more speedily." In this same connection, allow me to quote the then British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, who said at the United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization: "Today the peoples of the world are islands shouting at each other over seas of misunderstanding... 'Know thyself', said the old proverb. 'Know your neighbour', we say today. And the whole world is our neighbour." I found myself agreeing with what he said, and thinking that he was speaking of our current state.

(1.5) Ladies and gentlemen, this Organization came into the light of day bearing one of the most important messages for humankind, which is building the defences of peace in the minds of men. If we take that into consideration, and in the light of the chief reason for which its founders were striving, namely "intellectual cooperation", this prompts me to say, with full confidence, that these defences which we continually strive to build are based on "thought", which is the cornerstone for the building of the defences. Our world today is in great need of works of the intellect: it needs this thought to lead us in enlightened fashion to the achievement of creativity, growth and development. We must work to achieve intellectual cooperation, not only among ourselves here at UNESCO; rather, this needs to be a message which holds sway worldwide. Some may say: "How can such cooperation be achieved when there are such differences in points of view among cultures regarding various subjects?" And this is very apposite. The aim of those who propagate this idea may be none other than an attempt on their part to ensure that extremist thought dominates and leads us to waves of blind terror all over the world. I am certain that what unites us is far greater than what divides us, and that it behoves us to unite our visions and cooperate intellectually in order to counter those who strive to spread the spirit of violence and extremism, and to eliminate hatred between peoples. Our common enemies are extremism and terrorism. But this enemy attacks no region or State from outside. Rather, it seeks to penetrate our societies in order to combat us within our very home. There is no need for me to cite the number of regrettable events that have occurred in the six months since the last session of the Board against educational and cultural institutions in all continents of the world. The figures are deplorable and the indicators are dangerous. Where do we stand on the positions proclaimed by leading intellectuals worldwide down the ages? In the eighteenth century, Voltaire famously said: "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." On another occasion, he said, "Be extremely tolerant with him who disagrees with you. For if his opinion is not completely right, you may not be

completely wrong to hold your own opinion so stubbornly." The philosopher Ibn Rushd (Averroes) said in his commentary on the words of the sage Aristotle: "It is fair that a man should apply the same arguments to his adversary as he does to himself, and that he should accept from his adversaries the same arguments that he applies to himself." Along the same lines, Gandhi said: "You must be the change that you wish to see in the world."

(1.6) Ladies and gentlemen, unbending belief is the source of intellectual extremism. On the other hand, revising one's opinion on all matters is the most important key to progress. And here, one of the most beautiful guidelines is what the Arab thinker Ibn an-Nafis said: "When equal minds are faced with the same problem, the least advanced among them is better placed to solve it than the most advanced." We need to look at the problem from a bird's eye view. We need to look on the scene from all angles with an innovative gaze. We must take a wise view of our reality. We need to find renewable formulas for dialogue which are compatible with the nature and mechanisms of the age and with its challenges. We need to shoulder our responsibilities towards the present and future generations so that we may shape an appropriate environment, not only in order to guarantee freedom of expression and opinion, but also to ensure that what is expressed is not misunderstood or misused in order to destroy our societies and our own world. We must work tirelessly and ceaselessly before it is too late and we actually become incapable of addressing the matter with our reason and logic, before the language of violence and the use of force gets the upper hand. We need to disseminate the culture of peace and tolerance. We need to strengthen cultural diversity as a right and a duty. We need to revise both the style and method of our educational curricula which are taught to pupils in our schools. We need to grow closer and closer together. We need to get back to the fundamental message of this Organization and to gear our action to that of other international organizations with a view to "intellectual cooperation".

(1.7) I hope that my message may reach you all, and that our celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Organization may prove the beginning of a new age. Let us prepare for it over this coming year with an integrated programme of action to be submitted to the Executive Board at its forthcoming session and to the General Conference next autumn. Let our slogan be "How to translate the message and principles of UNESCO into a more concrete reality, a reality which is able to meet the challenges of single-minded extremism and which counters fanaticism." On this basis, I urge the Members of the Board, my colleagues the ambassadors and representatives of Member States kindly to provide me with any ideas or suggestions which may help to achieve this objective, to which I have referred in my statement, in order to change the face of the Organization and make it more effective. I shall do my utmost to respond to these suggestions, to benefit from them and build on them and to communicate with you regarding them, with a view to consulting the Director-General, who works tirelessly for the good of this Organization. I also urge the Director-General to continue to play in that regard the constructive role that we have entrusted to her ever since she took on the responsibility of managing the Organization. I urge her to prepare the climate and

to propose mechanisms and various alternatives in order to devise a programme of work which responds to our aspirations and which makes our celebration of the 70th anniversary a quantum leap towards the achievement of a better future.

(The Chair continued in French)

1.8 Mesdames et Messieurs, chers collègues, permettez-moi, à présent, de préciser ce que je crois être les défis que l'UNESCO doit relever et les opportunités qui s'offrent à elle afin de rester totalement pertinente dans le cadre du programme de développement pour l'après-2015.

1.9 L'éducation est un droit humain fondamental. Elle est essentielle à tout effort visant à faire disparaître la pauvreté et à rendre les individus autonomes. Je souhaite vous faire part de cette citation d'Abraham Lincoln : « If you think education is too expensive, try ignorance ». Pour moi, cela signifie que nous avons l'obligation de veiller à ce que chacun et chacune ait accès à une éducation de qualité et se sente en sécurité, de l'école à l'université, quel qu'en soit le coût. À cette fin, l'UNESCO est responsable du mouvement « Éducation pour tous » (EPT) depuis le Forum de Dakar en 2000. Le travail de l'UNESCO, qui a mené à l'Accord de Mascate (Oman, mai 2014), a contribué à améliorer l'objectif de développement durable proposé concernant l'éducation (ODD 4) dans le programme de développement pour l'après-2015. Grâce à son expérience de l'EPT, et sur la base de son pouvoir fédérateur, l'UNESCO devra, à l'issue du Forum mondial sur l'éducation 2015, organisé en République de Corée, poursuivre sa mission primordiale consistant à accompagner, coordonner et mobiliser l'action collective de tous les partenaires dans le domaine de l'éducation dans le cadre de l'agenda du développement durable.

1.10 Nous devons veiller à ce que l'UNESCO soit capable de relever les défis mondiaux dans le domaine des sciences. La science, la technologie et l'innovation sont des vecteurs essentiels de mise en œuvre d'un développement durable. La question fondamentale qui se pose à nous tous est : comment exploiter ce savoir scientifique pour le bénéfice de tous, notamment des personnes les plus marginalisées ? Comme le rappelle le philosophe Gaston Bachelard : « Pour un esprit scientifique, toute connaissance est une réponse à une question. S'il n'y a pas eu de question, il ne peut y avoir connaissance scientifique. Rien ne va de soi ». C'est pour cette raison que j'ai invité plusieurs scientifiques – dont de nombreuses femmes, y compris les lauréates du Prix L'ORÉAL-UNESCO pour les femmes et la science 2015 – à venir s'exprimer devant le Conseil exécutif dans le cadre des rencontres sur « L'UNESCO à 70 ans : Perspectives d'avenir ». Ce n'est qu'avec de nombreux partenaires que l'UNESCO sera capable d'apporter des réponses aux grands défis actuels.

1.11 De même, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO est la seule organisation de la famille des Nations Unies à être dotée d'un mandat dans le domaine des sciences sociales et humaines. L'UNESCO peut être un catalyseur du changement social si ses États membres en ont la volonté politique. Étant donné le contexte mondial actuel, marqué, notamment, par la radicalisation de la jeunesse, l'UNESCO se doit d'offrir des solutions pour lutter contre la discrimination, le racisme et l'intolérance mais surtout pour favoriser l'égalité des sexes, l'inclusion sociale, la paix, la sécurité et les droits humains. Nous pouvons aussi apporter des solutions concrètes aux défis actuels à travers nos activités dans les domaines du sport et de la

bioéthique. Je suis toujours étonné de constater à quel point la Convention internationale contre le dopage dans le sport est peu citée dans les médias. Il faut manifester y remédier car les instruments normatifs de l'UNESCO méritent d'être connus du grand public !

1.12 Mesdames et Messieurs, n'oublions pas non plus que les dirigeants du monde reconnaissent désormais que la culture est un vecteur et un moteur de développement économique, social et environnemental. Cependant, cette reconnaissance reste très limitée dans le programme de développement pour l'après-2015, et les références culturelles restent fragiles. Cette situation doit changer. Nous devons nous assurer que la culture soit totalement intégrée dans la Déclaration politique du programme de développement pour l'après-2015 et que l'unique cible relative à la culture soit maintenue. Car il y a urgence ! Les attaques récentes contre le patrimoine culturel mondial sont des attaques contre l'humanité tout entière ! J'aimerais remercier Madame la Directrice générale d'avoir condamné ces destructions, tout comme le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, qui a adopté la résolution 2199. Je souhaite que l'UNESCO puisse proposer des solutions qui aient un impact réel dans ces situations de crise nécessitant son expertise. Par ailleurs, un instrument normatif efficace pour protéger les musées paraît essentiel car tous les efforts doivent être dirigés vers la protection du patrimoine mondial. Au regard de la situation actuelle, dans certains pays en conflit en particulier, le pillage et le trafic illicite des biens culturels deviennent des désastres qui exigent une réponse forte et déterminée.

1.13 Enfin, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous ne pouvons oublier notre travail dans les domaines de l'information et de la communication, qui devrait être maintenu en tant que composante clé du programme de développement pour l'après-2015. Le développement exige la construction de sociétés du savoir où la liberté d'expression et l'accès universel à l'information donnent aux individus les moyens d'être des moteurs du progrès. Les médias jouent un rôle essentiel dans nos sociétés. L'UNESCO est la seule agence du système des Nations Unies à avoir pour mandat de promouvoir la liberté de la presse et la liberté d'expression. Davantage de mesures doivent être prises pour s'assurer que les journalistes soient formés à communiquer l'information de manière objective tout en étant protégés dans l'exercice de leur profession.

1.14 C'est le moment pour tous les secteurs de l'UNESCO de travailler ensemble afin de construire une vision commune qui promeuve des changements au niveau mondial.

(Le Président poursuit en anglais)

1.15 Dear colleagues, I should also like to mention the important work that we do for our two global priorities: Africa and gender equality. The need to develop the skills of young people in Africa is of particular concern to UNESCO. We need to work more closely with the African Union, building on each other's capacities to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, as outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063. In that connection, I am particularly impressed by the extraordinary vitality of African youth and their involvement in the promotion of a culture of peace and sustainable development on their continent. In this respect, I should also like to emphasize and welcome the initiative by the Director-General to hold next June the first international conference on youth and the Internet: fighting radicalization and extremism. We must also do our part as Member States for the advancement and promotion of gender equality. It is

regrettable that, in the twenty-first century, widespread discriminatory norms and practices against women and serious obstacles on the road to gender equality still remain deeply rooted. The responsibility for eliminating these practices and removing the obstacles rests with all of us – Member States, international organizations and civil society.

1.16 Also, the needs of small island developing States deserve our full attention, especially within the context of climate change, sea-level rise and coastal erosion – effects that they themselves did not cause but for which global solutions urgently need to be found.

1.17 Young people tell us that the training they receive does not equip them fully for today's opportunities and many countries still lack the innovative curriculum we desperately need to provide the knowledge and skills that today's youth need to help them to compete in an ever-changing global economy, thus giving them a sense of purpose and belonging in an increasingly impersonal and globalized world.

1.18 Ladies and gentlemen, over the next two weeks, when we consider the budget to be recommended for the next biennium, I believe that it will be essential for us to avoid a purely technical approach to the issue, and to focus on its consequences for the longer-term issues of UNESCO's future role and mandate. It is my earnest wish that our discussions on this question be open and constructive, and that they help the Board to make recommendations to the General Conference that are appropriate and relevant to meet the needs and challenges we face today, which will enable UNESCO to deliver meaningfully on its mandate. There are several other important issues that we must address during this session. Among them is the question of governance. Not only will we need to address the working methods and effectiveness of our Board, but we will also need to address the challenges facing the many other decision-making bodies within our Organization which have also been assessed by the External Auditor. Let me, in this regard, thank them for their continuous guidance and assistance since our last meeting. We must also carefully plan the agenda of the General Conference, since it is one of our constitutional duties. I was informed also that the Director-General is preparing some very high-level events to coincide exactly with our birthday celebrations and I am certain that we all look forward to hearing from her about these events too. Finally, dear colleagues, there are also some very significant international events that will be taking place before the end of the year. They too merit our attention now, so that we can be informed of them and, where appropriate, provide inputs that may help to improve UNESCO's impact. Chief among these events is, of course, the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held immediately after the General Conference. I know that the Director-General and the Secretariat are deeply involved in the preparations for this milestone United Nations event, and I appreciate the full support of the host country in those preparations. But before that there is the World Education Forum 2015 that will be held in May in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The objectives of this major educational event will be to agree on the post-2015 education agenda and a framework for action, pending the outcomes of the special United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda which will be held in New York in September 2015. There is also the International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Post-2015 Education that will be held in

Qingdao, China. This meeting will examine the interface between education and ICTs in order to provide solutions on how ICTs can be leveraged to support the achievement of the post-2015 education goals and targets. I am convinced that these events will be of great interest to us all in the coming months.

1.19 Ladies and gentlemen, before concluding allow me to take this opportunity to express a collective word of thanks to our Director-General, Irina Bokova, who has repeatedly spoken out in defence of UNESCO's mandate and about the expertise that we have at our disposal to address concretely the challenges that I have enumerated this morning. The ills of today's world need to be addressed by UNESCO in cooperation with other organizations within the United Nations family. UNESCO should lead, and remains more relevant than ever before. Just as Member States expect much of UNESCO, much is to be expected of us, strategically and constitutionally, in the coming two weeks, as we work to ensure that the world's expectations will be adequately addressed. Dear colleagues, I wish you success in your deliberations and hope that your contributions will ensure the accomplishment of all the great initiatives for which UNESCO is renowned. With these words of encouragement, I am pleased to declare the 196th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO open.

Tributes to the memory of eminent personalities deceased since the previous session of the Board

2. The Chair *in extenso*:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my sad duty to announce the passing of our dear friend and esteemed colleague, His Excellency Ambassador Abdelatif Rahal, representative of Algeria to the Executive Board, who passed away on 29 December 2014. Ambassador Rahal represented the epitome of Algeria's diplomatic corps. He sat on the Board on three occasions, spanning three decades – from 1980 to 1985, from 1991 to 1995 and finally from 2006 until his untimely demise. We certainly benefited from his wealth of knowledge here at UNESCO, where he also served as Algeria's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate from 1979 to 1982. Those who knew him knew that he was a man of firm convictions and a just heart who believed in the ideals of our beloved Organization. He will be remembered as a man who could be counted upon to help to build consensus. He will be sorely missed. On behalf of all Members of the Executive Board, I would like to pay tribute to his memory. Ladies and gentlemen, may I now ask that we stand to observe one minute's silence in memory of the deceased.

The Board observed one minute's silence in tribute to the memory of Mr Rahal.

3. Algérie *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président, j'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'émotion les condoléances et les mots de sympathie que vous avez bien voulu partager avec les membres du Conseil en hommage à feu M. Abdelatif Rahal, membre du Conseil exécutif décédé en décembre dernier. Au nom du Président de la République, M. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, dont il fut un compagnon de la première heure mais aussi un ami fidèle, au nom du Gouvernement et du peuple algériens, et au nom de la famille du défunt, je vous en remercie. M. Abdelatif Rahal a d'abord été enseignant de mathématiques mais, très vite, il a répondu à l'appel de la liberté et s'est engagé dans la lutte pour la libération de notre pays. À l'indépendance, en homme de conviction, il a entamé une carrière diplomatique et a consacré sa

jeunesse non seulement au service de sa patrie mais également au triomphe des causes justes des peuples opprimés. Il a fait partie de ces pionniers qui ont façonné la diplomatie de combat de mon pays, dont il était un des architectes. On se rappelle que la fine pédagogie qui le caractérisait a permis la formation de générations de diplomates algériens, dont je suis. Il prônait toujours la rigueur dans le travail mais il était flexible dans la négociation. Abdelatif Rahal était doté d'un grand sens de l'écoute. Sa grande culture, son infinie sagesse, son humour lui ont permis, en de nombreuses occasions, de construire le consensus sur des questions déterminantes au niveau de notre Organisation et, essentiellement, au sein de ce Conseil exécutif. C'était un homme d'État à la personnalité attachante. Attentif à l'évolution du monde, il était également un homme de dialogue qui croyait dans les valeurs de paix et de concorde, comme en témoigne la contribution qu'il a apportée à notre Organisation lorsqu'il était Ambassadeur à Paris et délégué permanent auprès de l'UNESCO et, plus tard, dans le cadre des mandats qu'il a assumés au sein de notre Organisation. La clairvoyance de ses interventions, tout à fait remarquables, au sein de cette institution résonne encore dans cette salle. Il partageait ses analyses, il ne cachait pas ses doutes mais, surtout, il exprimait ses fortes convictions. Cela lui a valu le respect de tous et l'amitié des plus proches. Puisse la voix d'Abdelatif Rahal continuer de résonner parmi nous, pour que l'humain demeure au cœur de la mission de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

4.1. **La Directrice générale**, de retour d'une visite officielle en Algérie, exprime, au nom du Secrétariat, ses profondes condoléances suite au décès de M. Rahal, qui a consacré sa carrière et sa vie au rayonnement de son pays sur la scène mondiale. Son goût pour les sciences était sensible dans son engagement à l'égard de l'UNESCO et ses qualités ont servi son attachement profond au multilatéralisme, au service de la dignité des peuples et de relations entre États fondées sur le respect mutuel et le partage.

4.2 Continuing in English, the Director-General said that UNESCO was honoured to bear the imprint of three decades of Mr Rahal's influence. He had carried a true passion for UNESCO, for the values and objectives of the Organization, and that had been a source of inspiration for all of his colleagues, for all members of the Secretariat. He had been a man of integrity and intellect, a man of eloquence and openness, a man of ideals and actions. Ambassador Abdelatif Rahal would be missed in many ways – as a diplomat and colleague, as a friend, as a source of wisdom in times when that had never been as necessary.

ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Item 1: Agenda and timetable of work (196 EX/1 Prov. Rev.)

5. **The Chair** informed the Board that the provisional agenda and timetable of work had been despatched to all Members, in accordance with Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, on 11 March 2015. The provisional agenda had since been revised in accordance with Rule 6 to include two additional items: item 34 "Leveraging ICTs to support the achievement of the post-2015 education agenda", proposed by the delegation of China, and item 35 "Enhancing UNESCO's contributions to promote a culture of respect", proposed by the delegation of Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, following its meeting on the previous Friday, the Committee on

Conventions and Recommendations (CR) had recommended to the Board that it defer consideration of agenda item 19 "Implementation of standard-setting instruments" to the 197th session owing to the lack of time at the present session.

٦ تحدث ممثل الإمارات العربية المتحدة بالنيابة عن الدول التي تقدمت بمشروع القرار الوارد في الوثيقة ١٩٦ م/ت/٣٥ بعنوان "الارتقاء بمساهمات اليونسكو لتعزيز ثقافة الاحترام"، وهي المملكة العربية السعودية وبنغلادش ونيجيريا والكويت ودولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة ومصر وتركيا وباكستان وغامبيا وتونس والمملكة المغربية وقطر واليمن وموريتانيا والعراق والمملكة الأردنية الهاشمية وفلسطين وليبيا وجمهورية إيران الإسلامية والسنغال ولبنان والسودان والبحرين. وأشار إلى أنه بالنظر إلى قناعة تلك الدول بأن صياغة مشروع القرار ذلك تحتاج إلى المزيد من المراجعة والتنقيح، خصوصاً من أجل تجنب سوء الفهم الذي حصل عند بعض الدول، وبالنظر إلى رغبتها في التوصل إلى قرار توافقي وفقاً للمنهج المعتاد في المنظمة، فإنها تطلب من رئاسة المجلس تأجيل مناقشة ذلك البند استثنائياً وإدراجه في جدول أعمال الدورة السابعة والتسعين بعد المائة التي ستعقد في تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١٥، معرباً عن شكره لكل الذين قدموا دعمهم لذلك المشروع ومتفهماً موقف الدول التي أبدت روحاً إيجابية بشأنه.

(6) The representative of the **United Arab Emirates**, speaking on behalf of the States that had proposed the draft decision contained in document 196 EX/35, "Enhancing UNESCO's contributions to promote a culture of respect", namely Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, Gambia, Tunisia, Morocco, Qatar, Yemen, Mauritania, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Libya, Islamic Republic of Iran, Senegal, Lebanon, Sudan and Bahrain, said that those States were of the view that the draft decision required further revision, especially to prevent misunderstandings such as the one that had occurred with certain States, and that the aforementioned States wished to achieve consensus in line with usual practice in the Organization. With that in mind, he requested the Chair to postpone the debate on that agenda item, as an exception, and to inscribe it on the agenda of the 197th session to be held in October 2015. He expressed appreciation to all those who had supported the draft decision and recognized the position of the States that had shown a positive attitude towards it.

7. **The Chair** said that in the absence of any objection he would take it that the Board wished to adopt as orally amended the agenda and timetable of work contained in document 196 EX/1 Prov.Rev.

8. *It was so decided.*

Questions that do not appear to require debate (196 EX/2)

9.1 **The Chair** informed the Board that the Bureau, in accordance with Rule 14.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, had proposed that there be no debate on item 10 "Invitations to the intergovernmental meeting (category II) related to the draft recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage in the digital age", contained in document 196 EX/2, and that it be referred directly to the plenary for adoption. If by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 14 October 2015, no request for debate on item 10 had been made, the draft decision contained in document 196 EX/2 would be considered as adopted.

9.2 Furthermore, after consultation with the Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX), it had been proposed that the Commission approve

without debate sub-item 5.I (A) "Sharing of good practices in education" and sub-item 5.I (G) "Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO", together with items 17 "Report on the implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)" and 33 "International Day of University Sport". As stipulated under Rule 14.2, Members could nevertheless request that those items and sub-items be discussed by the Board.

Agendas of the Finance and Administrative (FA) and Programme and External Relations (PX) Commissions (196 EX/FA/1.INF Prov.; 196 EX/PX/1.INF Prov.; and 196 EX/FA/PX/1.INF Prov.)

10. **The Chair** informed the Board of the proposal to introduce time limits for statements made in commission and committee meetings, and the meeting the following weekend of a working group to examine document 38 C/5 Draft. He drew attention to the provisional agenda of the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA) contained in document 196 EX/FA/1.INF Prov., the provisional agenda of the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) contained in document 196 EX/PX/1.INF Prov., and the provisional agenda of the joint meeting of the FA and PX Commissions, contained in document 196 EX/FA/PX/1.INF Prov. Seeing no objection, he took it that the Board wished to adopt the three agendas.

11. *It was so decided.*

Items on which the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) and the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) have requested to speak in the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA) and in the joint meeting of the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA) and the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX)

12. **The Chair** said that the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) and the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) had requested permission to take the floor during the debate on item 5.V in the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA) and during the debate on item 15 in the joint meeting of the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA) and the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX). The Bureau had recommended that the Board should, as in the past, authorize the representatives of the staff associations to speak for five minutes each, after Members had spoken on a particular item but before the decision or recommendation was approved.

13. *It was so decided.*

Organization of the plenary debate

13.1 **The Chair** said that the Director-General would introduce the debate on items 4 "Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference", 5 "Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions", and 15 "Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5)". Following the introduction to the plenary debate by the Director-General, the Chair of the Preparatory Group would present an oral report on the meetings held by the Group on 24 and 25 March 2015, and the chairpersons of the Finance and Administrative (FA) and Programme and External Relations (PX) Commissions would report on the outcomes of the budget orientation debate held on 23 March 2015.

13.2 The plenary debate would begin that afternoon, Monday 13 April, and continue the following morning. Each Member would be allowed a speaking time of six minutes, the end of which would be indicated by the customary musical signal. Observers would be allowed two minutes for each statement. In the question-and-answer session following the Director-General's reply, in the afternoon of Tuesday 14 April, Members would be invited to limit their statements to three minutes and the number of questions to three at a time. Observers would be allowed one minute for each statement. The Director-General would answer questions put by Member States, three at a time.

Private meetings

14. **The Chair** said that a single private meeting would be held in the morning of Wednesday 22 April to discuss item 3 "Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board", and to adopt the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) on item 18 "Examination of the communications transmitted to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations in pursuance of 104 EX/Decision 3.3, and report of the Committee thereon". It would be followed by a public meeting to adopt the report of the CR Committee on item 20 "Report of the working group on the methods of work of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations", and to welcome the new Ethics Adviser.

Item 2: Approval of the summary records of the 195th session (195 EX/SR.1-6)

15. **The Chair** recalled that the provisional summary records of the public meetings of the 195th session had been prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to Members. Corrections had been incorporated into document 195 EX/SR.1-6, the final record. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wish to approve document 195 EX/SR.1-6.

16. *It was so decided.*

REPORTING ITEMS

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme Implementation Report (PIR) (1 January-31 December 2014)

(196 EX/4 Part I and Corr.-Corr.2; 196 EX/4.INF; 196 EX/4.INF.4;196 EX/PG.INF)

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37C/5) as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited), budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited) (196 EX/4 Part II and Corr. and Add.; 196 EX/4.INF.2;196 EX/4.INF.3;196 EX/PG.INF)

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (196 EX/5 Part I and Add.; 196 EX/5.INF.3)

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (196 EX/5 Part II)

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues (196 EX/5 Part III and Corr.)

Item 5.IV: Management issues

(196 EX/5 Part IV;196 EX/5.INF)

Item 5.V: Human resources issues

(196 EX/5 Part V;196 EX/5.INF.2;196 EX/5.INF.4)

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

Item 15: Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017

(38 C/5) (38 C/5 Draft; 196 EX/15.INF and Rev.; 196 EX/15.INF.2; 196 EX/15. INF.3)

Introduction to the plenary debate by the Director-General

17.1 The Director-General in extenso:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as requested by you, Mr Chair, my introduction to items 4, 5 and 15 was published on the UNESCO website on 10 April 2015 so I will be very brief. I will take this opportunity to make a brief summary, focusing on the most salient points.

17.2 Since the last session of the Executive Board, I have held eight information meetings: on the United Nations Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board, on 11 December 2014; with the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), on 24 February 2015; on the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, on 27 February; on UNESCO's evaluation policy, on 17 March; on the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on 18 March; on UNESCO's contribution to the post-2015 development agenda, on 26 March; on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), on 7 April; and on UNESCO's response to the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq crises, on 8 April. On 12 February 2015, we held the information meeting with the Executive Board. All of this, I believe, shows my determination to enhance transparency and to maintain a constant dialogue with Member States. This is essential today, as we pursue reform and shape the post-2015 development agenda. This is also a moment of great responsibility. UNESCO was founded 70 years ago on the idea that peace, to be lasting, had to be built in new ways; and I would like to commend you, Mr Chair, for your very inspiring introduction to this session of the Executive Board.

17.3 Last Friday, UNESCO was honoured to welcome His Excellency Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, who spoke about the threats that the world faces and the importance of UNESCO. "We no longer fight over what we claim but who we are," said the Prime Minister. "This is why UNESCO was among the first missions of the United Nations. That is why India values the work of UNESCO so deeply and cherishes our partnership so immensely." UNESCO's mandate, UNESCO's expertise and UNESCO's action have never been so relevant, so much in demand – we must respond. This is why I went to the University of Baghdad on 28 March to respond to the call of students, to launch the new #Unite4Heritage campaign. This built on my visit to Baghdad and Erbil on 3 November 2014 to stand with the Government and people of Iraq for peace and national unity. When violent extremists say that diversity is dangerous, that tolerance and dialogue are unacceptable, we must respond. We must respond by refusing to be divided into "us" and "them" and by claiming cultural heritage as the common wealth of all humanity. This is why I convened the high-level meeting on the safeguarding of Iraqi and Syrian cultural heritage, on 1 April 2015, to ensure the implementation of United

Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 adopted on 12 February 2015. In the Syrian Arab Republic and in Iraq, along with a profound humanitarian crisis, we see unprecedented cultural cleansing. We see systematic persecution of ethnic and religious minorities. We see the intentional destruction of irreplaceable landmarks, the latest just two days ago in Nimrud. We see widespread looting for trafficking to finance extremist groups. UNESCO has been called upon to respond and we are doing so. This is why I went to Tunis on 29 March to participate in the march against terrorism. I went to join the Government and people of Tunisia in responding to the attack on the Bardo National Museum, and to say that the soul of Tunisia, its identity and culture, would always prevail over extremist violence. The call for UNESCO is ringing out across the world. We cannot leave the phone on silent. We cannot stand on the sidelines; not today, not tomorrow. Created 70 years ago, this Organization has perhaps never been so in tune with the needs of societies, today and tomorrow. In the 1960s, we helped save the temples of Egypt. In 2004, we reopened the Mostar Bridge. Last year, we started to restore the mausoleums of Mali. Today, we must stand up for the great cultural heritage and diversity in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, we must stand up to violent extremism through education, through culture, through the sciences and through freedom of expression because this is our humanity that we are defending.

(The Director-General continued in French)

17.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, les moyens de l'UNESCO doivent correspondre aux attentes que les États placent en elle. Ces attentes sont fortes. Les nouveaux partenariats en sont la meilleure preuve. L'UNESCO est davantage reconnue et est investie de nouvelles missions par le Conseil de sécurité. Les responsabilités augmentent. Les coûts augmentent. Ce week-end, une nouvelle vidéo de la destruction de Nimrud a été mise en ligne. Aussitôt, chacun s'est tourné vers l'UNESCO, parce que nous nous sommes imposés comme le *leader* incontesté, et chacun demande : « Qu'allez-vous faire ? qu'allez-vous dire ? ».

17.5 Je vous entends me demander, ici, dans cette enceinte, ou bien en tête-à-tête, de renforcer tel programme, d'envoyer plus d'experts, d'organiser plus de formations. Dans le même temps, nos moyens se réduisent. Nous vivons déjà depuis huit ans avec un budget à croissance nominale zéro. Nous survivons depuis quatre ans avec un budget réduit de plus de 22 %. J'entends partout qu'il faut renforcer, augmenter, élargir. Mais la vérité, c'est que nous avons dû réduire de moitié (de 20 à 10) le nombre de pays d'Afrique que nous pouvons accompagner vers les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous, le Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation l'a expliqué en détail lors du débat d'orientation budgétaire. La vérité, c'est aussi que la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale ne peut quasiment plus mener d'activités de renforcement des capacités. Il en va de même dans le domaine de la prévention des risques, un enjeu crucial dans les petits États insulaires en développement – la tragédie de Vanuatu vient de le rappeler. De même, dans le domaine de la culture, le Secteur doit se concentrer presque exclusivement sur les activités statutaires. Et il n'en va pas différemment de nos activités de soutien à la jeunesse. Partout, j'entends qu'il faut que l'UNESCO soit plus présente, plus active, plus forte et, partout, je vois la réduction de nos moyens. Comme j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de le dire à plusieurs

reprises, cette situation n'est pas tenable. L'UNESCO a besoin de l'intégralité de son budget.

17.6 Telle est la vérité, et j'invite les États membres à avoir une discussion approfondie sur le budget. Cet exercice est indissociable de la poursuite de la réforme, qui appelle aussi des investissements, des outils adaptés. Et ma détermination est sans faille. J'ai déjà annoncé de nombreuses mesures, lancé un tout nouveau et important portail pour la transparence, ainsi qu'une nouvelle politique d'évaluation. Et je maintiendrai ce cap.

17.7 Mesdames et Messieurs, je connais l'impact de l'UNESCO. Je le vois à chacune de mes missions. Je vois le potentiel de cette Maison, en prise directe avec les enjeux du monde actuel : la recherche de la paix, le dialogue des cultures, l'autonomie des jeunes, les besoins vitaux des sociétés. Le programme de développement pour l'après-2015 est un agenda pour la durabilité ; or, nous sommes par excellence l'agence de la durabilité. Notre Organisation a été conçue dès le départ autour de cette notion, pour la paix durable, le développement durable, par la puissance douce de l'éducation, de la culture, des sciences. Ce n'est pas un hasard si l'UNESCO réalise une percée dans les discussions relatives au programme de développement pour l'après-2015 autour de ses valeurs phares : l'éducation de qualité, les compétences, la culture, les sciences, le capital humain. Notre message est en parfaite adéquation avec les attentes profondes des peuples.

17.8 L'UNESCO est totalement mobilisée en ce qui concerne les préparatifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (COP 21), qui influencent fortement les négociations du programme de développement pour l'après-2015, notamment sur le rôle des sciences et de l'océan. Nous devons avoir les moyens d'agir quand les États, une fois ce programme adopté, se tourneront vers nous pour le mettre en œuvre.

17.9 Mesdames et Messieurs, pour terminer cette présentation, permettez-moi de souligner que, face aux défis du monde actuel, nous pouvons relire notre Acte constitutif, rédigé il y a 70 ans : il n'y a pas un mot à changer. Nous sommes parfaitement équipés pour saisir la réalité du fanatisme et faire le lien entre l'enlèvement des écolières au Nigéria, la destruction du patrimoine en Iraq, l'attaque d'une université au Kenya, l'assassinat de journalistes. Nous savons que les extrémistes ne visent pas seulement la destruction de tel ou tel monument : leur but est de briser la liberté de conscience, l'essence de l'esprit humain. Devant cette menace, notre rôle n'est pas de reconstruire tel monument ou telle école – même si nous le faisons et continuerons de le faire. Notre rôle fondamental consiste à élever des remparts contre la haine et l'extrémisme, par l'éducation, la culture, la connaissance, le dialogue interculturel, la dignité humaine – ce que vous venez de nous rappeler, Monsieur le Président : cette solidarité intellectuelle et morale qui fonde notre Acte constitutif. Dans le monde actuel, dans une guerre où la force des armes ne suffit pas, l'UNESCO remplit une mission essentielle pour la paix et la sécurité. Mais elle doit avoir les moyens de remplir cette mission. Les terroristes savent parfaitement que la plus grande menace pour eux, c'est un jeune garçon ou une jeune fille qui va à l'école, c'est une fille avec un livre. L'éducation est le rempart de la paix, de l'Iraq au Yémen. C'est la plus grande force qu'on puisse imaginer pour la paix, et c'est à l'UNESCO de la déployer.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)

17.10 Last but not least, ladies and gentlemen, in today's edition of the *International New York Times*, there was an article by Nicholas Kristof, a famous American journalist. Although he might not have known that we were having the first plenary meeting of our Executive Board today, his article sends a powerful message to us all. It talks about the importance of economic, social and human development as a means of conflict prevention and the fact that development is a national security imperative for many countries. It refers to the importance of education, particularly girls' and women's education, as well as to a very powerful "home-grown campaign for moderation" in Afghanistan, where women recently led a demonstration and made a stand against religious extremism in the wake of the beating to death of an Afghan woman. It also refers to all the investment in girls' and women's education in Afghanistan – in which UNESCO, with many other partners, has also been involved these past years – which helped to promote that home-grown call for moderation and, I would say, for human dignity. The article says that girls' education reduces birth-rates, expands the labour force, induces moderation and promotes economic growth rather than terrorism; and it ends by mentioning the lessons learned, saying – and I think that it is also a good lesson for our Organization – that "to counter terrorists, sometimes a girl with a book is more powerful than a drone in the sky". Thank you, Mr Chair.

18. **The Chair** thanked the Director-General for her introduction to the plenary debate, the brevity of which would allow more time for the question-and-answer session, and expressed the Board's appreciation for her tireless efforts to promote UNESCO, foster the achievement of its objectives and preserve its rightful place within the United Nations system.

Oral report by the Chair of the Preparatory Group (196 EX/PG-INF)

19.1 **Mme Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe** (Gabon) (Présidente du Groupe préparatoire) *in extenso* :
Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les vice-présidents des groupes électoraux, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Secrétariat, Mesdames, Messieurs, le Groupe préparatoire s'est réuni les mardi 24 et mercredi 25 mars 2015, après le débat d'orientation budgétaire du lundi 23 mars 2015. La mention de ce débat d'orientation budgétaire est importante car cet exercice visait à permettre aux États membres de bien comprendre les techniques budgétaires dans la préparation des différents scénarios ainsi que des questions telles que les coûts de personnel. Je viens donc rendre compte, ce jour, du déroulement de nos travaux – vous avez tous reçu, en versions française et anglaise, le Rapport du Groupe préparatoire à la 196^e session du Conseil exécutif et le projet de recommandations y afférent (documents 196 EX/PG-INF du 3 avril 2015 et 196 EX/PG/Recommandations du 26 mars 2015 respectivement). Les points exposés ci-après étaient inscrits à l'ordre du jour de nos travaux.

Point 4 : Exécution du programme adopté par la Conférence générale

4.I : Rapport sur l'exécution du programme (PIR)
(1^{er} janvier – 31 décembre 2014)

4.II : Situation budgétaire de l'Organisation en 2014-2015, ajustements budgétaires qui découlent des

dons et des contributions spéciales reçus, et Tableau de bord de l'exécution du programme en 2014-2015

19.2 En ce qui concerne le Rapport sur l'exécution du programme (PIR), il vise à informer les États membres des progrès accomplis au cours des 12 premiers mois du quadriennium 2014-2017. Ce rapport a été établi sur la base d'un plan de dépenses de 507 millions de dollars des États-Unis, et non de 653 millions de dollars tel qu'approuvé. Des innovations importantes ont été apportées ; elles sont contenues dans le Rapport en pages 2 et 3. Ce rapport constitue un pas en avant car il repose sur les principes d'une budgétisation axée sur les résultats. Des graphiques indiquent une répartition des dépenses par région. Une estimation globale indique, au moyen de barèmes tricolores, si l'exécution des plans de travail assurée à tel résultat est sur la bonne voie. Un graphique indique région par région la part des plans de travail jugés sur la bonne voie. Un tableau fait le point sur les indicateurs de performance et les cibles.

19.3 S'agissant du point 4.I, la Sous-Directrice général pour la planification stratégique indique que le document EX/4 contient les résultats concernant les cinq grands programmes de l'UNESCO et que, par souci d'économie, les autres sujets, tels que la priorité globale Afrique et la priorité globale Égalité des genres, sont disponibles sur SISTER. Or, à ce jour, seule la version anglaise peut être consultée. La Présidente souhaite ici attirer l'attention sur cette situation afin que l'équilibre entre les deux langues de travail soit respecté. Les recommandations retenues pour le Conseil sont donc contenues en page 4 du Rapport du Groupe préparatoire.

19.4 De manière générale, les États membres ont félicité le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents et rapports fournis, quant à leur présentation et leur format. Des États membres – le Nigéria, la Suède, la République tchèque, le Canada, l'Allemagne, la République de Corée, le Brésil – et les présidents des commissions PX et FA ont, durant les débats, livré des observations sur la description timorée des difficultés de mise en œuvre des programmes par le Secrétariat, le caractère flou de certains indicateurs de performance, l'absence de commentaires dans les analyses. Certains délégués ont estimé que le document 196 EX/4 Partie II devait être examiné en parallèle avec le document 196 EX/4 Partie I. La Suède a relevé une contradiction en posant le problème entre États membres et demandé une explication sur la situation financière difficile de l'Organisation d'une part et la mise en œuvre des programmes en bonne voie d'autre part. Les États membres ont relevé le manque général de cohérence entre le taux d'exécution des activités et la pénurie de ressources, et demandé davantage d'ouverture et de transparence en ce qui concerne les défis rencontrés et les enseignements tirés. En page 4 du Rapport du Groupe préparatoire, vous disposez de toutes les recommandations cibles pour le Conseil exécutif.

19.5 Dans le rapport publié à l'issue de la réunion du Groupe préparatoire du 1^{er} au 3 octobre 2014, contenu dans le document 195 EX/PG.INF, la section consacrée aux questions relatives aux ressources humaines indique : « [d]es éclaircissements ont été demandés [au Secrétariat] sur les postes vacants et sur la baisse du taux de vacance de postes[,] la restructuration des postes d'encadrement[,] l'exercice de redéploiement [...] et l'impact sur la représentation géographique. [...] Des préoccupations ont été exprimées quant au volume de l'assistance temporaire [et à l]a perte d'expertise pour l'Organisation à la suite du plan de restructuration ». Dans

la lettre que j'ai adressée le 20 janvier 2015 au Président du Conseil exécutif, j'ai souhaité que soit inscrite à notre ordre du jour la question de l'Audit du Commissaire aux comptes sur la Gestion prévisionnelle des emplois, des effectifs et des compétences (GPEEC). Cette question serait confiée, m'a répondu le Président du Conseil dans sa note référencée GBS/SCX/2015/016, du 23 janvier 2015, au Président de la Commission FA, ce que j'ai accepté. Les travaux du Groupe préparatoire se sont achevés sans que ce point ait été abordé, ni à la réunion sur les orientations budgétaires du 23 mars, ni au sein du Groupe préparatoire. J'attire l'attention du Conseil sur ce point afin qu'il fasse l'objet d'un examen particulier au niveau des commissions PX et FA. Pour des raisons de suivi, nous souhaitons donc que les États membres du Conseil soient édifiés sur ce point.

19.6 En ce qui concerne le grand programme relatif à l'éducation, de forts questionnements des présidents des commissions FA et PX et des États membres – la Côte d'Ivoire, le Kenya, le Pakistan, le Honduras, le Canada, l'Angola et l'Allemagne, pour n'en citer que quelques-uns – ont donné lieu à des débats. Le Sous-Directeur général pour l'éducation y a répondu et a apporté tous les éclaircissements demandés sur la Conférence internationale sur l'assurance qualité dans l'enseignement supérieur en Afrique. Le Secteur de l'éducation dispose d'une enveloppe budgétaire de 16 millions de dollars des États-Unis pour les programmes au Siège et hors Siège. Les débats ont relevé la faiblesse des taux de dépense, notamment en Afrique, la nécessité de piloter et de suivre l'affectation des ressources du Programme ordinaire en fonction des priorités et de ne pas les réaffecter sans l'approbation des organes directeurs, le taux important de décentralisation des fonds vers les bureaux hors Siège et les instituts au regard des ressources disponibles.

19.7 Dans le domaine des sciences exactes et naturelles, après les félicitations adressées au Secteur pour la clarté des documents soumis, des questions ont également été posées par les présidents des commissions PX et FA, ainsi que par l'Allemagne, le Pakistan, la Suède, le Portugal, sur les incidences financières de la création de nouveaux géoparcs mondiaux, sur l'absence de référence, dans le rapport descriptif, au Conseil consultatif pour les questions scientifiques, sur la cohérence du rapport au regard des informations contradictoires. L'action de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale (COI) a elle aussi suscité des débats et les questions des présidents des commissions PX et FA, du Nigéria, du Kenya, du Canada et de bien d'autres pays encore.

19.8 Dans le domaine des sciences sociales et humaines, les présidents des commissions PX et FA, relayés par les Ambassadeurs et délégations du Nigéria, du Kenya, du Canada, du Liban et de bien d'autres États membres, ont demandé des précisions sur les actions en faveur des jeunes sur le continent africain. Il est à relever ici deux récentes réunions d'experts consacrées au Programme MOST et au dialogue interculturel et la volonté d'améliorer les actions conduites via les centres de Dakar, Nairobi, Abuja et Yaoundé. La Stratégie opérationnelle de l'UNESCO pour la jeunesse 2014-2021, notamment le premier axe relatif à la formulation de politiques, vise à accentuer la transsectorialité au sein de l'UNESCO.

19.9 Dans le domaine de la culture, le Maroc, les présidents des commissions PX et FA, la Suède, le Canada, le Honduras, l'Allemagne, le Brésil, Sainte-Lucie, après avoir remercié le Sous-Directeur général de ce

secteur et l'avoir félicité pour la clarté des documents soumis, ont cependant souligné les difficultés budgétaires et le manque de moyens humains pour la mise en œuvre des conventions culturelles. Sur la question du patrimoine culturel dans les pays en situation de conflit, plusieurs délégués ont exprimé leurs inquiétudes face aux atteintes au patrimoine culturel et aux destructions de biens culturels en cours dans la région arabe et quant aux capacités du Secrétariat d'y répondre. Le délégué du Maroc, entre autres, a ainsi posé des questions à ce sujet. Les recommandations cibles pour ce secteur figurent en page 11 du Rapport du Groupe préparatoire : Conventions et objectifs : harmoniser les partenariats en matière de conventions culturelles ; création d'une unité de préparation et de réponse aux urgences ; nécessité d'allocation de ressources extrabudgétaires, car leur absence a un impact sur les activités du Secteur de la culture. Sainte-Lucie a fait observer que le Secteur était confronté à de nombreuses contraintes : insuffisance des effectifs, nécessité de lever des fonds pour des activités non prioritaires, d'où un problème de rationalisation du travail.

19.10 Dans le domaine de la communication et de l'information, beaucoup de difficultés sont rencontrées dans l'exécution des activités de ce secteur. Il en va de même pour les priorités globales Afrique et Égalité des genres.

19.11 En ce qui concerne la situation budgétaire de l'Organisation (Tableau de bord de l'exécution du programme en 2014-2015 et Situation au 31 décembre 2014), présentation a été faite de l'exécution et de l'évolution du budget, du plan de travail de 518 millions de dollars et du plan de dépenses de 507 millions de dollars, soit 11 millions de dollars d'économies réalisées sur les coûts de personnel et les délais de recrutement dans les processus de restructuration et de redéploiement. De nombreux États membres sont intervenus, notamment le Mozambique, le Japon, la République de Corée, le Canada et Sainte-Lucie, ainsi que les présidents des commissions PX et FA. Des éclaircissements ont été demandés sur les économies du Compte spécial du Fonds d'urgence, ouvert pour une période allant jusqu'en fin 2015. Le solde disponible sur ce fonds, d'un montant de 14 millions de dollars, devrait faire l'objet d'un plan d'utilisation précis qui serait soumis à l'appréciation des organes directeurs pour décision et présenté en tant qu'addendum au document 196 EX/4 Partie II.

Point 6 : Rapport sur la Stratégie pour l'enseignement et la formation techniques et professionnels (EFTP) et orientations pour un suivi au-delà de 2015

Point 7 : L'éducation au-delà de 2015

19.12 La nouvelle Stratégie de l'UNESCO pour l'enseignement et la formation techniques et professionnels (EFTP), couvrant la période 2016-2021, sera présentée au Conseil exécutif à sa 199^e session et sera alignée sur la stratégie de l'UNESCO en matière d'éducation pour 2014-2021. Après avoir remercié le Secrétariat, Oman, la Namibie, le Nigéria, la Suède, le Canada, le Togo, l'Allemagne, le Brésil, le Paraguay, El Salvador, l'Angola et les présidents des commissions PX et FA ont cependant demandé des éclaircissements. Les recommandations cibles, qui figurent en pages 17 et 19 du Rapport du Groupe préparatoire, prennent en compte des aspects relatifs au développement durable grâce à une étude des compétences nécessaires pour une économie verte et grâce à la coordination entre formation,

enseignement professionnel et mise en œuvre des politiques d'environnement.

Point 8 : Participation de l'UNESCO aux préparatifs du programme de développement pour l'après-2015

19.13 Le Maroc a fait une déclaration au nom d'un certain nombre d'États membres concernant une plateforme commune d'action. Le Brésil, le Mexique, les Pays-Bas, le Nigéria, le Kenya, Oman, les présidents des commissions PX et FA ont relevé le rôle reconnu de chef de file de l'UNESCO dans le Secteur de l'éducation. Les recommandations cibles sont contenues en page 20 du Rapport.

Point 25 : Propositions des États membres relatives à la célébration des anniversaires auxquels l'UNESCO pourrait être associée en 2016-2017

19.14 Sur ce point, l'application de nouveaux critères et de nouvelles procédures a entraîné la réduction de deux tiers du nombre total de propositions. Malgré ces nouvelles dispositions, les objectifs d'équilibre géographique et d'approche genre n'ont pu être atteints. Les recommandations cibles pour le Conseil exécutif figurent en page 21.

Présentation de points additionnels à l'ordre du jour du Conseil exécutif

19.15 Des points additionnels pour information du Groupe préparatoire et décision du Conseil ont été présentés : « La culture dans les zones de conflit : une question humanitaire et de sécurité – Rôle et responsabilités de l'UNESCO », présenté par l'Espagne et l'Italie, « Apprendre sans peur : prévenir et combattre les violences liées au genre en milieu scolaire », présenté par la France, « La sécurité des journalistes et la question de l'impunité », présenté par la Suède, « Rôle et responsabilités de l'UNESCO dans la mise en œuvre de l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale et la promotion de l'éducation relative à la paix et aux droits de l'homme », présenté par l'Autriche et l'Italie, la « Journée internationale du sport universitaire », présenté par la Chine, la Fédération de Russie, l'Italie, le Nigéria et le Pakistan, dont il a été décidé tout à l'heure qu'ils ne feraient pas l'objet d'un débat, « Mettre à profit les TIC pour la réalisation de l'agenda pour l'éducation post-2015 », présenté par la Chine.

19.16 Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de revenir sur les travaux du Groupe préparatoire menés sous ma présidence. Toutes nos séances, ordinaires et extraordinaires, ont été des moments de travail intense et fructueux. Je pense pouvoir affirmer que nous avons rempli notre rôle et démontré la légitimité de transformer notre plate-forme, jusqu'alors ad hoc, en une instance régulière. Le mandat du Groupe préparatoire est à cet égard très clair en ce qui concerne les préparatifs des travaux du Conseil exécutif. Je tiens à remercier le Président du Conseil, M. Mohamed Sameh Amr, d'avoir permis que nos débats se déroulent en toute sérénité et en toute confiance. Sur le plan de nos travaux ordinaires, l'examen systématique du rapport d'activités de la Directrice générale s'est révélé des plus utiles et des plus efficaces pour le pilotage de l'Organisation. Je suis tout particulièrement satisfaite de ce que nous soyons parvenus à prendre du recul et à faire ressortir des points essentiels souvent noyés dans la masse des activités listées dans le rapport EX/4. En outre, le Groupe préparatoire a souvent permis de mettre en avant les défis soulevés par la mise en œuvre des priorités globales de l'UNESCO, l'Afrique et l'Égalité des genres, qui me sont

chères. Les États membres demandent à juste titre des comptes rendus fidèles des débats au regard de la durée des travaux (deux jours). Je pense que cette préoccupation doit être examinée compte tenu du temps imparti à la Présidente pour son rapport. En somme, je pense que nous n'avons pas démerité dans nos efforts pour débroussailler le terrain et guider l'attention du Conseil sur des points précis. J'insiste sur cette idée de « guider l'attention » car nos recommandations n'ont jamais empiété sur les prérogatives du Conseil. Au contraire, elles ont favorisé une économie et une rationalisation des débats certainement bénéfiques à nos travaux. À cet égard, je voudrais remercier M. Matthew Sudders et M. Porfirio Thierry Muñoz Ledo, respectivement présidents des commissions FA et PX. Leur participation à tous les débats du Groupe a contribué à cette efficacité que nous exigeons si souvent du Secrétariat et qu'il est normal d'exiger de nous-mêmes. Je tiens à les remercier chaleureusement pour leur engagement, leur patience, mais aussi leur humour.

19.17 Je profite de l'occasion qui m'est ici offerte pour vous informer que ma mission en tant qu'Ambassadrice, déléguée et représentante permanente de la République gabonaise auprès de l'UNESCO et de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), a pris fin et que cette situation entraîne également la fin du mandat de Présidente du Groupe préparatoire aux travaux du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO qui m'a été confié *intuitu personæ* par le Groupe africain. Celui-ci, réuni en sa séance du vendredi 27 mars 2015, a entériné ma proposition de confier la présidence du Groupe à Son Excellence Madame Mariam Yalwaji Katagum, Ambassadrice, déléguée permanente de la République fédérale du Nigéria auprès de l'UNESCO, pays membre du Conseil. Cette décision a été acceptée par Madame l'Ambassadrice et je lui adresse tous mes remerciements pour avoir accepté de mener à terme le mandat du Groupe africain à la présidence du Groupe préparatoire. Je voudrais également remercier tous les sous-directeurs généraux ici présents et tous les États membres ayant participé aux travaux de notre Groupe préparatoire pour leur participation active. Nous espérons que leurs recommandations seront respectées et exécutées. J'ai une pensée particulière pour M. Sachin Bhatt, Mme Magdalena Landry, tous les autres collaborateurs du Secrétariat, les analystes, les techniciens, les interprètes, que je remercie pour la qualité de leur travail.

19.18 À ce stade de nos travaux, c'est avec une réelle émotion que je viens donc de vous informer de la fin de ma mission. C'est l'occasion pour moi de réitérer tous mes remerciements à l'ensemble des États membres de l'UNESCO pour la confiance qu'ils ont bien voulu placer en notre pays, le Gabon, à travers ma modeste personne. En effet, depuis la présentation de mes lettres de créance à Son Excellence Monsieur Koïchiro Matsuura, Directeur général de l'UNESCO, en mai 2008, je n'ai eu de cesse de participer activement et pleinement à toutes les activités de l'Organisation, notamment en ma qualité de représentante d'un État membre observateur, avant l'élection du Gabon au Conseil en 2011 pour un mandat de quatre ans, toujours avec la fermeté et profonde détermination à promouvoir et renforcer les idéaux défendus et les valeurs prônées par l'Organisation en faveur d'une paix durable.

19.19 Madame la Directrice générale, c'est pour moi le lieu de vous féliciter pour vos qualités de courage et de sang-froid – vous qui venez d'un grand pays de froid –, qualités indispensables pour diriger le navire UNESCO à

travers les mers très agitées des crises économique et financière du monde en général et de la lutte de notre Organisation pour sa survie en particulier. C'est également l'occasion de rendre un vibrant hommage à tous les États membres pour leurs contributions multiformes, tout particulièrement à la suite de la création du Fonds d'urgence. Je suis tout à fait honorée que notre pays, le Gabon, ait été le premier État membre à répondre spontanément et positivement à votre S.O.S. Au moment où ma mission d'Ambassadrice et déléguée permanente touche à sa fin, je prends devant vous l'engagement d'être symboliquement l'ambassadrice de l'UNESCO auprès des populations gabonaises pour rendre encore plus lisibles et visibles les actes et actions de l'Organisation, dans le cadre d'une société mieux organisée, à travers une ONG qui sollicitera vos contributions et soutiens multiformes.

19.20 Monsieur le Président du Conseil, vous l'avez dit un peu plus tôt dans vos propos introductifs, les conventions de l'UNESCO méritent d'être connues du grand public. Madame la Directrice générale a mentionné tout à l'heure que l'UNESCO avait besoin de l'intégralité de son budget et a donc appelé tous les États à y réfléchir. Telle est la situation au moment où j'arrive au terme de ma mission. Je tiens à dire une fois de plus à chacune et à chacun que j'ai apprécié de travailler avec tous et chacun pour le bien de l'Organisation, pour le bien de l'humanité. Je vous remercie.

(Applaudissements)

20. **The Chair** thanked the Chair of the Preparatory Group for her report, commended the dedication and enthusiasm that she had brought to the Group throughout her mandate, and wished her success in her future endeavours.

21. The representative of **Nigeria** joined the Chair in paying tribute to the outgoing Chair of the Preparatory Group for her work at its helm and praised her efforts to promote the two global priorities of gender equality and Africa. If elected to serve as Chair of the Preparatory Group, she would do her utmost to continue that work and to prove herself worthy of the trust placed in her.

22. **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA), and **Mr Muñoz Ledo** (Mexico), speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX), joined the previous speakers in expressing appreciation to the representative of Gabon for her valued stewardship of the Preparatory Group and in wishing her success in her future endeavours.

23. Le représentant de la **France** tient à son tour à souligner le rôle que la Présidente du Groupe préparatoire a joué au service de la cause des femmes, de l'Afrique, de l'UNESCO, mais aussi de la francophonie, et salue la compétence avec laquelle elle s'est acquittée, sans se départir de son sourire, de sa lourde charge, en dépit des nombreuses vicissitudes rencontrées dans l'exercice de ses fonctions.

24. **La Directrice générale** exprime sa profonde reconnaissance, son respect et son admiration à l'endroit de la représentante du Gabon qui, au-delà de son pays, a représenté l'Afrique tout entière avec fierté, intelligence et engagement, et qui l'a aidée à mener des réformes difficiles. Après une carrière impressionnante comme professeur d'université, intellectuelle et diplomate, elle a beaucoup contribué, avec honnêteté, intégrité et intelligence, aux débats du Conseil. À la tête du Groupe

préparatoire, elle a su faire montre d'une capacité d'écoute et de rassemblement exemplaire. Ne doutant pas qu'elle continuera de suivre l'UNESCO, la Directrice générale lui souhaite bonne continuation.

25. **大会主席**对加蓬大使即将离任的消息表示吃惊与不舍。他表示在两年前筹备大会第三十七届会议时与加蓬大使有过良好接触。他认为加蓬大使有一种职业精神、献身精神和无私精神。他作为大会第三十七届会议主席向加蓬大使这六年来对教科文组织所做的贡献表示感谢,并希望他在今后的工作当中取得新的成绩。他还表示相信继任主席的尼日利亚大使一定会把下一步的工作做好。

(25) **The President of the General Conference** expressed his surprise and regret at the end of the mandate of the Ambassador of Gabon. He had fond memories of friendly contact with the Ambassador where she had shown professionalism, dedication and selflessness. As the President of the 37th session of the General Conference, he would like to thank the Ambassador of Gabon for her contribution to UNESCO during her six-year term of office and wished her new success in the future. He also expressed his confidence in the Ambassador of Nigeria as her competent successor.

26. **The Chair**, recalling the unanimous decision of the Africa Group to nominate the representative of Nigeria as the next Chair of the Preparatory Group, said that pursuant to 193 EX/Decision 7, the new chair would be formally elected at the Group's next meeting.

Oral report on the budget orientation debate (196 EX/15 INF.3)

27.1 **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission-FA) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in the interest of time and money, and as a report on the budget orientation debate that was held on 23 March 2015 will be published tomorrow, I will only, at this instance, flag the main issues that arose from the debate and discussions that Member States had with the representative of the Director-General and the representative of our External Auditor. As you are aware, the purpose of the debate was to raise questions about the budget and expenditure plans elaborated by the Secretariat in document 38 C/5 Draft and its addenda, and about the comments by the External Auditor contained in document 196 EX/15.INF. The idea was to assist in the preparation of the budget decision to be taken by Members of the Board at this session. The debate was open to all Member States and over 60 attended.

27.2 As for the flags that we Chairs of the Finance and Administrative (FA) and Programme and External Relations (PX) Commissions submit to the Executive Board, they are as follows. The External Auditor and Member States commended the progress on improved budget presentation and the increased rigour of the underlying assumptions. The difference between the zero nominal growth (ZNG) and zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) scenarios is to be spent entirely on the five major programmes and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS); the Chair of the PX Commission will highlight the details in a moment. The evidence provided to the External Auditor did not prove or disprove the assertion that UNESCO risked irrelevance without the ZNG+ scenario. Member States noted some differences between

the priorities set by the Executive Board and the General Conference and the budget priorities in the draft C/5 document. It was explained that document 38 C/5 was, in fact, an amplified version of the expenditure plan approved by the General Conference, which was arrived at by injecting the extra resources that would be available if all contributions were forthcoming. However, this does mean that documents 37 C/5 and 38 C/5 can appear materially different. Member States noted that the difference between the ZNG and ZNG+ scenarios was \$14 million, which is the same as the remaining sum in the Special Emergency Multi-Donor Fund for UNESCO Priority Programmes and Reform Initiatives under the 35 C/5 and 36 C/5, or was remaining until late last week. On the assumption that the "real budget" is, in fact, the expenditure plan, the difference between the ZNG and ZNG+ scenarios is \$11 million which is less than the balance of the Emergency Fund. There may be further scope for tightening the definition of incompressible costs and also making more cost effective some of the elements which are considered incompressible. The External Auditor stated that he could not tell the Member States that all possible savings had been made and reflected in the C/5 documents before us. Mr Chair, with your permission, I will give the floor to my friend and co-chair during the budget orientation debate, the Chair of the PX Commission, for his remarks. Once he has spoken, I will request the floor again for some brief concluding remarks.

28.1 **Mr Muñoz Ledo** (Mexico) (Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission – PX) *in extenso*:

Thank you very much, Mr Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA) and Mr Chair of the Executive Board. The budget orientation debate on 23 March 2015, with the contribution of the External Auditor, provided Member States with an opportunity to understand the reasoning that guided the UNESCO Secretariat in its preparation of the consolidated document 38 C/5 Draft, including the underlying technical and financial assumptions and the budgetary techniques and methods applied. This exercise was an opportunity, as well, to raise questions and seek further clarification from the Secretariat and the External Auditor in order to facilitate the examination and adoption of an informed decision on the draft budget for 2016-2017 by Members of the Executive Board, by considering all of its implications for the future of the Organization. My colleague and good friend, the Chair of the FA Commission, has provided you with an account of the exchange of information that took place at the budget orientation debate. At this point, I would like to draw your attention to relevant aspects of the programmatic dimension of the budgetary options contained in the Secretariat's proposals, in particular with regard to the implementation capacity of the Organization and the expected level of results delivery.

28.2 You may recall that the \$11 million reinforcement foreseen under the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) expenditure plan, in relation to the zero nominal growth (ZNG) plan, is dedicated mainly to budget reinforcement of the major programmes in a proportion similar to actual expenditure on those programmes. Pursuant to 195 EX/Decision 13, Members sought information from each programme sector on the manner in which these supplementary funds would benefit substantive activities or on how their absence would affect negatively the already diminished programme delivery capacities, especially if we consider that in real terms there is already a negative growth of the budget from one biennium to the next, and especially if we have to re-evaluate the base of

the Organization and absorb it into the new draft budget. From the discussion, it appeared clear that the additional resources would mainly be directed to strengthening field activities in priority areas, with a particular focus on Africa; reinforcement of UNESCO's pre-positioning in the post-2015 era; and enhancement of institutional capacity to deliver the respective programmes. However, Member States were concerned by the plan to decentralize the ZNG+ reinforcement mainly to field activities, recognizing that core activities at Headquarters, particularly in the Culture Sector, are, as already pointed out, severely underfunded and may not be implemented under those circumstances. As Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX), I would like to emphasize once more the need to reinforce the Organization's substantive programmes in order to maintain leadership and improve its capacity to comply with Member States' requests. I now give the floor to the Chair of the FA Commission, with the permission of the Chair of the Board.

29. **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission-FA) *in extenso*:

Thank you. Given that this will come up in the debates on the budget, I wish to signal that in the previous budget orientation debate held on 17 October 2014, Member States had already queried the amount under "anticipated cost increases", also known as Part V of the

budget, stating notably that the amount calculated under document 37 C/5 represented an accumulated inflation of 3.89% in 2014-2015, during a time when many economies, including France, are facing annual inflation of approximately 0.65% – and, in some cases, deflationary tendencies. Dear colleagues, please bear in mind the amounts remaining under this chapter when we come to the budget debates in the joint meeting of the Commissions. For Member States who are interested, it is worthwhile to refer back to the questions that you yourselves sent in during the 17 October 2014 budget orientation debate to take stock of how far we have come and, in some cases, how far we have not. Also, I will repeat what I said then in stating that transparency and accountability are constitutional requirements, especially with regard to our budgetary process and we, dear colleagues, should reflect on that so that amendments can be proposed at the forthcoming General Conference in 2015. Together with transparency in the entire process, allowing the governing bodies to know where the money goes, accountability is at the heart of good governance. Thank you for your attention.

30. **The Chair** thanked the Chairs of the Commissions for their excellent work in leading the budget orientation debate, which would prove very useful for the discussion on item **15** of the agenda at the Commissions' joint meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

SECOND MEETING

Monday 13 April 2015 at 3.50 p.m.

Chair: Mr Amr

REPORTING ITEMS (*continued*)

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme Implementation Report (PIR) (1 January-31 December 2014) (196 EX/4 Part I and Corr.-Corr.2; 196 EX/4.INF; 196 EX/4.INF.4; 196 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37 C/5) as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited), budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited) (196 EX/4 Part II and Corr. and Add.; 196 EX/4.INF.2; 196 EX/4.INF.3; 196 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (196 EX/5 Part I and Add.; 196 EX/5.INF.3) (*continued*)

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (196 EX/5 Part II) (*continued*)

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues (196 EX/5 Part III and Corr.) (*continued*)

Item 5.IV: Management issues (196 EX/5 Part IV; 196 EX/5.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5.V: Human resources issues (196 EX/5 Part V; 196 EX/5.INF.2; 196 EX/5.INF.4) (*continued*)

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING (*continued*)

Item 15: Draft budget for the Biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5) (38 C/5 Draft; 196 EX/15.INF and Rev.; 196 EX/15.INF.3) (*continued*)

Plenary debate (*continued*)

1.1 **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) *in extenso*:

Thank you Mr Chair. Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, in three weeks' time, we will have new ministers in my country. I have no idea which party they will be from, what their background will be or ultimately which platform they will be elected on, because this is a very close election. But I have been giving a great deal of thought to how I will describe UNESCO to my new ministers. And I have decided to share that with you today.

1.2 I will tell them how we have never needed UNESCO more. World events have tragically shown how nothing we work for at UNESCO can be taken for granted. From Nigeria, Pakistan, Kenya, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, to Paris and Copenhagen, we see everything UNESCO works for and believes in under attack. And most horrendously, those attacks are coming because radicals with a twisted idea of religion are planting wars in the minds of men, just as we aim for peace in the minds of men.

1.3 I know that whatever government I have, our core values will be unchanged. We consider it no more appropriate to respond to attacks on journalists, authors and cartoonists by limiting freedom of expression than it would be to respond to attacks on schoolchildren and students by limiting access to education. Human rights and diversity are mutually reinforcing, not mutually exclusive. We must solemnly promise that the legacy of every killed or injured child or student is that we will make education safe and inclusive for everyone. The legacy of every imprisoned or murdered journalist must be that we will push for freedom of expression and the safety of journalists in every media in every place. And the legacy of every piece of destroyed heritage must be that we rebuild and remember, and that we end the trafficking.

1.4 And I will tell my government about the achievements of the Director-General. For faced with these events, her reactions, her speeches and her instinct have been spot on. The Director-General has put UNESCO back on the map in our core subjects, got us back in the room in the key discussions and given us back the leadership role that was once ours by default. And while the world has noticed, especially in New York, it will notice soon enough if we do not deliver. For this is not a one-woman show.

1.5 I will give examples of exciting scientific discoveries that have been made through efforts coordinated and inspired by UNESCO – everything from the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) to tsunami warnings, all made possible through scientific cooperation in the only global organization truly designed for the purpose. And I will tell those ministers how we have in the United Kingdom over 300 organizations that have direct and highly prized links to UNESCO and, through it, a global community. Ultimately this is an Organization in which membership brings clear, tangible benefits, which must be considered when looking at the cost.

1.6 And when we have this discussion, I will talk about how the mission of UNESCO, its programmes and actions, inspire so many people that we are able to have an excellent National Commission, which is committed to bringing all these stakeholders together with the sole and simple aim of making UNESCO the best it can be.

1.7 And of course I know that ministers from all parties will ask me: How well does UNESCO perform? How is it changing? And what are its prospects? I will describe an organization improved in many aspects, like budgeting and results, transparency, focus, prioritization and overall efficiency, but one where there is still room for improvement. Nobody should be satisfied by a field network that is under-resourced but too expensive and responsible but unaccountable, or a governance structure that manages to be over-burdensome but complex and disjointed.

1.8 And when asked what the biggest threat to UNESCO is, I will say that on balance, it comes from within. It is exemplified by central services that have forgotten they exist to serve, not be served. And it is laid bare by a chasm that divides actions and words. How is it that we have programmes starved of money when we are sitting on millions of dollars in an Emergency Fund designed precisely for those programmes? Never forget that the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) and the Bureau of Financial Management (BFM) are meant to coordinate the use of that Emergency Fund, not try to keep it for themselves.

1.9 And Mr Chair, I will also have to say that human resources management is part of the threat. It is frighteningly exposed in the external audit. There is no more damning critique of a human resources department than the assertion that personnel and redeployment are not managed in the Organization's best interests. And it is particularly alarming in the case of senior recruitment, because it feels sometimes as if we know the outcome of a process before it has even begun. This is symptomatic of a system that does not have adequate checks and balances.

1.10 These are difficult discussions, but we will never solve problems if we do not acknowledge them and talk about them, and we do not demonstrate commitment to UNESCO by ignoring them.

1.11 Of course, our biggest decision this time is the forthcoming programme of work and budget. We have studied the proposal in great detail. In the light of the challenges the Organization faces, looking forward to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and recognizing the need for some investments, we have decided on balance to support the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) proposal, because we fear that the zero nominal growth (ZNG) scenario will be too limiting to the Organization in the current circumstances. Our goal is to increase UNESCO's impact, not limit it. Judge us by our commitments and our actions. Join us to make UNESCO better. Thank you.

2.1 Ms Plassnick (Austria) in extenso:

Madam Director-General, distinguished Chair of the Executive Board, dear colleagues, Austria aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

2.2 During one of the most barbaric events in the history of humankind, this Organization was conceived by a group of ministers of education. In the immediate aftermath of the Second World War and the Holocaust, UNESCO's founding States believed that lasting peace could only be achieved by "the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace". In 2015, as we adopt a new universal development agenda and celebrate our 70th anniversary, UNESCO perhaps matters more than ever. The biggest challenges we face today concern all our countries and can only be solved if we all cooperate.

2.3 There are certain universal topics within the mandate of UNESCO that have recently gained attention. I am talking about the atrocious attacks in Kenya, Nigeria, Tunisia, Denmark and France that are, in some way, proof of the globalization of ideas and threats, including the most misguided and hideous. I am talking about the rise of violent extremism, and about all the crimes that are today, again, committed in the name of identities. Austria, together with Italy, is presenting to this Executive Board a draft decision on global citizenship education. The root causes of radicalization and violent extremism cannot be eradicated with security measures alone. The key to long-term solutions lies in education, which is right at the heart of UNESCO's mandate.

2.4 Another example of the increasing need for UNESCO today is the protection of culture in conflict situations. We commend your relentless and strong commitment, Madam Director-General, to leading international efforts to protect cultural sites and cultural diversity in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and elsewhere. UNESCO's cultural conventions are today more relevant than ever. My delegation is glad to announce that the Austrian Government recently decided to ratify the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and

Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

2.5 In view of the ongoing deliberate and targeted destruction of culture to propagate a violent ideology, the role of culture in development cannot be stressed enough. We are convinced that the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) will gain further importance in implementing a post-2015 agenda that recognizes culture as an enabler and driver.

2.6 UNESCO matters and this is why it is so important that it function most effectively and that we optimize our governance. Each and every day that this Executive Board meets costs the Organization roughly \$50,000. If we shortened our meetings and the General Conference by only one day, the Organization would save \$350,000 per biennium. This is more than half of the budget we have to achieve the expected result relating to the implementation of the right to education.

2.7 Owing to budgetary constraints, my delegation has little leeway when it comes to negotiations on the budget for the next biennium. For us, restrictions entail responsibility: Austria will support decisions that help the Organization to shift more resources to the programme sectors and allow it to focus on specific areas where it plays a leading role in the United Nations system and has a real impact on the ground. We appreciate the draft budget scenarios, which are a good basis for our deliberations from now until the final adoption by the General Conference. But we are concerned about some budget shifts within major programmes that might endanger the execution of the four-year programme adopted by the last General Conference. Also, we need to safeguard the Organization's capacity to mainstream human rights across all programmes and strengthen UNESCO's mechanisms, as well as enhance specific human rights-related activities in the Education, Culture, and Communication and Information Sectors.

2.8 Distinguished colleagues, we have about six months left until the next General Conference, which will receive more attention and visibility than any other General Conference before it, in the light of the Organization's 70th anniversary, the adoption of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) here in Paris. When Austria leaves the Executive Board on this same occasion, I would like to be able to go back to my government and say that although UNESCO had to reduce its budget by more than 20% four years ago, it now has a sustainable financial basis, works more efficiently and is more focused than ever before, and is in a position to deliver on its core mandate. Let us work together and make the right decisions for that to come true. Thank you.

3.1 Mr Worbs (Germany) in extenso:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, Germany believes that UNESCO's founding principle to build peace in the minds of men and women across cultures, and religious and political beliefs has not lost its relevance since 1945. On the contrary, the challenges we are facing today call for a focused and relevant Organization. Germany continues to contribute substantially and reliably to UNESCO and supports the Organization in all its fields of competence.

3.2 This summer, we are hosting the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn. In preparation, an ad hoc working group was set up to review the Committee's working methods, advisory bodies and financing. The findings of this ad hoc group will be presented in Bonn to the Committee, chaired by Maria Böhmer, Minister of State.

3.3 Germany strongly condemns the destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic and welcomes UNESCO's ongoing efforts to contain cultural cleansing. Experts from Iraq and Germany are currently developing a capacity-building project to strengthen the conservation of Iraqi cultural heritage and its presentation in research museums.

3.4 Germany supports the normative and capacity-building power of UNESCO in many areas. For example, sites accredited by UNESCO as examples of the compatibility of nature conservation, protection of cultural diversity and local economic development having been getting our support since the inception of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere. Currently, Germany provides more than €110 million to more than 30 UNESCO biosphere reserves. In addition, 22 UNESCO natural heritage sites in developing countries have benefited from Germany's investment of almost €1 billion in international nature protection.

3.5 It is important to maintain the normative power of UNESCO. Programme sectors have suffered too much under the current expenditure plan and must be strengthened. I am glad that some corrections have already been proposed by the Director-General for the next budget cycle.

3.6 As the host country of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in Hamburg and the UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Bonn, Germany is a reliable partner of UNESCO in the field of education. Our commitment to UNESCO is reflected by increased financial support for both institutes. Germany continues to support the UNESCO Education for All (EFA) *Global Monitoring Report*. The self-evaluation of EFA is an important initiative of the African countries.

3.7 I congratulate the Communication and Information Sector for the organization of the "CONNECTING the Dots: Options for Future Action" conference on UNESCO's comprehensive multi-stakeholder study on Internet-related issues, held in March this year. Germany contributed to the development of this study by supporting a research project on privacy and data protection in the digital age, with the involvement of German experts.

3.8 In the light of the terrorist attacks in Paris, Copenhagen, Tunis and too many other places, UNESCO's efforts to foster free, independent and pluralistic media are important for the enhancement of freedom of expression and the recognition of human rights.

3.9 UNESCO is not the United Nations Development Programme. UNESCO is a programme and a standard-setting organization. Its value depends more on the quality of its programmes than on its diplomatic presence in Member States. Therefore, the programmes must be preserved and strengthened. I am concerned about the still excessive costs of non-programme activities. For example, the maintenance and management costs of field offices alone amount to \$85 million (\$80 million in the expenditure plans). Document 38 C/5 should focus on the

programme priorities identified by Member States. Thank you for your attention.

4.1 **Sr. Pozo (Ecuador) in extenso:**

Gracias, señor Presidente. Tomo en primer lugar la palabra en nombre del GRULAC. En el presente contexto de crisis global, política, económica, social y ecológica, con un creciente estado de conflicto y una situación de inestabilidad y desigualdad a escala mundial, el GRULAC reivindica el mandato fundacional de la UNESCO, inspirado en los baluartes de la cultura de paz, para responder a los desafíos del siglo XXI.

4.2 En pocos meses la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas aprobará la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015. Consideramos fundamental que la UNESCO reafirme su liderazgo y su contribución a un desarrollo social inclusivo, equitativo y sostenible a través de una participación activa en la definición de esa agenda, que marcará profundamente los próximos 15 años.

4.3 En este contexto, es imperativo que la Organización fortalezca todos sus programas, así como su función normativa y su papel en la cooperación internacional y la producción de ideas. El mayor desafío para el desarrollo social es vencer la desigualdad. Por ello respaldamos los principios establecidos en el Acuerdo de Mascate y el objetivo 4 de la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015 que conste en el informe del Grupo de Trabajo Abierto de la Asamblea General sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, y estamos convencidos de que el principio rector de la agenda de la educación para después de 2015 debe ser la inclusión, principio que valorizará la riqueza de la diversidad cultural y lingüística de la región de América Latina y el Caribe.

4.4 Para afrontar este desafío tenemos que progresar basándonos en las metas ya alcanzadas en materia de Educación para Todos y teniendo en cuenta las diferencias de los contextos socioeconómico y cultural de cada país. Por ello acogemos con satisfacción gran parte de las mejoras técnicas introducidas en las metas de educación sobre la base del Objetivo 4 antes mencionado, y estamos trabajando para garantizar una integración más amplia, que incorpore también los intereses de todas las regiones respetando las capacidades de los países en desarrollo.

4.5 El GRULAC reitera asimismo su compromiso con la educación superior en el marco de la agenda de la educación para después de 2015 y solicita a la Directora General que incremente las acciones para fortalecer el IESALC reforzando sus capacidades para el próximo bienio.

4.6 Señor Presidente: la cultura debe ser reconocida como un motor del desarrollo sostenible y base de la identidad y la cohesión social. Pese al que el grupo de trabajo de Nueva York hace referencia, en tres de sus objetivos, a la diversidad cultural y a la preservación del patrimonio cultural, entre otros, el GRULAC insiste firmemente en la necesidad de ampliar el alcance de la cultura como elemento esencial para el cumplimiento de la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015.

4.7 Por otro lado, nuestro grupo reitera su profunda preocupación por el expolio, saqueo, destrucción y tráfico de bienes culturales y apoya a la Directora General en sus esfuerzos por la defensa del patrimonio mundial, en el contexto actual de conflicto existente en algunas regiones del mundo. Manifiesta asimismo su gran interés en la próxima aprobación de las directrices prácticas sobre la aplicación de la Convención de 1970 durante la tercera

reunión de los Estados Partes, que tendrá lugar en mayo, y alienta a los Estados a su pronta puesta en práctica.

4.8 Señor Presidente: la actualidad y vigencia de los objetivos generales del Sector de Comunicación e Información resultan innegables. Sin embargo, el interés expresado por los Estados Miembros tanto en el Programa Información para Todos (PIPT) como en el Programa Internacional para el Desarrollo de la Comunicación (PIDC) no se ha visto reflejado a nivel presupuestario, y el Sector dispone actualmente de los más reducidos recursos de la Organización, es decir, solo el 10,36% del presupuesto para grandes programas fijado en el documento 38 C/5. Esta situación de carencia se expresa en una evidente insuficiencia cuantitativa de personal, con la consecuente dificultad para alcanzar los objetivos deseados.

4.9 Por otro lado, nos preocupa la insuficiente representación de nuestro grupo regional en el seno de la Secretaría. Este desequilibrio en la representación geográfica es aún más evidente en los puestos de director y categorías superiores. Creemos que no faltaron oportunidades el año pasado para corregir ese desvío, cuando se renovaron tres puestos de subdirector general y la Secretaría de la COI.

4.10 El GRULAC agradece a la Secretaría la presentación del Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para el bienio 2016-2017. En la pasada reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo se aprobó la instrucción de presentar dos hipótesis presupuestarias, una bajo el principio de crecimiento nominal cero, y otra bajo el supuesto de crecimiento nominal "cero más". A este respecto, es preciso revisar la propuesta de financiación de ambas hipótesis y sus respectivos planes de gastos correspondientes a los costos del programa y sus servicios conexos, de tal modo que sean estos últimos imputados a gastos administrativos y no a costos del programa. Nuestro grupo regional estima que la contribución de la Organización a la realización de los objetivos para los que fue creada se encuentra en sus programas sustantivos y no en sus gastos generales, y que los requerimientos adicionales de la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015 buscan precisamente fortalecer los programas sustantivos.

4.11 El GRULAC apoya el proyecto de decisión sobre los resultados de la tercera Conferencia Internacional sobre los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo y, de manera muy especial, la necesidad de desarrollar un seguimiento adecuadamente orientado y financiado de su plan de acción.

4.12 Señor Presidente: la CELAC aprobó una resolución el 29 de enero de este año en la que declara a América Latina como una región de paz e invita a encontrar solución a toda controversia por vías pacíficas conforme al derecho internacional. En el contexto del mandato de la UNESCO, nuestro grupo recuerda la necesidad de preservar el orden democrático en toda la región, y particularmente en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela.

4.13 Finalmente, queremos que la Organización sea cada vez más fuerte e innovadora, con una visión prospectiva en materia de educación, cultura, ciencia y comunicación. La UNESCO debe estar, en el terreno internacional, cada vez más presente, activa, sólida y orientada a la consecución del diálogo y la paz universales. Debe lograr que cada vez se ponga más interés en el saber científico al servicio del desarrollo sostenible. El GRULAC seguirá apoyando a la

Organización en la consecución de estos fines. Paso ahora, señor Presidente, a dirigirme a esta sala en nombre de mi país.

4.14 En pocos meses se aprobará la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015, cuya base y fundamento guarda relación con varios aspectos del mandato de la Organización, como la educación, el desarrollo sostenible, la cultura o la ciencia. La erradicación de la pobreza sigue siendo el desafío más importante del presente siglo, sobre todo para el mundo en desarrollo. La pobreza no se debe a la falta de recursos, sino a la falta de voluntad política. Cerca de 66 millones de niños en edad escolar asisten a clase con hambre. El número de pobres, según el Índice de Desarrollo Humano, es de aproximadamente 1.200 millones de personas.

4.15 Además de esos fundamentales campos, la UNESCO debe contribuir de modo claro al desafío de construir la cultura de paz. Los conflictos se han profundizado, hay una creciente violencia que se manifiesta en forma de intolerancia y destrucción. Frente a estas crisis, la UNESCO debe luchar por la preservación del patrimonio cultural del mundo entero. Un paso fundamental en este sentido es la enriquecedora discusión que con los auspicios de la Directora General hemos venido llevando adelante los últimos años para establecer unas directrices prácticas de la Convención de 1970, que en 45 años ha sido poco eficaz para luchar contra el intolerable tráfico de bienes culturales, especialmente los arqueológicos. Los hábiles traficantes aprovechan deficiencias, vacíos e imprecisiones para expoliar los bienes de muchos países y comercializarlos a la luz del día. Como se trata de comercio, es indispensable que se controle y exija con claridad el cumplimiento de las normas de importación y exportación.

4.16 Señor Presidente: tenemos que reiterar nuestra preocupación por la escasa representatividad geográfica de los altos puestos de dirección de la Organización. Precisamente porque el mandato de la UNESCO cobra mayor vigencia, debido a los desafíos que hemos mencionado, la Organización debería recuperar el espíritu de crisol del mundo. La pluralidad de culturas y visiones es fundamental.

4.17 Los temas sensibles, como la libertad de expresión y los derechos humanos, deben ser abordados en la UNESCO al margen de sesgos políticos, y en modo alguno deben constituir una suerte de medio de control de unos países sobre otros. Por lo dicho, el Ecuador apoya firmemente el reequilibrio entre los dos mandatos del Comité de Convenciones y Recomendaciones y ha venido formulando propuestas no solo para mejorar sus métodos de trabajo, sino también para revisar sus procedimientos, que después de casi 40 años deben ser actualizados y ganar en eficiencia. Expresamos nuestro reconocimiento por el trabajo ponderado y eficaz llevado adelante por la Presidencia del Comité CR en la positiva reunión del grupo de trabajo que se celebró hace unos pocos días.

4.18 Quiero aprovechar esta tribuna y ocasión, señor Presidente, para despedirme de todos ustedes, estimados colegas, Directora General y funcionarios de la UNESCO, puesto que en aplicación de las normas de funcionamiento del Servicio Exterior ecuatoriano, he sido trasladado para prestar mis servicios en mi país, después de cinco años de misión ante la UNESCO, con cuyos nobles fines coincide plenamente el Ecuador. Gracias.

(4.1) **M. Pozo** (Équateur) *in extenso*
(traduit de l'espagnol) :

Merci Monsieur le Président. Je prendrai tout d'abord la parole au nom du Groupe de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes (GRULAC). Dans le contexte actuel de crise globale, politique, économique, sociale et écologique, dans un état de conflit croissant et une situation d'instabilité et d'inégalité à l'échelle mondiale, le GRULAC réaffirme la mission fondatrice de l'UNESCO, inspirée des principes de la culture de la paix, afin de relever les défis du XXI^e siècle.

(4.2) Dans quelques mois, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies approuvera le programme de développement pour l'après-2015. Il nous paraît essentiel que l'UNESCO réaffirme son leadership et sa contribution en faveur d'un développement social, inclusif, équitable et durable en participant activement à l'élaboration de ce programme, qui marquera profondément les quinze prochaines années.

(4.3) Il est impératif, dans ce contexte, que l'Organisation renforce l'ensemble de ses programmes, ainsi que sa fonction normative et son rôle en matière de coopération internationale et de production d'idées. Le principal défi du développement social est de vaincre les inégalités. À ce titre, nous appuyons les principes énoncés dans l'Accord de Mascate et l'objectif 4 du programme de développement pour l'après-2015 qui figure dans le rapport du Groupe de travail ouvert de l'Assemblée générale sur les objectifs de développement durable, et sommes convaincus que le principe directeur de l'agenda pour l'éducation post-2015 doit être l'inclusion, qui permettra de valoriser la richesse de la diversité culturelle et linguistique de la région de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes.

(4.4) Pour relever ce défi, nous devons progresser à partir des cibles déjà atteintes en matière d'Éducation pour tous, en tenant compte du contexte socioéconomique et culturel particulier de chaque pays. C'est pourquoi nous accueillons avec satisfaction la plupart des améliorations techniques introduites dans les cibles d'éducation sur la base de l'objectif 4 évoqué plus haut, et travaillons actuellement à garantir une plus large intégration, qui prenne également en compte les intérêts de l'ensemble des régions en respectant les capacités des pays en développement.

(4.5) Le GRULAC réaffirme également son engagement en faveur de l'enseignement supérieur dans le cadre de l'agenda pour l'éducation post-2015 et prie la Directrice générale d'accroître les mesures visant à consolider l'Institut international de l'UNESCO pour l'enseignement supérieur en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes (IESALC) en renforçant ses capacités pour le prochain exercice biennal.

(4.6) Monsieur le Président, la culture doit être reconnue comme un moteur du développement durable et comme le fondement de l'identité et de la cohésion sociale. Bien que le Groupe de travail de New York fasse référence, au titre de trois de ses objectifs, à la diversité culturelle et à la préservation du patrimoine culturel, entre autres, le GRULAC insiste vivement sur la nécessité d'étendre la portée de la culture en tant qu'élément essentiel à la réalisation du programme de développement pour l'après-2015.

(4.7) Par ailleurs, notre groupe exprime à nouveau sa profonde préoccupation face aux spoliations ainsi qu'au pillage, à la destruction et au trafic de biens culturels, et soutient la Directrice générale dans ses efforts en faveur de la défense du patrimoine mondial dans le contexte actuel de conflit que connaissent certaines régions du monde. Il manifeste également son vif intérêt envers l'adoption prochaine de directives opérationnelles pour la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1970 lors de la troisième réunion des États parties qui se tiendra en mai, et espère que les États membres appliqueront rapidement ces directives.

(4.8) Monsieur le Président, l'actualité et la validité des objectifs généraux du Secteur de la communication et de l'information sont sans équivalent. Pourtant, l'intérêt manifesté par les États membres pour le Programme Information pour tous (PIPT) et pour le Programme international pour le développement de la communication (PIDC) n'est pas reflété sur le plan budgétaire. Le Secteur dispose actuellement de la part la plus faible des ressources de l'Organisation, soit seulement 10,36 % du budget alloué aux grands programmes selon le document 38 C/5. Cette insuffisance se traduit par une évidente pénurie de personnel et partant, des difficultés pour atteindre les objectifs visés.

(4.9) Nous sommes également préoccupés par la sous-représentation de notre groupe régional au sein du Secrétariat. Ce déséquilibre en matière de répartition géographique est encore plus flagrant au niveau des postes de directeurs et fonctionnaires de rang supérieur. Il nous semble que les occasions de corriger ce problème n'ont pas manqué l'année passée, lorsque trois postes de sous-directeur général et le Secrétariat de la COI ont été renouvelés.

(4.10) Le GRULAC remercie le Secrétariat de sa présentation du Projet de programme et de budget pour l'exercice biennal 2016-2017. À sa précédente session, le Conseil exécutif a approuvé la décision de présenter deux hypothèses budgétaires, l'une fondée sur le principe d'une croissance nominale zéro et l'autre sur celui d'une croissance nominale zéro +. À cet égard, il convient de réviser la proposition de financement des deux hypothèses budgétaires et de leurs plans de dépenses respectifs pour ce qui est des coûts du programme et des services connexes, de façon à ce que ces derniers soient comptabilisés dans les dépenses administratives et non dans les coûts de programme. Notre groupe régional estime que la contribution de l'Organisation à la réalisation des objectifs en vue desquels elle a été fondée réside dans ses programmes de fond, et non dans ses frais généraux, et que les dispositions supplémentaires du programme de développement pour l'après-2015 devraient justement permettre de renforcer les programmes de fond.

(4.11) Le GRULAC appuie le projet de décision relatif aux résultats de la troisième Conférence internationale sur les petits États insulaires en développement et tout particulièrement la nécessité de mettre en place un suivi convenablement orienté et financé de son plan d'action.

(4.12) Monsieur le Président, la Communauté des États latino-américains et caribéens (CELAC) a approuvé, le 29 janvier dernier, une résolution par laquelle elle proclame l'Amérique latine zone de paix et encourage la résolution de tout litige par des

moyens pacifiques dans le respect du droit international. Dans le cadre du mandat de l'UNESCO, notre groupe rappelle la nécessité de préserver l'ordre démocratique dans l'ensemble de la région, particulièrement en République bolivarienne du Venezuela.

(4.13) Enfin, nous souhaitons que l'Organisation soit toujours plus forte et novatrice, qu'elle adopte une vision prospective en matière d'éducation, de culture, de science et de communication. L'UNESCO doit être, sur la scène internationale, de plus en plus présente, active, solide et axée sur l'établissement du dialogue et de la paix universels. Il faut parvenir à susciter un intérêt croissant pour le savoir scientifique au service du développement durable. Le GRULAC continuera d'apporter son appui à l'Organisation en vue d'obtenir ces résultats. Je m'adresserai désormais à cette assistance, Monsieur le Président, au nom de mon pays.

(4.14) Dans quelques mois sera adopté le programme de développement pour l'après-2015, dont l'esprit et les fondements ont un lien avec plusieurs dimensions de la mission de l'Organisation, tels que l'éducation, le développement durable, la culture et les sciences. L'éradication de la pauvreté demeure le défi le plus important de notre siècle, en particulier pour le monde en développement. La pauvreté ne découle pas d'un manque de ressources mais d'un manque de volonté politique. Près de 66 millions d'enfants d'âge scolaire se rendent en classe avec l'estomac vide. Selon l'indice de développement humain, le nombre de pauvres s'élève à environ 1 200 millions.

(4.15) En dehors de ces domaines essentiels, l'UNESCO doit contribuer de manière claire à la tâche consistant à instaurer une culture de la paix. Les conflits se sont aggravés, une violence croissante s'exprime sous forme d'intolérance et de destruction. Face à ces crises, l'UNESCO doit lutter pour préserver le patrimoine culturel du monde entier. À ce titre, la discussion enrichissante que nous avons menée ces dernières années sous l'égide de la Directrice générale afin d'établir des directives opérationnelles relatives à la Convention de 1970 – dont l'efficacité en 45 années de lutte contre l'intolérable trafic de biens culturels, notamment archéologiques, s'est révélée limitée – a marqué une étape essentielle. Les trafiquants imaginatifs profitent des lacunes, des vides et des imprécisions pour spolier de nombreux pays de leurs biens et commercialiser ces derniers au grand jour. Il est indispensable de contrôler ce commerce, puisque c'est de cela qu'il s'agit, et d'exiger sans ambages le respect des règles en matière d'importation et d'exportation.

(4.16) Monsieur le Président, nous devons dire à nouveau notre préoccupation face à la médiocre représentativité géographique parmi les fonctionnaires de rang supérieur de l'Organisation. Le mandat de l'UNESCO est de plus en plus d'actualité en raison des défis mentionnés plus haut, et c'est justement pourquoi l'Organisation doit retrouver sa fonction de creuset du monde. La pluralité des cultures et des points de vue est fondamentale.

(4.17) Les sujets sensibles, comme la liberté d'expression et les droits de l'homme, doivent être abordés à l'UNESCO en dehors de tout parti pris politique et ne doivent en aucune façon constituer un

moyen de contrôle de certains pays sur les autres. C'est pourquoi l'Équateur soutient fermement le rééquilibrage entre les deux mandats du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations, et a formulé des propositions visant d'une part à améliorer les méthodes de travail du Comité, et d'autre part à réviser ses procédures, qui après 40 années d'existence demandent à être actualisées et à gagner en efficacité. Nous sommes reconnaissants à la présidence du Comité CR pour le travail réfléchi et efficace qu'elle a mené à bien lors de la réunion constructive du groupe de travail qui s'est tenue il y a quelques jours.

(4.18) Je souhaite profiter de cette tribune et de cette occasion, Monsieur le Président, pour vous faire mes adieux, chers collègues, Madame la Directrice générale et chers fonctionnaires de l'UNESCO, puisqu'en vertu des règles de fonctionnement des Affaires étrangères équatoriennes, je suis appelé à exercer désormais mes fonctions dans mon pays, après cinq années de mission auprès de l'UNESCO, cette Organisation dont l'Équateur partage pleinement les nobles objectifs. Je vous remercie.

5.1 **Ms Sato (Japan) in extenso:**

Thank you, Mr Chair. It is a great honour for me to attend the first Executive Board session of the year that marks UNESCO's 70th anniversary in my capacity as Japan's new representative. The Organization stands at a critical juncture, facing important issues and challenges.

5.2 Let me begin with the next biennium budget, which will be a main focus of this Board. As one of the largest financial contributors, Japan emphasizes once again the need for the most efficient and effective budget, which will enable UNESCO to fulfil its mandate, including the post-2015 development agenda. We need to mobilize all financial resources, including the Emergency Fund and current cost savings, to strengthen programmes and reforms in the next biennium.

5.3 Now, I would like to touch upon UNESCO's global priorities. First, Japan attaches great importance to the empowerment of women. Under Prime Minister Abe's initiative to create "a society where women shine", Japan is engaged in various activities, both nationally and globally. Japan will continue its strong support for Global Priority Gender Equality, including the new initiative for the education of adolescent girls and young women, launched jointly with UN Women and other agencies. Second, regarding the threat of terrorism and extremism, Japan fully supports UNESCO's actions in the protection of cultural heritage and the safety of journalists. We are pleased to be a sponsor of the two relevant draft decisions proposed by our distinguished colleagues. I would also like to highlight our recent extrabudgetary contributions of \$5 million to UNESCO's projects in Iraq and the Middle East in the areas of education, culture and disaster-risk management. Third, Japan will continue to support Global Priority Africa. We have been extending extrabudgetary support to UNESCO projects in areas where the Organization has a comparative advantage, such as gender-sensitive education, teacher training, youth development and cultural conservation in Africa.

5.4 I now turn to the programmes. Education is a core element of the Organization's mandate, and Japan will continue to lead discussions in this area. I first would like to express my sincere appreciation to the more than 1,000 participants at the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Aichi-Nagoya. Japan encourages UNESCO to build upon the

outcome of the World Education Forum to be held in the Republic of Korea next month, and to integrate ESD into the post-2015 development agenda. We further welcome UNESCO's efforts to ensure a single and comprehensive education agenda.

5.5 In the area of science, UNESCO and Member States need to enhance cooperation to operationalize "Sustainability Science", a cross-cutting and integrative scientific approach to sustainable development. In disaster-risk management, Japan has provided approximately \$4 million for UNESCO's project in Pakistan to improve its flood-warning system and management capacity.

5.6 In the area of culture, Japan strongly supports UNESCO's continued engagement in the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, including through extrabudgetary contributions for heritage conservation and capacity building. Japan welcomes UNESCO's increased focus on the protection of cultural property in conflict-affected areas through the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Regarding the World Heritage Convention, we welcome the efforts made by Germany as Chair of the ad hoc working group of the World Heritage Committee, in particular its proposal to enhance transparency and give due respect to the expertise of the advisory bodies.

5.7 UNESCO has unwavering support from the Japanese people, including my government, local authorities, universities, schools, associations and researchers. Japan will continue its active contribution to and partnership with UNESCO, so that the Organization, under Ms Bokova's leadership, can continue to play important and relevant roles in the international community. Thank you for your attention.

6.1 **Mr Baswedan** (Indonesia) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, allow me at the outset to express our support to you, Mr Chair. We have every confidence that with your vast experience, leadership and wisdom, we will have a productive and fruitful Executive Board session. I would like also to thank and congratulate the Director-General for her report. Indonesia associates itself with the statements of the Asia and the Pacific group (ASPAC) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

6.2 We gather today in Paris, against a backdrop of the tragic tropical cyclones that hit Vanuatu on 14 March 2015. I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to the people and Government of Vanuatu. To show its solidarity, Indonesia has sent a joint team to help the Government of Vanuatu assess the needs for reconstruction and rehabilitation, and has provided a modest \$2 million in humanitarian aid.

6.3 When UNESCO was established 70 years ago, the founders had in mind that this Organization must contribute to peace, and I urge all of us to continue our efforts to search for peace through our cooperation and programmes at UNESCO.

6.4 Mr Chair, since the change of administration in Indonesia in October 2015, the new Indonesian

Government has continued to attach great importance to education policy and to allocate a significant portion of its national budget to education. We are determined that all 250 million Indonesians, particularly school-aged boys and girls, have access to education. The Government has provided easy access to education and training by launching the "*Indonesia pintar*" ("Intelligent Indonesia") programme.

6.5 Indonesia believes that culture has true potential to be the enabler and driver for sustainable development. The diversity of culture, when nurtured properly, leads to creativity, which provides economic opportunities. With a view to preserving the history of early human dispersals in South-East Asia, a centre was established at the Sangiran Early Man Site in Central Java, Indonesia. The site itself has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1996. We hope that the centre for understanding human evolution, adaptations and dispersals in the Southeast Asian archipelago can join the ranks of UNESCO category II centres in the future.

6.6 Mr Chair, in the Natural Sciences Sector, Indonesia is working hard to join the Programme on Man and the Biosphere through the nomination of two natural sites of extraordinary volcanic and marine wealth.

6.7 In line with Global Priority Africa, Indonesia is organizing a commemoration of 60 years of the Asian-African Conference to be held from 19 to 22 April 2015 in Bandung, Indonesia. As you know, in 1955, representatives from 29 Asian and African countries gathered in Bandung to discuss peace, economic development and political self-determination. Indonesia continues to participate in the Memory of the World Programme to ensure that the value of democracy in Asia and Africa can be preserved.

6.8 Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, to conclude, it is my genuine hope that, in the spirit of the celebration of 70 years of UNESCO, our work on the Executive Board will be productive in bringing into reality UNESCO's purpose of contributing to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations. I thank you.

7.1 **Ms Wongsamarn** (Thailand) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished Board Members, ladies and gentlemen, this year, 2015, marks the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. It is a challenging year in which UNESCO and its Member States will take a great step forward with the post-2015 development agenda. UNESCO's efforts to deal with the challenges at a time of budgetary constraint are reflected in the Director-General's Programme Implementation Report (PIR). This report will enable the Executive Board to follow up and assess the progress of UNESCO's programme delivery in 2014. We wish to congratulate UNESCO for keeping the execution of its five major programmes on track, and ensuring satisfactory outcomes in terms of both quantity and quality.

7.2 Education lies at the heart of the proposed sustainable development goals beyond 2015. Thailand reaffirms its commitment to work closely with UNESCO and its field office to overcome the challenges, particularly relating to education post-2015. In this regard, we urge UNESCO to demonstrate its capacity to increase the current momentum and its interest in keeping education as a key development goal.

7.3 The global commitment to education encourages enhanced cooperation between countries to coordinate their efforts and pool resources to ensure that all people can achieve inclusive, equitable and lifelong learning education. The Asia-Pacific Statement on Education Beyond 2015 issued by the Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference hosted by Thailand in 2014 demonstrated the region's commitment to providing equitable and inclusive access to quality learning for all people and at all levels of education, from early childhood to tertiary and adult education, in both formal and non-formal settings.

7.4 That statement is both consistent with and reflective of Thailand's education agenda. To prepare Thai people to become competent and effective global citizens, Thailand is investing in the development of its human resources, and educating and equipping its population with twenty-first-century skills that are essential to the world of work. Quality in education has been supported by learning environments that are inclusive and conducive to lifelong learning. Thai learners must receive a civic education and be instilled with national core values, which will guide and sustain them in the practice of responsible citizenship, and contribute to the peaceful and sustainable development of the country. We are enhancing the participation of all stakeholders in educational development at all levels. Recently, an education superboard was established to formulate a 2020 educational vision master plan to guide education reform from 2015 to 2020. The master plan will cover and address eight areas: education policy; education management systems; the education ministry structure; public participation in education management; teacher and educational personnel development; assessment; management of the education budget as well as other relevant areas.

7.5 As the Director-General emphasized this morning, girls' and women's education should receive more attention, and Thailand would like to share our experience in these areas. Thailand has also given high priority to the promotion of girls and women to ensure that they will be able to assist in the development of communities. This plays a part in supporting poverty reduction. We have set up a joint national committee on the promotion of the role of girls and women involving our Deputy Prime Minister. Moreover, our Government is implementing many campaigns to stop violence against children and women. The Thai Ministry of Education has developed its curriculum to prevent the loss of girls and women in education and provide equality in education. Thailand therefore strongly urges UNESCO to continue fulfilling its mandate to promote education for girls and women and hopes to see more best practices from Member States.

7.6 I would like to finish on this note. Thailand is firmly committed to supporting and working closely with UNESCO and its field office in pursuing its mission of efficiently delivering science, social sciences, culture, and information technology and communication programmes, which are important to both Thailand's national agenda and global sustainable development. Furthermore, Thailand continues to support UNESCO's pre-eminent role in leading, coordinating and providing technical support for implementing and monitoring the future education agenda. Thank you very much.

8.1 **Mme Chatardová** (République tchèque)
in extenso :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale,
Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la

Directrice générale, Excellences, chers collègues, c'est une grande fierté pour mon pays d'avoir été l'un des 20 membres fondateurs de notre Organisation. La République tchèque s'apprête à célébrer les 70 ans de l'UNESCO par des actions associant tout aussi bien des experts qu'un large public, et notamment par l'édition d'un timbre commémoratif. Nous sommes profondément convaincus que les raisons qui ont conduit à la fondation de l'UNESCO sont encore plus pertinentes qu'il y a 70 ans. Une fois ces belles paroles prononcées, nous devons considérer la réalité telle qu'elle est : nous assistons à une augmentation sans précédent des attaques contre la liberté d'expression. Un nombre effarant de journalistes paient le prix ultime en accomplissant leur devoir. Pendant le seul mois de janvier cette année, 17 courageux journalistes ont perdu la vie. De même, la destruction délibérée de notre patrimoine culturel commun, principalement en République arabe syrienne et en Iraq, est d'une ampleur inédite. La Commission tchèque pour l'UNESCO, s'associant à la déclaration de Monsieur Ban Ki-moon, a condamné ces agissements. Nous soutenons toutes les initiatives de l'UNESCO visant à mettre un terme à cette folie. La nouvelle initiative *United4Heritage* lancée par la Directrice générale pendant sa récente visite à Bagdad en est un bel exemple. Toutes les possibilités offertes par la Convention de 1970 doivent être explorées. La Commission tchèque pour l'UNESCO organisera un séminaire afin d'attirer l'attention des experts et du grand public sur les dangers du trafic illicite des biens culturels de la République arabe syrienne, de l'Iraq et d'autres parties du monde. Plusieurs experts tchèques ont récemment initié un projet complexe visant à créer une base de données du patrimoine matériel et immatériel de Mossoul. Nous espérons que cette base de données facilitera la reconstruction future de cette composante irremplaçable de notre patrimoine culturel commun.

(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)

8.2 The 70th anniversary leads to reflection not only on UNESCO's major achievements over the last decades, but also on some forward-looking plans. Of utmost importance in this connection is the ongoing discussion on the post-2015 agenda. We welcome the active engagement of UNESCO in negotiations helping to promote the importance of education, science and culture for sustainable development.

8.3 With the global recognition of the role of science in sustainable development, the Czech Republic welcomes the proposal to establish an international geoscience and geoparks programme (IGGP). The results of this collaboration between earth sciences and geoparks could assist the general public in better understanding the value and fragility of the Earth with its ecosystem services and cultural heritage.

8.4 In 2015 we are also observing the tenth anniversary of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. This "youngest" convention in the field of culture significantly contributes to our understanding of the importance of different cultures and better interaction between them.

8.5 The Czech Republic welcomes the Siem Reap Declaration on Tourism and Culture. We are convinced that a partnership between culture and sustainable tourism will contribute positively not only to economic development, but also to mutual understanding between different cultures.

8.6 Preparation of the 38th session of the General Conference is an important item on our agenda. In

connection with the transition to a four-year programme period, this will be the first session that will not adopt a new programme. We will therefore have more time for discussions of global problems in UNESCO's fields of competence.

8.7 The drafting and adoption of new normative documents is an important task this year. Our experts are actively involved in their preparation and the Czech Republic will contribute financially to the organization of the intergovernmental meeting (category II) relating to a draft recommendation on the protection and promotion of museums and collections.

8.8 Ladies and gentlemen, during the 70 years of its existence, our Organization has become an important intergovernmental body in the field of education, science, culture and information. We hope that in the coming years UNESCO will continue to be a major player on the international scene, as well as a broadly respected organization. Thank you, Mr Chair.

9.1 **Sr. Muñoz Ledo (México) *in extenso*:**

Señora Directora General, distinguidos miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo, Presidente del Consejo: el 16 de noviembre la UNESCO celebra el septuagésimo aniversario de la firma de su Constitución. Este año de conmemoraciones coincide también con la adopción en la cumbre especial de las Naciones Unidas de septiembre próximos de los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible para después de 2015, que sin duda enriquecerán los trabajos de la Organización en sus áreas de competencia.

9.2 A los esfuerzos de la Organización para superar los grandes rezagos históricos en el campo de la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la comunicación en varias partes del mundo se suman ahora los enormes retos inherentes a la aplicación de una agenda global más ambiciosa en favor del desarrollo, la reducción de las desigualdades y la erradicación de la pobreza. Los lamentables asesinatos de periodistas del semanario Charlie Hebdo ocurridos en enero pasado en París han consternado y recordado a la comunidad internacional la necesidad de promover un mejor entendimiento entre los pueblos, un diálogo abierto de civilizaciones y una mayor libertad de expresión para contribuir a consolidar una paz duradera y atender a las causas que generan los conflictos y alimentan los ánimos de violencia.

9.3 Los últimos acontecimientos en las zonas de conflicto nos muestran que más que nunca resulta indispensable la difusión de la cultura y la promoción de la educación para transmitir a nuestros hijos los mejores valores de la humanidad. En este sentido, la misión de la UNESCO no se puede entender solo como un esfuerzo moral e intelectual solidario, sino como una contribución colectiva para fundamentar la paz en la comprensión recíproca entre los pueblos. Tras el final de la Guerra Fría, la comunidad internacional ha acrecentado el reconocimiento de que la participación de niños en conflictos armados, los movimientos masivos de personas causados por desastres naturales, la destrucción intencional del patrimonio cultural de la humanidad y el tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales están cada vez más vinculados con situaciones que representan amenazas para la paz y la seguridad del planeta.

9.4 La emergencia de nuevos actores y la aparición de nuevos riesgos a nivel global han cambiado el concepto tradicional de seguridad colectiva. Para la UNESCO, ello implica hacer una reflexión sobre su capacidad para contribuir a sus esferas de competencias a la prevención de conflictos, la protección del patrimonio

cultural en cualquier circunstancia y la rehabilitación de instituciones educativas y culturales en situaciones posteriores a un conflicto. Sin embargo, la labor confiada a la Organización desde su fundación ha parecido tan gigantesca que resulta incomprensible el no poder contar con recursos suficientes para llevarla a cabo. No quiero hacer aquí alusión al apoyo financiero acrecentado que va a ser considerado en esta reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo, sino a la cuestión más amplia y general de cuál sería la utilidad de un presupuesto más holgado si no tenemos una verdadera voluntad de que la UNESCO cumpla cabalmente con el mandato que le hemos otorgado.

9.5 Don Jaime Torres Bodet, en su calidad de Director General de la UNESCO en los albores de la posguerra, ya entendía que la capacidad de liderazgo de la Organización estaba seriamente comprometida ante un presupuesto que, en sus propias palabras, era en su momento inferior a lo que costó un solo minuto de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Desafortunadamente, estimados colegas, este contexto no ha cambiado. El Instituto Internacional de Investigaciones sobre la Paz de Estocolmo (SIPRI) señala que entre 2010 y 2014 el volumen de las transferencias internacionales de armas no pequeñas fue un 16% mayor que entre 2005 y 2009, mientras que los recursos públicos destinados a la educación se han estancado, en el mejor de los casos. Las estadísticas del Banco Mundial y los datos agregados del Instituto de Estadística de la UNESCO (IEU) sobre gasto público invertido en educación en términos de porcentaje del Producto Interno Bruto registran incluso una pequeña reducción en este rubro entre 2009 y 2013.

9.6 Señores delegados: la crisis financiera que afecta a la UNESCO ha puesto nuevamente en entredicho sus capacidades operativas para cumplir con un vasto mandato y hacer frente a los grandes desafíos de la humanidad, que no pueden ni deben desligarse de la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la comunicación. Los Estados Miembros se preguntan, en ocasiones, si muchas de las aspiraciones en que se inspiraron los fundadores de la UNESCO son válidas en las actuales condiciones financieras. Estoy seguro, señores delegados, de que el septuagésimo aniversario de la UNESCO es un espacio idóneo para superar los desalientos y trabajar con ahínco para restablecer el valor de aquellas aspiraciones.

9.7 Para concluir, señor Presidente, estoy convencido de que la UNESCO sigue siendo, ante todo, el foro multilateral por excelencia para preservar a través de la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la comunicación a las generaciones venideras del flagelo de la guerra y reafirmar los derechos fundamentales, la dignidad y el valor de la persona humana. Cuenta la Organización con una alta vocación civilizatoria para hacer frente, con una visión de largo aliento, a los grandes desafíos de la humanidad en el siglo XXI. Muchas gracias.

(9.1) **M. Muñoz Ledo (Mexique) *in extenso* (traduit de l'espagnol) :**

Madame la Directrice générale, distingués membres du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président du Conseil, le 16 novembre, l'UNESCO célèbre le 70^e anniversaire de la signature de son Acte constitutif. Cette année de commémorations coïncide également avec l'adoption, lors du Sommet spécial des Nations Unies qui aura lieu en septembre prochain, des objectifs de développement durable pour l'après-2015, qui enrichiront certainement les travaux de l'Organisation dans ses domaines de compétence.

(9.2) Aux tâches de l'Organisation consistant à surmonter les grands obstacles historiques en matière d'éducation, de science, de culture et de communication dans différentes parties du monde, s'ajoutent désormais les immenses défis liés à la mise en œuvre d'un agenda mondial plus ambitieux en faveur du développement, de la réduction des inégalités et de l'élimination de la pauvreté. Les tragiques assassinats de journalistes à Charlie Hebdo survenus en janvier dernier à Paris ont choqué la communauté internationale et lui ont rappelé la nécessité de promouvoir une meilleure compréhension entre les peuples, un dialogue ouvert entre les civilisations et une plus grande liberté d'expression afin de contribuer à la consolidation d'une paix durable et de s'attaquer aux causes des conflits qui attisent les sentiments de violence.

(9.3) Les derniers événements qui se sont produits dans les zones de conflit nous montrent qu'il est plus que jamais indispensable de diffuser la culture et de promouvoir l'éducation pour transmettre à nos enfants les plus hautes valeurs de l'humanité. À cet égard, la mission de l'UNESCO ne doit pas seulement être considérée comme un effort de solidarité morale et intellectuelle, mais aussi comme une contribution collective à la construction de la paix fondée sur une compréhension mutuelle entre les peuples. Depuis la fin de la guerre froide, la communauté internationale a pris conscience du fait que la participation des enfants aux conflits armés, les mouvements massifs de personnes causés par les catastrophes naturelles, la destruction délibérée du patrimoine culturel de l'humanité et le trafic illicite des biens culturels sont de plus en plus liés à des situations qui représentent des menaces pour la paix et la sécurité de la planète.

(9.4) L'émergence de nouveaux acteurs et l'apparition de nouveaux risques à l'échelle mondiale ont modifié la notion traditionnelle de sécurité collective. D'où la nécessité pour l'UNESCO de mener une réflexion sur sa capacité à contribuer, dans ses domaines de compétence, à la prévention des conflits, à la protection du patrimoine culturel en toutes circonstances, ainsi qu'à la réhabilitation des institutions éducatives et culturelles dans les situations de post-conflit. Or la mission confiée à l'Organisation depuis sa création est tellement gigantesque qu'il est incompréhensible que celle-ci ne puisse pas compter sur des ressources suffisantes pour la mener à bien. Je n'entends pas faire allusion ici à la question d'un soutien financier accru qui sera examinée au cours de cette session du Conseil exécutif, mais m'interroger, plus largement et généralement, sur l'intérêt de disposer d'un budget plus conséquent si nous ne sommes pas véritablement déterminés à faire en sorte que l'UNESCO s'acquitte pleinement du mandat que nous lui avons confié.

(9.5) Don Jaime Torres Bodet, en sa qualité de Directeur général de l'UNESCO à l'aube de l'après-guerre, avait déjà compris que les capacités de chef de file de l'Organisation étaient sérieusement compromises face à un budget qui, selon ses propres termes, était alors inférieur au coût d'une seule minute de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Malheureusement, chers collègues, cette situation n'a pas changé. L'Institut international de recherches sur la paix de Stockholm (SIPRI) indique qu'entre 2010 et 2014, le volume des transferts internationaux d'armes lourdes a augmenté de 16 % par rapport à la période 2005-

2009, tandis que les dépenses publiques consacrées à l'éducation ont stagné, dans le meilleur des cas. Les statistiques de la Banque mondiale et les données agrégées de l'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO (ISU) révèlent même une légère diminution de la part des dépenses publiques consacrée à l'éducation en termes de pourcentage du produit intérieur brut entre 2009 et 2013.

(9.6) Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants, la crise financière qui touche l'UNESCO a une nouvelle fois remis en question sa capacité opérationnelle à accomplir un vaste mandat et à faire face aux grands défis de l'humanité, qui ne peuvent ni ne doivent être dissociés de l'éducation, de la science, de la culture et de la communication. Les États membres se demandent parfois si les nombreuses aspirations des fondateurs de l'UNESCO sont toujours valides dans le contexte financier actuel. Je suis sûr, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants, que le 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO représente l'occasion idéale de surmonter les découragements et de travailler sans relâche pour rétablir la valeur de ces aspirations.

(9.7) Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, je suis convaincu que l'UNESCO continue d'être, avant tout, le forum multilatéral d'excellence pour préserver les générations futures du fléau de la guerre grâce à l'éducation, à la science, à la culture et à la communication, et pour réaffirmer les droits fondamentaux, la dignité et la valeur de la personne humaine. L'Organisation présente une forte vocation civilisatrice pour faire face, à long terme, aux grands défis de l'humanité au XXI^e siècle. Je vous remercie.

10.1 **Mr Veer** (Netherlands) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union and the candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania. The year 2015 is very special: it is the year when we work towards a new global climate agreement; it marks the deadline for our Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the adoption of a new post-2015 development framework; it is the European Year for Development; and it is also UNESCO's 70th anniversary. However, 2015 has also seen violent events, such as the destruction of cultural heritage and terror attacks around the world. In this context, it is even more important to stress the role of human rights and global citizenship education, as well as intercultural dialogue, as means to combat extremism and violence. UNESCO has an important role in this regard.

10.2 The European Union welcomes the universality of the post-2015 agenda. Within this framework, education features prominently among the European Union's priorities. The main focus is to ensure the right of every child, youth and adult to quality, safe and relevant education and lifelong learning. We must ensure access to and completion of a full cycle of at least basic quality education, including education for girls. Inequalities, discrimination and gender-based violence in education must be eliminated. In this context, we look forward to participating in the 2015 World Education Forum in the Republic of Korea.

10.3 In 2015, we celebrate 20 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as 15 years since United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) on women, peace and security. We welcome UNESCO's strong stance on the empowerment of women, which is a principle to which we are all committed and is key to growth and development.

(The speaker continued in French)

10.4 Monsieur le Président, des stratégies efficaces sont nécessaires pour mieux sensibiliser à la contribution de la culture, et notamment des industries culturelles et créatives, en faveur du développement. En effet, la culture est à la fois un facteur et un vecteur du développement durable. L'Union européenne condamne fermement la destruction du patrimoine culturel et archéologique en République arabe syrienne, en Iraq et en Libye. Nous soutenons les actions de l'UNESCO à cet égard et réaffirmons la nécessité de protéger le patrimoine de la République arabe syrienne et de l'Iraq en prenant les mesures appropriées, conformément à la résolution 2199 du Conseil de sécurité de l'Organisation des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre le financement du terrorisme. L'Union européenne soutient les activités de l'UNESCO grâce à des contributions extrabudgétaires d'un montant de plus de 58 millions d'euros destinées notamment au secteur de l'enseignement et de la formation techniques et professionnels en Iraq et à la gestion de l'eau dans ce pays, ainsi qu'au travers du programme des Réseaux de la jeunesse méditerranéenne. Nous restons préoccupés par la situation en Crimée et suivons avec attention la mise en œuvre des décisions précédentes du Conseil exécutif sur cette question. À cet égard notamment, nous rappelons que la liberté d'opinion et la liberté d'expression sont des droits fondamentaux, qui doivent être protégés tant en ligne que hors ligne. Nous demeurons profondément inquiets des évolutions dans certains pays, qui mettent en danger la liberté de la presse et le pluralisme. Nous soutenons le rôle de chef de file de l'UNESCO dans la coordination du Plan d'action des Nations Unies sur la sécurité des journalistes et la question de l'impunité. L'Union européenne condamne les assassinats, les enlèvements et les attaques de journalistes, et appelle à y mettre un terme. Attachée aux acquis de l'UNESCO en matière de droits de l'homme, l'Union européenne souligne l'importance du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations, et plaide pour que son rôle soit préservé et consolidé.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

10.5 Madam Director-General, we support strong coordinated action and the involvement of UNESCO in the preparations for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris. Environmental sustainability is fundamental to ensuring the prosperity and well-being of both present and future generations. In this context, the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission also has an important role to play. A reflection on the use and resources of our oceans is today more relevant than ever.

10.6 We support the Director-General's ongoing work to reinforce the share of UNESCO's budget devoted to programmes and to ensure that the Organization is "fit for purpose", as she calls it. Governance reform is also crucial in order to respond to the challenges we face. The European Union is fully committed to multilateralism and the strong leadership of UNESCO in many important areas.

10.7 I would now like to make my national statement. The protection of cultural heritage in conflict areas and the protection of freedom of expression are the top two priorities for the Netherlands. Within the United Nations family, UNESCO has the lead in these areas and this places a very heavy burden on the luckily strong shoulders of the Director-General and her staff, but also on us, the Member States. Political attention and political will at the highest level are needed, and I compliment the Director-

General for her tireless efforts to bring this to the attention of the international community. When the Dutch Minister for Education, Culture and Science met the Director-General some weeks ago, she gave her full support to UNESCO's efforts in this field.

10.8 In the Netherlands, we contribute in a concrete manner, not only through our cultural heritage inspections and customs services, but also by organizing a "First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Time of Crisis" training course in cooperation with the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the Smithsonian Institution and Dutch cultural heritage institutions. As we speak, cultural heritage experts from 20 countries – Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt, the Philippines, the Caribbean and many others – are working together in Amsterdam to learn how they can better protect heritage in case of conflict or disaster.

10.9 The political attention to freedom of expression has accelerated these last few months and the focus on UNESCO has been very strong. Fortunately, UNESCO is well prepared because a group of excellent people have been working on these issues for years already in the Secretariat. I am sure that UNESCO, the Secretariat, the International Programme for the Development of Education (IPDC) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP) will be able to contribute to the advancement of the debate on freedom of expression. The right to freedom of opinion and expression is as much a fundamental right per se as it is an enabler for other rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to education, the right to take part in cultural life, and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, as well as civil and political rights, such as freedom of association and assembly.

10.10 Freedom of expression, including the safety of journalists and other media workers on- and off-line, is a priority for the Netherlands. The safety of journalists is crucial to the functioning of democratic States and the accountability of governments. As the Director-General said at the *Journalism after Charlie* event, over the past decade, around 700 journalists have been killed worldwide. That is one journalist every week. And even worse, nine out of ten of these cases go unpunished. This impunity emboldens the perpetrators of the crimes and at the same time has a chilling effect on society. Impunity breeds impunity and feeds into a vicious cycle.

10.11 Like the right to freedom of expression, the right to education is also an enabler of other rights, and we welcome the recently published *EFA Global Monitoring Report* that illustrates the progress achieved so far towards reaching EFA, although it also reveals the many challenges that remain. We are happy to see the worldwide movement towards greater gender parity in education; nevertheless the Netherlands expresses serious concern regarding the high number of child marriages and the widespread gender-based violence in and around schools, which prevents millions of children worldwide from fulfilling their potential. In this context, we attach great importance to our cooperation with UNESCO to fight against discrimination and bullying at schools, often related to the sexual orientation of children.

10.12 Some final remarks: the Kingdom of the Netherlands is partly located in the Caribbean and as such, we feel strongly connected to the problems of small island developing States (SIDS). We support the initiative of a UNESCO action plan for SIDS and endeavour to

contribute actively. The Dutch part of the Caribbean is greatly interested in disaster-risk reduction, as well as the development of intangible cultural heritage, and the Netherlands is looking for opportunities for regional cooperation in this field. Finally, at the risk of sounding a little like the Roman Senator Cato with his famous "ceterum censeo", I will finish by saying that I still believe that a zero nominal growth (ZNG) budget is the best option and that the UNESCO reform process needs to move ahead full steam. Thank you for your attention.

١١,١ السيد النعيمي (الإمارات العربية المتحدة) النص الكامل:
حضرة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، حضرة رئيس المؤتمر العام، حضرة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، أصحاب السعادة السفراء المندوبين الدائمين، السيدات والسادة الكرام، السلام عليكم. أبدأ مداخلي أمام مجلسكم الكريم بعبارة من كتاب الدبلوماسي الإيطالي البارز مايكل أنجلو، بعنوان: "أعداء الحوار: أسباب اللاتسامح ومظاهره"، الذي وضع مقدمته السينمائي والروائي الإيطالي أمبرتو إيكو، التي جاء فيها "إن التعصب سوس ينخر عظام الحضارات والثقافات والأديان، واللاتسامح عدو الإخاء الإنساني، وهو أقصر الطرق لإشعال الحروب وتدمير المجتمعات وإطاحة بني الدولة وتعرض مصالحها للخطر". وكان المؤتمر العام لمنظمة اليونسكو قد اعتمد في دورته الثامنة والعشرين التي عُقدت في تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ١٩٩٥ تعريفاً شاملاً للتسامح تلمست فيه "الاحترام والقبول والتقدير للتنوع الثري لثقافات علمنا ولأشكال التعبير وللصفات الإنسانية لدينا"، وأضافت "يتعزز هذا التسامح بالمعرفة والانفتاح والاتصال وحرية الفكر والضمير والمعتقد. إنه الوثام في سياق الاختلاف" و"ثقافة السلام" وركيزة "حقوق الإنسان والتعددية" و"حكم القانون"، و"نبد الدوغماتية والاستبدادية".

١١,٢ وانطلاقاً من دائرة هذه الدلالات السقراطية والتأسيسية، ترامت حقول معرفية لما هو نقيض لهذه القيمة الأساسية يمكن مقارنتها من أربعة اتجاهات. أولها، اللاتسامح الديني المرتبط باليقين المطلق في تصور حقيقة واحدة تأتي من الله تعالى. ثانيها، اللاتسامح الثقافي أي اليقين المطلق بحقيقة واحدة تنحدر من الجماعة. وثالثها، اللاتسامح السياسي أي اليقين المطلق بحقيقة واحدة آتية من الزعيم. ورابعها أخيراً، اللاتسامح الإيديولوجي، وهو اليقين المطلق بحقيقة واحدة نابعة من العقل، وكلها صفات لتضييق إنسانية الإنسان وإشاعة الظلمة في حياته ومعتقداته وصولاً إلى زمن الظلاميات وما ينطوي عليه من صراعات وفتن ودمار وموت.

١١,٣ سيدي الرئيس، أيها الحضور الكريم، رغبت في الذهاب مباشرة إلى ما يعتبره وفد بلادي "صميم التحدي" و"جوهر المعضلة" المطروحة الآن أمام منظمنا، وهي تعاضم مساحة اللاتسامح في منطقتنا وفي العالم، وما يرافق ذلك من اقتلاع من الجذور، ومناف غير متوقعة، وأودية دموع، وقضاء على التنوع والتعددية اللذين شكلا طوال أزمنة مديدة السمة الأساسية لشرفنا وشبكة أمن وأمان لأجيالنا المتعاقبة. وهذه الكنوز تحولت الآن حطاماً فيما يشبه تراجيديا إغريقية. والمخيف أن اللاتسامح يكسب كل يوم أرضاً إضافية يحولها إلى حقول لموت البشر والحجر. فبالإضافة إلى هلاك الإنسان، هناك هلاك التراث والآثار وجماليات المشهد المعماري، وسرقتها على يد اللصوص. واليونسكو التي رفعت الصوت مراراً، داعية دول مجلس الأمن إلى وقف العبث بالتاريخ والهوية والذاكرة، وهي لم تقصر في ذلك، مدعوة الآن، في هذا العام الانعطائي من مسيرتها وفي قلب احتفالية مرور ٧٠ عاماً على انطلاقتها، إلى التكيف مع تحديات وإشكاليات المرحلة الراهنة وعنوانها الأبرز: الحرائق الاجتماعية والسياسية الناجمة عن خطيئة اللاتسامح والعنصرية والشوفينية والتعصب وعصاب السلوكيات المحمية. وترى دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة أن منظمة اليونسكو هي الأكثر أهلية، ضمن منظومة وكالات الأمم المتحدة المتخصصة، للاضطلاع ببرنامج ثقافة السلام وتحالف الحضارات، والتركيز عليه حتى مرحلة احتواء جمر الصراعات وتبريد غائلة الصدامات وبناء معمارية العمل والأمل والتفاهم والتلاحم بين سكان القرية الكونية.

١١,٤ أصحاب السعادة، أخوتي، إخوتي، لا يمكن أن ننسى فلسطين في هذا الوقت بالذات ولا القدس مسرى صلاتنا، التي نخاف عليها من التهويد ومسح تراثها التليد وتزييف هويتها الإسلامية - المسيحية. ولذلك تطالب دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة بالتطبيق الحرفي للقرارات الخمسة ذات الصلة،

وتبدي استغرابها للتأخر في إيفاد بعثة الخبراء المتفقق عليها لمعرفة ما تعرض له معلمها، نشداناً لحماية إرثها الثقافي الضارب في عمق التاريخ العربي - الإسلامي. وأيضاً، لا يمكن أن يرتاح بنا أمام المصير الأسود لكنوز العراق وسورية الأثرية، وقد عاثت فيها أيدي السوء وتاجرت بما لوليات ومافيات المال الأسود. وإن دور منظمنا كبير في استنفاذ دول العالم للتصدي لأبطال الحرب الثقافية الذين يدمرون تراثاً إنسانياً عريقاً يشهد على تشكل حضارات سادت ثم بادت.

١١,٥ وختاماً، أجدد التزام دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة برسالة اليونسكو وبالمهام التي تقوم بها بالأهداف النبيلة التي تتطلع إليها. ونحن على يقين بأنه بقدر ما تشتد العواصف وتتطاحن المصالح وتعدم الرؤية، تكبر الحاجة إلى هذه المنظمة الفريدة التي نزيدها منارة على الشاطئ وضميراً للعالم ومختبراً للأفكار والرؤى الاستشرافية. ونحن مع أصحاب الإرادات، الخلاقين المبدعين، نريد صوغ خريطة طريق إلى إنسانية جديدة تحدث عنها مراراً المديرية العامة السيدة بوكوفا، وبناء شبكة أدمغة تقود دفة السفينة نحو ضفاف المعرفة وينابيع الحكمة التي قمتها مخافة الله. أمخى النجاح لدورتكم، وأشكركم على حسن إصغائكم.

(11.1) M. Aneaimi (Émirats arabes unis) in extenso
(traduit de l'arabe) :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs et délégués permanents, Mesdames et Messieurs, que la paix soit sur vous. Je voudrais, tout d'abord, citer un passage d'un livre intitulé « Les ennemis du dialogue : les causes de l'intolérance et ses manifestations », écrit par l'éminent diplomate italien Michelangelo et préfacé par le cinéaste et romancier italien Umberto Eco : « Le fanatisme est un mal qui ronge les os des civilisations, des cultures et des religions, et l'intolérance est l'ennemi de la fraternité et le moyen le plus sûr de faire éclater les guerres, de détruire les sociétés, de saper les infrastructures de l'État et de compromettre ses intérêts ». À sa 28e session, en novembre 1995, la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO avait d'ailleurs adopté une définition complète de la tolérance dans laquelle on pouvait lire : « la tolérance est le respect, l'acceptation et l'appréciation de la richesse et de la diversité des cultures de notre monde, de nos modes d'expression et de nos manières d'exprimer notre qualité d'être humains. Elle est encouragée par la connaissance, l'ouverture d'esprit, la communication et la liberté de pensée, de conscience et de croyance. La tolérance est l'harmonie dans la différence », elle contribue à la « culture de la paix » et « est la clé de voute des droits de l'homme, du pluralisme [...] et de l'État de droit. Elle implique le rejet du dogmatisme et de l'absolutisme ».

(11.2) Ces notions socratiques et fondatrices ont donné naissance à un champ du savoir consacré à l'opposé de cette valeur fondamentale, que l'on peut aborder sous quatre angles : (i) l'intolérance religieuse, à savoir la conviction absolue que l'on détient une vérité unique qui vient de Dieu ; (ii) l'intolérance culturelle, à savoir la conviction absolue que l'on détient une vérité unique qui vient du groupe ; (iii) l'intolérance politique, à savoir la conviction absolue que l'on détient une vérité unique qui vient du chef ; et (iv) l'intolérance idéologique, à savoir la conviction absolue que l'on détient une vérité unique qui vient de l'esprit. Tout cela contribue à rétrécir l'humanité de l'être humain et à obscurcir sa vie et ses convictions, et conduit à l'obscurantisme avec son lot de conflits, de dissensions, de destruction et de mort.

(11.3) Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'en viens maintenant à ce que la délégation de mon pays considère comme étant le « cœur du défi » et le « nœud du problème » auxquels notre Organisation est confrontée aujourd'hui, à savoir la propagation de l'intolérance dans notre région et dans le monde, avec tout ce que cela implique comme déracinements, exils imprévus et ruisseaux de larmes, mais aussi destruction de la diversité et du pluralisme qui, depuis des temps immémoriaux, constituent la principale caractéristique de notre Orient, ainsi qu'un filet de sûreté et de sécurité pour nos générations successives. Ces trésors ont été réduits en poussière dans ce qui s'apparente à une tragédie grecque. Le plus terrifiant est que cette intolérance conquiert chaque jour de nouvelles terres qui se transforment en champs de la mort pour les humains et les pierres. C'est la mort pour les êtres humains, mais aussi pour le patrimoine, les monuments archéologiques et la beauté architecturale, sans parler des pillages. L'UNESCO, qui a fait entendre sa voix à maintes reprises et n'a pas ménagé ses efforts pour exhorter le Conseil de sécurité à mettre fin aux atteintes portées à l'histoire, à l'identité et à la mémoire, est aujourd'hui invitée, en cette année phare de son histoire et à l'occasion des célébrations de son 70^e anniversaire, à s'adapter aux défis et problèmes du moment, à savoir les brasiers sociaux et politiques nés de l'intolérance, du racisme, du chauvinisme, du fanatisme et des comportements barbares. Les Émirats arabes unis estiment que l'UNESCO est l'institution spécialisée des Nations Unies qui est la mieux placée pour s'occuper du programme relatif à la culture de la paix et à l'Alliance des civilisations et pour le mettre en avant afin d'éteindre le feu des conflits, d'apaiser les remous causés par les chocs, et de jeter les fondements de l'action, de l'espoir, de la compréhension et de la solidarité entre les habitants du village mondial.

(11.4) Excellences, frères et sœurs, nous ne pouvons pas oublier la Palestine en ce moment, ni Jérusalem, objet de nos prières, car nous redoutons les actions menées pour la judaïser, effacer son patrimoine séculaire et dénaturer son identité islamique et chrétienne. C'est pourquoi, les Émirats arabes unis demandent l'application intégrale des cinq décisions sur la question et s'étonnent du retard pris pour l'envoi de la mission d'experts qu'il a été convenu de dépêcher sur place pour faire le point de la situation, l'objectif étant de protéger le patrimoine culturel de la ville, qui est enraciné dans l'histoire arabo-musulmane. Par ailleurs, comment trouver la quiétude de l'esprit devant le sort funeste qui est réservé aux trésors archéologiques de l'Iraq et de la République arabe syrienne, qui sont saccagés par des mains malfaisantes et alimentent le marché noir contrôlé par les mafias et les lobbys. Notre Organisation, qui a un grand rôle à jouer, se doit de mobiliser tous les pays pour contrer les responsables de la guerre culturelle, qui détruisent le patrimoine humain séculaire témoignant de la naissance de civilisations disparues.

(11.5) Pour conclure, je réaffirme l'attachement des Émirats arabes unis au message, à la mission et aux nobles objectifs de l'UNESCO. Nous sommes convaincus que lorsque les tempêtes se déchaînent, que les intérêts sont bafoués et que la vision se brouille, notre Organisation – unique en son genre – devient de plus en plus nécessaire en tant que phare

éclairant le rivage, conscience du monde, et laboratoire d'idées et de visions prospectives. Nous souhaitons, aux côtés des personnes de volonté ainsi que des créateurs et innovateurs, élaborer une feuille de route qui conduirait au nouvel humanisme souvent évoqué par la Directrice générale, Mme Bokova, et établir un réseau de compétences qui guiderait le navire vers les rives du savoir et les sources de la sagesse, dont le degré le plus élevé est la crainte de Dieu. Je souhaite plein succès à la présente session et vous remercie de votre attention.

12.1 M. Sita-N'Sadisi (Angola) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'année 2015, année du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO, sera riche en événements. Il s'agit d'une année cruciale à tous les égards. En effet, elle marque la date symbolique d'achèvement du cycle de l'Éducation pour tous lancé à Dakar en 2000, mais aussi l'ouverture d'un nouveau cycle des Nations Unies en vue de la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable. Un tel contexte renforce la portée politique et l'actualité de la résolution 37 C/18 sur « l'auto-évaluation de l'Éducation pour tous en Afrique subsaharienne ». Cette initiative du Groupe Afrique de l'UNESCO vise non seulement à procéder à une analyse qualitative des stratégies mises en œuvre par les pays, mais surtout à apporter un soutien utile aux décideurs politiques africains dans la préparation de l'agenda pour l'éducation post-2015. La récente Conférence ministérielle de Kigali sur l'éducation a mis en relief la pertinence de cette action et nous a encouragés à renforcer davantage la coopération entre l'UNESCO et les instances africaines compétentes. Le 9 avril dernier, le lancement de l'édition 2015 du Rapport mondial de suivi sur l'EPT nous a rappelé les défis qu'il reste à relever en matière d'éducation, particulièrement en Afrique. Aujourd'hui, l'urgence consiste à engager avec l'Union africaine le processus d'alignement et d'articulation entre les conclusions de la conférence de Kigali, la préparation du Forum mondial d'Incheon, en particulier le débat sur les cibles, et le prochain Sommet des Nations Unies sur le développement. Le Groupe Afrique insiste sur l'importance des consultations d'auto-évaluation de l'EPT aux niveaux national et sous-régional en Afrique. L'appui technique et financier promis lors d'une précédente session du Conseil exécutif a été apporté, mais les fonds ont été utilisés pour d'autres activités qui ne correspondent pas à la priorité de l'équipe. Le Groupe Afrique demande simplement une avance de frais pour le démarrage, l'Union africaine et la Commission européenne étant prêtes à financer le reste du travail qui devrait permettre de défendre les options correctives du système de l'enseignement en Afrique. Par ailleurs, le Groupe Afrique se félicite de l'adoption de la Convention régionale révisée sur la reconnaissance des études et des certificats, diplômes, grades et autres titres de l'enseignement supérieur dans les États d'Afrique, qui remplace la Convention d'Arusha, et s'engage à appuyer toute action de l'UNESCO visant à convaincre les États membres de ratifier cet instrument le plus tôt possible. Le financement de l'éducation au-delà de 2015 ainsi que du programme de développement durable est d'une importance cruciale. Dans ce monde en mutation, notre Organisation se doit de mettre en phase son mandat avec les enjeux actuels et futurs. Ce virage est bel et bien amorcé avec la réforme structurelle en cours, malgré l'environnement très contraignant dans lequel se déploie cette dernière. Au même moment, nous poursuivons une réflexion globale sur l'impact réel de l'action de l'UNESCO tout au long de son existence, ainsi que sur les

fondements de sa gouvernance, afin de mieux réaffirmer sa vocation au sein du système des Nations Unies.

12.2 En ce qui concerne les ressources humaines, de nombreux pays africains aimeraient apporter leur soutien à l'action de l'UNESCO sur le terrain, afin de rendre plus pertinente et plus performante la mise en œuvre de la réforme du dispositif hors Siège. Nous avons besoin d'un feedback beaucoup plus pertinent, nous demandons qu'une réunion de concertation avec les représentants des bureaux hors Siège soit organisée à l'UNESCO dans les plus brefs délais, afin que nous puissions ensemble analyser en profondeur les options d'un bon suivi et d'une évaluation mieux adaptée aux conditions de travail sur le terrain. Beaucoup de pays africains ne comprennent pas pourquoi leurs appels réitérés n'ont pas été entendus et attendent toujours la cartographie des besoins en expertise promise par le Département Afrique. Par ailleurs, dans un contexte de contrainte budgétaire, il convient d'améliorer les conditions de connectivité des TIC dans l'ensemble des bureaux régionaux afin de réduire le coût de fonctionnement de ces unités organiques. Il apparaît que les programmes sectoriels sont très dépendants du financement extrabudgétaire, et nécessitent aussi un accroissement substantiel des ressources humaines, tant au niveau des bureaux hors Siège qu'au Siège. Nous encourageons la Directrice générale à lancer une stratégie de mobilisation de fonds en vue de la mise en œuvre des actions des programmes phares de la stratégie opérationnelle pour la priorité Afrique et du Plan d'action pour la priorité Égalité des genres. Cela suppose également de préparer les équipes des bureaux régionaux et nationaux à mener des activités de plaidoyer auprès des partenaires régionaux.

12.3 En matière de politique et de gestion financière, le Groupe Afrique souhaite que les activités menées dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la priorité Afrique soient clairement liées aux résultats escomptés et pas simplement présentées comme un catalogue descriptif de l'action de l'Organisation sur le continent. Madame la Directrice générale, nous saluons vos efforts en matière de réforme, de réduction des coûts et de mise en œuvre de la budgétisation axée sur les résultats. L'UNESCO se trouve aujourd'hui à un tournant de son histoire. Son mandat n'a jamais semblé aussi pertinent au regard de l'actualité mondiale. Les attentes des États membres et des populations font peser davantage de responsabilités sur ses épaules. La mise en œuvre du programme de développement pour l'après-2015, qui est en voie d'adoption, sera l'occasion de tester, en même temps que sa crédibilité, la capacité de l'Organisation à se positionner comme partenaire majeur pour les États membres et au sein du système des Nations Unies. À cette fin, nous souhaitons un scénario budgétaire qui donne à l'Organisation les moyens de remplir ses fonctions et d'être un partenaire crédible dans la mise en œuvre du programme de développement pour l'après-2015. Les membres du Groupe Afrique accueillent favorablement l'attention accordée à la priorité Afrique dans le cadre du scénario CNZ+, qui, en prévoyant un Plan de dépenses évalué à 518 millions de dollars améliorera sensiblement la situation sans cependant être à la hauteur des besoins des cinq grands programmes.

12.4 Enfin, parmi les nouveaux enjeux touchant directement la vocation universelle de l'UNESCO, qui consiste à veiller, entre autres, au maintien du dialogue interculturel et du mieux vivre-ensemble dans la diversité, notre Organisation doit être à l'avant-garde de la construction de la pensée réactive et collective face aux foyers de tensions embrasés par les agissements

fougueux et aveuglés des extrémistes religieux ou du fait des antagonismes culturels en Iraq, en République arabe syrienne, au Yémen, en Libye, en Tunisie, en Égypte, au nord du Mali, au Nigéria, et tout récemment au Kenya. Nous tenons ici à honorer la mémoire des 148 jeunes étudiantes et étudiants de l'Université de Garissa, lâchement assassinés par des fanatiques religieux. Face à ces menaces persistantes qui pèsent sur la préservation et la protection des symboles du patrimoine culturel millénaire dans les zones de conflit et qui portent durement atteinte aux aspirations des peuples et aux espoirs ancrés dans les valeurs universelles et fondatrices de l'UNESCO, le Groupe Afrique entend revenir sur le concept pertinent de « nouvel humanisme » cher à vous-même, Madame Bokova, ainsi qu'à tant d'autres personnalités éminentes d'hier et d'aujourd'hui. Des manifestations traitant toutes du dialogue interculturel et religieux, comme la Conférence de Bakou en Azerbaïdjan ou la réunion qui sera organisée prochainement par le Bénin, devraient contribuer à relancer ce noble engagement. D'autres réunions suivront certainement. Vous l'avez vous-même déclaré, Madame la Directrice générale : « l'humanisme est une promesse qu'il nous faut tenir ».

12.5 Permettez-moi au nom du Groupe Afrique, de remercier l'Ambassadrice du Gabon, Mme Gisèle Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe, pour avoir représenté avec brio, dignité et intelligence l'esprit qui caractérise la lutte pour l'émancipation des femmes de notre continent. Votre mémoire, Madame, restera gravée dans nos cœurs et nous vous souhaitons bon vent dans vos nouvelles fonctions.

12.6 En ce qui concerne mon pays, l'Angola, je tiens à saluer l'accord de coopération que nous avons signé avec l'UNESCO il y a déjà deux ans et qui a porté ses fruits. En effet, cette année sera marquée par le lancement du projet autofinancé à grande échelle pour le développement scientifique de l'Angola, qui vise à concevoir et à mettre en œuvre le Plan national de formation doctorale dans les domaines des sciences et des technologies. Au début du mois prochain aura lieu à Luanda une réunion de concertation entre l'UNESCO, la Commission de l'Union africaine et le Gouvernement angolais, afin d'établir l'agenda pour la réalisation de la première session de la Biennale sur la culture de la paix et la non-violence en Afrique. Le budget pour la couverture des frais de la phase préparatoire sera bientôt mis à la disposition de l'UNESCO sous la forme d'un compte spécial. Enfin, en réponse à l'appel lancé par Son Excellence, l'Ambassadeur Mohammed Sameh Amr, en sa qualité de Président du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO, s'agissant des travaux de modernisation de la salle X où nous nous trouvons actuellement, le Gouvernement angolais s'engage à apporter sa contribution financière sous peu. Je vous remercie.

١٣,١ السيد عبد الخالق (مصر) النص الكامل:

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم. السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدة المديرية العامة، أصحاب السعادة السيدات والسادة الحضور، أود أن أتقدم بخالص الشكر إلى السيدة المديرية العامة على ما قدمته في تقريرها التفصيلي خلال الجلسة الافتتاحية في الصباح، وأثني على جهودها البناءة والإيجابية. ولقد كشف هذا التقرير عن الصعوبات المالية التي تواجهها المنظمة، وهو ما قد يجعلها عاجزة عن أداء رسالتها السامية كمنظمة معنية بغرس ثقافة السلام في عقول البشر فضلاً عن نشر قيم عظيمة مثل احترام الآخر والتسامح والسلام والعيش المشترك.

١٣,٢ السيد الرئيس، السادة الحضور، بالنسبة إلى بلدي مصر فإن لدينا العزم الأكيد على تحقيق كافة الاستحقاقات الدستورية استجابة لتطلعات

الشعب المصري العظيم الذي اختار طريق السلام والبناء والتنمية واحترام حقوق الإنسان والحريات وفقاً للمواثيق والعهود الدولية، وهذا رغم ما يواجهه الشعب المصري من إرهاب وأعمال عنف وتطرف يسعى مرتكبوها إلى نشر الفوضى ليس في مصر وحدها وإنما في المنطقة والعالم بأسره. ولذا، فهي تتحمل عن الجميع هذا العبء الكبير. ومصر، في سعيها هذا، تتعاون بشكل وثيق مع اليونسكو في الحفاظ على تراثها الثقافي. شكراً للسيدة المديرية العامة فقد قدمت اليونسكو العديد من المساعدات إلى مصر في إطار التصدي للاعتداء على المتاحف ومنها المتحف الإسلامي، وكذلك استئناف العمل في المشروعات التي كانت قد توقفت. وفي هذا الصدد، ترحب الحكومة المصرية بالزيارة المرتقبة للسيدة المديرية العامة إلى القاهرة للمشاركة في مؤتمر دولي بعنوان "تراث ثقافي تحت التهديد"، وهو مؤتمر تنظمه وزارة الآثار والخارجية بالتعاون مع التحالف الدولي لحماية الآثار بالولايات المتحدة والعديد من المنظمات الدولية وممثلين عن العديد من الدول، وهو ما يعكس حرص مصر على حماية التراث من التخريب والنهب من قوى الظلام.

١٣,٣ ونود أيضاً أن نشكر اليونسكو والسيدة المديرية العامة على إيفاد ممثلين عن المنظمة وعدد من الخبراء من قطاع العلوم بهدف تجديد التعاقد بشأن المركز الإقليمي للتدريب والدراسات المائية. ونأمل أن يوافق المجلس المقرر خلال الدورة الحالية على اتفاق التجديد هذا كي يستمر المركز في أداء دوره لخدمة المنطقة التي تتعرض لخطر التصحر ويمتد دوره إلى القارة الأفريقية بحيث يساهم في تحقيق التعاون بين دول القارة وخاصة دول حوض النيل، لتحقيق الأمن المائي وفتح آفاق للتعاون فيما بينها، خاصة في إطار ما تشهده الفترة الحالية من تعاون مثمر بين كل من مصر والسودان وإثيوبيا.

١٣,٤ وفي مجال التعليم، تشرفت مصر بزيارة العديد من البعثات من اليونسكو، وهو ما يؤكد حرص الجانبين على النهوض بالخطط المصرية في مجال التعليم الفني واختيار أفضل النظم للقبول في الجامعات المصرية انتقلاً من المرحلة التعليمية السابقة وتطوير المقررات الدراسية. وهنا، يلزم أن ننوه بالجهود التي تبذلها مصر في هذا الصدد، إذ تعكف اللجان على تطوير المقررات الدراسية لتكون قادرة على تلبية حاجة السوق والاجتمع وتقنياتها مما قد يكون قد شابهها ولا يتفق مع روح العصر والرغبة في صياغة مستقبل مشترك.

١٣,٥ سيدي الرئيس، السادة الحضور، إن الشباب يتعرضون لموجات شديدة من الأفكار المغلوطة التي تحتهم على العنف والإرهاب والتطرف، وهو ما يتعارض مع قيم هذه المنظمة ورسالتها. لذا، فنحن في حاجة إلى التعاون والعمل سوياً لحماية شبابنا من هذه الموجات المدمرة، ولذا نجد أن السيد الرئيس عبد الفتاح السيسي دعا في اجتماع الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة وأمام مؤتمر القمة العربية في دورتها الأخيرة إلى ضرورة العمل على حماية الشباب من أخطار الإرهاب الإلكتروني، وإلى أن يتوحد العالم ضد الإرهاب على الإنترنت مؤكداً دور الإعلام في ذلك. وكذلك نرحب بمبادرة السيدة المديرية العامة لتنظيم مؤتمر دولي خلال شهر حزيران/يونيو القادم، يشارك فيه كافة المعنيين، بمن فيهم الشباب لتوفير منبر لتبادل الخبرات. ويسعدنا أن تكون مصر أحد رعاة هذا المؤتمر، وستشارك فيه بوفد رفيع المستوى من المتخصصين والخبراء.

١٣,٦ إن مصر تؤمن دائماً بأهمية التوصل إلى سلام شامل وعادل في المنطقة وقد كانت مصر سباقة إلى إبرام اتفاقية للسلام تضع من خلالها حماية لسنوات استخدام العنف والقوة في المنطقة. وبجدونا الأمل في أن تنتهي الأزمة السورية وأن تستمر اليونسكو في القيام بتنفيذ مهامها النبيلة لصالح أبناء الشعب السوري في مجال التعليم، سواء كان ذلك للنازحين داخل سورية أو خارجها. كما تحتم مصر بالمواقع الأثرية في كل من سورية والعراق وغيرها من الدول. وتدعو اليونسكو إلى بذل الجهود المناسبة للحفاظ عليها. ولا يمكن أن ننهي كلمتنا دون التأكيد على اهتمامنا بضرورة مضاعفة الجهود لتنفيذ البرامج الخاصة بالقارة الأفريقية في إطار أولوية أفريقيا بوصفها إحدى الأولويتين العامتين لليونسكو، أملين أن تشهد السنوات القادمة تحقيق النتائج المنشودة في هذه الأولوية. ولكم منا كل التحية والتقدير، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

(13.1) **M. Abdel Khalek (Égypte) in extenso**
(traduit de l'arabe) :

Au nom de Dieu, le Clément et le Miséricordieux. Monsieur le Président du Conseil

exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais adresser mes plus vifs remerciements à la Directrice générale pour le rapport détaillé qu'elle a présenté lors de la séance d'ouverture, et saluer ses efforts constructifs et fructueux. Dans son rapport, la Directrice générale a mentionné les difficultés financières auxquelles l'UNESCO était confrontée et qui empêchaient cette dernière de s'acquitter de sa noble mission en tant qu'organisation chargée de semer la culture de la paix dans l'esprit des individus et de propager des valeurs remarquables telles que le respect de l'autre, la tolérance, la paix et la coexistence.

(13.2) Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, en ce qui concerne mon pays, l'Égypte, nous sommes déterminés à réaliser tous les droits prévus par la Constitution. Notre objectif est de répondre aux attentes du grand peuple égyptien, qui a choisi la voie de la paix, de la construction, du développement et du respect des droits de l'homme et des libertés, en conformité avec les conventions et les traités internationaux, malgré le terrorisme, les actes de violence et le fanatisme auxquels il est confronté et dont les auteurs cherchent à répandre le chaos non seulement en Égypte, mais aussi dans la région et dans le monde entier. Face à cette lourde charge, l'Égypte coopère étroitement avec l'UNESCO pour préserver son patrimoine culturel. Grâce à la Directrice générale, l'UNESCO a offert à l'Égypte de nombreuses aides afin de prévenir les attaques contre les musées, dont le Musée islamique, et de relancer les projets qui avaient été interrompus. À ce sujet, le Gouvernement égyptien se félicite de la visite que la Directrice générale doit effectuer au Caire pour participer à une conférence internationale sur le thème : « Patrimoine culturel menacé ». Cette conférence sera organisée par les Ministères des antiquités et des affaires étrangères, en coopération avec l'Alliance internationale pour la protection des antiquités (États-Unis), un grand nombre d'organisations internationales et les représentants de nombreux pays, ce qui témoigne de la volonté de l'Égypte de protéger le patrimoine contre les actes de sabotage et de pillage des forces de l'ombre.

(13.3) Nous souhaitons également remercier l'UNESCO et la Directrice générale d'avoir envoyé sur place des représentants de l'Organisation, ainsi que des experts du Secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles, en vue de la reconduction de l'Accord relatif au Centre régional de formation et d'étude des problèmes de l'eau. Nous espérons que le Conseil exécutif, à sa présente session, approuvera la reconduction de cet Accord pour que le Centre puisse s'acquitter de sa mission dans l'intérêt de la région, qui est menacée par la désertification. En fait, c'est toute l'Afrique qui bénéficie des activités du Centre, car ce dernier contribue à la coopération entre les pays africains, notamment dans le bassin du Nil, afin d'assurer la sécurité de l'eau et d'ouvrir de nouvelles perspectives de coopération, notamment au vu de la collaboration fructueuse qui existe actuellement entre l'Égypte, le Soudan et l'Éthiopie.

(13.4) En ce qui concerne l'éducation, l'Égypte a eu l'honneur d'accueillir de nombreuses missions de l'UNESCO, ce qui témoigne de la volonté des deux parties de mettre en œuvre les plans de l'Égypte dans le domaine de l'enseignement technique, de choisir

les meilleurs systèmes d'acceptation dans les universités égyptiennes pour les étudiants issus du cycle d'études précédent, et d'améliorer les programmes d'études. À ce sujet, il convient de saluer les efforts de l'Égypte dans ce domaine, notamment ceux des comités chargés, d'une part, d'améliorer les programmes d'études pour qu'ils correspondent aux besoins du marché du travail et de la société et, d'autre part, d'en supprimer les éléments qui ne sont plus compatibles avec l'esprit du moment et la volonté de forger un avenir commun.

(13.5) Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, les jeunes sont exposés à de violentes vagues d'idées erronées qui les poussent vers la violence, le terrorisme et le fanatisme, des phénomènes qui sont aux antipodes des valeurs et du message de notre Organisation, d'où la nécessité de coopérer et d'agir ensemble pour protéger notre jeunesse contre ces vagues destructrices. C'est pourquoi le Président Abdel-Fattah Al-Sissi, devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et lors du dernier sommet des États arabes, a souligné la nécessité de protéger les jeunes contre les dangers du terrorisme sur Internet et de mobiliser le monde entier contre ce phénomène, en appelant l'attention sur le rôle des médias dans ce domaine. À ce sujet, nous nous félicitons de l'initiative prise par la Directrice générale d'organiser, en juin 2015, une conférence internationale à laquelle participeraient toutes les parties concernées, notamment les jeunes, et qui servirait de plate-forme pour le partage des compétences. Nous sommes heureux que l'Égypte soit un des parrains de cette conférence, à laquelle elle participera avec une délégation d'experts et de spécialistes de haut niveau.

(13.6) L'Égypte a toujours cru en la nécessité de parvenir à une paix juste et globale dans la région. Elle a d'ailleurs été la première à conclure un accord de paix qui a mis un terme à des années de recours à la violence et à la force dans la région. Nous espérons que la crise syrienne prendra fin et que l'UNESCO continuera de remplir sa noble mission éducative en faveur des enfants du peuple syrien, notamment les déplacés à l'intérieur et hors de la République arabe syrienne. L'Égypte, qui porte un intérêt aux sites archéologiques qui se trouvent en République arabe syrienne, en Iraq et ailleurs, invite l'UNESCO à faire le nécessaire pour les sauvegarder. Je ne saurais conclure sans insister sur la nécessité d'intensifier les efforts pour la mise en œuvre des programmes relatifs au continent africain dans le cadre de la priorité Afrique, une des deux priorités globales de l'UNESCO, et nous espérons que les résultats escomptés correspondant à cette priorité seront atteints dans les années à venir. Je vous remercie, que la paix et la bénédiction et la miséricorde de Dieu soient sur vous.

14.1 M. Doucoure (Mali) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil, Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil, nous commencerons par exprimer notre soutien aux propos tenus par l'Angola au nom du Groupe Afrique. Dans le cadre de ce débat, notre attention se portera notamment sur le point 4, Partie I. Permettez-nous tout d'abord d'adresser nos félicitations au Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents, tant sur la forme que sur le fond. Nous avons apprécié la structure consensuelle du rapport, conformément à la décision

195 EX/4 (V), qui porte sur les 12 premiers mois de la période quadriennale 2014-2017. L'évaluation analytique des cinq grands programmes, de l'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO (ISU) et des deux priorités globales intègre, outre les tendances, le Plan de dépenses de 507 millions de dollars (contre les 653 millions du C/5 approuvé), les indicateurs de performance et les cibles, les progrès enregistrés ainsi que les défis, les risques et le feedback. Il résulte du Plan de dépenses qu'environ trois quarts des plans de travail sont dans le vert et que 2 % seulement sont en difficulté. C'est une belle performance, mais elle ne contredit nullement l'adage selon lequel « qui trop embrasse mal étreint », d'autant plus que le prix à payer est le même si l'on place les sources de financement pour l'exécution du programme en face des ressources extrabudgétaires. Il s'agit manifestement d'une tendance lourde, découlant de la réforme inspirée par le niveau des contributions au budget ordinaire. Comme la Directrice générale l'a souligné ce matin, un budget intégral est plus que nécessaire. L'assujettissement des programmes à des ressources extrabudgétaires pourrait conduire à une perte de marge de manœuvre dans l'exécution des résolutions de la Conférence générale, organe souverain de notre Organisation.

14.2 Le grand programme I conserve une place prépondérante dans l'agenda mondial du développement et offre des atouts pour orienter l'éducation au-delà de 2015 conformément à l'Accord de Mascate. Retenons ici l'adoption de la Convention régionale révisée sur la reconnaissance des études et des certificats, diplômes, grades et autres titres de l'enseignement supérieur dans les États d'Afrique et l'impulsion donnée par la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation au service du développement durable. Nous nous félicitons également de l'accroissement des fonds extrabudgétaires au bénéfice des priorités établies. Nous saluons l'Organisation pour le soutien d'urgence et l'aide à la reconstruction fournis à travers le programme d'éducation à la résilience, et rappelons également qu'il y a toujours pas d'école dans la ville « sanctuarisée » de Kidal, au Mali. En ce qui concerne le grand programme II, les vacances de postes en Afrique ont lourdement lésé la priorité globale Afrique. Il convient de souligner le rôle du Secteur dans la planification du programme de développement pour l'après-2015 et les objectifs de développement durable. S'agissant du grand programme III, le Programme MOST et la réflexion stratégique sur les transformations sociales et le dialogue interculturel restent tributaires de la réforme structurelle. Il faut retenir le projet de promotion de l'inclusion sociale et de lutte contre la pauvreté et la discrimination des groupes les plus défavorisés. Le grand programme IV met l'accent sur la mise en œuvre des conventions culturelles ainsi que sur la reconnaissance du rôle de la culture dans le développement pour l'après-2015. Les réunions sur la République arabe syrienne et l'Iraq ont validé l'idée d'intégrer la dimension culturelle dans les mesures de sécurité, la résolution des conflits, l'aide humanitaire et le développement. Le rapport relève à juste titre les menaces liées à la situation financière. En ce qui concerne le résultat escompté 5, l'élaboration de directives conceptuelles et pratiques à propos du volume IX de l'*Histoire générale de l'Afrique* est sans doute pertinente et nous amène à nous demander ce qu'il en est de la conférence internationale, tout aussi pertinente, sur la lecture croisée de l'Histoire. Nous aimerions ici saluer l'UNESCO et les autres partenaires pour la suite donnée aux travaux de reconstruction des mausolées, qui ont démarré en mars 2014 et qui ont repris il y a quelques semaines seulement, en collaboration avec

les maçons de Tombouctou. Le grand programme V, qui est également confronté à des difficultés de financement, investit de manière opportune dans l'apprentissage en ligne et l'accès aux ressources éducatives libres. Enfin, nous avons retenu qu'en dépit des contraintes financières, l'ISU est resté performant dans ses activités et ambitieux pour l'avenir. Je vous remercie.

15.1 Mr Tsegaye Tessema (Ethiopia) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, I would like to start by expressing my warmest congratulations to you Mr Chair, the Chair of the Preparatory Group, the Director-General and the Secretariat as a whole on your concerted efforts in organizing this session of the Board.

15.2 I would also like to present my heartfelt condolences to our brothers and sisters from Kenya and condemn the cowardly attack on Garissa University. The need for international peace is greater now than any time before. According to the World Bank, 1.5 billion people live in fragile and conflict-affected states or in countries with very high levels of criminal violence and terrorism. Our Organization's vision and mission to establish peace on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity is now more relevant than ever.

15.3 At a time when our mandate is essential, let us remember that the Director-General told this august body at the last session that UNESCO was walking on thin ice and that the financial situation was no longer just difficult but becoming dangerous. Madam Director-General, we have heard your very strong message that the continuation of a zero nominal growth (ZNG) budget for the next biennium would have a severely negative impact on the capacity of this Organization to deliver on its objectives. I am aware that the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) scenario will not tremendously increase the Organization's capacity to deliver but I welcome the importance given to Priority Africa. I believe that the likelihood of achieving targets vital for our continent will increase to some extent under the \$518 million expenditure plan.

15.4 Turning to the Programme Implementation Report (PIR), I am impressed by the Secretariat's efforts to provide a comprehensive and homogeneous document. However, I think that this report could be more analytical and should further develop the challenges and the lessons learned. The Organization has come a long way in the implementation of reform initiatives and in the transition to results-based management (RBM). However, there is a lot of ground to cover and especially a lot to do in defining our performance indicators. Although most of the performance indicators audited were deemed SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-phased), I think they should all be targeted. Measurable targets and reliable performance indicators can facilitate discussions within our governing bodies and improve accountability. This would allow us to have efficient Board meetings ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of our Organization are achieved. In this regard, I strongly encourage collaboration between Member States and the Secretariat to work on a more standardized tool.

15.5 Excellencies, distinguished Members of the Board, my delegation would like to commend UNESCO's work in building consensus on the future post-2015 education agenda and according education a prominent role in the sustainable development goals (SDGs). However, an ambitious post-2015 agenda will remain unfinished business, just like the education for all (EFA)

goals, if UNESCO does not intensify its work in building capacities at the national and regional levels. National capacity-building, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), higher education, and quality, inclusive education are of the highest priority for Africa in general. Therefore, my delegation was hoping to see major achievements in these fields in parallel to the outstanding work that has been carried out in shaping the future education agenda.

15.6 Mr Chair, the challenges facing UNESCO are very clear: a lack of adequate human and financial resources. If the financial situation is not adequately addressed, it will result in weaker delivery, a reduced field presence, a considerable loss of expertise and lower visibility within the United Nations system. We therefore encourage the Director-General to pursue further efficiency gains and fundraising activities. Finally, I would like to endorse the statement delivered by Angola on behalf of the Africa Group. Thank you for your attention.

16.1 Ms Raznatovic (Montenegro) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, Montenegro aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

16.2 Mr Chair of the Executive Board, during previous sessions of this Board over the past few years, not one Member has failed to stress that UNESCO was facing a time of great challenges. We spoke about structural changes and financial crisis. We were also united in highlighting the importance and significance of the role of this Organization in defining the post-2015 development agenda. And we confirmed that UNESCO had succeeded in reclaiming its leading role within the scope of its competencies, showing policy leadership.

16.3 Today, unfortunately, we are witnessing extremist activities from which no one is safe, and we are again united in saluting UNESCO's efforts to protect and fight for the values it stands for. In particular, we urgently need to protect cultural heritage, because it represents the preservation of humanity's heritage and is crucial to community identity and the building of lasting peace. In this light, my country welcomes the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015) on the protection of cultural heritage in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, and all measures and actions aimed at preventing the trade in items of cultural, scientific and religious importance illegally removed from either country during periods of conflict.

16.4 Every State is obliged to create conditions for its citizens to lead a normal life. Nevertheless, present-day threats go beyond national boundaries and require a coherent approach by the international community. As a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Montenegro shares concerns over the alarming human rights situation in countries requiring the Council's attention, and we fully support its existing mechanisms for strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law.

16.5 Mr Chair, culture plays a crucial role in the post-2015 development agenda, as do education, science, communication and information, and freedom of expression. In the year of the tenth anniversary of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, it is important to reiterate that, without respecting cultures and their diversity, we cannot speak about lasting peace. Furthermore, culture has an inevitable impact on development. This was also underlined at the launch of the UNESCO Culture for

Development Indicators (CDIS), which took place in Montenegro with the support of the UNESCO Office in Venice, in February this year. Culture is a strategic resource for every country, and together with the education and awareness of citizens, it has significant economic potential. By offering economic opportunities, culture helps to address a key challenge for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women. Bearing in mind that women constitute more than half the world's population, they can and do make crucial contributions in areas of development around the world. For this reason, gender equality and the advancement of women and girls are inevitable elements of the future development framework, as our Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration recently pointed out during the thematic debate at the United Nations General Assembly. Societies where women enjoy equal rights to education, health security and equal economic and political opportunities are in a position to provide for more prosperity and peace.

16.6 Montenegro has actively participated in the work of the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. It is hard to discuss sustainable development without speaking about economic growth and political dialogue, without ideas of intellectual and moral solidarity which constitute the heart of UNESCO. The negotiations for the post-2015 agenda have entered into the final phase and the development of this agenda has been a unique intergovernmental policy process. It has led us to question our financing and the budget of our Organization. We need to prepare a precise list of the costs of major problems, specifically costs that we could avoid, compared with those that are indispensable. For example, the perspective of strengthening the resources for UNESCO's flagship projects, such as the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, is very important, especially in view of the latest changes in the working and decision-making process of the World Heritage Centre advisory bodies and their communication with Member States during the evaluation procedure.

16.7 Mr Chair, in marking its 70th anniversary and assessing its results and impacts, as well as the role and contribution of Member States, UNESCO must be ready to accelerate the implementation of its priorities, concentrating on a culture of peace, development and prosperity, environmental protection and partnership, and, most importantly, focusing on people and respecting the rights of every human being. This could be one of the guidelines for revitalizing this Organization and placing UNESCO at the core of the new global post-2015 agenda. I thank you.

17.1 **Ms Zugaib (Brazil) in extenso:**

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, dear colleagues, Brazil aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and would like to add the following remarks, speaking in its national capacity. The role of UNESCO has never been more relevant. The world is still confronted with a number of challenges that demand our prompt and determined action, especially as we reach the final stages of negotiation on the post-2015 agenda. In this context, we firmly believe that absolute priority must be given to the field of education. Brazil salutes the post-2015 stand-alone goal on education, as well as its targets and framework for action. Our region favours an effective international education agenda, with UNESCO as its leader. We believe that true social transformation can only be achieved through an education system that is inclusive on all levels and addresses the needs of all groups. We

thus pin great hope on the next World Education Forum, to be held in the Republic of Korea in May 2015, where our ministers will approve the new framework for action.

17.2 Mr Chair, with regard to Africa, which constitutes one of UNESCO's priorities, we would like to mention the initiatives related to the *General History of Africa*. Financed by Brazil, Angola and other developing countries, the preparation of Volume IX and the development of pedagogical material based on the whole collection are two of the main flagships of Priority Africa. These initiatives exemplify how the Education and Culture Sectors should work together in order to renew history teaching and promote African heritage and identity. We expect Volume IX to be ready by the end of next year, according to the general terms agreed between Brazil and UNESCO, which also establish an important geographical and linguistic balance in the production of the many articles concerning the fundamental contribution of the African diaspora to our societies.

17.3 Dear colleagues, the post-2015 agenda will deal with many other subjects pertaining to UNESCO's mandate. The challenges we face ahead will require even more efficiency on the part of our Organization. Constant improvements in management and procedures are therefore absolutely essential for our expectations to be met. In this respect, I would like to express the strong value we attach to the Programme Implementation Report (PIR). Administrative transparency and accurate information are essential to enable Member States and the Secretariat to monitor the activities implemented and jointly improve programme delivery. We are convinced that if this Organization is to move forward and keep up with its mandate, it needs to persevere in its efforts to improve performance indicators, clearly state its targets and provide objective reports, based on strategic results. Thank you.

18.1 **Mr Imtiaz Tajwar (Pakistan) in extenso:**

Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm wa-as-salāt wa-as-sallām ala khātim al-nabiyyīn sallā llāhu 'alaihi wa-sallam. Mr Chair, honourable Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a pleasure to gather with the international community here today and look back at our performance in the preceding years in comparison to our promises. Our constant accountability to the Executive Board lays bare our every achievement and failure, and ensures that we remain realistic in our assessment of the magnitude of our mandate and the enormity of the situation if we fail.

18.2 Excellencies, we should never forget that UNESCO's mandate includes the eradication of poverty and illiteracy. This huge task calls for our equally enormous commitment, financial support and unwavering political dedication against all odds. Unfortunately, these are precisely the things that UNESCO currently lacks. These significant omissions are not only hurting the Organization and its future but pose a threat to the prospects of our future generations who look to UNESCO to deliver. We must not forget that developing countries are not only facing a financial crunch today. UNESCO's greatest challenge remains its budgetary situation, but we have always faced a situation similar to one called "recession. Countries like Pakistan have not only always paid their dues despite their immensely difficult financial situation but have also increased them at a time of difficulty for UNESCO. Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that in this situation, no nation can collaborate with the international community while saying that the eradication of poverty and illiteracy should be put on the back burner

as they face a financial crunch at the national level. No country can stand proud among us while not paying its dues. No nation can point a finger at the record of another's for lack of delivery in education or for not prioritizing gender equality and human rights, while itself looking to save the purchasing power of its populace at the expense of the health and education of other, poorer, countries.

18.3 Pakistan strongly supports UNESCO's work in the vitally important sectors of education, culture, science, peace and bringing nations together. Pakistan wants to state unambiguously that UNESCO must be provided with all the resources needed to meet increased demands and expectations. This is a surer way of making UNESCO and other United Nations bodies deliver on their mandate. Otherwise, the whole system will come to a halt. Indeed, we must honour international needs over national priorities. We believe that the real issue is not the \$14 million difference in the zero nominal growth (ZNG) budget, as it is less than 3%. The real issue is the political signals being sent. Pakistan is pleased to see a consensus emerging on the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) budget option. We support the statement made by the Asia and the Pacific Group (ASPAC) and the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC). UNESCO must evolve strong monitoring mechanisms to ensure the proper organization of the funds. Excellencies, ladies and gentleman, if all of us sent this input to our capitals, we could start showing our commitment, which, in the long run, could translate into better informed national positions and statements. I hope we can begin to understand again the reasons why we are here, and tell each other the lessons we have learned and what we need to learn in the future. Thank you very much.

19.1 **Mr Simataa** (Namibia) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, colleagues, Members of the Executive Board, Namibia aligns itself with the statement by the representative of Angola, on behalf of the Africa Group. Mr Chair, this session is taking place at a time when many parts of our globe are in flames, causing the death and untold suffering of members of the human race. This regrettable situation is brought about by hatred nurtured by intolerance and the diversity of humankind. While offering our sympathies and solidarity to all affected Member States, we call upon all Member States to support UNESCO in carrying out its mission of creating peace in the minds of men.

19.2 We are also meeting at a significant time when we are about to conclude the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) initiative and finalize the articulation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

19.3 Mr Chair, as we contemplate an array of activities to celebrate the 70 years of our existence, we must spare no effort in asserting our Organization's role, relevance and credibility. However, this cannot be achieved if we do not articulate clearly defined future strategic priorities and programmes that are in line with the Organization's mandate and above all, adequately resourced in terms of both financial and human capital. Our Organization must therefore pay particular attention to the principle of prioritization and achieving results by focusing on areas of comparative advantage. We need to pay attention to programmes and activities that add value to our mission. Careful examination of document 196 EX/4 Part I points to the inability of all the major sectors to implement activities due to a lack of financial and human resources. It is now time for us to rise to the occasion and determine the best

budget scenario for the Organization to adopt in order to best pursue its strategic objectives.

19.4 Namibia highly appreciates the achievements of the last six months, as evidenced by the leadership role played by the Organization in preparation for the post-2015 education agenda.

19.5 As we have articulated at various forums, programmes and activities in the natural sciences are of strategic importance to the sustainable development of Africa. This notwithstanding, my delegation regrets the lengthy process of filling vacant posts in field offices, particularly in Africa. The same goes for the lack of senior specialists in the area of engineering, understaffing at the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the reduction in the regular budget of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). If this trend continues, Namibia can no longer be sure that UNESCO will be able to play its expected roles in the post-2015 development agenda.

19.6 In respect of culture, Namibia supports the focus on implementing the conventions and the efforts to ensure the inclusion of culture in the post-2015 agenda as an enabler of sustainable development. We further applaud UNESCO's efforts to protect cultural heritage and diversity, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations. In the Communication and Information Sector, Namibia welcomes the continued focus on freedom of expression, the safety of journalists and the development of the media, particularly community radio. We also highly appreciate the support provided by Member States such as Sweden to further the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) at radio stations in some African Member States and facilitate access to information and knowledge.

19.7 My delegation regrets that the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) could not demonstrate that Priority Africa and Gender Equality are indeed global priorities of the Organization, owing to a lack of resources.

19.8 Regarding the follow-up to the two decisions on the field network reform, Namibia is of the opinion that the Report has not adequately captured the spirit of the decision. We are particularly concerned about two issues: firstly, the inadequate information on the number of staff and the levels of the posts in each multisectoral regional office; and secondly, the lack of a coherent common strategy among programmes in the decentralization of multisector regional offices' regular programme funds. We therefore take the view that the field network reform remains a work in progress in Africa. We deem it difficult for this Executive Board to assess whether or not the current field network is sustainable. Thank you.

20.1 **Ms Magreta** (Malawi) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, my delegation wishes to endorse the statement made by Angola on behalf of the Africa Group. Events unfolding in 2015, both natural and planned, call for UNESCO's active participation in providing advice and solutions, or in being part of those solutions. Working in the spirit of its founders, UNESCO is even more relevant today.

20.2 Mr Chair, early this January, my country experienced the worst flooding in our living memory. Apart from the loss of lives and damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure, the event left some 600,000 schoolchildren destitute and without classrooms or teaching and learning

materials. My delegation is therefore most grateful to Member States that provided first-line assistance in settling the displaced population in temporary camps. We are equally grateful to the Director-General for her timely assistance with teaching and learning materials, which will enable the displaced children to catch up with the rest of the country in education. Mr Chair, as if the opening up of the heavens was not enough, the much-anticipated rains did not last long, triggering a prolonged dry spell that has left most of the country vulnerable to food shortages. These natural phenomena, which are the result of climate change, need well thought-out scientific solutions. My delegation believes that we have a reliable partner in UNESCO, with whom we can find lasting solutions to these problems, which are now becoming perennial.

20.3 Turning to programme matters, my delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for improvements in the presentation and format of documentation. This will make our debate in the commissions very insightful. We commend the Secretariat for achieving 70% of its envisaged work plans for 2014 despite resource and personnel constraints. We are hopeful that the low execution rates experienced in some programmes in Africa will now pick up as some of the challenges are being overcome.

20.4 Mr Chair, in shaping the post-2015 education agenda, my delegation would like UNESCO to use its leadership role to ensure that the lessons learned from the unfinished education for all (EFA) project, including the elusive financing of education, inform the new strategy formulations and also ensure that education is firmly established as the engine of the post-2015 development agenda.

20.5 Mr Chair, Malawi has made youth skills development its top priority in the development agenda. To this effect, our Government recently launched the first 11 of the envisaged 28 community technical colleges to enable youth in rural areas to acquire gainful, employable skills. My delegation therefore welcomes the proposed strategy for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and the guidelines for follow-up beyond 2015. We also echo those who are advocating the incorporation of the sustainable development philosophy into the TVET strategy through the inculcation of green skills and the implementation of environmental policies. We would therefore like to acknowledge the technical assistance Malawi is receiving from UNESCO under TVET through the Capacity Development for Education for All Programme (CapEFA) and the Better Education for Africa's Rise (BEAR) project. We therefore look forward to UNESCO's continued leadership in this regard.

20.6 Mr Chair, as mentioned earlier, climate change issues are real and serious. That is why my delegation has always underscored the importance of science programmes that would help to mitigate the negative effects of climate change on the environment.

20.7 My delegation welcomes the progress the Director-General is making in field reforms in Africa. We recently had the pleasure of welcoming the new Director of the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Southern Africa. While we look forward to working very closely with him, we are hopeful that the office will soon have a critical mass of staff in all UNESCO's fields of competence, including the social and human sciences.

20.8 Mr Chair, as stated by the Chair of the Africa Group, UNESCO's leadership in its fields of competence

will be tested in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

20.9 The UNESCO Constitution emphasizes peaceful coexistence and cultural tolerance. Allow me therefore to extend my delegation's sympathy to the Government and people of Kenya on the loss of 148 students at the University of Garissa. Deliberate gruesome murders cannot provide solutions to any misunderstandings. Only the use of our minds in an enlightened way will guarantee lasting solutions. I thank you for your attention.

21.1 **Mme Lomonaco (Italie) in extenso :**

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, les événements de ces derniers mois – et la Directrice générale l'a dit aujourd'hui à plusieurs reprises dans son discours – imposent plus que jamais une réflexion sur le rôle et la mission de l'UNESCO. Nous sommes face à un tournant de l'histoire de cette Organisation. Les images de Mossoul, ainsi que celles, tout aussi brûlantes, de Hatra, de Nimrud et de Tunis, sont encore devant nos yeux. Le moment est venu de réagir pour mettre fin à ce nettoyage culturel qui, en détruisant les pierres, les mosaïques et les objets d'art, mine l'identité même de populations entières, ainsi que leur histoire et leurs traditions. Dans le contexte actuel, la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel comme symbole identitaire et élément de cohésion sociale doit être pour cette Organisation la priorité des priorités. Des efforts ont été faits pour répondre à cette situation d'urgence sur le terrain – notamment en Iraq et en République arabe syrienne – et pour pallier les destructions, et nous remercions la Directrice générale pour son engagement personnel. Mais cela ne suffit plus. La résolution 2199 du Conseil de sécurité l'a bien mis en évidence : l'UNESCO est l'acteur naturel pour faire face à ce défi. Nous ne pouvons plus rester silencieux et nous cacher derrière des obstacles administratifs ou normatifs, qui doivent être absolument surmontés. Il est urgent d'identifier de nouveaux mécanismes de protection qui soient vraiment efficaces pour prévenir la destruction des biens culturels, lutter contre le trafic illicite et mettre fin au nettoyage culturel qui se cache derrière ces actes brutaux : l'Italie, Madame la Directrice générale, est prête à s'engager aux côtés de l'Organisation. L'initiative prise par les Gouvernements italien et espagnol d'inscrire un nouveau point à l'ordre du jour du Conseil exécutif, assortie d'un projet de décision visant à renforcer au maximum la protection du patrimoine en danger, représente un premier pas dans cette direction. Nous espérons que tous les pays membres seront avec nous.

21.2 Si notre agenda a été bouleversé par les événements tragiques récents, il n'en reste pas moins que le binôme culture/développement durable constitue la base fondamentale de la croissance et du progrès. Nous savons maintenant que la culture est un catalyseur et un moteur de la durabilité, ainsi qu'un facteur d'inclusion sociale et d'élimination de la pauvreté, qui peut favoriser la création d'emplois. Ceci est désormais prouvé par des données concrètes, mesurables et chiffrées. L'Italie a contribué avec conviction aux efforts déployés par l'UNESCO afin que la culture soit dûment prise en compte dans le programme de développement pour l'après-2015, et la Déclaration de Florence issue du Forum mondial de l'UNESCO d'octobre dernier témoigne de cet engagement.

21.3 Néanmoins, il ne faut pas oublier que l'éducation joue un rôle fondamental dans ce processus de développement. Chacun le sait : aucun progrès réel et

durable ne peut être atteint si les individus ne possèdent pas les moyens d'accéder aux connaissances et à la culture. C'est surtout à travers l'éducation que se découvrent les valeurs, que s'apprennent la tolérance et le respect de la dignité humaine. Pour soutenir l'action de l'UNESCO en faveur de l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale et de l'éducation aux droits de l'homme, l'Italie a présenté avec l'Autriche et le Maroc deux projets de décision qui seront, nous l'espérons, adoptés par consensus. Monsieur le Président, nous sommes bien conscients des contraintes budgétaires actuelles. Mais le temps est venu de réagir et de faire des choix, nos choix. C'est à nous de faire en sorte que le nouveau C/5 puisse refléter clairement les trois priorités que je viens de mentionner.

22.1 Mr Lee (Republic of Korea) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to start with a word about this year. The year 2015 is a monumental year that marks the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. In face of global challenges such as extremism and violence, climate change and intercultural and interreligious conflicts, UNESCO's role in responding to the call for peace and sustainable development becomes even more important. In this regard, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the Secretariat's efforts to protect and promote UNESCO's values and reflect them on the post-2015 agenda. The Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to support UNESCO's efforts.

22.2 I applaud all the efforts made in respect of action on the post-2015 education agenda. In order to ensure the success of these efforts at the 2015 World Education Forum to be held in Incheon next month, the Republic of Korea has been working closely with the Secretariat, Member States and other stakeholders. I would like to encourage Members States to lend their valuable support to this important forum. The Republic of Korea fully recognizes the importance of global citizenship education, especially under current circumstances where global peace is jeopardized by extremism and violence. My Government strongly endorses UNESCO's efforts to support global citizenship education and develop concrete curricula in this regard.

22.3 I welcome the inclusion of water, oceans, biodiversity and science policy in the United Nations working group document and I appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to reflect these issues in the post-2015 development agenda. I would like to draw your attention to the seventh World Water Forum, which is currently being held in the Republic of Korea. There will be substantive debates on policy guidance and technical means to implement solutions and ideas. I believe UNESCO can provide its expertise and knowledge throughout the forum. The ministerial declaration expected to be adopted at the forum will be a key document for global water governance. I would like to express special thanks to the Secretariat and Member States who have been actively involved in the drafting process.

22.4 Let me now address culture and development. My Government is convinced that culture is a very important driver of peace and sustainable development. With that in mind, it has been actively participating in efforts to reflect culture in the post-2015 development agenda. I hope that all stakeholders will cooperate closely until the adoption of the agenda to ensure the inclusion of culture. I would also like to note that my Government is supporting various

UNESCO culture programmes, such as the establishment of the Bamiyan Culture Centre in Afghanistan and the promotion of creative industries in developing countries. I believe these projects can prove that culture can play a fundamental role in achieving sustainable development.

22.5 Let me now turn to UNESCO's important internal matters, document 38 C/5. I noted with satisfaction that UNESCO has shaped the draft budget well with a view to strengthening its presence in education, science and culture within the post-2015 framework. However, it is indeed crucial for UNESCO to transform itself into a more resilient Organization responding to global challenges with the limited resources available. Even though the current budget situation is creating difficulties for programme delivery, I believe that UNESCO can overcome all obstacles by seeking a programmatic focus, and enhancing productivity and efficiency. I believe that UNESCO can proactively bridge the gap between the growing expectations of what UNESCO should do and the actual resources to meet them. In that sense, when we work on the expenditure plan, the application of a realistic lapse factor for staff costs, efficiency gains and the use of unspent emergency funds can provide UNESCO with breathing space for further financial savings and additional income. Thank you.

23.1 M. Bissoondoyal (Maurice) *in extenso*:

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs, c'est un grand honneur pour moi de m'adresser à cette assemblée à l'occasion de la 196^e session du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO. Alors même que nous allons célébrer les 70 ans de l'UNESCO et sa contribution inestimable à l'avancement de nos idéaux, le manque de moyens de notre Organisation dans l'accomplissement de ses différentes missions nous interpelle. Aussi, compte tenu de la situation financière, nous saluons les réformes engagées par la Directrice générale pour répondre aux nombreux besoins et aux multiples défis. Nous sommes satisfaits du maintien des programmes prioritaires pour l'Afrique, notamment de l'agenda post-2015.

23.2 Alors que le monde est traversé par une montée de l'extrémisme et de l'intolérance, le rôle de l'UNESCO dans la promotion de la diversité culturelle et du dialogue interculturel est très important pour le recul de l'obscurantisme, de l'incompréhension et de l'intolérance. Nous appelons à un engagement idéologique fondé sur des valeurs universelles pour combattre l'incompréhension et l'intolérance d'une poignée d'extrémistes. Maurice souhaite exprimer son appréciation à la Directrice générale pour son engagement suite aux attentats meurtriers de Paris, de Tunis et du Kenya. De même, nous saluons ses prises de position suite aux exactions commises en République arabe syrienne et en Iraq, et nous nous félicitons de la reconstruction des mausolées de Tombouctou. Il est important de préserver notre patrimoine culturel et de le transmettre en l'état aux générations futures. Monsieur le Président, la Conférence ministérielle de Kigali, qui s'est tenue du 9 au 11 février 2015, a esquissé les contours de l'agenda pour l'éducation post-2015 en Afrique. La Déclaration de Kigali vise à promouvoir la réalisation des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous et à assurer une éducation équitable, inclusive et de qualité. Nous sommes satisfaits de la prise de conscience au sein de l'UNESCO quant à l'importance de maintenir le financement du programme de développement pour l'après-2015. De même, nous soutenons l'appel de l'Angola en faveur du renforcement de la coopération entre les institutions de l'UNESCO et les instances

africaines compétentes. Maurice se félicite de l'émergence d'une position africaine commune en matière d'éducation en vue du Forum mondial sur l'éducation qui se tiendra à Incheon, en Corée, en mai 2015. À cet égard, nous tenons à saluer le lancement à Kigali, le 9 février 2015, de la plate-forme régionale visant à améliorer l'offre de programmes de qualité pour le développement de la petite enfance en Afrique. Maurice assure la présidence du pôle de qualité interpays sur le développement de la petite enfance. Nous souhaitons signaler que, suite à la réunion de Kigali, une réunion d'experts a eu lieu à Maurice du 8 au 10 avril 2015 sous la présidence de la Ministre de l'éducation de Maurice, en vue de finaliser le plan d'action interpays pour l'exercice biennal 2015-2017. Nous nous réjouissons également que l'UNESCO accompagne les États africains et les communautés régionales africaines dans la mise en œuvre des programmes facilitant l'intégration régionale et continentale.

23.3 Monsieur le Président, nous vous remercions d'avoir souligné ce matin la vulnérabilité des petits États insulaires. En effet, nous sommes les plus exposés aux changements climatiques et aux catastrophes naturelles. À cet égard, nous félicitons l'UNESCO pour les dispositifs qu'elle a mis en place, notamment à travers la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale, parmi lesquels le système d'alerte aux tsunamis. Maurice souhaiterait également que l'UNESCO accompagne les petits États insulaires dans la mise en œuvre de la Voie à suivre de Samoa, qui reconnaît les vulnérabilités uniques et particulières qui compliquent le développement durable des petits États insulaires. À ce titre, nous accordons tout notre soutien au Programme d'action pour le développement durable des petits États insulaires en développement et nous comptons sur l'appui des pays membres de notre Organisation pour le financement de ce projet. Sur ce chapitre, nous saluons le lancement à l'UNESCO de la Plateforme Océan et Climat 2015 à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'océan. Cette plateforme contribuera à enrichir les débats de la COP-21 concernant les effets néfastes du changement climatique sur les océans.

23.4 Avant de terminer, permettez-moi de remercier l'Ambassadrice du Gabon pour son dévouement et son engagement en qualité de présidente du Groupe préparatoire. De même, nous tenons à témoigner tout notre soutien à son successeur, l'Ambassadrice du Nigéria, dans ses nouvelles fonctions. Comme l'a rappelé la Directrice générale, l'UNESCO a besoin d'un nouvel humanisme qui allie le développement durable, la préservation de la planète et le respect des droits de l'homme et de la dignité humaine. C'est à nous, États membres, de lui donner les moyens nécessaires à la réalisation de cet idéal. Je vous remercie.

24.1 **Mr Prakash Pandit (Nepal) *in extenso*:**

Mr Chair, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, it is my pleasure and privilege to represent Nepal once again at the Executive Board of UNESCO. My delegation would like to express sincere thanks to the Director-General for her leadership, vision and commitment to making UNESCO more visible and relevant to the needs of its targeted communities. We are happy to note that UNESCO has made steady progress in the implementation of its strategies and programmes in its fields of competence despite the financial crisis of recent years. We emphasize the delivery of more positive results in UNESCO's fields of competence and we urge our development partners to provide additional resources to meet the needs of the Organization.

24.2 Mr Chair, I would like to reiterate Nepal's commitment to the principles and goals enshrined in the UNESCO Constitution. The teachings of Lord Buddha, the Apostle of Peace, for promoting peace and coexistence are more relevant today than ever before. With a view to spreading his message of peace and non-violence throughout the world, the Government of Nepal has decided to donate a statue of Lord Buddha, which will be installed at UNESCO Headquarters in the near future. Lumbini in Nepal is the birthplace of Lord Buddha and a world heritage site. The Government of Nepal is committed to developing Lumbini as a centre of international peace and harmony, as envisioned by U Thant, the first United Nations Secretary-General from Asia. Nepal would appreciate receiving assistance from UNESCO and the international community in this noble endeavour.

24.3 Nepal has almost achieved the education for all (EFA) goals, including a net enrolment rate of over 95% and a gender parity score of 0.99 at the primary level. However, we consider that in the post-2015 development agenda, EFA should be redefined in terms of access to, equity and quality of education, learning, teachers and skills development. Lifelong learning should be considered the guiding principle. Equitable, inclusive access to quality learning for all should be ensured at all levels. Education systems should enable all children, young people and adults to participate actively and responsibly in their communities.

24.4 The Government of Nepal has launched a nationwide campaign to eliminate illiteracy by the end of 2015. We are celebrating 2015 as the year of the elimination of illiteracy. Its impact so far has been positive.

24.5 We now offer technical and vocational education beginning in the ninth grade of high school. In the initial phase, this began with one school in each parliamentary constituency and will be expanded to many other schools in future. This will help develop skills and vocational education for our youth and mobilize them for the socioeconomic development of the country.

24.6 Information and communication technologies (ICTs) now play a significant role in the present globalized world. Thus, core areas of UNESCO need to be integrated with ICTs in a more holistic manner. In Nepal, ICTs have generated positive results in rural and remote areas, especially in literacy for women and education for girls. We appreciate the joint programme on Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education launched recently by UNESCO, United Nations Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank. We believe this will complement our national efforts to develop education for girls and young women from disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

24.7 We underline the need for an enhanced UNESCO Participation Programme with a view to further strengthening the national human and institutional capacity of least developed countries in particular, taking into consideration their special circumstances and vulnerability. Emerging from a decade-long conflict, Nepal has undertaken inclusive policies and programmes, chiefly to benefit rural and marginalized communities.

24.8 The Government of Nepal carries out programmes in partnership with the relevant stakeholders and other development partners. Our focus is on building local capacity, transferring best practices and

strengthening networking to promote collaborative efforts with non-governmental partners.

24.9 Under the United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal, our country has been working to increase the safety of journalists. Our focus is on raising awareness among key stakeholders, including students and teachers in schools and universities. We lay emphasis on the security and safety of journalists and on promoting a culture of peace and sustainable democracy.

24.10 We acknowledge the technical support received from UNESCO Headquarters and its Office in Kathmandu in harmonizing efforts with our bilateral and multilateral development partners.

24.11 UNESCO should enhance its cooperation with regional organizations, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) located in Kathmandu, Nepal in order to strengthen South-South cooperation in the region. At the 18th SAARC Summit held in November last year in Kathmandu, Nepal called for greater cooperation among its members in the field of education.

24.12 Young people are our most promising human resource. They can be encouraged to contribute to social and economic transformation by promoting inclusive democracy, socioeconomic development and peace. In this context, we feel that National Commissions can play a significant role in empowering youth at the national level in programmes related to climate change education, poverty reduction, skills development, and a culture of sustainable peace and social harmony. Therefore, we need to strengthen National Commissions with adequate resources.

24.13 Last but not the least, Mr Chair, since becoming a Member State in 1953, Nepal has been pleased to be part of UNESCO's global network. On the occasion of the Organization's 70th anniversary, let us reaffirm our commitment to working together to promote humanity and enrich spirituality for a safer and better future in the twenty-first century as envisioned in the UNESCO Constitution. Thank you for your kind attention.

25.1 **Mr Kokk (Estonia) *in extenso*:**

Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished delegates, Estonia aligns itself with the European Union statement. Our discussions at this session of the Board are taking place in an atmosphere of increased tension in the world. During the current International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, the world has unfortunately seen cultural heritage become the target of intentional destruction, most recently in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Libya, and this is a source of great concern for us. We have also seen how the ideologies of hate and ignorance violently attack freedom of expression and opinion. We strongly support UNESCO's work to ensure the safety of journalists and advance freedom of expression and of the press. As my Dutch colleague rightly said today, the right to freedom of expression is the enabler for all other rights.

25.2 We are delighted to see that the first Programme Implementation Report (PIR) is a much clearer and more informative document, as concerns the five major programmes. However, Estonia regrets that the report on UNESCO's two global priorities, Africa and gender equality, is more focused on listing different activities than providing a strategic assessment of their implementation.

25.3 Ladies and gentlemen, let me now turn to the issue of the budget for the next biennium. It seems that

under both expenditure plans, zero nominal growth (ZNG) and zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+), the funds will not be sufficient to deliver on the high expectations of Member States and the global community in the framework of the post-2015 agenda. Either way, the situation will remain characterized by a heavy reliance on extrabudgetary resources to meet the regular programme objectives, the increased use of temporary staff and an unsustainable workload which makes it imperative to further prioritize activities and services in order to match the available resources. The External Auditor found in his recent report on the draft budget that the reasons for budgetary reinforcement have not been clearly justified. Annex 2 to document 38 C/5 provides relevant information on the use of supplementary resources, although the pains and gains of the two scenarios could perhaps be presented more clearly. The conclusion of Annex 2 is simple: the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) scenario would definitely not address all the issues, but the situation would still be more favourable, especially for the major programmes. As the financial situation of UNESCO is unique in the United Nations family, Estonia understands the arguments in favour of the ZNG+ scenario.

25.4 The year 2015 is crucial for global sustainable development and marks the adoption of the new post-2015 development framework. This global partnership should be based on the principles of shared responsibility and mutual accountability. Countries at all stages of development must engage with and take responsibility for its implementation. Estonia would like to highlight the importance of an effective monitoring system. All indicators should be feasible, suitable and relevant. We would like once again to commend UNESCO for successfully positioning education in the post-2015 development agenda. The keys to successfully achieving the education goal are quality lower-secondary education and professionally trained, motivated teachers. We also welcome and encourage the development by UNESCO of a framework for action, which must be universal and applicable to all Member States. Without sufficient financing, the education goal will not be achievable, and it is therefore of utmost importance for all Member States to allocate a fixed amount of domestic resources to education.

25.6 Ladies and gentlemen, last year UNESCO conducted a comprehensive study on Internet-related issues. As one of the founding members of the Freedom Online Coalition, launched in 2011, and one of the world's top-ranked countries for online freedom, Estonia will continue to stress the importance of keeping the global Internet open, free and secure for everyone. Thank you very much.

26.1 **Mme Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe (Gabon) *in extenso*:**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de l'Angola pour ses propos aimables et dire que je fais mienne la déclaration qu'il a prononcée en sa qualité de vice-président pour le Groupe Afrique au sein du Conseil exécutif. Monsieur le Président, je souhaiterais partager ici quelques pistes de réflexion. L'UNESCO fait face à une crise existentielle sans précédent. Sa mission première, qui est de contribuer à la paix au moyen de l'éducation, de la science, de la culture et de la communication, n'a peut-être pas l'aspect immédiatement concret et tangible qui caractérise la mission d'autres institutions du système des Nations

Unies, telles que l'OMS et la FAO. Cependant, la tâche et les objectifs de l'UNESCO sont essentiels, cruciaux et toujours actuels au vu des graves crises politiques que le monde traverse actuellement. L'UNESCO est donc essentielle à la bonne marche de notre monde. L'UNESCO est aussi et surtout la conscience du système des Nations Unies et de l'humanité tout entière. Malgré les interrogations et les aspirations légitimes de certains quant à la nécessité de réformer les structures de l'Organisation, et malgré la remise en cause croissante de l'efficacité du système des Nations Unies en général, il est de notre devoir de trouver des solutions pérennes pour la survie et la sortie de crise budgétaire de notre maison commune. La France, en tant que pays hôte, se doit de jouer sa partition pour mettre à profit les acquis de 70 ans d'histoire, de partage et de réussites communes.

26.2 Dans le contexte de la mondialisation et dans ce monde en proie à des aspirations et menaces d'un type nouveau, l'Organisation doit conserver sa capacité à s'acquitter de l'ensemble de ses obligations statutaires, tout en répondant de manière efficace aux attentes croissantes de tous ses États membres. L'UNESCO doit prendre l'initiative de problématiser la crise et d'en faire un thème majeur de discussion et de décision au Conseil exécutif et à la Conférence générale. Sa survie et sa renaissance sont à ce prix : à travers un budget équitable, une nouvelle orientation budgétaire de l'Organisation qui ne l'expose pas aux décisions politiques aléatoires de quelques États membres ; à travers un budget ordinaire suffisant, croissant et équitable, et des contacts entre le Secrétariat et des donateurs potentiels pour l'obtention de contributions extrabudgétaires supplémentaires ; à travers une réflexion à l'échelle internationale et interonusienne rééquilibrée, permettant de réaffirmer l'identité spécifique de notre Organisation, de réfléchir aux moyens de réviser périodiquement le niveau de contribution des États membres et enfin, d'envisager la possibilité de créer un statut d'État membre non contributeur, dont la cotisation ne serait pas comptabilisée dans le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation, le but étant d'éviter les aléas liés au non-paiement de leurs contributions par certains États membres.

26.3 Sur des points plus précis, je me félicite de nos travaux sur des éléments aussi essentiels que la Stratégie à moyen terme ou encore la stratégie de l'UNESCO pour l'après-2015. Je garde également en mémoire la richesse et la profondeur des débats que nous avons eus au sujet de l'évaluation à l'UNESCO. Nos discussions ont alors été pleinement à la hauteur du mandat du Conseil exécutif eu égard à la Conférence générale et au Secrétariat. Je retiens tout particulièrement les interrogations soulevées quant à la manière d'évaluer au mieux nos missions, mais aussi la signification même de l'évaluation pour une Organisation telle que la nôtre, qui, selon les mots de Nehru prononcés lors de la Conférence générale de 1956 à New Delhi, « incarne les aspects les plus subtils et les

plus profonds de l'existence humaine » et « la conscience de la communauté mondiale ».

26.4 Sous de tels auspices, je voudrais souligner que les dix derniers mois ont marqué à mes yeux un tournant important sur le plan des méthodes de travail de l'Organisation. Nous avons créé un véritable espace de dialogue où l'ambition de faire progresser notre Organisation a été notre seul critère. Le dialogue est une vertu et l'UNESCO doit en être le foyer, y compris dans ses aspects techniques et institutionnels, car sans dialogue, il ne peut y avoir de confiance entre les organes de l'UNESCO. Nous pourrions envisager toutes les réformes possibles, les préparer avec le plus grand soin, rien ne se fera sans dialogue. C'est pourquoi, au cours de nos sessions, j'ai toujours voulu faire circuler la parole entre vous, quitte à dépasser les horaires impartis. Veuillez m'en excuser. L'UNESCO, c'est aussi cette expérience et cette expertise du Secrétariat, qui sont le véritable capital de l'Organisation. Songez bien que ce capital est unique et que sans lui, nous sommes, en matière d'éducation, de sciences et de culture, 195 États isolés, sans point de référence consensuel pour épauler nos décisions dans ces domaines. Nous devons donc être vigilants, voire soucieux et jaloux de cette expertise.

26.5 Laissez-moi vous faire part de ces quelques interrogations. La question de notre responsabilité devant cette Organisation est sans doute la plus importante. La question du budget sort en effet largement du cadre des discussions techniques. Désormais, elle présente une dimension stratégique existentielle. Osons affirmer que notre Organisation, créée en 1945 dans un monde alors fort différent, ne peut plus fonctionner dès lors que le défaut de paiement d'un seul contributeur entraîne un véritable déraillement de l'ensemble du train. La crise actuelle a appris à chacun que le premier contributeur assumait 22 % du budget. Cependant, le déséquilibre de notre situation apparaît bien plus nettement si l'on considère qu'en 2013, la région arabe assumait moins de 3 % du budget, et l'Afrique subsaharienne, 0,7 %. La conclusion me semble s'imposer. Nous devons repenser la logique des contributions, comme nous l'avions demandé en 2012 lorsque je présidais le Groupe des 77 élargi.

26.6 Je m'autorise à former devant vous l'espoir que ces questions difficiles, sensibles et délicates, mais pas insolubles, seront un jour traitées et que le Groupe préparatoire que j'ai présidé y aura contribué. Ce sont là quelques pistes de réflexion. Pour terminer, Mesdames, Messieurs, toutes ces réflexions menées l'ont été grâce à un grand homme, le docteur ingénieur en chimie Joseph-Aimé Memiaghe, mon époux à mes côtés, qui aura été un conseiller discret et efficace et à qui je rends ce soir un hommage mérité. Merci Monsieur Memiaghe.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

THIRD MEETING

Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 10.10 a.m.

Chair: Mr Amr

REPORTING ITEMS (continued)

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme Implementation Report (PIR) (1 January-31 December 2014) (196 EX/4 Part I and Corr.-Corr.2; 196 EX/4.INF; 196 EX/4.INF.4; 196 EX/PG.INF) (continued)

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37C/5) as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited), budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited) (196 EX/4 Part II and Corr. and Add.; 196 EX/4.INF.2; 196 EX/4.INF.3; 196 EX/PG.INF) (continued)

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions (continued)

Item 5.I: Programme issues (196 EX/5 Part I and Add.; 196 EX/5.INF.3) (continued)

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (196 EX/5 Part II) (continued)

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues (196 EX/5 Part III and Corr.) (continued)

Item 5.IV: Management issues (196 EX/5 Part IV; 196 EX/5.INF) (continued)

Item 5.V: Human resources issues (196 EX/5 Part V; 196 EX/5.INF.2; 196 EX/5.INF.4) (continued)

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

Item 15: Draft budget for the Biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5) (38 C/5 Draft; 196 EX/15.INF and Rev.; 196 EX/15.INF.3) (continued)

Plenary debate (continued)

١,١ السيد إبراهيم (الكويت) النص الكامل:
السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، السيد رئيس الدورة السابعة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، زميلاتي زملائي أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، تحية طيبة وبعد، مع انطلاق الخطة الإنمائية لمرحلة ما بعد عام ٢٠١٥ هذا العام، التي تشكل في واقع الأمر محطة مفصلية ليس في تاريخ اليونسكو فحسب بل في تاريخ المنظومة الأممية بأسرها، فإن عالمنا يعيش واقعاً مؤلماً تنتهك فيه كرامة أكثر من ربع سكانه من جراء أكثر أشكال الحرمان خطورة، ألا وهو الفقر الذي بمقدوره ببساطة أن يكون مصدراً رئيسياً للحروب والصراعات والعنف والتمزق الاجتماعي، لأن الركيزة الأساسية للعدل الاجتماعي هي توفير الطعام الكافي لفقراء العالم. ونؤكد ذلك بعد ما أشار تقرير برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي لعام ٢٠١٤ الذي يحمل عنوان "دعم التقدم البشري" إلى معاناة ١,٥ مليار شخص في ٩١ بلداً، من ضمنها بلدان عربية، يعيشون في حالة فقر مدقع، إذ يعانون من أوجه حرمان متداخلة في الصحة والتعليم ومستوى العيش، وذلك من جراء النزاعات والكوارث الطبيعية الناتجة من الاحتباس الحراري، ناهيك عن مسببات محلية الطابع أبرزها عدم المساواة والبطالة والتمهيش الاجتماعي. وأمام هذا الوضع، ومن أجل ضمان نجاح الخطة الإنمائية لمرحلة ما بعد ٢٠١٥ وبلوغ أهدافها، ومن أجل انتشال المحرومين من الفقر الذي أصبح أكبر آفة عالمية، فإننا ندعو جميع الأطراف المعنية إلى الالتزام الصارم بمسؤولياتها على صعيد تنفيذ مراحل الخطة الأممية.

١,٢ السيد رئيس المجلس، زميلاتي وزملائي أعضاء المجلس، لعلنا نتفق جميعاً على أن أكثر الفئات عرضة، في الوقت الراهن للفقر والحرمان من العيش الكريم والانتفاع بالتعليم والخدمات الصحية يتمثل في أعداد النازحين السوريين في الخارج، وبالأخص في كل من لبنان والأردن، مما شكل عبئاً هائلاً على البنية التحتية واقتصاد هذين البلدين نظراً إلى قلة مواردهما. وعليه، فإننا ندعو المديرية العامة والجهات المانحة والصناديق الدولية إلى تقديم الدعم اللازم لهذين البلدين من أجل مساعدتهما على إغاثة اللاجئين وتخفيف عبء استضافتهما وتأمين فرص التعليم لهم. وفي هذا الصدد، فإن دولة الكويت، وهي تعبر عن قلقها الشديد لاستمرار الأزمة السورية، لتحرض على دعوة جميع الأطراف إلى إنهاء الخلافات والتكيز على حل هذه الأزمة بما يضمن سلامة الشعب السوري. وانطلاقاً من هذا الحرص، فإن دولة الكويت، وبمبادرة من الأمم المتحدة، قد احتضنت ثلاثة مؤتمرات دولية للمانحين لدعم الشعب السوري الشقيق كان آخرها في ٣١ آذار/مارس الماضي، حيث قُدمت مساعدات مالية وصلت إلى نصف مليار دولار عبر قنوات الأمم المتحدة من أجل تخفيف آثار الأزمة عن أشقائنا السوريين وإغاثتهم.

١,٣ زميلاتي وزملائي أعضاء المجلس، يعترينا بالغ القلق حينما ندرك أن الإنسان أصبح مصدراً وسبباً رئيسياً في استمرار وتصاعد وتيرة اضطرابات الطبيعة من أعاصير وفيضانات مدمرة وموجات الجفاف التي تواجهها البشرية بين الحين والآخر نتيجة التأثير السلبي على المنظومة المناخية، الأمر الذي يكلف الاقتصاد العالمي خسائر هائلة. فأبحاث البنك الدولي أكدت على أن الأضرار التي لحقت بالاقتصاد العالمي نتيجة الكوارث الطبيعية خلال السنوات الثلاثين الأخيرة بلغت ٤ تريليون دولار أمريكي.

١,٤ السيد رئيس المجلس، نعرب عن ترحيبنا بنتائج وتوصيات منتدى اليونسكو الثاني بشأن "التعليم من أجل المواطنة" المنعقد في أواخر شهر كانون الثاني/يناير الماضي، والذي شهد إطلاق "مركز اليونسكو لتبادل المعلومات عن تعليم المواطنة العالمية"، مما سيساهم دون أدنى شك في تعزيز قدرات دولنا من أجل القضاء على الفقر وتعزيز الاندماج الاجتماعي والاستجابة على نحو مستدام لاحتياجات مجتمعاتنا فضلاً عن إرساء ثقافة السلام. وهنأ، فإن دولة الكويت لتؤكد أن سعيها إلى بلوغ "تعليم يرمي إلى إقامة مجتمعات تنعم بالسلام وثقافته وبالقدرة على الاستدامة" يتطلب تطوير مناهجها التعليمية وتعزيزها بثلاثة المفاهيم الأساسية التالية: حقوق الإنسان، وثقافة السلام، والقيم العالمية. وعليه، يأتي التزامنا المطلق بالتوصيات الواردة في إعلان مؤتمر اليونسكو العالمي للتعليم من أجل التنمية المستدامة المعقد في آيشي- ناغويا باليابان في تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١٤.

١,٥ زميلاتي وزملائي أعضاء المجلس، في ختام خطابنا هذا، نود أن نؤكد ما يلي: في عصرنا الراهن الذي نعيش فيه، تواجه أشرس وأقسى التحديات المتمثلة في التطرف والعنف والإقصاء، وهي تحديات تهدد بالفعل أمن الإنسان ومستقبل أجياله. لذا، فإننا ندعو قيادة اليونسكو وأجهزتها الحاكمة إلى التفكير في مراجعة أولوياتها وتحديث أدواتها وآليات عملها بما يتناسب مع خطورة هذه التحديات. ولذا، فإننا كدول أعضاء في هذه المنظمة، علينا أن نبذل قصارى جهودنا لدعمها حتى تتمكن من التصدي لهذه التحديات. مع تمنياتي لهذه الدورة بالنجاح، وشكراً لكم.

(1.1) Mr Al-Ebraheem (Kuwait) in extenso (translation from the Arabic):

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference at its 37th session, fellow Members of the Executive Board: greetings. At the same time as the launch of the post-2015 development agenda this year, which really represents a watershed not only in the history of UNESCO but also in that of the United Nations system as a whole, our world is experiencing a distressing situation which violates the dignity of more than a quarter of its inhabitants through the worst forms of severe deprivation. Is it not simply poverty which is the principal source of wars, conflicts, violence and social fragmentation? For the foundation of social justice is the provision of adequate nourishment to the poor of the world. We emphasize

this in the light of the 2014 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme, entitled Sustaining Human Progress, which pointed to the distress of 1.5 billion people in 91 countries, including Arab countries, who live in conditions of extreme poverty, suffering from intertwined forms of deprivation in terms of health, education and living standards as a result of conflicts and natural disasters due to global warming, not to mention local factors chief amongst which are inequality, unemployment and social marginalization. Faced with this situation and with a view to ensuring the success of the post-2015 development agenda and the achievement of its goals, and rescuing people stricken by the poverty which has become the world's greatest affliction, we call upon all concerned parties to shoulder their responsibilities with regard to execution of the stages of the development agenda.

(1.2) Mr Chair of the Board, fellow Members of the Board, we can perhaps all agree that the largest group currently exposed to poverty, lack of a decent life and the benefit of education and health services are the numbers of Syrian refugees abroad, especially in Lebanon and Jordan where they represent an enormous burden on the infrastructure and economy of those two countries in view of their scarce resources. Accordingly, we call upon the Director-General, the donors and the international funds to provide the necessary support to those countries in order to help them assist the refugees and reduce the burden of accommodating them and providing them with educational opportunities. In this regard, Kuwait, expressing its great concern at the continuing Syrian crisis, wishes to appeal to all sides to end their disagreements and concentrate on solving this crisis in order to ensure the security of the Syrian people. On the basis of this desire, Kuwait, on the initiative of the United Nations, has hosted three international donor conferences in support of the Syrian people. At the last of these conferences, held on 31 March, financial aid amounting to half a billion dollars was provided through United Nations channels to mitigate the effects of the crisis on our Syrian brothers and to provide them with succour.

(1.3) Fellow Members of the Board, we are seized with apprehension when we realize that humankind has become the principal source and cause of the continuing and increasing pace of natural disasters such as devastating hurricanes and floods and spells of drought which people face from time to time owing to the harmful effects on the climate system, thus imposing huge losses on the world economy. According to research by the World Bank, the damage caused to the world economy by natural disasters over the last 30 years has amounted to four trillion United States dollars.

(1.4) Mr Chair of the Board, we welcome the outcomes and recommendations of the Second UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education held at the end of January, which witnessed the launch of the UNESCO Clearinghouse on Global Citizenship Education. This will, without a shadow of a doubt, help to strengthen our world's resources for eradicating poverty, to increase social integration and to improve in a sustainable manner the response to the needs of our societies as well as consolidating the culture of peace. Here, Kuwait confirms that its endeavour to achieve "an education aimed at building sustainable

societies blessed with peace and the culture of peace" requires the development of corresponding educational curricula, reinforced by the following three fundamental concepts: human rights, the culture of peace and universal values. Then there is our full commitment to the recommendations in the Declaration of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan in November 2014.

(1.5) Fellow Members of the Board, in concluding our statement, we wish to stress the following point: in the present age in which we live, we face the fiercest and most difficult challenges relating to extremism, violence and exclusion and those challenges do indeed threaten human security and future generations. We call on the leadership of UNESCO and its governing bodies to consider reviewing its priorities and to update its tools and machinery in line with the seriousness of those challenges. As Member States of this Organization, it is our duty to make every conceivable effort to support it so that it may meet those challenges. With my wishes for the success of this session, I thank you.

2.1 **Ms Katagum** (Nigeria) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues, Nigeria aligns itself with the statement made by the Ambassador of Angola on behalf of the Africa group. My delegation thanks the Director-General for her introduction to this debate and particularly for making available her statement online, which undoubtedly signals progress towards making the debates more engaging and the Board more efficient. We also congratulate the Secretariat for the quality of the documents, particularly the first Programme Implementation Report (PIR). However, one of the points repeatedly made in the PIR is the effect of the decrease in regular programme funds on programme implementation and the accompanying reduction of staff, both of which have led to, among others: discontinuation and postponement of programmes; inability to respond to the increasing demands of Member States; and UNESCO's inability at times to engage fully in some countries.

2.2 Mr Chair, these are hardly acceptable conditions for an Organization with ambitions to play a global coordinating role in several of its areas of expertise. In the field of education, the 2015 EFA *Global Monitoring Report* has shown that a large number of African countries have not met most of the measurable education for all goals. This underscores the urgent need for UNESCO to provide support, including extrabudgetary funds, for the EFA assessment in Africa, so as to enable its completion and use it as an invaluable input to the post-2015 development agenda. Events in several parts of the world have highlighted the importance of pursuing vigorously the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, under the leadership of UNESCO. In addition to sensitization of the general public on this issue, Nigeria has embarked on several safety initiatives, such as the establishment of a safe monitoring network, publication of a safety handbook and the launching of a project to monitor the safety of journalists during the country's recent elections. The broader issue of terrorism and attacks against education systems, especially against students and teachers, are of great concern to us. We therefore convey our deep condolences to the Government and people of Kenya for the horrific massacre at Garissa University College. For its part, Nigeria has launched a

\$10 million safe schools initiative aimed at restoring confidence in education systems in the north-eastern parts of the country, which are the worst hit by terrorist activities, and providing a safe environment where children can learn and realize their full potential. We wish to thank the External Auditor for his most recent audit of the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Nairobi. We find this audit of special importance as a contribution to the fine-tuning of our field structures in the context of the reform of the Organization. For example, a situation where a director was posted to the Office without any meaningful instruction on his responsibilities and expected performance was very disturbing and exceedingly unprofessional, as were the contradictory and confusing directives and lack of clear lines of responsibility, which could trickle down to affect the efficiency of the Office.

2.3 Mr Chair, this report has clearly confirmed some of our concerns regarding the field offices in Africa and shown that there is need to further improve in-house management competencies. My delegation also finds the report of the External Auditor on document 38 C/5 useful in integrating results accountability into the work of the Organization, taking into consideration the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. This is why, along with other delegations, we are sponsoring a draft decision on better performance indicators, with a view to encouraging the strengthening of in-house capacity for the application of results-based management principles.

2.4 Dear colleagues, the reforms that we have embarked upon continue, but the fulfilment of our important responsibilities cannot wait for the completion or termination of our search for perfection, nor can we be permanently subjected to inadequate funding for the performance of our duties to the Member States. At this session, we have the opportunity to take action as we consider the Organization's programme for the next biennium and propose the budget for its adequate implementation. Nigeria's stand with respect to the budget is very well known; we have always pleaded for an increase in the funds made available to the Organization for the implementation of programme activities. Indeed, we agree with the Director-General's comment that, "the demand for UNESCO has never been higher". That is why we would normally support the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) budget, but we are also ready to work with others on the Executive Board to arrive at consensus on the budget ceiling. I thank you very much for your kind attention.

3.1 **Sr. Filmus (Argentina) in extenso:**

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General: la delegación argentina felicita al Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo de esta 196ª reunión. Hemos escuchado con mucha atención la presentación efectuada por la Directora General, y suscribimos a su oportuna y acertada intervención. Mi delegación comparte íntegramente la presentación efectuada en nombre del GRULAC.

3.2 Señor Presidente, en relación con la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015, la Argentina celebra que la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas haya aprobado el informe del Grupo de Trabajo Abierto sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Estamos convencidos de que el acuerdo alcanzado sobre los principios orientadores y los objetivos definidos tiene el potencial de lograr un verdadero cambio para los pueblos del mundo. Creemos que este acuerdo, logrado a través

de un proceso legítimo, abierto y transparente, debe constituir la columna vertebral de la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015. No conviene ni reabrir ni negociar ni corregir desde el punto de vista técnico, el acuerdo, como se ha propuesto. Asimismo, destacamos la inclusión del objetivo 4, junto con sus metas y sus recursos.

3.3 Por lo que hace a los recursos para la implementación, deberán continuar debatiéndose en la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Financiación para el Desarrollo en Addis Abeba. Respecto a la cuestión del monitoreo de la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015, la Argentina favorece un sistema de seguimiento nacional, voluntario y periódico a través de informes nacionales.

3.4 Señor Presidente, para la Argentina es necesario profundizar en el análisis de las razones que impidieron cumplir los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio relativos a la educación que en su día nos fijamos. Si no observamos las causas de esta desilusión, estaremos condenados a repetirla. Sin lugar a dudas el mundo cuenta con los recursos necesarios para que la educación de calidad para todos se convierta en una realidad. La causa principal del incumplimiento de los objetivos es la concentración en pocas manos y la distribución desigual de la riqueza. Permítame mencionar dos factores que atentan contra la posibilidad de avanzar en obtener los recursos financieros que permitan cumplir los objetivos propuestos.

3.5 La primera es la acción de los sectores financieros llamados "fondos buitres", que desafían al sistema económico internacional en busca de ganancias extraordinarias en detrimento de las condiciones de vida y educativas de nuestro pueblo. Estimamos especialmente oportunos los trabajos que ha iniciado la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas sobre la reestructuración de deuda soberana. Las deudas soberanas insostenibles son una de las graves barreras que obstaculizan el desarrollo.

3.6 El segundo de los aspectos es la carrera armamentista que algunas naciones continúan llevando adelante, tomando muchas veces como excusa amenazas inexistentes de países que solo pretenden defender pacíficamente el derecho a ejercer su soberanía. En la reciente Cumbre de las Américas, donde, en un hecho esperanzador, los pueblos de la región pudieron, por primera vez en la historia dar la bienvenida a la hermana Cuba después de 50 años de exclusión, nuestra Presidenta planteó con firmeza que los gastos en armamento, principalmente por parte de los países desarrollados, impiden invertir en las verdaderas necesidades de nuestros pueblos, en particular en educación. En este sentido, podemos anunciar orgullosamente que la Argentina viene sosteniendo desde hace 5 años una inversión del 6,5% del PIB en educación, lo que ha permitido una democratización sin precedentes del conocimiento en nuestro país.

3.7 Señor Presidente: queremos expresar nuestra preocupación por el creciente número de actos de destrucción intencional del patrimonio mundial de la humanidad, y por el saqueo organizado y el tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales, y los condenamos fuertemente. Creemos que nuestra Organización ha dado un gran paso al haber aprobado por consenso la modificación del Reglamento del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial para favorecer una representación geográficamente equitativa en sus bancas. En esta materia mi país quiere destacar el

logro alcanzado con la inscripción del Qhapac Ñan, o Camino Principal Andino, y apoyar especialmente el programa de “La voz de los sin voz”, destinado a promover la cultura de los pueblos originarios y las negritudes latinoamericanas. Deseo destacar el compromiso de nuestro país con el Programa MOST y con el Programa MAB como estrategia para potenciar la Red Mundial de Reservas de Biosfera.

3.8 Señor Presidente: hoy, a los setenta años de la creación de la Organización, y frente a los peligros que acechan el presente, es necesario fortalecer la presencia de la UNESCO. Como escribió Eduardo Galeano, querido escritor uruguayo que falleció ayer y a quien queremos rendir homenaje, hay que recuperar las utopías: “la utopía está en el horizonte”, decía Galeano. “Me acerco dos pasos, y ella se aleja dos pasos. Camino diez pasos y el horizonte se corre diez pasos más allá”. “Entonces, ¿para qué sirve la utopía?”, pregunta Galeano. “Para eso sirve: para caminar.” La Argentina espera continuar caminando de la mano de todos los países que conforman la UNESCO para alcanzar la utopía de paz, justicia e igualdad para todos y todas. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

(3.1) **Mr Filmus** (Argentina) *in extenso*
(translation from the Spanish):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, the delegation of Argentina congratulates the Chair of the Executive Board at its 196th session. We have listened with great interest to the introduction by the Director-General and we express our support for her timely and sound statement. My delegation fully agrees with the statement made on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC).

(3.2) Mr President, concerning the post-2015 development agenda, Argentina is gratified that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. We are convinced that the agreement reached on the guiding principles and defined objectives has the potential to achieve real change for the peoples of the world. We believe that this agreement, reached through a legitimate, open and transparent process, should constitute the backbone of the post-2015 development agenda. It should not be reopened, renegotiated or corrected from the technical viewpoint, as some have proposed. We wish to emphasize the inclusion of Goal 4, together with its targets and resources.

(3.3) As for resources for the implementation, they should continue to be discussed at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa. As for the issue of monitoring the post-2015 development agenda, Argentina favours a system of national, voluntary and periodic follow-up by means of country reports.

(3.4) Mr Chair, Argentina believes that more analysis is needed regarding the reasons which prevented attainment of the education-related Millennium Development Goals that we had adopted. If we fail to observe the causes of that disappointment we will be condemned to relive it. Without a doubt, the world has the necessary resources to ensure that quality education for all becomes a reality. The main cause of the failure to achieve the goals is the unequal distribution of wealth and its concentration in a few hands. Permit me to mention two factors which

obstruct progress in obtaining the financial resources needed to achieve the proposed goals.

(3.5) The first is the action of the financial sectors known as “vulture funds”, which challenge the international economic system in search of windfall profits, to the detriment of our people’s living conditions and education. The work initiated by the United Nations General Assembly on the restructuring of sovereign debt is particularly timely. Unsustainable sovereign debt is one of the most serious obstacles to development.

(3.6) The second aspect is the arms race which some nations continue to follow, often using as pretexts non-existent threats from countries which merely claim the right to peaceful defence of their sovereignty. At the recent Summit of the Americas, in an encouraging development, the peoples of the region were able to welcome their sister nation Cuba for the first time in history after 50 years of exclusion. Our President firmly stated that spending on armaments, mostly by the developed countries, prevented investment in the true needs of our peoples, particularly education. In this connection, we are proud to announce that Argentina has for five years been sustaining education investment at 6.5% of GDP, making possible an unprecedented democratization of knowledge in our country.

(3.7) Mr Chair, we wish to express our concern at the growing numbers of deliberate acts of destruction of humanity’s worldwide heritage and at the organized looting and trafficking of cultural goods, which we strongly condemn. We believe that this Organization has taken a major step forward by adopting by consensus the amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee, introducing geographically equitable representation in its membership. In this regard, my country wishes to draw attention to what has been achieved with the inclusion of Qhapac Ñan, the Main Andean Road. We particularly support the programme “la Voz de los sin voz” (a voice for the voiceless), designed to promote the culture of first peoples and Afro-descendants. I also wish to emphasize my Government’s support for the MOST Programme, and for the MAB Programme as a strategy to strengthen the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

(3.8) Mr Chair, 70 years after the creation of the Organization, and faced with the dangers which beset today’s world, the presence of UNESCO must be strengthened. Eduardo Galeano was a dearly-loved Uruguayan author who passed away yesterday and to whom we wish to pay tribute; as he wrote, we must recover our utopias. “Utopia is on the horizon,” he wrote, “and if I move two paces closer, Utopia moves two paces farther away. I walk ten paces and the horizon moves ten paces away”. “What, then, is the purpose of utopia?”, he asked, and his answer was: “That is what it is for: to make you walk.” Argentina hopes to continue walking hand in hand with all the countries which constitute UNESCO in order to reach the utopia of peace, justice and equality for all. Many thanks, Mr Chair.

4.1 **Ms Von Zweigbergk** (Sweden) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Sweden aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. This is the third speech I have made on behalf of Sweden at the Executive Board and it is the

third time I will start by talking about the safety – or rather, the unsafety – of journalists. There are 31 reasons to do so. Thirty-one – that is the number of journalists and media workers killed since the end of our last meeting. Journalists are our eyes and ears on the ground. They perform a vital task and their work is essential for ensuring that citizens are well informed and can actively participate in society at large. This is a prerequisite for strengthening peace, democracy and development, which lies at the very heart of UNESCO's mandate. Progress has been made when it comes to international awareness and Member States' commitment to addressing the issue of the safety of journalists. However, judging by the increasing attacks and violence against journalists and the prevailing impunity for killings of journalists, increased efforts are needed. To that end, Sweden is presenting a draft decision at this session of the Executive Board with the overall aim of advancing the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, for which UNESCO is the lead coordinator.

4.2 Mr Chair, it has indeed been a violent start to the year, with terrorist attacks around the world, most recently, in Kenya, where 148 people were killed, the majority students, the future of the nation. As one of the fathers expressed it, "I took my son to school, now I've picked him up dead." Schools and educational institutions should be safe places for learning; however, these kinds of attacks create fear and are also a threat to the fundamental right to education. Another problem, as shown in the new EFA *Global Monitoring Report*, is school-related gender-based violence. This is one of the worst manifestations of gender discrimination and it undermines attempts to achieve gender equality in education. UNESCO has a vital role in helping Member States to address these issues.

4.3 Equality between men and women is crucial in all areas of life. One key factor in achieving this is the right to education for all, for both boys and girls. It is with great satisfaction that we can see positive developments, as more and more girls attend school. However, much remains to be done to ensure the educational right of all girls. As we approach the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and for UNESCO's work on the education for all programme, we need to take stock of what has been accomplished and what will remain a priority in the new global sustainable development agenda.

4.4 Mr Chair, the role of UNESCO is more important than ever. We are seeing increasing demand on the Organization to respond to crises and emergencies, implement the post-2015 development agenda and move forward with the reform process, which requires long-term investments. To be able to respond to these challenges and fulfil its mandate, UNESCO needs a stable, predictable and sufficient level of financing. We see it as our role as an Executive Board Member to ensure that the Organization has sufficient financial resources to deliver on its mandate. Sweden therefore supports the Director-General's proposal for a zero nominal growth plus budget. We do so because we are strongly engaged in the United Nations system as a whole and believe that UNESCO has an important role to play in the world of today and tomorrow. This is also the reason why Sweden recently signed a cooperation agreement to provide \$54 million to support UNESCO's core programmes for a period of four years. Although UNESCO is back on track when it comes to reform and increased efficiency, we believe that there is still more to be done. Additional resources must be

allocated not only to reinforcing programme implementation but also to further strengthening the reform process, boosting results-based management and achieving a stronger culture of evaluation. In the light of the current budget situation, the Member States and Secretariat need to work together to ensure that the Organization is well equipped. We would therefore like UNESCO to introduce structured dialogues on financing, as has already been done in several other United Nations bodies. The aim of these dialogues is to increase the transparency, flexibility and alignment of all budgetary resources in line with the organization's programme. UNESCO is celebrating its 70th anniversary and needs to develop and adapt to the present and the future. For that reason, we need to reform the working methods of all intergovernmental bodies, including the Executive Board. It is our hope that the ongoing governance review will present relevant, future-oriented proposals, thus helping UNESCO to fulfil its universal mandate to build peace in the minds of women and men.

5.1 **Mr Singh (India) *in extenso*:**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to greet you so soon after the memorable address by our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Since we met last year in October, much has happened to shake our conscience, but also to reinforce our faith in the desire of humanity to band together in a collective quest for peace and sustainable progress. We have witnessed the heinous attacks on *Charlie Hebdo* in a painful, albeit futile, attempt to blot out the radiance of this beautiful city of light; the shameful destruction of our magnificent shared cultural heritage in western Asia in an attempt to violently impose dogma on cultural and religious identities; the dislocation and distress of communities uprooted from their homes; and the denial to children of their right to education, and indeed to life. For 70 years now, UNESCO has been at the forefront of the defence against extremism, fundamentalism and fanaticism. Sadly, Paris has not been alone, with the vile and violent Hydra of extremism and intolerance rearing its head in cities around the world. This intolerance must be fought and the ignorance that breeds it defeated. The events of the recent past have served as a sharp reminder of the importance of UNESCO, dedicated as it is to building the foundations of peace in the minds of men and women by offering them opportunities to explore their full social, economic, intellectual and spiritual potential, thereby contributing to our common vision of sustainable development. We need to rededicate ourselves to building a global society of tolerance based on universal human rights, respect for diversity, introspection and a permanent and creative dialogue governed by mutual respect. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures are examples of intercultural confidence building in practice. I am particularly glad that through its initiatives on global citizenship education, UNESCO is teaching young people to be respectful of others while being confident of their religious identity. Through its emphasis on "democratic values, peaceful coexistence, human rights, tolerance, responsible citizenship, sustainable development, justice, solidarity and sustainability", global citizenship education can help learners to define their identity in such a way that it is not distorted by fanatical and fundamentalist ideologies, and teach them to appreciate differences, tolerate diversity, support democracy and encourage greater social participation as equals.

5.2 Ladies and gentlemen, India lost its leading light, the Mahatma, to intolerance, but we emerged from that tragedy strengthened in our conviction that the world cannot be built on hatred, injustice, greed or lust for power. Education can help to provide the answers to some of the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century, from poverty, conflict and deepening inequality, to threats related to climate change and environmental degradation. “Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world”, said Nelson Mandela. This faith in the inherent transformative potential of education has been behind our activities at the New Delhi-based Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, a UNESCO category I institute, the Governing Board of which I have the honour to chair. Education is now included as a stand-alone goal in the United Nations Secretary-General’s synthesis report. Our task is to work with all education stakeholders to prepare a post-2015 education agenda that renders our goals achievable, acceptable and universally relevant to all countries, while acknowledging their unique national contexts and social and economic diversity. This vision is broader and bolder than that of past goals because it takes a lifelong perspective, seeks to integrate content and values embedded in global citizenship education and education for sustainable development, and emphasizes inclusion and equity. This will require the greatest possible effort from governments and all other stakeholders, especially UNESCO. In this context, the *Report to UNESCO of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first century*, known as the *Delors Report*, provides a valuable ideological framework.

5.3 Friends, Indian wisdom tells us that within all human beings there is an energy which, if invoked, can enhance our physical and mental faculties and even bring about a transformation in consciousness. Along with the zero, yoga is India’s greatest gift to the world and we are delighted that the United Nations has declared 21 June as the International Day of Yoga and that that this year UNESCO will celebrate the first International Day of Yoga at Headquarters.

5.4 We live in troubled times, but let us not lose faith in our common humanity. We are on the cusp of change. A truly transformative global agenda is ours for the asking and achieving. Let us move forward collectively in full spirit, and with the full weight of the power and principles of UNESCO. I wish you all much inspiration in these hallowed halls as we continue to press ahead in our efforts to build a new world. Thank you.

6.1 **M. Lalliot** (France) *in extenso* :

Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, vous l’avez dit vous-même, Madame la Directrice générale, 2015 est une année charnière, ponctuée de grands événements internationaux, à commencer par le Sommet de septembre à New York sur le programme de développement pour l’après-2015, la Conférence générale de l’UNESCO en novembre à Paris et la conférence sur le climat qui se tiendra également à Paris en décembre.

6.2 Ce que je relève, c’est non seulement l’exceptionnelle densité de l’agenda international, mais aussi l’ampleur des défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés, l’impérieuse obligation de nourrir la réflexion, et l’urgence à apporter des réponses précises et concrètes. Ce qui me frappe, c’est la pertinence renouvelée de l’UNESCO car, qu’il s’agisse de politique

de développement, de lutte contre le changement climatique, de promotion des droits de l’homme, de paix et de sécurité au sens de la Charte des Nations Unies, nous parlons de la mission historique et du cœur du mandat de l’UNESCO, confiés à cette Organisation il y a maintenant 70 ans.

6.3 D’autres avant moi l’ont rappelé, ce début d’année 2015 a été marqué par une série d’événements dramatiques, avec les attentats de Paris en janvier, celui de Copenhague, les meurtres commis au musée du Bardo à Tunis, l’attaque contre l’Université de Garissa au Kenya, la poursuite des destructions en République arabe syrienne et en Iraq, pour ne citer malheureusement que ceux-là. Un an exactement après l’enlèvement des lycéennes de Chibok au Nigéria, nous devons dénoncer ces exactions comme autant d’attaques contre les principes fondateurs de l’UNESCO et les objectifs de dialogue et de rapprochement que porte l’Organisation. Nous devons ensemble y apporter une réponse collective et déterminée.

6.4 Aussi suis-je particulièrement heureux de voir cette session du Conseil exécutif saisie d’un nombre croissant de projets de décision qui touchent aux sujets les plus essentiels et embrassent l’ensemble du mandat de l’UNESCO. J’y vois le signe d’une Organisation en prise avec les attentes les plus pressantes de nos concitoyens, et convaincue de la nécessité d’exercer l’ensemble des missions qui lui ont été confiées. Je mentionnerai ici trois sujets en particulier, qui sont pour nous prioritaires : l’éducation, la protection des patrimoines, la sécurité des journalistes.

6.5 Notre délégation présente à cette session du Conseil un projet de décision consacré à la lutte contre les violences faites aux filles à l’école. Ces violences sont en effet inadmissibles, non seulement pour les traumatisés qu’elles entraînent, mais aussi parce qu’elles sont un obstacle majeur au développement. Un grand nombre de délégations ont accepté de cosigner notre projet, et je les en remercie. Je souhaite une adoption par le plus large consensus sur un sujet d’intérêt commun. Plus largement, ce projet renvoie à ce droit fondamental qu’est l’éducation. C’est la raison pour laquelle nous avons cosigné le projet présenté par l’Autriche sur l’éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale. Je souhaite à cet égard vous féliciter à nouveau, Madame la Directrice générale, vous et aussi toute votre équipe, pour le travail accompli dans la préparation de l’agenda post-2015. Je me réjouis notamment que le rôle central de l’UNESCO sur ces sujets ne soit plus aujourd’hui contesté par personne.

6.6 L’actualité la plus immédiate nous impose également d’assurer la protection des patrimoines. Vous avez, hier, à juste titre, Madame la Directrice générale, condamné la destruction par Daech de la cité antique de Nimroud, cet acte de folie destructrice. À plusieurs reprises déjà, notamment après le sac du musée de Mossoul, nous avons aussi dénoncé ces crimes de guerre et, par la voix de notre Ministre des affaires étrangères devant le Conseil de sécurité, qualifié ces destructions délibérées et systématiques de génocide culturel. À l’initiative des délégations iraquienne et française, ce Conseil a adopté à sa précédente session une décision sur le patrimoine iraquien. Nous avons également travaillé avec d’autres à New York pour que le Conseil de sécurité se saisisse de cette question. La résolution 2199 du Conseil donne un mandat clair à l’UNESCO, notamment pour lutter contre le trafic illicite de biens culturels. Nous nous réjouissons, Madame la Directrice générale, des initiatives que vous avez déjà prises et de celles

également que vous avez annoncées. Vous savez pouvoir compter sur notre plus entier soutien. Vous comprendrez que le projet de décision présenté par l'Espagne et l'Italie sur la protection des patrimoines en Iraq, en République arabe syrienne et en Libye revêt ainsi pour nous une importance toute particulière. Je proposerai en séance un seul amendement qui, j'espère, pourra être accepté.

6.7 Le troisième sujet, à nos yeux tout aussi important, que je voudrais ici rapidement évoquer, est la sécurité des journalistes. Nous avons également cosigné le texte présenté par la délégation suédoise, à la fois parce qu'il ne peut y avoir de véritable liberté de la presse sans sécurité des journalistes, et parce qu'il incombe à l'UNESCO de coordonner la mise en œuvre du plan d'action décidé par les Nations Unies. J'ai évoqué tout à l'heure les attentats de janvier à Paris. Ils doivent être condamnés sans aucune ambiguïté, ils l'ont été, et dans les termes les plus fermes, car rien jamais ne saurait justifier de tels assassinats. Toutes les leçons doivent aussi en être tirées, aussi difficiles soient-elles, sur le front de la lutte contre la radicalisation comme sur celui de la liberté d'expression. Nous devons, je crois, pouvoir ensemble nous rassembler sur les principes de tolérance, de solidarité et de démocratie, auxquels nous avons tous souscrits en adhérant à l'UNESCO, et trouver ensemble les moyens de les faire partager au plus grand nombre.

6.8 Nous aurons enfin à discuter du budget pour 2016-2017. Nous connaissons tous la situation de l'UNESCO, qui traverse depuis 2011 une crise de financement comme aucune autre organisation internationale n'en a connu. Nous sommes tous bien conscients des efforts consentis et des réformes engagées sous votre autorité, Madame la Directrice générale, pour y remédier. Nous connaissons tous également les fortes contraintes budgétaires auxquelles sont soumis de nombreux États membres, dont certains des plus grands contributeurs de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Il nous incombe de résoudre cette difficile équation pour réconcilier, en faisant preuve de responsabilité, l'intérêt de l'UNESCO, qui est aussi le nôtre, et l'impératif de maîtrise budgétaire auquel nous ne pouvons échapper. Sous ces conditions, la France est prête à accepter la proposition dite CNZ+, dès lors qu'elle n'entraînerait pas d'augmentations des contributions des États. J'insiste sur le fait que cette dérogation à la règle dite de la croissance nominale zéro, que la France s'impose dans toutes les organisations internationales, est pour nous tout à fait exceptionnelle et n'est acceptée que pour permettre un consensus.

6.9 L'UNESCO est plus que jamais nécessaire à la construction de cet « esprit de paix » dont parlait Léon Blum. Je forme le vœu qu'ensemble, nous fassions de cette année anniversaire pour l'Organisation celle de la réaffirmation de sa vocation politique, celle d'une Organisation ambitieuse et engagée, au service de missions essentielles pour nous-mêmes et pour les générations à venir. Je vous remercie.

7.1 **Mme Alaoui** (Maroc) *in extenso* :

Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs, chers collègues, la Directrice générale a encore abordé la question cruciale de la situation budgétaire et encore tiré la sonnette d'alarme lors de la dernière réunion d'information avec les États membres.

7.2 Excellences, chers collègues, nous, États membres, avons demandé dans un souci d'efficacité, de

transparence et de visibilité, une évaluation externe indépendante dont les recommandations ont depuis été appliquées. La Directrice générale et l'ensemble du Secrétariat ont entrepris des efforts louables afin de mettre en œuvre les réformes demandées par les États membres. Nous soutenons, à cet effet, l'initiative de la Directrice générale visant à accélérer la réforme des outils d'évaluation interne et la révision du mode de conception pour mesurer plus efficacement l'impact des activités et renforcer les indicateurs de performance. C'est une initiative très encourageante qui aidera effectivement les États membres dans l'orientation des programmes et l'amélioration de la prise de décisions. De même, nous soutenons la réforme de la gouvernance des organes directeurs, et mon pays participe à la réflexion sur la gouvernance du Conseil exécutif menée dans le cadre du groupe de travail créé à cet effet.

7.3 Cependant, et malgré ces efforts, malgré la réduction des programmes, nous constatons que certains États membres continuent de demander au Secrétariat de rationaliser davantage, de réduire encore plus les coûts et d'améliorer encore l'efficacité. Si nous ne réfutons pas la nécessité de le faire, nous pensons qu'il faut être pleinement conscient du fait qu'une course effrénée à la réforme et à la rationalisation entraînera l'élimination de nouveaux programmes et finira par toucher au cœur de certaines fonctions vitales de l'Organisation. Notre constat, à l'ouverture de la 196^e session du Conseil exécutif, est que nous nous trouvons dans une situation quasi dichotomique entre, d'une part, la concertation et la coopération interrégionales des États membres et, d'autre part, leur volonté et leur capacité de renforcer les moyens d'action de l'Organisation. De façon optimiste, nous considérons que l'effervescence et le dynamisme manifestés par les États membres à l'occasion de cette session du Conseil exécutif sont un sursaut qui témoigne de la conscience de plus en plus affirmée du rôle de catalyseur de l'UNESCO dans le contexte des bouleversements internationaux que nous vivons.

7.4 Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, l'Organisation est en grande souffrance sur le plan budgétaire, ce qui nuit à la mise en œuvre des programmes et des conventions. Nous devons donc nous efforcer de préserver et de renforcer le *soft power* qu'exerce l'UNESCO dans la diffusion de la culture de la paix, du dialogue interculturel et du vivre-ensemble, afin de lutter efficacement contre toutes les formes d'extrémisme et d'obscurantisme et de combattre la violence et la discrimination quelles qu'elles soient.

7.5 Partant du principe que l'éducation doit dépasser la simple acquisition de savoirs, mon pays se félicite de la création au sein de l'UNESCO, à l'initiative de plusieurs de ses membres (Costa Rica, Italie, Maroc, Philippines, Sénégal, Slovaquie et Suisse) de la plate-forme pour l'éducation et la formation aux droits de l'homme. Ce groupe interrégional a pour objectif, notamment, de promouvoir l'enseignement des droits de l'homme et estime qu'une éducation de qualité doit être basée avant tout sur une approche qui inclut les valeurs de paix, de non-discrimination, d'égalité des genres, de justice, de tolérance, de respect, de dignité et de non-violence. L'UNESCO doit également jouer un rôle dans l'inclusion des principes et des valeurs des droits de l'homme au sein du système éducatif. Cela fait partie intégrante de son mandat.

7.6 Le Maroc salue de même la mobilisation de l'UNESCO et l'intérêt particulier qu'elle porte à la liberté d'expression et d'information, et notamment à la question

de la sécurité des journalistes. L'UNESCO, qui détient un mandat spécifique dans ce domaine, est appelée à accompagner les États membres dans leurs efforts de développement de médias libres, indépendants et pluralistes.

7.7 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, si le patrimoine constitue une source d'identité et de cohésion pour les communautés si la créativité culturelle contribue à l'édification de sociétés du savoir ouvertes, dynamiques, inclusives et pluralistes si la culture et sa diversité sont des composantes essentielles du développement durable, alors nous devons, nous États membres, nous mobiliser pour protéger et sauvegarder davantage le patrimoine et la créativité, non seulement par le plaidoyer et les cadres juridiques, mais aussi et surtout par des actions concrètes, en luttant contre le fondamentalisme, le terrorisme, le « nettoyage culturel » et le génocide culturel. Car cet obscurantisme vise non seulement à détruire les édifices que l'humanité a mis des milliers d'années à construire et à sauvegarder, mais surtout à effacer la mémoire collective. Donnons à l'UNESCO les moyens de renforcer les conventions culturelles qui sont des outils efficaces pour le développement socioéconomique durable de nos pays. Donnons-lui les moyens de sauver et de protéger ce que l'humanité a produit de plus beau et de plus fédérateur jusqu'ici, à savoir le patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel de l'humanité. Et surtout soyons cohérents, car il faut savoir, par exemple, qu'en ce moment crucial où nous demandons à l'UNESCO de protéger le patrimoine de l'humanité de la destruction et de lutter contre le trafic illicite qui finance le terrorisme, la Convention de 1970 n'est plus gérée que par un seul fonctionnaire permanent suite à notre quête de réduction des coûts et à la diminution de 32 % des postes.

7.8 Excellences, chers collègues, dans ce contexte international difficile, les États membres doivent se mobiliser pour renforcer l'action de l'UNESCO, et s'engager à soutenir concrètement l'Organisation pour la sortie de cette situation budgétaire intenable. Car, in fine, si cela n'est pas fait, c'est le monde libre que nous pénalisons. Je vous remercie.

8.1 **Mr Kyslytsya (Ukraine) *in extenso*:**

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, colleagues, the current session of the Executive Board is taking place at a difficult time, when the world faces serious problems, including within the framework of international organizations that, now more than ever, require a higher level of cooperation. I would like to emphasize that Ukraine fully supports the efforts of UNESCO's leaders to reform the Organization with the aim of overcoming the challenges and enhancing the role of UNESCO in the United Nations system. As one of the founding States of the United Nations, Ukraine will actively participate in UNESCO's activities to celebrate its 70th anniversary. Throughout the entire history of Ukraine's membership in UNESCO, our country has always displayed its willingness to fully and effectively contribute to all the priority areas of programme activity. Ukraine highly appreciates UNESCO's efforts aimed at sustainable human development in priority areas of its competence, such as education and culture. In the context of promoting the free flow of ideas, particularly in the light of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, we support the draft decision submitted by Sweden on strengthening the Organization's role in coordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action. We find the draft decision presented by Spain and Italy on culture and counter-terrorism to be very timely. We also

support the joint proposal made by Austria and Italy regarding the role and responsibilities of UNESCO in implementing global citizenship education and promoting peace and human rights education, and education for sustainable development, which is seen as one of the priorities of the post-2015 development agenda. The people of Ukraine, who survived the Chernobyl disaster, understand very well the importance of issues such as environmental safety, and our country is ready to continue participating actively in the Programme on Man and the Biosphere, including its governing body, the International Coordinating Council.

8.2 Ladies and gentlemen, this year we are also celebrating the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the moment when the founding members signed the Charter of the United Nations in an effort to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". Seventy years later, the world order, which is based on the noble goals and comprehensive principles of the charters of the United Nations, UNESCO and other international organizations, is under major attack. For over a year, the temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation has led to massive and systematic human rights violations in that part of Ukrainian territory. A great deal of evidence on the situation in Crimea may be found in the recent report by Amnesty International. The most vulnerable groups are Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians. Russia has forcibly implanted its legislation on the occupied territories and is carrying out a policy of intolerance and discrimination on ethnic and religious grounds. The intangible cultural heritage of the Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars and other groups living on the peninsula is in danger. Russia deprives them of the opportunity to exercise their cultural, linguistic and educational rights. On 4 February 2015 the State Assembly of the Russian Federation adopted a law that allows the extension of Russian jurisdiction over Ukrainian State and non-State sites in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine. This relates in particular to the Ukrainian site of the Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora in Sevastopol, which is inscribed on the World Heritage List. Another example is the decision of the so-called Council of Ministers of Crimea to transfer the world-famous international children's centre "Artek" from State property of the Republic of Crimea to federal property.

8.3 Mr Chair, the facts mentioned above should have been verified through implementation of two consecutive decisions of this body, which Russia actually sabotaged. The international community and many international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe have made clear their firm stance in support of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. We stand for our right to preserve and protect Ukrainian cultural, natural, scientific and intangible heritage in the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol City, which have been temporarily occupied by Russia, and we hope that the voice of UNESCO will be heard among those of other credible international organizations. Ukraine has presented its views on the developments on the Crimean peninsula and in the city of Sevastopol in a draft decision submitted to the Executive Board. We would be very grateful for your support and I wholeheartedly thank all delegations who have expressed their support already. Thank you.

9.1 张女士（中国）发言全文：

尊敬的大会主席先生，执行局主席先生，总干事，各位执委：中国赞同和支持孟加拉国大使代表亚太组即将宣读的声明。亚太组的声明将会传达本组国家共同致力于实现本组织总体目标的决心。

9.2 中方赞赏总干事昨天所做的报告，高度评价秘书处 在总干事领导下，继续推动改革，加强预算（管理）和结构调整，尤其是参与制定 2015 年后发展议程，推动落实重大计划和优先事项取得的新的成果。

9.3 中国高兴地看到，在会员国和秘书处的推动下，本组织的核心领域在 2015 年后可持续发展议程中得到了很好的体现。教育已列入联合国开放工作组报告的总体目标和具体目标。科学和文化在联合国秘书长发布的综合报告中得到了前所未有的关注。中方支持总干事采取一系列后续行动，努力使本组织的工作在 2015 年（后）可持续发展议程中得到进一步的体现。

9.4 本次会议的重要议题之一是 38 C/5 计划与预算草案的编制。中方认为，预算问题关系到本组织的长远发展。在本组织的业务预算大幅缩减，本组织还将落实 2015 年后发展议程中担负重大责任的背景下，中方十分关注本组织目前的财政困难。适当增加资金有利于增强本组织的计划执行能力和在国际社会的影响力。中方愿与会员国和秘书处充分讨论，凝聚共识，寻求平衡、务实、有效的方案。

9.5 女士们，先生们，中国高度重视与教科文组织的活动，积极落实中国国家主席习近平先生访问教科文组织的成果：中方积极推动世界不同文明平等对话，推动亚洲文明间的对话，支持创意城市项目，推动与相关国家联合申报“海上丝绸之路”世界遗产，支持总干事在冲突地区采取的保护文化遗产的行动；中方支持非洲优先战略，实施新一轮中国-教科文组织教育信托基金，扩大实施长城奖学金，与包括非洲国家在内的广大发展中国家合作培养人才；中方支持性别平等战略，设立女童和妇女信托基金；中方大幅度增加政府和企业捐款，支持本组织重大优先计划的实施；中方倡议设立国际大学生体育日，发挥 ICT 撬动 2015 年后教育发展的杠杆作用，支持在韩国召开世界教育论坛，欢迎大家出席今年 5 月在中国青岛举办的 ICT 在教育领域应用的国际大会；中国将支持积极参加教科文组织 70 周年的庆祝活动，以及第三十八届大会的筹备工作。中方愿意继续与会员国一起，用真诚的愿望和实际行动，支持本组织为促进世界和平和可持续发展做出更大的贡献。谢谢。

(9.1) **Ms Zhang (China) in extenso**
(translation from the Chinese):

Distinguished Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Members of the Executive Board, China endorses and supports the statement to be made by the Ambassador of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (ASPAC). The statement conveys the determination of the ASPAC countries to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's overarching objectives.

(9.2) China appreciates the report that the Director-General presented yesterday, and highly commends the Secretariat, under the leadership of the Director-General, for its efforts to continue promoting reforms, to enhance budget management and structural adjustment, and in particular for taking part in preparing the post-2015 development agenda, and promoting the new achievements obtained by

implementing UNESCO's major programmes and priorities.

(9.3) China is pleased to see that, thanks to the efforts of Member States and the Secretariat, the post-2015 sustainable development agenda well reflected UNESCO's fields of competence. Education has been listed in the goals and targets of the report of the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Science and culture have been given unprecedented attention in the comprehensive report launched by the United Nations Secretary-General. China supports the Director-General in taking a series of follow-up steps so that the Organization's work can be further reflected in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

(9.4) One of the main items on this session's agenda is to examine 38 C/5. China deems budgetary issues essential to the Organization's long-term development. As the Organization has gone through large cuts in its operational budget, and as it is going to take responsibilities in carrying out the post-2015 development agenda, China is concerned about the Organization's current financial difficulties. Adequately increasing resources can enhance the Organization's programme execution capability and raise its international visibility. China would like to discuss this issue with Member States and the Secretariat so as to reach a consensus and to find a balanced, pragmatic and effective solution accepted by all.

(9.5) Ladies and gentlemen, China attaches great importance to its cooperation with UNESCO and actively implements the results of the visit to UNESCO by China's President, Mr Xi Jinping, namely: advocating dialogue between civilizations on an equal footing, promoting dialogues between Asian civilizations, supporting the UNESCO Creative Cities Programme; promoting cooperation with relevant States in joint applications for the inscription of the "Maritime Silk Road" on the World Heritage List; supporting the Director-General in the protection of cultural heritage in conflict areas; supporting the Priority Africa strategy by renewing the China-UNESCO Education Funds in Trust, broadening the scope of the Great Wall Scholarship, developing human resources in coordination with developing countries including African countries; supporting the gender equality strategy, founding a funds-in-trust for girls and women; greatly increasing contributions from the Government and the private sector in China, in order to support the implementation of the Organization's major priority programmes; proposing the establishment of an international day of university sports, letting ICT work as the leverage for post-2015 education development, supporting the World Education Forum which is to be held in the Republic of Korea and welcoming everyone's attendance at the International Conference on ICT in Education (Qingdao, May 2015). China will actively participate in the activities celebrating the 70th anniversary of UNESCO and the preparation for the 38th session of the General Conference. China will continue to work with the other Member States, with sincerity and actions, to support the Organization in its further contributions to the promotion of world peace and sustainable development. Thank you.

10.1 **M. Bendjama (Algérie) in extenso :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la

Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants, permettez-moi de saluer votre présidence avisée de cette 196^e session du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président, et de vous assurer de la pleine coopération de la délégation algérienne. Nous avons attentivement écouté la déclaration de la Directrice générale, qui nous a présenté d'une manière exhaustive la situation de notre Organisation et les défis à relever dans un contexte d'incertitude financière récurrente. La délégation algérienne se félicite du travail de représentation que Mme Irina Bokova réalise. Le week-end dernier, elle était en Algérie où elle a participé au lancement de l'Année internationale de la lumière. Nous sommes convaincus que les entretiens qu'elle a eus avec les responsables algériens et que sa visite à Constantine, capitale de la culture arabe en 2015, augurent d'un renforcement et d'une amélioration des relations entre l'Algérie et l'UNESCO dans les domaines de compétence de l'Organisation.

10.2 Monsieur le Président, ma délégation salue les améliorations apportées au format et au contenu du document relatif au programme et au budget. La qualité de ce document mérite à présent d'être consolidée par une plus grande simplification des indicateurs de performance. C'est l'occasion pour moi d'associer ma délégation aux félicitations unanimes adressées par le Conseil à notre collègue, déléguée permanente du Gabon, pour la qualité de sa présidence du Groupe préparatoire.

10.3 En ce qui concerne le Fonds d'urgence multidonateurs, auquel l'Algérie a contribué en 2012 à hauteur de 5 millions d'euros en réponse à l'appel de la Directrice générale, ma délégation souhaite que le solde – environ 14 millions de dollars – serve à contribuer au financement des programmes et non pas à couvrir un déficit de trésorerie, ceci pour rester en adéquation avec l'objectif principal de la création de ce Fonds.

10.4 Au titre du renforcement de l'adhésion de l'Algérie aux nombreuses conventions de l'UNESCO, mon pays a déposé le mois dernier les instruments de ratification de trois conventions : celle de 2001 sur la protection du patrimoine culturel subaquatique, celle de 2005 sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, et enfin celle d'UNIDROIT de 1995 sur les biens culturels volés ou illicitement exportés.

10.5 Monsieur le Président, la délégation algérienne s'associe à la déclaration du G-77 et la Chine et renouvelle son appui à une participation active de l'UNESCO aux discussions sur le programme de développement pour l'après-2015. Le Forum mondial sur l'éducation, qui se tiendra en mai prochain, sera une nouvelle occasion de consolider les progrès enregistrés jusque-là et de donner une impulsion qualitative aux cibles et objectifs qui seront définitivement retenus.

10.6 À l'instar de celle d'octobre dernier, la présente session se tient au moment où plusieurs atteintes et destructions sont perpétrées contre le patrimoine culturel de nombreux pays, notamment en Iraq, en République arabe syrienne et en Libye, par des groupes de terroristes criminels, conduisant à la prolifération du trafic illicite des biens culturels. L'Algérie, qui a souffert pendant de longues années des affres du terrorisme, mesure la souffrance des autres peuples et réaffirme sa solidarité et son engagement dans la lutte contre ce phénomène transnational. C'est l'occasion pour ma délégation de souligner que les conférences et autres réunions organisées après les attentats perpétrés en janvier dernier contre les médias, à Paris et ailleurs, ont été pour tous les

participants l'occasion de réitérer leur condamnation du terrorisme et de plaider en faveur de la diversité culturelle et du vivre-ensemble. Ma délégation tient à cette occasion à rappeler que la liberté d'expression, à laquelle l'Algérie est également attachée, n'autorise en aucune manière les atteintes aux croyances des autres, ni aux religions dans ce qu'elles ont de plus sacré.

10.7 Monsieur le Président, en cette année de célébration du 70^e anniversaire de la création de l'UNESCO, retournons aux valeurs originelles de l'Organisation que sont la construction de la paix et la recherche de réponses à la culture de la haine et de l'intolérance. Cette recherche de la paix devrait naturellement inclure la réalisation du droit du peuple palestinien à son État, droit qui comprend le droit à la promotion et à la préservation de ses sites culturels et historiques. Nous invitons l'UNESCO à y apporter une contribution active, notamment par la mise en œuvre effective des décisions du Conseil auxquelles la délégation algérienne apporte son plein appui. Je vous remercie.

11.1 **Sr. De Barandica y Luxán (España) *in extenso*:**

Señora Directora General, señoras presidentes de la Conferencia General y del Consejo Ejecutivo, señoras y señores delegados permanentes: en este año cargado de significación, en el que nuestras miradas se dirigen al mismo tiempo al futuro y al pasado, los miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo estamos llamados a asumir una doble responsabilidad. Por un lado, debemos cumplir las tareas instrumentales que nos han sido encomendadas para asegurar el buen funcionamiento de la UNESCO en el periodo posterior a 2015. Por el otro, nos corresponde hacer cuanto esté en nuestra mano para dar un nuevo impulso a los principios constitucionales que inspiraron su creación en 1945.

11.2 La primera función que nos incumbe es la de estudiar el Proyecto de Programa y Presupuesto para 2016-2017 (38 C/5 Proyecto). Se trata de un trabajo importante y delicado. El contexto económico actual reclama soluciones realistas y eficaces para adecuar los recursos a las necesidades. Por ello agradecemos y apoyamos el esfuerzo realizado por la Directora General y los distintos sectores a su cargo para racionalizar los programas y mejorar la relación costo-eficacia.

11.3 Señora Directora General: su reciente viaje a Bagdad, realizado en la estela de unos sucesos que han conmovido a todo el mundo, ha puesto de relieve la necesidad de atender con carácter prioritario a las cuestiones de fondo. La actualidad internacional ha mostrado una vez más la plena vigencia de los "Propósitos y funciones" que enumera el Artículo 1 de la Constitución de 1945. Citaré dos de ellos literalmente: "la conservación y la protección del patrimonio universal de libros, obras de arte y monumentos de interés histórico o científico"; y "la libre circulación de las ideas por medio de la palabra y de la imagen"

11.4 Mi delegación ha querido contribuir, junto con la de Italia y con el apoyo de muy numerosas delegaciones, a profundizar en la aplicación del primero de estos mandatos para adaptarlo a las circunstancias. Por ello hemos solicitado la inclusión de un punto sobre la función y las responsabilidades de la UNESCO en las zonas de conflicto y hemos elaborado un proyecto de decisión que reafirma la validez de un principio de naturaleza universal: toda acción consistente en dañar el patrimonio arqueológico, histórico, cultural y religioso, en cualquier lugar del mundo, inflige un daño irreparable a la

humanidad entera. Estamos convencidos de la necesidad de elaborar una estrategia con el fin de responder a situaciones de emergencia cultural. La reacción ágil y decidida de esta Organización ante los últimos acontecimientos constituye un paso significativo en la buena dirección. Quiero destacar igualmente la contribución de la Delegación Permanente del Iraq, que nos ha mantenido puntualmente informados sobre la situación del patrimonio cultural en su país.

11.5 La UNESCO debe ser rigurosa en la defensa de la diversidad cultural en todas sus manifestaciones y en todos los lugares. Resultan particularmente preocupantes las acciones encaminadas a la destrucción deliberada y sistemática, en ciertas zonas, de las señas de identidad de los cristianos de Oriente, acciones que amenazan la supervivencia de tan antiguas comunidades.

11.6 España concede igualmente gran importancia a la mejora de los mecanismos de protección del patrimonio inmaterial y apoya la redacción de un código de ética que sirva de modelo para todos los Estados. Con este propósito, se celebró hace dos semanas en Valencia una reunión de expertos en cuya inauguración hemos tenido el honor de contar con la presencia de la Directora General, quien ha podido constatar *"in situ"* y a través de su encuentro con el Ministro español de Asuntos Exteriores y Cooperación el vivo interés que suscita en mi país la acción de la UNESCO, y el apoyo decidido de nuestro Gobierno.

11.7 La libre circulación del pensamiento es otro de los ejes de nuestro acervo constitucional. La libertad de prensa, cuya criminal conculcación el pasado enero en París constituyó un revulsivo para la opinión mundial, es una de sus premisas. Tal libertad no puede ser ejercida si no se dan las condiciones para que los periodistas desempeñen sus funciones sin cortapisas. Mi delegación considera muy oportuno, en este sentido, el proyecto de decisión presentado por Suecia.

11.8 La consecución de los anteriores objetivos no resulta posible sin una educación de calidad que contribuya a combatir la ignorancia, la intolerancia y el fanatismo. Apreciamos el informe de la Directora General sobre "La educación después de 2015" (196 EX/7) y respaldamos el papel de la UNESCO en la elaboración del Marco de Acción. También agradecemos sus propuestas a las delegaciones que han presentado proyectos de decisión relativos a la educación y formación en derechos humanos, la ciudadanía mundial y la violencia de género en el entorno escolar. Nuestra Organización debe pues proteger y fomentar la educación y la libertad y seguridad de su ejercicio, tan criminalmente violentada en la terrible masacre sectaria de la Universidad de Garissa, Kenya.

11.9 Señora Directora General: creemos que los grandes principios fundacionales de esta Organización, tal como fueron definidos en 1945, merecen una reflexión renovada. En este septuagésimo aniversario de la UNESCO, la meta hacia la cual convendría dirigir nuestros pasos ha de ser, a nuestro juicio, el perfeccionamiento del legado intelectual, moral, político y diplomático que hemos recibido de los fundadores de esta casa. La proyección hacia el futuro de los cuatro pilares que constituyen nuestra razón de ser exige altura de miras. Mi delegación está convencida de que entre todos sabremos hacer honor al legado recibido de aquellos hombres visionarios que marcaron, en el siglo pasado, un camino que esta Organización ha de recorrer día a día en beneficio de la sociedad internacional.

(11.1) **Mr De Barandica y Luxán** (Spain) *in extenso* (translation from the Spanish):

Madam Director-General, President of the General Conference, Chair of the Executive Board, permanent delegates: in this highly significant year, in which our eyes turn to both the future and the past, the Members of the Executive Board are called upon to take on a dual responsibility. First, we must carry out the implementation tasks entrusted to us, to ensure the proper functioning of UNESCO in the post-2015 period. Second, we must do all we can in order to give a new impetus to the constitutional principles which inspired UNESCO's foundation in 1945.

(11.2) Our first duty is to consider the Draft Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5 Draft). This is an important and delicate task. The current economic context demands realistic and effective solutions to match resources with needs. We therefore appreciate and support the efforts of the Director-General and the various sectors under her authority to streamline programmes and improve cost-effectiveness.

(11.3) Madam Director-General, your recent trip to Baghdad, which took place in the wake of events which shook the whole world, has drawn attention to the need to give priority attention to substantive issues. The world situation has once again demonstrated the validity of the "Purposes and Functions" specified in Article 1 of the Constitution of 1945. I will cite two of them exactly: "the conservation and protection of the world's inheritance of books, works of art and monuments of history and science" and "the free flow of ideas by word and image".

(11.4) My delegation has sought to contribute, together with the Italian delegation and many others, to the in-depth application of the first of those mandates and to adapting it to the circumstances. Consequently, we have requested the inclusion of an agenda item on UNESCO's role and responsibilities in conflict areas and have produced a draft decision reaffirming the validity of a universal principle: any damage to the archaeological, historical, cultural and religious heritage, anywhere in the world, constitutes irreparable damage to humanity as a whole. We are convinced of the need to elaborate a strategy in order to respond to situations of cultural emergency. This Organization's rapid and determined reaction to the latest events is a significant step in the right direction. I also wish to emphasize the contribution of the Permanent Delegation of Iraq, which has kept us informed promptly on the situation of the cultural heritage in that country.

(11.5) UNESCO must be rigorous in the defence of cultural diversity in all its activities worldwide. Of particular concern are actions, in some areas, designed to deliberately and systematically destroy the distinguishing characteristics of Eastern Christians; these actions threaten the survival of these very ancient communities.

(11.6) Spain, which also attaches great importance to improving mechanisms for the protection of the intangible heritage, supports the drafting of a code of ethics to serve as a model for all States. To that end, an expert meeting was held in Valencia two weeks ago. At its inaugural meeting we were honoured by the presence of the Director-General, who was able to observe, both "in situ" and through her meeting with

the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Government of Spain, the lively interest my country has in the activities of UNESCO and the strong support of my Government.

(11.7) The free flow of ideas is another of the pillars of our constitutional heritage. Freedom of the press, the criminal violation of which in Paris this past January shocked public opinion worldwide, is one of its forms. That freedom cannot be exercised if the conditions for journalists to do their work without hindrance are not present. In this context, my delegation considers the draft decision proposed by Sweden to be very timely.

(11.8) These goals cannot be achieved without quality education to combat ignorance, intolerance and fanaticism. We appreciate the Director-General's report entitled "Education beyond 2015" (196 EX/7) and support the role of UNESCO in drafting the Framework for Action. We are also grateful for her proposals to delegations which have presented draft decisions on education and training in human rights, global citizenship and gender-based violence in schools. Our Organization must protect and promote education and freedom and security in which to enjoy it, which were so criminally violated in the terrible sectarian massacre at Garissa University, Kenya.

(11.9) Madam Director-General, we believe that UNESCO's major founding principles, as defined in 1945, require new consideration. As we celebrate this 70th anniversary of UNESCO, the goal towards which we should be striving is, in our opinion, to perfect the intellectual, moral, political and diplomatic legacy we have received from the Organization's founders. The future projection of the four pillars which constitute our reason for being requires a forward-looking approach. My delegation is convinced that all of us will be able to honour those visionary men who, in the last century, set out a path that we must follow day by day in the interest of world society.

12.1 **Ms Kadare** (Albania) *in extenso*:

Albania aligns itself with the European Union statement delivered by the Netherlands. Mr Chair, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, we are witnessing turbulent times. College students have been murdered, children and teachers have been executed, journalists have been massacred and cultural heritage has been savagely destroyed. In the name of religion, the values at the heart of UNESCO have been attacked violently and repeatedly in various parts of the world. These horrendous attacks remind us how important it is to constantly work together to preserve the values we cherish: freedom of expression and opinion, freedom of the press, the right to education and freedom of religion. Violent extremism can never be justified. Physical violence in reaction to offence or provocation is unacceptable under any circumstances. As the Director-General said yesterday, we must reject the idea that human rights and diversity are contradictory. Respect for individual human rights is the foundation for cultural and religious diversity and the sine qua non for living together peacefully. UNESCO, as the international house of culture, must lead the fight against practices and policies that use culture or social norms as an excuse to deny populations, especially women, their internationally recognized human rights.

12.2 Dear colleagues, the recent attacks in Paris and Copenhagen should raise our level of vigilance. None of

us can afford to remain silent while press freedom is under attack. UNESCO, together with its Member States, must constantly renew its efforts to defend freedom of the press. Albania appreciates the clear stand that UNESCO and you, Madam Director-General, have taken on freedom of expression and freedom of the press and would like to thank you for your tireless efforts to draw attention to cases of journalists murdered in the line of duty. Allow me to take this opportunity to announce that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, will hold an international conference on freedom of expression and freedom of the media in May 2015. We are looking forward to the valuable contribution of UNESCO, which will be represented at this event by the Deputy Director-General.

12.3 Mr Chair, the atrocious events that we are witnessing illustrate all too well how wars truly begin in the minds of men, as stated in our Constitution. We believe that, now more than ever, UNESCO has a crucial role to play. Indeed, what better forum than this Organization to explore innovative ways to initiate intercultural dialogue, creative approaches to efficiently promote mutual respect, and new ways of teaching religions in order to combat extremist ideologies.

12.4 I should like to say a few words on the proposed budget for the next biennium. We welcome the efforts made to implement a more transparent budgetary process in order to comply with the results-based budgeting framework. We also urge UNESCO to further prioritize its programmes. We need clear criteria in order to phase out certain programmes and focus on others, where UNESCO has an added value. Albania is ready to support an increase in the budget, provided that the additional resources are allocated to programme implementation and further efforts are made to use the overall resources of the Organization in a more efficient manner.

(The speaker continued in French)

12.5 D'autre part, le contexte budgétaire actuel doit nous amener à étudier attentivement les recommandations des différents audits qui sont portés à notre attention lors de cette session. Nous sommes particulièrement préoccupés par les conclusions de l'audit concernant la politique des ressources humaines et souhaiterions savoir quelles mesures la Directrice générale entend mettre en place pour redresser la situation. De même, le rapport d'étape concernant la gouvernance doit nous amener à réfléchir à la manière dont nous, membres du Conseil exécutif, pouvons apporter notre pierre à l'édifice en vue d'améliorer l'efficacité de nos travaux tout en rationalisant les coûts. Mon pays se tient prêt à collaborer activement à cet exercice.

12.6 Concernant le Secteur de la culture, nous partageons l'inquiétude exprimée par d'autres délégations concernant la viabilité de ses opérations. Les six conventions, qui constituent son socle, accomplissent un travail de qualité, extrêmement utile dans nos pays. Or, nous constatons que le budget du Secteur de la culture a suivi, toutes proportions gardées, l'évolution des budgets des autres secteurs, sans prendre en compte les obligations statutaires additionnelles dont nous l'avons chargé au cours des quinze dernières années. C'est une anomalie qu'il nous semble important de noter et de corriger à l'avenir, sous peine de voir les secrétariats des conventions se limiter à accomplir les strictes obligations statutaires, comprises dans leur sens le plus restreint. Par conséquent, nous soutenons toute mesure visant à

concentrer l'action du Secteur de la culture sur la mise en œuvre des conventions, une priorité clairement établie par les États membres. Nous demandons en outre à ce que les fonds extrabudgétaires soient mobilisés en priorité pour la mise en œuvre des conventions, et non pour des programmes jugés non prioritaires. Par ailleurs, nous soutenons sans réserve la mobilisation et les actions de l'UNESCO pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel et la prévention du trafic illicite, notamment au Mali, en République arabe syrienne et en Iraq.

(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)

12.7 In conclusion, Mr Chair, I would like to reiterate that Albania recognizes UNESCO's crucial role and strong potential as a platform for dialogue and mutual assistance in building and preserving peace. Thank you for your attention.

13.1 **Mr Maynard** (Saint Kitts and Nevis) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, I bring greetings from the newly-elected national unity Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, headed by the Honourable Dr Timothy Sylvester Harris. The new Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, one of the smallest island developing States in the world, wishes to underline its continued support for UNESCO's objectives, values and, most importantly, core fields of expertise. Over the past year, this Organization has demonstrated the tangible value of its expertise on the ground in Saint Kitts and Nevis in the programme areas of education, technical and vocational education and training policy, man and the biosphere initiatives and early-warning preparedness against natural hazards, among other initiatives, including in many activities through the popular Participation Programme.

13.2 Mr Chair, we welcome the 2015 EFA *Global Monitoring Report* and note with satisfaction our achievements in early childhood and primary education. However, access to tertiary education is of particular current concern to us given that only around 12% of our population has been exposed to such educational levels up until now. This is low compared to many developed countries, which typically boast rates of 40 to 60% achievement in this area. To that end, and in the context of preparations for the post-2015 education agenda, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis would like to express its gratitude to UNESCO for its prompt and timely assistance in conducting a comprehensive external policy review of our education sector. This exercise represents a major effort in evaluating, monitoring and benchmarking the structure and governance of education in Saint Kitts and Nevis. We ardently hope that this exercise can be used as a model of best practice for the rest of the Caribbean small island States and that it will serve as the basis for a higher rate of access to tertiary education in the long term.

13.3 Mr Chair, we urge the Secretariat to continue its valuable efforts to improve its cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO. We note, however, that the timeline of the newly structured programme still leaves some questions unanswered. For example, the modalities for the Director-General's consultation with National Commissions, which is now a well-established method of gathering their views, have yet to be determined. Suffice it to say that the National Commissions must continue to be the leaders and main stakeholders in the determination and consolidation of the quality of programmes and activities on the ground in Member States. National

Commissions must not be neglected in this important and critical process. We therefore call on the Director-General to clarify the new regional consultation process and include in the current action plan clear and concrete modalities built around the newly structured four-year programme, ensuring that National Commissions for UNESCO are fully engaged in the process.

13.4 Mr Chair, we note with satisfaction the draft action plan for SIDS and commend the Secretariat and the Director-General for their work on developing a blueprint for UNESCO's strategy on small island developing States. We are particularly keen to see how UNESCO will deploy its unique expertise in identifying the priorities of the emerging sustainable development goals. We see these goals as embracing inclusive and lifelong education, climate change mitigation and adaptation and, especially, policies focused on youth and gender empowerment. My delegation is also spearheading a draft decision in order to add value to the final decision on the SIDS action plan.

13.5 Mr Chair, my delegation supports the zero nominal growth plus budget scenario and, furthermore, would be inclined to support the draft decision proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, we trust that these extra resources will be used in the most productive manner possible and be equitably redeployed, with the Caribbean SIDS receiving their fair share. After years of budget cutbacks at UNESCO, ultimately, and in the long-term, this should not be a substitute for building more predictable, permanent revenue streams into the regular budget in order to implement the ambitious work of this very important and noble Organization.

13.6 Finally, Mr Chair, I wish to thank the Secretariat for its hard work and excellent organization, as always, of this session of the Executive Board and to thank the staff for their patience and tolerance during these times of crisis. Thank you.

14.1 **M. Seddoh** (Togo) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Conseil exécutif, la délégation togolaise s'associe au message délivré par le représentant de l'Angola en sa qualité de Vice-Président du Conseil pour la région Afrique. Nous félicitons le Président du Conseil pour la maîtrise avec laquelle il conduit nos travaux et pour l'organisation des 70 ans de l'UNESCO. À la Directrice générale, nous adressons nos remerciements et nos félicitations pour la pertinence de son message d'introduction au débat général de la 196^e session du Conseil, et pour le dynamisme dont elle fait preuve en portant sur tous les fronts le mandat de recherche de la paix et de coopération intellectuelle de notre Organisation. Nous associons le Secrétariat à nos remerciements pour la qualité des documents de travail de la 196^e session, notamment les documents EX/4 et EX/5.

14.2 Nous apprécions le rôle que joue l'UNESCO en tant que coordonnatrice mondiale de l'Éducation pour tous et nous nous félicitons que l'Accord de Mascate ait influencé le Groupe de travail ouvert sur les objectifs de développement durable dont les conclusions seront discutées au Forum mondial sur l'éducation qui se tiendra à Incheon, en République de Corée, du 19 au 22 mai 2015.

14.3 S'agissant de l'agenda post-2015, nous demeurons préoccupés par le sort des pays qui restent les plus éloignés des objectifs et avons noté avec satisfaction,

dans le projet de 38 C/5, qu'un « soutien technique sera apporté aux pays selon que de besoin pour les aider à définir des cibles nationales appropriées et les indicateurs correspondants, et jeter les bases de cadres de suivi de l'agenda pour l'éducation post-2015 au niveau national ». N'est-ce pas là déjà un pas dans le sens de l'auto-évaluation souhaitée par le Groupe Afrique de l'UNESCO ?

14.4 En outre, nous nous réjouissons que le Secteur de l'éducation ait prévu de mener à bien son projet d'élaboration d'un nouveau rapport mondial sur l'éducation et l'apprentissage au XXI^e siècle. Nous attendons ce rapport depuis un certain temps. Les activités menées dans le domaine de l'enseignement technique et de la formation professionnelle sont de toute première importance pour nos pays. Nous souhaitons qu'elles soient poursuivies en ayant à l'esprit le renforcement du développement des compétences dans les domaines de la préparation à l'entrepreneuriat et à l'économie verte, tel que le suggère le Consensus de Shangai.

14.5 Dans le domaine de l'enseignement supérieur, nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour l'adoption de la Convention régionale sur la reconnaissance des études et des certificats, diplômes, grades et autres titres de l'enseignement supérieur dans les États d'Afrique, avec le soutien de la Chine et de la Norvège, et invitons le Secteur à accélérer la signature de cet instrument par les États, afin que nous ne nous retrouvions pas dans la même situation que celle qui a prévalu pour la Convention d'Arusha. Notre pays se félicite des résultats obtenus par la Conférence régionale sur les approches innovantes de financement de l'enseignement supérieur et la recherche en Afrique, organisée à Lomé en janvier 2015 par l'UNESCO et l'Association des universités africaines, en partenariat avec le Gouvernement togolais.

14.6 Nous nous réjouissons des responsabilités assumées par l'UNESCO dans le cadre de l'Équipe d'appui technique des Nations Unies ainsi que de la forte implication des autres secteurs de programme aux côtés de l'éducation dans les domaines des océans, de l'eau, de la biodiversité et du changement climatique. Des projets d'indicateurs ont en outre été élaborés dans les domaines de la culture, de l'élimination de la faim, de la liberté d'expression. Toutes ces propositions d'indicateurs ont été établies avec l'Institut de statistique de l'UNESCO qui devra bénéficier de soutiens accrus pour pouvoir assumer ses nouvelles responsabilités. Notre délégation serait désireuse d'avoir plus d'informations sur les négociations concernant les cibles et les indicateurs qui se sont tenues en mars 2015.

14.7 Nous poursuivons notre propos en soulignant quelques activités pour lesquelles nous souhaitons qu'un degré de priorité plus élevé soit accordé : l'appui aux États membres dans les domaines de l'élaboration de documents de politique nationale en sciences et technologie, la poursuite de l'amélioration de l'accès à l'électricité dans les écoles d'Afrique, la poursuite des efforts de l'UNESCO dans le domaine des ressources éducatives libres.

14.8 En ce qui concerne la priorité globale Afrique, nous nous réjouissons de voir que le rapport de l'année 2014 a mis en évidence un début de l'exécution des programmes phares en symbiose avec les secteurs de programme et le Département Afrique. Dans les rapports à venir, il serait souhaitable que les activités soient incluses dans la présentation des résultats escomptés. En outre, il conviendrait de multiplier les initiatives de

recherche de financements extrabudgétaires afin que la mise en œuvre de la priorité Afrique atteigne une masse critique susceptible d'avoir un impact sur la résolution des problèmes dans les pays de la région qui en ont le plus besoin. Dans cette recherche, nous ne devons pas hésiter à utiliser les possibilités offertes par les financements innovants.

14.9 Mesdames, Messieurs, la place de l'UNESCO dans le monde, l'étendue de son mandat, le leadership qu'elle assume et poursuivra en sa qualité de chef de file dans plusieurs domaines du programme pour l'après-2015, la nécessité de répondre aux attentes de ses États membres, particulièrement de ceux en voie de développement, imposent à l'ensemble de ces États la responsabilité de lui donner les moyens d'agir. L'obligation de faire fonctionner l'Organisation avec un budget de 507 millions de dollars au lieu des 653 millions prévus constitue un lourd handicap. La délégation togolaise soutient le scénario budgétaire à 518 millions de dollars en souhaitant que le montant additionnel de 11 millions soit consacré prioritairement au financement du programme. Je vous remercie.

15.1 **Mr Senghore** (Gambia) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, Members of the Executive Board, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me first place on record my country's endorsement of the position of the Africa Group and the recommendations for the zero nominal growth plus option. I also wish to extend our condolences to our Kenyan and Tunisian brothers and sisters following the attacks on Garissa University College and the Bardo Museum respectively. We empathize with our Iraqi brothers and sisters over the decimation of their tangible heritage and acclaimed UNESCO world heritage. The list of condolences could go on and on: Mali, Nigeria, France, Denmark, Sudan, America ... the events in these countries are all putting UNESCO's resolve to the test. Gambia continues to support promotion of the ideals upon which this Organization was founded and the prominence given to its fields of competence. I am honoured to represent the Government and people of Gambia at the 196th session of the Executive Board. I am pleased to share our country's views with the Board.

15.2 In respect of education, Gambia recognizes UNESCO's work in leading the preparations for the post-2015 education agenda, and welcomes the fact that this will culminate in the World Education Forum scheduled to take place in May 2015 in South Korea. We also welcome the consultation processes and the development and refinement of the important goals, targets and corresponding indicators, as well as the development of a framework of action to guide the implementation of the future education agenda. Gambia is proud to be associated with the achievements of the Education Sector in 2014, in particular the adoption of the Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States. We appreciate the extrabudgetary funding that has been provided to the Sector's four priority areas, with emphasis on addressing the two global priorities, Africa and gender equality.

15.3 As regards natural sciences, Gambia is encouraged by the contributions made to the planning phase of the post-2015 development agenda, including the role of science, the envisioned sustainable development goals on the oceans, freshwater and biodiversity, and the second Ministerial Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation. We are also encouraged that

of the 15 countries that have enhanced capacities in geo-hazard risk reduction, four are in Africa. Taking note of the successes mentioned above, we would like to draw attention to the existence of vacant posts in field offices, particularly in Africa, for much of 2014, and we urge UNESCO to promptly fill the vacant positions.

15.4 In the field of social and human sciences, Gambia commends UNESCO's work on the first phase of the integration of social transformations, foresight and intercultural dialogue. With regard to the successful organization of the first Global Forum on Youth Policies in Baku, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, Gambia appreciates this laudable initiative because of its potential for enhancing intercultural dialogue and promoting social transformations.

15.5 With respect to culture, we are encouraged by the progress made in the implementation of the culture conventions, notably the priority focus on statutory meetings, the development of responses to emerging crisis situations, and the substantial work being undertaken to ensure that culture is sufficiently recognized in the post-2015 development agenda. We welcome also the increased number of ratifications of instruments on culture as a result of awareness-raising, regional meetings and scientific conferences. Gambia wishes to encourage UNESCO to mobilize additional financial and human resources to support museums and promote efforts to realize the planned post-2015 development agenda.

15.6 Moving on to communication and information, we are satisfied with the action taken thus far in the areas of freedom of expression, media development and building knowledge societies through information and communication technology. My delegation also commends the extra efforts made to raise extrabudgetary funding from traditional partners such as the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to promote an enabling environment for freedom of expression. Gambia recognizes the efforts made by UNESCO to ensure that people with disabilities are not left out of the development process as the Organization strives to create knowledge-based societies. In regard to the Global Priority Africa flagship programmes, Gambia is satisfied with the tremendous amount of support that has been provided to the following cross-cutting initiatives: promoting a culture of peace and non-violence; strengthening education systems for sustainable development in Africa; harnessing science, technology, innovation and knowledge for sustainable socioeconomic development in Africa; fostering science for the sustainable management of Africa's natural resources and disaster risk reduction; harnessing the power of culture for sustainable development and peace; and promoting an environment conducive to freedom of expression and media development.

15.7 To conclude, Mr Chair, the Government and people of the Republic of The Gambia recognize the remarkable efforts made by UNESCO to achieve peace and sustainable development in Member States. My Government will therefore continue to promote and uphold the ideals of this noble and great Organization. I thank you all for your kind attention.

16.1 **El Sr. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente, señora Directora General: corren días complejos para el mundo y la especie humana. Vivimos una época diferente, marcada por cambios acelerados, incertidumbres y una gran

complejidad. Los problemas seculares siguen sin resolverse. De hecho, se han agravado como consecuencia de la concomitancia de las crisis económica, social, alimentaria, energética y climática.

16.2 El desarrollo sostenible parecería una quimera inalcanzable, pero es al mismo tiempo un objetivo irrenunciable. La paz es condición indispensable para el desarrollo, pero se encuentra sometida a continuo ataque por parte de quienes sueñan con un nuevo reparto del mundo y recurren a la guerra, las sanciones y los bloqueos para alcanzar sus propósitos. Nuestra rica diversidad está siendo socavada por el extremismo fanático de quienes consideran que sus opciones son las únicas y pretenden imponer una monótona e inaceptable uniformidad. Al propio tiempo, parecería ya el momento de repensar en ciertas libertades y también en las responsabilidades que les son consustanciales. Hay que respetar al otro para exigir respeto por uno mismo.

16.3 Las estadísticas que ofrecen los organismos y agencias especializadas del sistema de las Naciones Unidas son escalofrantes, cuando ya quedan pocos meses para que se confirme lo que hace mucho tiempo sabemos: que a nivel mundial no se cumplirá ninguno de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Hoy, más que nunca, se precisa un nuevo orden económico, financiero y monetario internacional, en el que tengan cabida y prioridad los intereses y necesidades de los países del Sur y de las grandes mayorías y en el que no prevalezcan los que imponen la concentración del capital y el neoliberalismo.

16.4 Señor Presidente, señora Directora General: en este contexto, el principal reto que tiene ante sí la UNESCO es mostrar sus capacidades para contribuir a la paz en un mundo inseguro, para erradicar la pobreza en un mundo desigual y de recursos limitados y para estimular la inclusión social como motor del desarrollo sostenible. A las puertas de su septuagésimo aniversario, la UNESCO está llamada a realizar una contribución aún mayor en la búsqueda del diálogo y la paz a nivel mundial. En sus valores y mandatos fundacionales están las mejores herramientas para enfrentar los nuevos desafíos. No tiene la UNESCO tarea más urgente y necesaria que concentrar todas sus energías y esfuerzos en la etapa final de la aprobación de los objetivos de la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015.

16.5 Señora Directora General: la UNESCO atraviesa una de las crisis financieras más complejas de su historia, resultado del impago de su principal contribuyente. Ello ha impedido a la Organización cumplir a cabalidad sus objetivos y programas, provocando al mismo tiempo un déficit presupuestario significativo. En esta reunión, el Consejo Ejecutivo deberá pronunciarse con objetividad y compromiso sobre la propuesta presupuestaria de la Organización para el próximo bienio. Conviene ver la crisis como una oportunidad para profundizar en el cambio y la reforma estructural de la Organización. Creemos en una reforma holística e integral, sobre la base de las prioridades que ya han sido definidas por el Consejo Ejecutivo y ratificadas por la Conferencia General en su 37ª reunión. La reforma no es un fin en sí misma. Los cambios que nos proponemos deben ser continuos y permanentes hasta refundar la Organización y hacer de ella una UNESCO rejuvenecida, y vibrante y anclada en sus principios fundacionales. Aprovechemos esta oportunidad para el análisis crítico; para salir de las oficinas burocráticas y llegar a la gente común; para recuperar el papel de vanguardia en la incansable lucha por un mundo mejor, en el que los seres humanos puedan

vivir en paz, libres del temor y la ignorancia. Tal es la UNESCO que anhelamos y debemos impulsar en su septuagésimo aniversario.

16.6 Señora Directora General: inspirándonos en la declaración de la CELAC por la cual se proclamó la región de América Latina y el Caribe “Zona de Paz”, deseamos expresar nuestra enérgica condena de las inaceptables sanciones unilaterales y la continua injerencia externa de que es objetivo la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. Los recientes acontecimientos, de fuerte impacto mediático y trascendencia global, confirman la razón de nuestra larga lucha y resistencia. Cuba continuará defendiendo sin descanso las causas justas y los intereses de los países del Sur y será leal a sus objetivos y posiciones comunes, sabiendo, como dijo Martí, que “Patria es Humanidad”. Muchas gracias.

(16.1) **Mr Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) *in extenso* (translation from the Spanish):

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, these are complicated times for the world and for the human species. We are experiencing a different era, marked by rapid changes, uncertainties and much complexity. Long-standing problems remain unsolved; they have in fact worsened as a result of the complex crisis in the economic, social, food, energy and climate fields.

(16.2) Sustainable development might seem to be a distant dream, but it is at the same time an unwavering objective. Peace is an essential condition for development, but it is continually attacked by those who dream of a new distribution of the world and have recourse to war, sanctions and blockades to achieve their aims. Our rich diversity is being undermined by the fanatical extremism of those who believe that their choices are the only ones and seek to impose a monotonous and unacceptable uniformity. At the same time, it seems that this is the right moment to have another look at certain freedoms and also the inherent responsibilities that go with them. Those who would demand respect must also respect others.

(16.3) The statistics provided by specialized bodies and agencies of the United Nations system are chilling. In only a few months, what we have known for some time will be confirmed: not one of the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved. More than ever before, a new international economic, financial and monetary order is needed, in which the interests and needs of the countries of the South and the world's principal majorities will be taken into account and given priority, and those who impose neoliberal ideas and the concentration of capital will not prevail.

(16.4) Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, in this context, the main challenge facing UNESCO is to show its ability to contribute to peace in an insecure world, to eradicate poverty in an unequal world with limited resources, and promote social inclusion as the engine of sustainable development. As it approaches its 70th anniversary, UNESCO must play an even greater role in promoting dialogue and peace worldwide. Its founding values and mandates constitute the best tools for facing new challenges. There is no more urgent and necessary task for UNESCO than focusing all its energy and efforts on the final stage of adopting the goals of the post-2015 development agenda.

(16.5) Madam Director-General, UNESCO is experiencing one of the most complex financial crises in its history, as a result of non-payment by its largest

contributor. This has prevented the Organization from fully carrying out its goals and programmes and at the same time has led to a significant budget deficit. During the current session, the Executive Board must make a decision with objectivity and commitment on the Organization's budget proposal for the coming biennium. The crisis should be seen as an opportunity for deepening change and structural reform in the Organization. We believe in holistic and integrated change, based on the priorities already identified by the Executive Board and ratified by the General Conference at its 37th session. Reform is not an end in itself. The changes we propose must be continual and permanent, leading to a restructured Organization, making it into a rejuvenated and vibrant UNESCO, anchored in its founding principles. We should take this opportunity to conduct a critical analysis; to leave our bureaucratic offices and meet the common people; and to recover the pioneering role in the insatiable struggle for a better world where people can live in peace, free from fear and ignorance. That is the UNESCO we wish for, and which we must bring about on its 70th anniversary.

(16.6) Madam Director-General, taking inspiration from the declaration by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, we wish to express our strong condemnation of the unacceptable unilateral sanctions and the continuing external interference to which the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been subjected. The recent events, having a strong media impact and worldwide significance, confirm the reasons for our long-lasting struggle and resistance. Cuba will continue tirelessly to stand up for just causes and the interests of the countries of the South, and will be faithful to its shared goals and positions in the knowledge that, as Martí put it, “Patria es Humanidad” (the motherland is humanity). Thank you very much.

17.1 **Mr Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, on behalf of the Member States of the Asia and the Pacific Group (ASPAC) on the Executive Board, I have the honour to deliver this joint statement at the 196th session of the Executive Board, in which we shall voice once again the solidarity of this diverse group in facing shared challenges and promoting the values and work of UNESCO. The members of ASPAC acknowledge UNESCO's ongoing efforts to promote the power of education, culture, the sciences, communication and information to bring about the transformative change to which we all aspire. We also commend the Director-General for her tireless and dedicated efforts to steer the work of this Organization in an efficient manner and thank her for her comprehensive report which reflects the progress made in reforming UNESCO.

17.2 Our UNESCO is celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2015, a year which is regarded as a turning point, when the international community must adopt the post-2015 development agenda and reach a global agreement on climate change at the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris. This is an opportune moment for UNESCO to prove how unique and relevant it is in the modern world by playing a leading role within the fields of its competence. By taking stock of seven decades of work, UNESCO can commit

itself to accomplishing greater goals with new hopes and aspirations.

17.3 This turbulent world is currently facing violent conflicts, radicalization, terrorism, rising inequalities and other global challenges that threaten human existence, such as natural disasters and climate change. This world needs UNESCO now more than ever. UNESCO can and should play a major role in fulfilling the goal of achieving long-lasting peace because since its creation, UNESCO's mandate has been manifold, but with a single overarching goal: peace. We believe that by promoting dialogue across cultures and civilizations, peace can be achieved. UNESCO is mandated to promote that dialogue with effective participation from all stakeholders. That is why we need a strengthened UNESCO which can function as a key enabler for all that we hope to achieve for the world's people. We must do more with less to produce the best results by connecting the dots between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development so that solutions to one problem become solutions to all problems. Despite all the financial constraints, we want UNESCO's core programmes to function uninterruptedly and with full vigour to fulfil the real mandates of this Organization. It is imperative to maintain a sharp focus on a few well-defined priorities, without neglecting any area of our broad mandate. Financing for development should be a priority for the international community. While extrabudgetary resources are an important means of addressing the current dire needs of the Organization, we must find a way to better integrate them with the regular programmes and avoid becoming too dependent on them.

17.4 The Asia and the Pacific Group wishes to express once again its strong commitment and determination to work together to achieve the overarching goals of UNESCO by making it fit for all purposes at this critical juncture for our Organization. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

17.5 I will now deliver a statement in my national capacity. Mr Chair, President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished representatives and delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is always a pleasure and an honour for me to address the UNESCO Executive Board as the representative of Bangladesh. Today is the first day of Bangla New Year. At the outset, on behalf of the people of Bangladesh, I would like to express our best wishes on the very first day of the new year. *Shuvo Nababarsha*, happy new year 1422. I would like to take this opportunity to recite some lines written by the great Bengali poet, Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, on this auspicious occasion. This is how Tagore welcomed the first month of Bangla Year, *Baishakh*:

এসো, এসো, এসো হে বৈশাখ।

তাপস নিঃশ্বাস বায়ে মুমূর্ষুরে দাও উড়ায়ে,

বৎসরের আৰ্জনা দূর হয়ে যাক॥

Come, o Baishakh, come, come

With the wind of your ascetic exhaling

Let the dying ones fly away

Let the dirt of bygone year go away

Come, O Baishakh, come, come

17.6 Mr Chair, 70 years ago today, people of great wisdom had dreamt of a world that would be free from violence and intolerance, a world where peace would prevail. To fulfil this dream, they created this great

Organization. Over the years, UNESCO has made commendable advances in building peace in the minds of men and women and achieved praiseworthy progress in various fields. But still today, we are facing challenges to promoting peace and sustainable development in the world. The Director-General has rightly said that we are at a historic crossroads and the direction that we take will determine whether we will succeed or fail in our promises. If we fail, civilization will be lost. Against this backdrop, we would like to propose the integration into our education curricula of the concept of education for global peace, which should be taught and learned as a major subject at educational institutions.

17.7 Mr Chair, we would like to share with the Director-General our concerns regarding the protection of cultural heritage. Unfortunately, in recent times we have been witnessing severe destruction of cultural heritage sites. We must respond to this crisis to save humanity. We must work together to protect cultural heritage as the commonwealth of humanity.

17.8 In this context, we welcome the integration into Major Programme III of intercultural dialogue and foresight linked to social transformations. In the aftermath of recent acts of violent extremism and terrorism in many parts of the world, there is a growing need to work on social transformations and intercultural dialogue. We would like to thank the Director-General and her able team for the progress made during the first 12 months of the 2014-2017 quadrennial on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference. We also welcome new partnerships that contribute to further strengthening South-South cooperation.

17.9 Mr Chair, when we talk about access to education, we must also include children with disabilities. In this regard, we thank the Government of India and UNESCO for sponsoring the international conference "From Exclusion to Empowerment: The Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities" in New Delhi in November 2014. We welcome the recommendations for specific action that came out of this conference. Under the direct supervision of the Honourable Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and her daughter, Ms Saima Hossain, who is the Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Autism in Bangladesh, our country is implementing many programmes including new policies, products and services, and is encouraging cross-sectoral collaboration to empower children affected by autism and other neuro-developmental disorders, as well as empowering their families.

17.10 Mr Chair, we believe that celebrating UNESCO's 70th anniversary provides us with a great opportunity to enhance the Organization's visibility and reach across the globe. The Government of Bangladesh has rolled out a series of programmes to celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO countrywide. The first programme was an exhibition of UNESCO publications in February at a book fair to mark International Mother Language Day. The month-long book fair was inaugurated by our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hundreds of thousands of people visited the UNESCO stand and acquainted themselves with UNESCO's activities.

17.11 Mr Chair, I would like to reiterate that education is the foundation of peace; in turn, peace is the foundation of the world. Today, the world is shaken as we suffer from a dearth of peace. We must all be reminded, particularly our future leaders – the younger generation on all continents – that we all belong to one another and must therefore

protect one another and our planet. It is an irony that we are capable of splitting the atom and flying to the moon, but are unable to live in peace and harmony with each other. Peace should be at the forefront of human discourse, education and world civilization. This is certainly an enormous challenge. Together, we can turn this universal dream into a reality. Thank you all, ladies and gentlemen, for your kind attention. Happy new year.

18.1 **Sra. Faxas** (República Dominicana) *in extenso*:

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, excelencias, estimados colegas y amigos: la República Dominicana desea felicitar a la UNESCO con motivo de la celebración de su septuagésimo aniversario. Nuestra Organización no se ha desviado del rumbo original que marcaron sus fundadores, y su acción en el mundo es hoy más necesaria que nunca. Su Constitución y mandato siguen vigentes. Para los Miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo la responsabilidad es muy grande, dada la crisis económica sin precedentes en la cual nos encontramos. Por ello debemos construir una fuerza de proposición y de acción pragmática para mantenernos fieles a los valores de nuestra Constitución.

19.2 Señor Presidente: la UNESCO está atravesando un periodo marcado por paradojas. Entre las paradojas que observo está la brecha cada vez más profunda entre sus objetivos, derivados de su mandato, y la escasez de sus medios para lograrlos. ¿Cómo no interrogarse, cuando en distintas regiones del mundo los periodistas son asesinados impunemente cuando fanáticos arremeten contra la cultura de otros y la repudian? ¿Cómo no estremecerse cuándo arraiga ante nuestros ojos una cultura de guerra que afecta a las poblaciones más débiles? Tenemos escasos recursos económicos. Debemos hacer uso de nuestra imaginación y reforzar los grandes temas con que contamos y que siguen teniendo relevancia en el ámbito internacional. Nos sentimos orgullosos de constatar que la UNESCO ha conservado su función de organismo rector en los debates sobre el lugar de la educación en las políticas de desarrollo para después de 2015. La educación es central para la construcción de esa ciudadanía global, y es importante que el Sector de Educación siga promoviendo la alfabetización y una Educación para Todos de calidad a lo largo de toda la vida, porque así es como lograremos fomentar una cultura de paz.

18.3 ¡Cuán vastas son las ambiciones que exigimos de la UNESCO! Sin embargo, nuestro presupuesto se reduce a un ritmo alarmante. Nos cuesta mantener el valor agregado de la UNESCO en sus áreas de competencia. Debemos enfrentar con valentía el tema del presupuesto. De ahí que el debate sobre las opciones presupuestarias sea central y que debamos responder con responsabilidad al llamado de la Directora General. La República Dominicana apoya la hipótesis presupuestaria de "CNC".

18.4 Tenemos que replantearnos nuestras prioridades y capacidades para anticipar los retos de un mundo cambiante, que exige respuestas innovadoras. ¿No es esta la razón por la cual en el documento 37 C/4 quisimos reafirmar que la función principal de la UNESCO es la de ser un laboratorio de ideas? No hay que olvidar que la UNESCO ha elaborado convenciones que han adquirido fuerza gracias a los Estados signatarios. Estas convenciones, generadoras de paz y promotoras del dialogo intercultural e interreligioso, protegen lo más valioso de la humanidad, que es su cultura, y son una herramienta fundamental de la UNESCO.

18.5 Reconocemos los múltiples esfuerzos realizados por la Directora General y la Secretaría para reforzar nuestra presencia en la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015 en nuestras áreas de competencia, pero no podemos cejar en la lucha por que la cultura sea explícitamente incluida como objetivo y como parte fundamental del desarrollo sostenible. En estos momentos en que el tráfico de bienes culturales es utilizado para financiar la guerra y el terrorismo, la UNESCO tiene sólidos argumentos para hacer valer esta demanda ante la comunidad internacional.

18.6 La UNESCO debe estar presente en algunas citas importantes: debemos posicionarnos como un actor de primer orden en lo relativo a las implicaciones éticas del cambio climático con miras a la 21ª Conferencia de las Partes; debemos comprometer los recursos necesarios para la implementación del Plan de Acción para los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, conforme a la decisión que será discutida en esta reunión del Consejo; veinte años después de Beijing, debemos redoblar esfuerzos para lograr avances relativos a la condición de la mujer; y además, debemos recuperar el liderazgo en el campo de las TIC. Al terminar esta serie de reflexiones, estoy convencida de que la UNESCO conserva el potencial para convertirse en una verdadera organización del siglo XXI. Testimonio de ello es el nuevo documento EX/4 y los esfuerzos en materia de evaluación y transparencia.

18.7 Quisiéramos terminar con una frase del recién fallecido intelectual Eduardo Galeano: "no podemos adivinar el porvenir, pero tenemos derecho a imaginar el futuro que deseamos". Muchas gracias.

(18.1) **Ms Faxas** (Dominican Republic) (*in extenso*)
(*translation from the Spanish*):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends, the Dominican Republic wishes to congratulate UNESCO on the celebration of its 70th anniversary. Our Organization has not deviated from the direction originally set by its founders, and its activities in the world are now more vitally important than ever. Our Constitution and mandate remain in force. The Members of this Executive Board bear a very heavy responsibility given the unprecedented economic crisis that we are currently experiencing. We must therefore generate strength for building a proposition and pragmatic action in order to remain faithful to the values enshrined in our Constitution.

(18.2) Mr Chair, UNESCO is going through a period marked by paradoxes. The paradoxes that I see include the widening gap between its goals, derived from its mandate, and the shortage of resources to achieve them. How can we fail to wonder when, in various parts of the world, journalists are murdered with impunity, when fanatics attack and repudiate other people's culture? How shall we not tremble to see a culture of war being built up before our eyes, impacting the poorest population groups? We have little by way of financial resources. We must use our imagination and strengthen our Organization's major themes, which remain relevant for the international community. We are proud to note that UNESCO has retained its function as a leading agency in discussions on the place of education in post-2015 development policies. Education is vital for the construction of the global citizenship mentioned earlier, and the Education Sector must continue to

promote literacy measures and lifelong quality education for all; this is how a culture of peace will be fostered.

(18.3) How vast are the ambitions we demand from UNESCO! Our budget, however, is shrinking at an alarming rate. It is difficult to maintain UNESCO's value added in its fields of competence. We must be courageous in dealing with the budget issue. The debate on budgetary options must be central and we must respond in a responsible way to the Director-General's call. The Dominican Republic supports the zero nominal growth plus budgetary proposal.

(18.4) We must re-examine our priorities and abilities to face the challenges of a changing world, which requires innovative responses. Is this not the reason why, in document 37 C/4, we reaffirmed that UNESCO's main function is to be a laboratory for ideas? It should be recalled that UNESCO has drafted conventions which have become strong thanks to the signatory States. These conventions, which promote peace and foster intercultural and interreligious dialogue, protect humanity's most valuable asset, its culture; they are an essential tool for UNESCO.

(18.5) We recognize the numerous efforts made by the Director-General and the Secretariat to strengthen our presence on the post-2015 development agenda in our fields of competence, but we must keep up our campaign to ensure that culture is explicitly included as a goal and as a fundamental part of sustainable development. In these days when trafficking in cultural goods is used to finance war and terrorism, UNESCO has solid arguments to present to the international community.

(18.6) UNESCO must be present at a number of important events: we must ensure that we are a leading actor regarding the ethical implications of climate change with a view to the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; we must commit the necessary resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action for Small Island Developing States, pursuant to the decision to be discussed by the Board at this session; 20 years after Beijing, we must redouble our efforts to achieve progress regarding the status of women; and we must retake the leadership in the field of information and communications technology (ICT). To complete this series of ideas, I am convinced that UNESCO still has the potential to become a real twenty-first-century organization. Proof of that is the new EX/4 document and the efforts made in the area of assessment and transparency.

(18.7) We would like to end with a sentence by the recently deceased intellectual Eduardo Galeano: "If we can't guess what's coming, at least we have the right to imagine the future we want." Thank you very much.

19.1 **Mr Anthony** (Belize) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission and Mr Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission, chairs of committees, distinguished Members of the Executive Board and other honourable men and women, good afternoon. Well, Mr Chair, here we go again. I want to say how honoured and humbled I am to be here at UNESCO and to address

the Executive Board at its 196th session. I thank you for this opportunity. First of all, let me say to France and to the free world that Belize mourns, grieves, sympathizes and empathizes with you. We share your fear, loss and pain following the *Charlie Hebdo* crisis. Your loss was horrific and cataclysmic, all because of some barbaric, ruthless, senseless, cruel, insensitive and evil people who have no regard for the lives of people who hold beliefs or philosophies different from their own. Belize stands with you and, as Dr Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant". Good will always win over evil.

19.2 Mr Chair, Belize stands ready to support the contents of documents 196 EX/4, 196 EX/5 and 196 EX/15. Belize still supports a zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) budget even when the difference between zero nominal growth (ZNG) and ZNG+ is \$11 million. Document 38 C/5 calls for the Organization to justify the link between the allocation of budgetary resources, activities to be implemented and the levels of expected results. These are all positive points that can get us where we want to go. We also need to pursue results-based budgeting, and clearly define regular budget and extrabudgetary funding, staff requirements and expected results. We need to continue with a bottom-up approach to delivering our programmes and to use both quantitative and qualitative performance indicators in place. We need to be mindful of anticipated retirements, repatriation grants, general savings on staff costs, savings on shared overheads and adjustment rates for staff movements. In 195 EX/Decision 13, the Executive Board requested that several options be proposed for sourcing the \$11 million, not just through Member States contributions. I firmly agree with this idea and believe that such resources could come from supplementary revenue, for example as a result of improved management of the premises in Paris and the savings identified by the Organization in its expenditures outside the major programmes. There is also the idea of non-replacement of 50% of the employees who retire. We must place all options on the table to achieve the ZNG+ budget. It has been stated that "the External Auditor is therefore unable to assure Member States that there is no additional room for manoeuvre that could generate savings, of an undetermined amount." So where there is a will, there is a way. The recruitment freeze, budgeted vacancy rate, temporary staff costs and use of temporary assistance all help the Organization to make savings. As the Bob Marley song goes: "We are coming in from the cold". We do not exist as a gloom and doom organization; we are coming in from the cold. We will show all the naysayers what we can do, Mr Chair, because in the end we will come in from the cold.

19.3 Mr Chair, UNESCO is hard at work and I therefore reaffirm, encourage and celebrate the Organization's efforts to carry out its duties effectively and diligently. I applaud you UNESCO, wherever and wherever you are. Thanks to the Bureau of Financial Management, the Bureau of Strategic Planning, the Bureau of Human Resources Management, the Director-General, Assistant Directors-General, field officers and offices, directors, programme specialists and all of UNESCO for achieving positive results even when the clouds seem dark and the waters appear murky. That will not stop us from coming in from the cold. I am pleased to know that the five major programmes are currently on track. This is a very impressive record. Education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, and communication and information programmes are on track. The Culture Sector has done well, placing emphasis on conventions, statutory

meetings, responses to crisis situations and ensuring the recognition of in the post-2015 development agenda. The International Year of Crystallography in 2014 was successfully co-sponsored by UNESCO. The International Year of Small Island Developing States was celebrated with the third International Conference on SIDS held in Apia, Samoa. We continue to promote freedom of the press with World Press Freedom Day which is extremely important to us in Central America and the Caribbean. However, Global Priority Africa needs more attention. I am concerned that in most sectors, programmes were delayed in Africa and the Arab States. The reasons given were related to health issues and political and security crises. These reasons are not absolutes, so we must have backup plans so that we can do more for Africa. We also need to do more for Global Priority Gender Equality so that more women take leadership roles. I would like to ask the Director-General to make sure that work is done to develop the action plan for implementing the outcome of the third International Conference on SIDS, which is particularly relevant to UNESCO.

19.4 Mr Chair, allow me to briefly report that the UNESCO Office in Kingston is sailing again. Last year there was a serious issue concerning the Office. We brought it to UNESCO in Paris and the Organization listened to us. The problem is solved thanks to the efforts of the Director-General, the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information, and others who have assisted us in that regard. The region is active again. Thank you also for filling the vacant post of programme specialist in communication. We understand why the social and human sciences post has not been filled. We have also heard that the culture specialist will be transferred. This is a crucial post for the Caribbean, so we hope that it can be filled as soon as possible after the post becomes vacant. Workshops will soon be held in Guyana, Belize, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the World Heritage Centre and the International Union for Conservation of Nature visited Belize in January. In that connection, I wish to thank the Coordinator of the World Heritage Marine Programme, and her team. We have managed to obtain approval for four of our Participation Programme projects thanks to the Chief of the Participation Programme Section, the Programme Assistant for Latin America and Caribbean and the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information. Before I leave France, I hope to hear that one more Participation Programme project has been approved. The Government of Belize has ratified the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and I have brought the instrument of accession to deliver to the Director-General. We have five educators who are now studying cost analysis with the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning. Another educator has been awarded a MASHAV Fellowship, to be used in Israel. We also now have our own Belizean certified facilitator for intangible cultural heritage for the Caribbean.

19.5 Mr Chair, we are happy. Nothing is perfect, but we are achieving. Let us put delays, discouragement, disapproval and doubt out of our hearts. Let us keep coming in from the cold and, as Mahatma Gandhi said, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow, learn as if you were to live forever." Long live UNESCO. Thank you and God bless.

٢٠,١ السيدة الرهوني (تونس) النص الكامل:

السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، حضرات الزملاء والزميلات أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي، يسعدني أن

أجدد اللقاء معكم في هذه الدورة السادسة والتسعين بعد المائة للمجلس التنفيذي للنظر في إنجازات اليونسكو ومقومات عملها وتوجهاتها في المستقبل العاجل والمتوسط الأجل في ظل وضع عالمي يتسم بالتغير السريع وتعقيد المشاكلات والتهديدات المتنامية للأمن والسلم. فنحن اليوم أحوج ما نكون إلى دعم منظمنا مادياً وبشرياً وجعلها قادرة على مواجهة التحديات الحسام التي تهدد السلم الدولي وفي مقدمتها تحديد انتشار الإرهاب الأعمى الذي جعل من ضرب التربية والثقافة أول أولوياته وأهدافه. كما أود أن أتوجه بالتحية إلى الدكتور محمد سامح عمرو رئيس المجلس التنفيذي وأن أهنته على ما يبذله من جهد لإدارة أعمال مجلسنا الموقر، وأن أعبر عن شكر تونس وامتنانها لما أبدته المنظمة ممثلة في شخص السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا المديرية العامة من اهتمام بما تشهده تونس من تحولات عميقة في مسار ثورتها وتقدمها بعد أن حقق الشعب التونسي نموذجاً فريداً للثورة وإرادة الحياة. والشكر مستحق ومخصوص للسيدة إيرينا بوكوفا على مشاركتها يوم ٢٩ آذار/مارس الماضي في مسيرة بارودو الدولية تعبيراً عن تضامن المنظمة مع تونس في حرمها على الإرهاب وتأكيدها مساندة من أجل ترسيخ الديمقراطية المبنية على المعرفة والكرامة والعدالة الاجتماعية.

٢٠,٢ السيدة المديرية العامة، لقد عبرتم في كلمتكم خلال الجلسة الافتتاحية لهذه الدورة عن اقتناعكم بأن تونس سوف تعرف كيف تتغلب على الإرهاب بفضل فكرها وروحها، والجميع يشاطركم هذه القناعة. ومن ناحيتنا، فإننا نعتقد أن مساندةكم ودعمكم والتضامن المجتمعي الواسع سيساعدنا على القضاء على هذه الآفة، خاصة وأن الجميع يعلم أنه لا يمكن لأي جهة كانت أن تتغلب على الإرهاب بمفردها.

٢٠,٣ حضرات الزملاء والزميلات، إن دورنا اليوم لا يتمثل في مناقشة البرامج والتقارير فقط، بل علينا أن نفكر معاً لنجيب عن سؤال يهم مستقبل الإنسانية جمعاء، ما العمل؟ ما العمل أمام المحارق التي شهدتها مكاتبنا زاخرة بأنواع المصنفات في شتى العلوم والفنون، وبالمخطوطات النادرة؟ وما العمل أمام المحجمات التي شهدتها المتاحف والمعالم وما لحقها من تدمير؟ وما العمل أمام تعطل التربية والتعليم في عديد الدول التي أهدمتها الصراعات المسلحة؟ نعم إنه سؤال مؤرق لا يمكن أن نجد له جواباً إلا بإصرارنا على بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر، وبفضل تعاوننا لإيجاد مسالك الحوار والبحث عن الحلول الناجحة. ولنا في مناقشة البنود من ٢٦ إلى ٣٣ الواردة في جدول أعمال دورتنا هذه مجال واسع للتداول في هذه القضايا.

٢٠,٤ ولقد شرعت تونس في تعهد نظامها التربوي في مراجعة جذرية تتماشى وما أفرزته الثورة من أولويات وما أبرزته من إخلالات. فلا بد أن يستجيب النظام التربوي باعتبار أن التعلم حق أساسي يفضي إلى التطور التنموي العام لاحتياجات الناشئة وطموحاتهم ومصالحهم بغية تحقيق إمكاناتهم الكاملة واندماجهم الناجح في عالم الشغل، فضلاً عن المشاركة في الحياة النشيطة كمواطنين مسؤولين. ولعلها مناسبة للتأكيد على حرص تونس على المشاركة الفاعلة في تقييم نتائج التعليم للجميع والمساهمة في رسم التوجه الذي ستقره المجموعة الدولية لمرحلة ما بعد سنة ٢٠١٥.

٢٠,٥ ولقد حظيت حرية التعبير وإبداء الرأي بالمكانة التي تستحقها في الدستور الجديد للبلاد. وتعمل تونس اليوم على تكريس هذا التوجه بتعاون متين مع اليونسكو. وأما في المجال الثقافي، فلئن حظيت قضية حماية التراث بأولوية الاهتمامات لحماية المعالم والمواقع ومحاربة نهب القطع الأثرية والاتجار غير المشروع بها، فإن عديد القضايا في شتى مجالات التنمية الثقافية جعلت هذا القطاع ينكب على مراجعات عميقة للسياسة الثقافية.

٢٠,٦ حضرات السيدات والسادة، إن مجالات عمل المنظمة النابعة من روح دستورها ترهن على نبل رسالتها الفكرية والأخلاقية. ويطلب لي أن أعبر عن ارتياحنا للنتائج التي حققتها اليونسكو بإدارة السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا، وذلك رغم الصعوبات التي تشهدها المنظمة. وأود أن أؤكد دعمنا الكامل لدور اليونسكو في مجال التربية وخاصة دعم برنامج التعليم والتدريب في المجال التقني والمهني بهدف تأمين الكفاءات وتطوير القدرات لدى الشباب وتطوير التربية على المواطنة وإشاعة مبادئ التسامح والديمقراطية كشكل من أشكال محاربة التعصب والإرهاب. ولا بد في هذا المقام من التنويه بما تم إنجازه في مجال المساواة بين الجنسين. ولتونس التي تم انتخابها مؤخراً عضواً في المجلس التنفيذي

لهيئة الأمم المتحدة للمرأة رغبة في تعزيز التعاون مع المنظمة في هذا المجال الحيوي.

٢٠٧، ويسعدني في الختام أن أعبر عن التزام تونس الكامل بمبادئ اليونسكو ورسالتها النبيلة وحرصها الدائم على دعم التعاون الفكري الدولي، مساهمة منها في بناء مجتمع إنساني قوامه التضامن الفكري والمعنوي بين بني البشر كما أقره الميثاق التأسيسي للمنظمة. وشكراً على الإنصات والسلام عليكم.

(20.1) **Ms Tarhouni (Tunisia) in extenso**
(translation from the Arabic):

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, fellow Members of the Executive Board, I am pleased to be with you once more at this 196th session of the Executive Board in order to consider UNESCO's achievements, the elements of its work and its lines of emphasis in the immediate future and in the medium term in the light of the world situation which is characterized by rapid change, complex problems and growing threats to peace and security. Today we urgently need to support our organization in terms of human and material resources to enable it to tackle the enormous challenges to world peace, chief amongst which is the threatened spread of the blind terrorism that has made an assault on education and culture its top priority and prime objective. I should also like to salute Dr Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chair of the Executive Board, and congratulate him on his efforts in managing the work of our esteemed Board. I should also like to express Tunisia's gratitude and indebtedness to the Organization in the person of Ms Irina Bokova, its Director-General, for expressing its concern regarding the profound transformations in Tunisia in the course of its revolution and the country's progress after the Tunisian people had asserted a unique type of revolution and the will to live. A special thanks is also due to Ms Bokova for her participation on 29 March in the international Bardo march expressing the Organization's solidarity with Tunisia in its war against terrorism and confirming our support for the establishment of a democracy built on knowledge, dignity and social justice.

(20.2) Madam Director-General, in your statement at the opening meeting of this session, you spoke of your conviction that Tunisia would know how to conquer terrorism by virtue of its ideas and its spirit, and this conviction is shared by all. For our part, we are certain that your support and assistance together with broad community solidarity will help us to root out this evil, especially as we all know that no-one alone can conquer terrorism.

(20.3) Dear colleagues, our role today is not just to discuss programmes and reports: we must think of how to respond to questions affecting the future of all humankind. What is to be done? What to do when faced with the burning of libraries full of works of science and art and rare manuscripts? How to respond to the attacks on museums and sites and their destruction? How to deal with the inactivity of education in numerous countries ruined by armed conflicts? Yes, this is a persistent question and we will find no answer unless we resolve to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men and women and cooperate to find means of dialogue and search for a successful solution. In discussing items 26 to 33 of this session's agenda we shall find ample scope for discussion of those issues.

(20.4) Tunisia has begun to commit its education system to a radical review taking account of the priorities selected by the revolution and the mistakes which it identified. The education system must respond, in view of the fact that education is a basic right leading to general development, to the needs of youth, their aspirations and interests to enable them to achieve their full potential and successful integration in the world of work as well as participating in active life as responsible citizens. This is perhaps a suitable opportunity to emphasize Tunisia's desire to participate actively in evaluating the outcomes of education for all and to join in outlining the course of action for the period beyond 2015.

(20.5) Freedom of expression and opinion have acquired the standing to which they are entitled under the country's new constitution. Tunisia today is working to consecrate this course through solid cooperation with UNESCO. Yet in the field of culture, because the issue of heritage protection has obtained priority attention for the protection of monuments and sites, and for the looting of and trafficking in heritage items, many issues in other areas of cultural development have made this sector avoid in-depth re-examination of cultural policy.

(20.6) Ladies and gentlemen, the fields of work of the Organization inspired by the spirit of its constitution are proof of its noble intellectual and ethical mission. I am pleased to express our satisfaction with UNESCO's results under the administration of Ms Irina Bokova, achieved in spite of the difficulties which the Organization is experiencing. I should like to affirm our full support for UNESCO's role in the field of education and, in particular, for the programme of technical and vocational education and training, the purpose of which is to provide young people with competencies and capabilities, to develop citizenship and spread the principles of tolerance and democracy as a means of combating extremism and terrorism. In this connection, mention must be made of achievements in the area of gender equity. Tunisia, which has recently been elected as a member of the Executive Board of UN-Women, wishes to increase cooperation with the Organization in that vital field.

(20.7) In concluding, I wish to express Tunisia's wholehearted commitment to UNESCO's noble principles and its constant endeavour to support international intellectual cooperation, thus participating in the construction of human society based on the intellectual and moral solidarity of humankind as affirmed in the Organization's Constitution. Thank you for your attention. Peace be with you.

21.1 **Sra. Sol de Pool (El Salvador) in extenso:**

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, distinguidos delegados: El Salvador se une al discurso del GRULAC. El Salvador condena los sangrientos ataques perpetrados por grupos extremistas, que han causado cientos de víctimas inocentes entre estudiantes, mujeres, niñas y niños y minorías religiosas y provocado una crisis humanitaria que ha conternado al mundo. Asimismo, condenamos la horrible destrucción y saqueo del patrimonio cultural en la República Árabe Siria, el Iraq, Malí y Libia, que busca aniquilar la identidad de los pueblos y de la humanidad entera. Apoyamos la acción de la UNESCO sobre el terreno para paliar esta indiscriminada tragedia y reafirmamos nuestro compromiso en la lucha contra toda forma de terrorismo.

Felicitemos el involucramiento de la UNESCO, que interviene de manera activa para frenar esta chocante destrucción.

21.2 Señor Presidente: como miembro del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, El Salvador reafirma el respeto universal de los mismos, que constituye una firme política de Estado. Consideramos que deben respetarse y garantizarse en cualquier situación, sea cual sea la naturaleza del conflicto. La paz debe construirse a través del respeto y la solidaridad, como compromiso con las presentes y futuras generaciones. Estamos convencidos de la necesidad de privilegiar el diálogo y la pacificación entre los pueblos para la construcción de un humanismo integral, que atribuya crucial importancia a la dignidad del ser humano, en estricto cumplimiento del derecho internacional, en el marco de la no intervención y la autodeterminación de los pueblos. Ahora más que nunca, debemos unirnos para promover y proteger la libertad de expresión en todas sus manifestaciones, especialmente al de las mujeres, así como la seguridad de los periodistas. El odio y la intolerancia no pueden ganarnos la moral. Por ello la UNESCO debe reforzar su acción en este campo. Es importante la igualdad entre los géneros, que contribuirá a un mundo más pacífico e incluyente.

21.3 Por lo que respecta a las propuestas preliminares sobre la preparación del 38 C/5, su formulación debe ser transparente, tomando en cuenta las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo y los parámetros marcados por la decisión 195 EX/13. El Salvador no puede aceptar que se incrementen o se ajusten las contribuciones de los Estados Miembros para financiar el nuevo presupuesto cuando existe el Fondo de emergencia, que puede emplearse para financiar los programas. Estos fondos están disponibles y podemos llegar a un acuerdo aceptable para todos, que no cause división entre los Estados Miembros y beneficie a la Organización en la financiación de sus programas.

21.4 El Salvador reafirma que la educación es un derecho humano fundamental, un bien público y la base sólida para la prosperidad y un crecimiento pacífico, inclusivo, equitativo y sostenible de nuestros pueblos. Por ello respaldamos los principios y objetivos establecidos en el Acuerdo de Mascate, subrayando que el objetivo global de “Asegurar una educación de calidad, equitativa e inclusiva así como un aprendizaje durante toda la vida para todos, en 2030” refleja nuestras aspiraciones en materia de educación y desarrollo. Acogemos con satisfacción los resultados del Comité de Dirección de la EPT, que aseguran la armonización de las metas del objetivo 4 de la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015 con las metas de la agenda de la educación para después de 2015 de Mascate, asegurando así una agenda integrada.

21.5 Apoyamos el excelente trabajo de la Oficina de la UNESCO en San José, que tanto beneficia a Centroamérica, y agradecemos a la Directora General el nombramiento de su Directora, Pilar Álvarez Lazo, y a Costa Rica su generosa colaboración como país anfitrión. Asimismo, apoyamos la excelente gestión de la Oficina Regional de Cultura para América Latina y el Caribe, sita en La Habana, cuya existencia es crucial para nuestra región. Para concluir, apoyamos todas las actividades relativas a los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo, a quienes ofrecemos nuestra colaboración, así como el plan de acción en la materia, que esperamos cuente con suficiente financiación para que se cumplan sus objetivos. Muchas gracias.

(21.1) **Ms Sol de Pool** (El Salvador) *in extenso* (translation from the Spanish):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates: my delegation wishes to express its support for the statement of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC). El Salvador condemns the bloody attacks by extremist groups which have made hundreds of innocent victims, including students, women, children and religious minorities, leading to a humanitarian crisis which has shocked the world. We also condemn the terrible destruction of cultural heritage in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Mali and Libya, which seeks to obliterate the identity of peoples and of humanity as a whole. We support UNESCO’s actions in the field to alleviate this indiscriminate tragedy, and we reaffirm our commitment to combating all forms of terrorism. We welcome the involvement of UNESCO, which is intervening actively to counter this shocking destruction.

(21.2) Mr Chair, as a member of the Human Rights Council, El Salvador reaffirms universal respect for human rights, which is a firm policy of my Government. We believe that those rights must be respected and protected in all situations, whatever the nature of the conflict. Peace should be found through respect and solidarity, as a commitment to current and future generations. We are convinced of the need to promote dialogue and pacification between peoples, to construct a comprehensive humanism, attaching particular significance to the dignity of the human person and strict compliance with international law, in a framework of non-intervention and the self-determination of peoples. Today, more than ever, we must unite in order to promote and protect freedom of expression in all its manifestations, particularly for women, and the safety of journalists. Hatred and intolerance cannot gain us the moral high ground. UNESCO must therefore step up its actions in this field. Gender equality is highly important; it will contribute to a more peaceful and inclusive world.

(21.3) Regarding the preliminary proposals on the preparation of document 38 C/5, its formulation must be transparent, taking account of the recommendations of the External Auditor and the parameters set out in 195 EX/Decision 13. El Salvador cannot accept that Member States’ contributions should be increased or adjusted to finance the new budget when there is an Emergency Fund, which can be applied to programme funding. These funds are available and we can arrive at an agreement which will be acceptable for all, while not causing division among Member States and benefiting the Organization in funding its programmes.

(21.4) El Salvador reaffirms that education is a fundamental human right, a public good and a solid basis for prosperity and for peaceful, inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth for our peoples. We therefore support the principles and objectives established in the Muscat Agreement, emphasizing that the overall objective to “Ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030” reflects our aspirations in terms of education and development. We welcome the results from the EFA Steering Committee, ensuring the harmonization of the targets under Goal 4 of the post-2015 development agenda with the targets of the post-2015

education agenda adopted at Muscat, thereby ensuring an integrated agenda.

(21.5) We support the excellent work of the UNESCO office in San José, which is so beneficial for Central America, and we thank the Director-General for the appointment of its Director, Pilar Álvarez Lazo, and Costa Rica for its generous collaboration as the host country. We support the excellent management of the Regional Bureau for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Havana, whose existence is crucial for our region. Lastly, we support all activities relating to small island developing States, for which we offer our cooperation, and the plan of action in that regard, which we hope will receive sufficient funding to ensure that it can achieve its objectives. Thank you very much.

22.1 Mr Omare-Okurut (Uganda) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, peace to you all. At the outset, the delegation of Uganda associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Angola on behalf of the Africa group. On the home page of the UNESCO website are the familiar and imposing words adapted from our Constitution: "Building peace in the minds of men and women". Sadly, 70 years down the road, the attainment of global peace still eludes us. The ugly face of aggression, anger and violence, at personal, community, institutional, national and societal levels, glares at us whether it is in Kenya, Nigeria, France or the Syrian Arab Republic. Only last week we saw this happen.

22.2 Mr Chair, this state of "peacelessness" raises many challenges for the Organization. We would like to commend the Director-General and her team, and you, Mr Chair, for pledging to keeping the Organization focused on its mandate despite the many challenges. Indeed, educated, cultured and well-informed people are less likely to promote violence or conditions that undermine peace. We must therefore support all UNESCO core programmes because they constitute an organic and integral whole that helps in the process of building peace. At the 195th session of the Board, the Director-General presented her roadmap to take UNESCO forward. She has now reported on the achievements and challenges, also indicating that the programmes are on track. Our delegation notes that the report has taken into consideration the calls for a results-based orientation in the Organization. We applaud this effort, but also call for more action.

22.3 In respect of the Organization's leadership in the education for all activities leading up to the World Education Forum, Uganda appreciates those commendable efforts. We welcome the adoption of the Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States. This comes at a time when, at the level of the East African Community, we are struggling to harmonize our education curricula. Teachers are synonymous with quality education. Uganda is therefore grateful to the Organization for its ongoing cooperation in the Capacity Building for Education for All (CapEFA) programme and the UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust (CFIT) project, which provides capacity building for teachers as well as curriculum development. We welcome the Organization's new strategy on technical and vocational education and training because it operates in tandem with our government's policy of vocationalizing education, as advocated in the "Skilling Uganda" programme. We are looking forward to equipping learners

with skills that enable them to contribute to the sustainability agenda. The importance of education for sustainable development was clearly expressed once again at the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan and we commend the organizers and the Japanese authorities on their organizational skills and hospitality. In Uganda, we are now in the process of drawing up our national action plan and operationalizing the global action plan to develop our ESD policy. As we make progress in the field of education for sustainable development, we call upon the Director-General to mobilize actors to give equal attention, if not more support, to global citizenship and human rights education. We appreciate the emphasis on intergovernmental programmes, particularly the Programme on Man and the Biosphere and the International Hydrological Programme, and the initiatives relating to water resources management and geoparks. We call for more efforts in the fields of disaster preparedness and engineering sciences. We commend the work being done in the fields of management of social transformations, gender and youth, but would like to call for action in the area of philosophy, which is an enabler for reflection on world challenges and the future of humanity.

22.4 Mr Chair, culture is our identity and the spirit that moves us. The work under the various culture conventions must continue. We appreciate the support provided for the reconstruction of the Kasubi world heritage site in Uganda. We are happy to announce that last week, we deposited the instrument of ratification of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Efforts in the fields of freedom of expression, media development, and communication and information must be continued as they are necessary ingredients for good governance and sustainable development. We advocate further development of community multimedia centres as tools for sustainable community development, and the use of digital libraries and open source materials for both formal and informal education.

22.5 We in Africa had hoped that the achievements presented by the Director-General would be guaranteed and sustained through dedicated funding and empowerment of multifunctional field offices through competent staff and resources. However, this has not been the case. If the efforts relating to Priority Africa, youth and gender equality are to be successful, all aspects of the field offices must be strengthened.

22.6 Mr Chair, we invite UNESCO to continue exploiting the goodwill and resources available in the National Commissions. The East African National Commissions and the German Commission for UNESCO, through North-South and South-South cooperation, have published a training manual for National Commissions, designed to help the Commissions to position themselves strategically to ensure UNESCO's visibility and service delivery at country level.

22.7 Mr Chair, Uganda thanks all Member States and the institutions and agencies that have supported UNESCO in carrying out its mandate. Building a peaceful and just world is our collective responsibility and UNESCO, with our support, will deliver on its part. Thank you, Mr Chair.

23.1 Mr da Conceição (Mozambique) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, my delegation associates

itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Angola on behalf of the Africa group. Secondly, allow me also to offer our heartfelt thanks to the Director-General for her enlightening remarks and the valuable report that she presented to us at the opening of this session. It is our firm belief that the conclusions arising from this Board session will contribute greatly to the consultations now in progress which are intended to pave the way for smooth deliberations at the World Education Forum in Incheon, Republic of Korea, next month. We believe that the Forum must nourish the system with new ideas for dealing with the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. UNESCO's input will remain of crucial importance throughout the entire process leading up to the United Nations summit on the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in New York in September 2015. With regard to our unmet millennium development goal in the field of education, the Government of Mozambique continues to do everything in its power to meet the challenges linked to our country's shortcomings. There are a host of economic and social problems that need, each in turn, our ongoing attention, including the cyclical problems arising from natural disasters. Almost every year, Mozambique is hit by floods and cyclones which very often leave thousands of children in classrooms with no roof. Our country is prone to natural disasters; it is the third most exposed and sixth most vulnerable in the continent. We acknowledge with satisfaction that UNESCO is associated with worldwide efforts to promote international cooperation on the culture of climate change, through initiatives involving education, training, public awareness, public participation and access to information. We commend the Government of France for providing an ideal platform for discussing the future of our planet by hosting the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of this year. Expectations are high and Mozambique looks forward to making its modest contribution towards the success of this conference.

23.2 Turning now to national efforts to implement several education programmes to which the Government is committed, we are greatly encouraged that the recently published Education For All *Global Monitoring Report* highlights the amount of work that is being done in Mozambique, particularly concerning the proportion of primary school age children enrolled in recent years, which increased by 67% between 1999 and 2012. Likewise, in the framework of the UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan, we note with satisfaction the rapid improvement in gender parity, with females comprising a record 47% of the school population. Furthermore, thanks to the Malala Fund for Girls' Right to Education, Mozambique is pursuing the implementation of the programmes mentioned above with a view to bridging the education gap between boys and girls. As part of this initiative and in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Maputo, the Government is implementing the project "Integrated approach to literacy and adult education to empower young women and their families through learning in rural and peri-urban communities in Mozambique". This project has a cultural and gender-sensitive dimension, the objectives of which are: to empower parents, grandparents and other caregivers to help their children to develop reading and writing skills; to prevent school failure and drop-outs; to improve care of children and their interaction; and to ensure that children live in a stimulating environment. In addition to our gratitude to the Malala Fund, we wish to express our deep appreciation for the assistance that we have received from many other partners who support education programmes in

Mozambique. The Government will also continue to expand technical professional education programmes throughout the country, with a view to addressing the challenges facing young people in the employment market.

23.3 With regard to the culture sector, Mozambique shares the belief that culture in all its dimensions is linked to development and, in this context, it is crucial that we accord it the place that it merits in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. I thank you for your kind attention.

24.1 **Ms Rampersad** (Trinidad and Tobago)
in extenso:

Honourable Director-General, Mr President of the General Conference, members of the Secretariat, colleagues, I bring greetings on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, who congratulate you, Mr Chair, and you, Madam Director-General, for your stewardship of UNESCO in these most testing times, what the Director-General's annual report for 2014 described as "times of crisis and transitions". We welcome that report and its focus on these issues and, of course, the recent publication of the EFA *Global Education Report*. We align ourselves with the statements made by GRULAC and the previous speakers from the Spanish- and English-speaking Caribbean, namely, the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis and my distinguished colleague from Belize. We condemn violence in all its forms, be it against press freedom or in violation of any other human freedoms, as described by some of our previous speakers.

24.2 Mr Chair, to add to those remarks, permit me to focus on the nature of the issues that affect small island developing States (SIDS), matters that are specific to our local realities, even if the issues themselves are global. Such matters define our capacities and incapacities and determine whether or not we are able to participate fully in global development as sovereign independent States on an equal footing with other States. We hope that UNESCO will be guided by this reality in all its objectives and priorities. We therefore support 37 C/Resolution 1(V) concerning small island developing States since it calls for clearly resourced action to correct this imbalance, which would include addressing deficiencies in statistical analysis, research, developmental approaches, programmes and action. I will now relate these issues more specifically to UNESCO's work on SIDS, oceans, cultural heritage, education, and information and communication, in the context of our rethinking of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and goals.

24.3 Mr Chair, the ecological DNA of Trinidad and Tobago is continental by nature, carrying within it the flora, fauna and geology of continental America, which is unique to a small island State that broke off from the continent during the last ice age. Yet our human genealogy and cultural DNA is global. The oldest known humanoid skeleton of our hemisphere was found on our island, one of the best kept secrets of indigenous America. Following the appearance of this first citizen, we were peopled by many other migrants from Europe, Africa, India, China, Syria and Lebanon during the colonial period between 500 and 300 years ago. Now there are new waves of immigrants because ours is a borderless world, open not just to humans but to more notorious varieties of traffic that date from before the pirates of the Caribbean era all the way up to modern drug trade. We and some 21 other satellite islands of Trinidad and Tobago are physically lodged in a big ocean, the Atlantic, spilling into the Caribbean sea. Yet our poets and calypsonians do not

sing of our ocean's currents and tides as scientific specimens that are passageways to economic prosperity, or natural phenomena that churn up tsunamis and other natural disasters. Our oceanic waters are extensions of our cultural selves, repositories of the cruel history of the Atlantic slave trade, the "Middle Passage", the slave route and indentured Indian labour route. They are at once the bridge to those painful memories and the legacy of our efforts to build resilient and inclusive, albeit diverse, societies. We have given the world the only known musical instrument invented in the last century, in the form of the steel pan, as well as genres of music known as calypso, soca and chutney. We have no less than two Nobel laureates in literature and several of our authors, as well as historical records of the migration of slaves and indentured labourers, have been inscribed on the Memory of the World Register.

24.4 Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, we welcome UNESCO's priority focus on SIDS and oceans, and its new project on the labour routes. It is no secret, Mr Chair, that our petroleum industry is the world's oldest, and for centuries our Pitch Lake has provided tarmac to pave roads and airports across the globe. With such a distinguished industrial heritage, which is inextricably linked to our ecological heritage, and even more obviously to our outstanding cultural heritage, we are a wall of contradictions, which remain unaccommodated, misunderstood and unrecognized in the criteria used by some of the advisory bodies that monitor the implementation of the UNESCO culture conventions. We therefore hope that as UNESCO pursues its programme and endeavours, it will take note of the specific characteristics of our small island developing State.

24.5 We recognize that in this period of transition and opportunities, there is the additional challenge of dealing with and providing access to information and communication technologies. Mr Chair, we have heard your lament about the failure of mainstream media to give due attention to UNESCO's work, and your earlier invitation to enhance the visibility of the Organization through our own use of social media. Madam Director-General, indeed, we believe that we cannot leave our phone on silent. We must listen, share and call for UNESCO to demonstrate its relevance across the globe and throughout our communities. I would therefore like to propose that UNESCO examine its own regulations and procedures in order to devise a way to open up and promote transparency mechanisms so that we can lead by the example of the wonderful work that we are doing here and our own ability to accommodate this new environment of transition. Thank you.

25.1 **M. Fazelly** (Afghanistan) *in extenso* :

Je remercie Son Excellence Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif. Je salue également la présence de Son Excellence Madame la Directrice générale et de Son Excellence Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale. Madame la Directrice générale, hier vous avez évoqué le sort d'une femme qui a été lynchée à mort à Kaboul, en Afghanistan. Cette femme n'a pas seulement été battue, elle a aussi été lynchée : cela faisait longtemps qu'on n'avait pas assisté à un tel acte de barbarie. Malgré tout, il est prometteur et rassurant de voir que cet acte a provoqué la réaction générale de toutes les femmes afghanes, et que cette réaction a pu être considérée comme un pas en avant dans l'acquisition du droit des femmes d'invoquer la charia : en effet, il aurait peut-être fallu mille ans encore avant qu'on leur reconnaisse le droit d'enterrer l'une des leurs. Pour la

première fois, les femmes afghanes n'ont pas laissé le choix aux hommes, elles ont pris les choses en main, se sont défendues et ont enterré la pauvre femme. Elles ont porté le cercueil comme des soldats sur un champ de bataille. J'ai ici quelques photos prises lors de l'enterrement, je vous les donne Madame la Directrice générale.

25.2 J'en viens à présent à ce que je voulais dire au cours de cette session. J'ai essayé de faire une synthèse de ce qui me semblait important avant le début du Conseil. Ce qui me semble important se résume à deux choses. Il y a d'abord le rendez-vous de 2015, sur lequel on a beaucoup travaillé, et j'ai pris part à ces travaux, à savoir l'élaboration du programme de développement pour l'après-2015, en relation avec le développement durable. Certains pensent que nous sommes déjà à un stade avancé de la définition de ce programme. Je considère pour ma part que nous n'en sommes qu'au seuil, parce qu'il reste encore beaucoup à faire. Ce rendez-vous sera le plus important des années qui viennent et il convient de savoir quelles en seront les étapes, quels seront les contenus et les modalités de fonctionnement, comment les États seront mis à contribution, comment le problème juridique de normativité sera résolu et comment, finalement, on arrivera à des contributions et à des résultats en matière d'inclusivité. Je préfère ce terme à celui de durabilité, parce qu'il englobe les mesures sociales, la vision sociale, et qu'il représente, à mon avis, l'un des principaux objectifs à poursuivre.

25.3 Le deuxième point qui me semble important, c'est le défi que représentent les destructions massives de biens culturels auxquelles nous avons assisté ces derniers jours, ces dernières semaines, ces derniers mois. Vous avez fait, Madame la Directrice générale, tout votre possible pour informer et être présente. Ce défi met à nu la relation de l'UNESCO avec la culture et ses missions dans ce domaine. Je crois que nous sommes à un tournant, face à un acte de repli qui dénote un rejet de la culture. La destruction est le signe d'un rejet, d'un rejet de l'objet, et une fois que l'objet n'existe plus, que peut faire l'UNESCO ? Elle n'a plus rien à protéger, à préserver. Pour relever ce défi considérable, elle a besoin de l'accompagnement du système des Nations Unies, mais celui-ci n'a malheureusement pas encore montré beaucoup d'intérêt à cet égard.

25.4 Madame la Directrice générale, je vous ai fait part de mes préoccupations, qui font écho à certains de vos propos. Je crois que vous êtes en mesure d'évaluer la gravité du problème. Nous ne pouvons que souhaiter la réussite de l'UNESCO, dont l'existence est malgré tout positive, même si nous ne sommes pas mus aujourd'hui par l'énergie que donnait aux fondateurs de l'UNESCO la responsabilité dont ils se sentaient investis. Nous vivons d'autres temps et peut-être n'avons-nous pas la possibilité d'aller beaucoup plus loin. Je vous remercie.

26.1 **M. Koko** (Tchad) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, chers collègues membres du Conseil exécutif, c'est avec un réel plaisir que je prends la parole au nom de la délégation du Tchad, à l'occasion de la 196^e session du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO. Je voudrais, avant tout, féliciter le Bureau du Conseil exécutif et la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour la qualité de la préparation et de l'organisation de nos travaux. Notre délégation appuie la déclaration du Président du Groupe Afrique présentée par l'Ambassadeur de l'Angola.

26.2 Avant de poursuivre mon propos, je tiens à dire que le Tchad s'associe aux autres délégations pour déplorer et condamner la menace qui pèse sur la paix mondiale du fait du terrorisme aveugle qui sévit sur tous les continents. Notre sous-région n'échappe pas à ce phénomène, incarné par la secte Boko Haram. Aussi la lutte contre l'extrémisme devrait-elle impliquer tous les États épris de paix et de justice. Pour sa part, le Tchad, qui subit indirectement les effets néfastes des actions terroristes perpétrées dans les pays de la sous-région, a dû s'engager résolument pour contribuer à l'éradication de ce phénomène.

26.3 En ce qui concerne l'éducation, notre pays approuve le projet de décision du Conseil exécutif relatif à l'éducation au-delà de 2015. En effet, le Tchad, confronté à la dégradation de son système éducatif, entend développer une éducation bilingue inclusive et de qualité. Il doit pour cela disposer d'un personnel enseignant et d'encadrement suffisamment nombreux et qualifié ainsi que de programmes innovants et de matériels didactiques prenant en compte le développement durable, l'éducation à la citoyenneté et pour une culture de la paix, et la protection du patrimoine culturel, naturel et immatériel. Une place de choix sera accordée à l'éducation des filles et au développement de l'alphabétisation et de l'éducation non formelle.

26.4 Afin de combler la fracture numérique et de résoudre le problème de l'insertion des jeunes dans la vie active, le Tchad a élaboré deux documents de référence : la stratégie intérimaire 2014-2017 pour l'enseignement et la formation techniques et professionnels et un projet pilote d'introduction des TIC dans l'enseignement fondamental, secondaire général, technique et professionnel. À cet égard, le Tchad soutient le projet de décision du Conseil exécutif relatif à la Stratégie pour l'enseignement et la formation techniques et professionnels sur la période 2016-2021. Enfin, notre pays estime que pour permettre à l'UNESCO d'exécuter normalement ses programmes, les États membres devraient s'acquitter régulièrement de leurs contributions statutaires au budget ordinaire de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie de votre bienveillante attention.

27.1 Г-жа Митрофанова (Российская Федерация)
полный текст:

Уважаемые коллеги, уважаемые дамы и господа, наша сессия проходит накануне годовщины очень важного события, которое оставило огромный след в современной истории человечества. Через месяц мы будем отмечать 70-ю годовщину окончания самой кровавой и ужасной войны. В этой связи нельзя не вспомнить, что фашизм принес миру и сколько жизней унесла та страшная война. В той войне погибли 73 млн. человек, вдумайтесь в эту цифру. Советский Союз потерял в той страшной войне каждого десятого жителя, а отдельные районы – каждого третьего жителя. Только вдумайтесь в эти цифры! Ведь за каждой из них стоит чья-то судьба, конкретная жизнь, несбывшиеся надежды и мечты. Я совершенно твердо убеждена, что ЮНЕСКО не может и не должна оставаться в стороне от празднования этой великой Победы. Российская делегация предлагает выступить с общим заявлением по этому поводу, как это сделали наши коллеги в ООН и ряде других международных организаций. Мы подготовим текст проекта и представим на ваше рассмотрение.

27.2 Наша Организация – ЮНЕСКО – была основана 70 лет назад именно по следам той страшной трагедии. Главная цель, которую ставили перед собой ее

создатели, – обеспечение необратимости гуманизации нашего сообщества. Тогда, как, впрочем, и сейчас, была острая необходимость в диалоговой площадке для осмысления ключевых тенденций глобального развития. Совершенно очевидно, что сегодня мир снова переживает весьма сложный период, характеризующийся нестабильностью в политике, экономике и международных отношениях. Мы являемся свидетелями того, как насилие, религиозная и этническая ненависть разрушают социальную ткань целых обществ и общин, ставя под угрозу само их существование. Мы приветствуем заявление, принятое по инициативе России, Ливана и Ватикана 28-й сессией Совета ООН по правам человека «В поддержку прав человека христиан и других общин, в особенности на Ближнем Востоке». Впервые в международных дискуссиях на столь высоком уровне нашла отражение проблема преследования христиан в ближневосточном регионе, их дискриминации. Считали бы, что эта тема, наряду с другими религиозными фобиями, должна получить развитие и на площадке ЮНЕСКО, в первую очередь в рамках Группы высокого уровня по вопросам межкультурного диалога и мира при Генеральном директоре ЮНЕСКО.

27.3 Уважаемые коллеги, мы приветствуем усилия Генерального директора по обеспечению инициативного и эффективного участия в подготовке повестки дня в области развития на период после 2015 г., которая остается приоритетным направлением деятельности ЮНЕСКО. В условиях сегодняшней большой напряженности в мире, большого количества конфликтов особенно важной представляется разработка концепции образования в области глобальной гражданской ответственности. Таким подходом мы говорим, что образование берет на себя ответственность за человека во всех его проявлениях, а не только за определенный набор знаний и умений. А сверхзадача стоит в формировании личностей. Личностей, умеющих жить в согласии с собой и миром. При этом не будем забывать, что только треть стран достигли всех целей программы «Образование для всех». До сих пор 58 млн. детей по тем или иным причинам не посещают начальную школу и приблизительно столько же среднюю. Треть из этих детей находятся в конфликтных зонах. И в решении этих проблем международному сообществу предстоит пройти долгий и нелегкий путь. Мы приветствуем усилия Генерального директора по выполнению резолюции 2199 Совета Безопасности ООН и считаем весьма своевременным инициированный Италией и Испанией проект резолюции, по защите культурных ценностей в зоне конфликтов. Очень важной темой является безопасность журналистов и борьба с безнаказанностью преступлений, совершаемых по отношению к ним. Именно журналисты, честно и беспристрастно выполняющие свой профессиональный долг, все чаще становятся объектами неприкрытого давления и даже целенаправленных вооруженных атак со стороны тех, кто не приемлет их точку зрения. Особенно остро это ощущается в зонах конфликтов. Мы поддерживаем резолюцию, предложенную Швейцарией.

27.4 Теперь о Крыме. Не стану останавливаться на том, что прозвучавшие обвинения необъективны. Напомню, что Крым – это не только территория, но и прежде всего люди, которые сделали свой законный выбор в пользу возвращения в Российскую Федерацию, воспользовавшись своим правом на самоопределение в соответствии со статьей 1 Устава ООН. Недавно последние опросы в Крыму, проведенные, кстати,

украинским агентством GFK Ukraine и журналом Forbes, показали, что подавляющее большинство, более 80%, поддерживает возвращение в состав Российской Федерации и считает, что их жизнь после этого улучшилась. Что же касается надуманной проблемы крымских татар и этнических украинцев, то могу заверить, на них в полной мере распространяются все законодательные нормы Российской Федерации и ее международные обязательства. У них имеются все возможности для защиты своих прав, в том числе через судебные инстанции. Любая информация о нарушениях тщательно проверяется. Информация по Крыму будет предоставлена государствам-членам во второй половине дня в их ячейках. Большое спасибо за внимание.

(27.1) **Ms Mitrofanova (Russian Federation) in extenso (translation from the Russian):**

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, this session is taking place on the eve of the anniversary of a highly important event which had an enormous impact on the modern history of humanity. In one month we shall commemorate the 70th anniversary of the ending of the most bloody and awful war. We must not forget what fascism brought to the world and how many lives were lost in that terrible war. Some 73 million people perished in that war; ponder on that figure. The Soviet Union lost one in ten of its population in that terrible war, and some areas lost one in three. Just think of those numbers! And behind every one of them there is someone's destiny, a real life, unrealized hopes and dreams. I am very strongly convinced that UNESCO cannot and must not stand aside from the commemoration of that great victory. The Russian delegation proposes to make in a joint declaration on that matter, as have our colleagues at the United Nations and a number of other international organizations. We will prepare the text of the draft and submit it for your consideration.

(27.2) Our Organization, UNESCO, was founded 70 years ago, just after that terrible tragedy. The main objective set by its founders was to ensure the irreversible humanization of our society. There was then, as there is indeed now, an urgent need for an interactive space for understanding key trends in worldwide development. It is very clear that today's world is again living through a highly complex period characterized by instability in politics, economics and international relations. We are seeing how violence and religious and ethnic hatred disrupt the social fabric of whole societies and communities, endangering their very existence. We welcome the statement on "Supporting the Human Rights of Christians and other Communities, particularly in the Middle East", adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session, on the initiative of the Russian Federation, Lebanon and the Holy See. This is the first time that expression has been given in international discussions at such a high level to the persecution of Christians in the Middle East and discrimination against them in that region. We would have thought that this issue, along with other forms of religious hatred, should also be developed in the field of interest of UNESCO, primarily in the context of the Director-General's High-Level Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures.

(27.3) Dear colleagues, we welcome the efforts of the Director-General to ensure positive and effective participation in preparing the post-2015 development

agenda, which will be a priority area in the activities of UNESCO. Given the current major tensions in the world and the great number of conflicts, it is particularly important to develop the concept of global citizenship education. We would say that in that approach, education takes responsibility for the fully-rounded individual, and not only for a particular set of knowledge and skills. The supreme task lies in forming people's personalities so that they know how to live in harmony with themselves and with the world. We cannot forget that only one third of countries have attained all the targets of the Education for All programme. Currently, for one reason or another, 58 million children do not benefit from primary education and the number is about the same for secondary school. A third of those children are in conflict areas. The international community has a long and difficult path before it if these problems are to be resolved. We welcome the Director-General's efforts to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015) and we consider the draft decision initiated by Italy and Spain on the protection of cultural treasures in conflict areas to be very timely. Another very important issue relates to the safety of journalists and combating impunity for crimes committed against them. Those very journalists, who carry out their professional tasks honestly and impartially, are increasingly frequently subjected to undisguised pressure and even deliberate armed attacks on the part of those who do not appreciate their viewpoints. This is felt with particular acuteness in conflict areas. We support the decision proposed by Sweden.

(27.4) Now to Crimea. I will not dwell on the fact that the accusations we have heard are not objective. I will recall that Crimea is not only a territory but also, above all, people who have legally made their choice in favour of returning to the Russian Federation, making use of their right to self-determination in accordance with Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations. It is not for nothing that the latest opinion polls in Crimea, which, by the way, were conducted by the Ukrainian agency GFK Ukraine and Forbes magazine, showed that the overwhelming majority, over 80%, are in favour of the return to the Russian Federation and believe that their lives have improved since then. As for the far-fetched problems of the Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians, I can certify that they are protected by all the legislative rules of the Russian Federation and its international obligations. They have every opportunity to defend their rights, including protection through the judicial authorities. Any reported violations of their rights will be thoroughly investigated. Information regarding the Crimea will be provided to Member States this afternoon in their pigeon-holes. Thank you very much for your attention.

28.1 **Mr Budjaku (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) in extenso:**

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia endorses the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union Member States and candidate countries. Allow me, first, to express our condolences to the families of the victims of the terrorist acts in Kenya and Tunisia. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has had a long and fruitful cooperation with UNESCO and we are very grateful to the Organization for

providing support for the organization of three world conferences on interreligious and inter-civilization dialogue, held in Ohrid, a world heritage site. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a multi-religious and multi-ethnic country. These conferences have been valuable for this troubled region and elsewhere, issuing messages of peace, understanding and tolerance through dialogue, with contributions from 700 participants from all over the world. We are very grateful to the Director-General, who has visited our country on several occasions, notably to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Struga Poetry Evenings, one of the oldest poetry festivals in the world, which has given awards to various winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature. I am pleased to announce that the winner of this year's Golden Wreath award is the Chinese poet Bei Dao, who is widely considered to be one of the most important Chinese contemporary authors. Ms Bokova visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia last year on the occasion of the first meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-Eastern Europe, sponsored by UNESCO and aimed at increasing the importance of culture to development. We will continue our close cooperation, participating in many regional initiatives designed to foster cooperation among the Balkan States and elsewhere.

28.2 Madam Director-General, we fully support you in your tireless efforts to reform our Organization in a period of lasting financial difficulties. It is very important to maintain the principal strategic goals, including education, gender equality and Africa, all of which should continue to be implemented through specific programmes in the next biennium. It is crucial for our Organization to pursue reform at a time when it seems that financial difficulties and budget constraints are here to stay; the Organization must therefore plan and adjust its budget accordingly. UNESCO is celebrating its 70th anniversary, a perfect occasion to remind ourselves of its founding principles and make important decisions about its future. The United Nations is about to define the post-2015 development agenda, in which UNESCO should continue to play a leading role within the scope of its mandate and competencies.

28.3 Ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, throughout the history of humanity, security threats have come from the Other, be it a neighbouring feudal entity, State, or group of States. At the beginning of the third millennium, we are seeing a paradigm shift in the nature of security threats, which now come from within societies, States and cultural areas as well as from outside; contemporary threats are mainly collective and threaten the whole of humankind. Therefore, the reaction and response to these threats has to be collective. The first step should be a growing awareness of the nature of the threat. In this regard, we might conclude that humanity is aware of the danger that climate change poses to its very survival. As a result, there are many conferences dedicated to this threat, one of which is the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), which will take place here in Paris later this year. With regard to the other major contemporary threat – terrorism – unfortunately, there is not yet sufficient awareness of the collective nature of this threat. There is still a tendency to treat terrorism as coming from outside, from the Other, in line with the old paradigm and old way of thinking. Once the true nature of this threat has been discerned, adequate measures must be taken. Today's terrorists tend to misuse beliefs and spread fear, exploiting parts of the world's population that have low levels of education and

are vulnerable to manipulation as a result of their precarious economic situation, or because of xenophobia, among other factors. The international community should, as a matter of urgency, raise awareness of the real nature of this threat and take immediate steps to address it through the institutions and mechanisms at its disposal. Since terrorism is fuelled by xenophobia, hatred and ignorance, the most adequate response is to provide more education and promote gender equality because women, and mothers in particular, are the first educators of the next generation and should be given access to education themselves as matter of priority. People need to gain a full understanding of their own religion, culture and civilization in order to have a secure basis for understanding and engaging with the Other – that is, the other religion, culture or civilization. Nevertheless, the question arises: which international collective institution has the moral obligation, competencies and mandate to promote education, gender equality and a culture of peace? Everyone knows the answer: it is UNESCO.

28.4 We are beginning the work of this Board, a major part of which will be dedicated to the budget. Therein lies the biggest paradox: United Nations peacekeeping operations cost \$7 billion per year, but the budget of the United Nations agency that should and can tackle the root causes of modern security threats is 20 times smaller! It is up to all of us, representatives of States from all over the world, both here and with our colleagues in New York, to change this situation! Thank you very much for your attention.

29.1 **Mme Nix-Hines** (États-Unis d'Amérique)
in extenso :

Bonjour à tous, Messieurs les présidents, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, je vais vous parler un peu en français, soyez patients s'il vous plaît, notamment mes collègues francophones. C'est un plaisir d'être ici avec vous pour mon deuxième Conseil exécutif. Beaucoup de choses se sont passées depuis notre dernière réunion. Plusieurs événements, tels que les attaques contre la liberté de la presse, l'extrémisme violent et les dévastations culturelles soulignent l'importance du travail de l'UNESCO.

(L'oratrice poursuit en anglais)

29.2 These events provide the context for a set of core priorities for the United States at UNESCO which I would like to share. But before outlining our strategic priorities, a word about the criteria used to select them. First, it goes without saying that our threshold criterion is that our priorities must be within UNESCO's mandate and of high priority to the United States. Second, our focus is on areas where there is a significant unmet need where we believe we can bring creative leadership that has a significant impact. Third, since results matter, there must be a strong likelihood of achieving tangible and sustainable results which, among other factors, requires a genuine political commitment to making improvements. Finally, we need strong non-governmental organization and private sector partners who will support and leverage our efforts.

29.3 Improving governance at UNESCO is a top priority for the United States. From the boards on which I have served, I know that an organization is only as strong as its leadership and governing body. Dynamic, effective boards can have a positive impact on an organization; ineffectual ones will not. An informal poll taken during last month's governance retreat revealed that the vast majority of participating Member States and UNESCO staff believed that the Executive Board had significant room for

improvement. When we first started working on governance after the fall session of the Executive Board, we were uncertain about whether or not there was the political will for reform. However, the quality of the ideas that emerged from the retreat and the 35 delegations joining an informal governance task force show that there is an appetite – a hunger, even – for constructive change, and I am hopeful we can make real headway.

29.4 A second priority is building a global coalition to combat violent extremism through educational resources that impart the lessons of the Holocaust and modern genocides. Violent attacks around the world and the intentional destruction of historic artefacts are painful reminders that UNESCO's mandate to promote peace and intercultural dialogue remains unfulfilled and requires even greater focus. For this reason, we plan to launch a new public-private partnership to develop state-of-the-art, interactive digital education materials that will have an impact on young people in meaningful ways. I was struck recently by a New York Times account explaining how eight Norwegian teenagers were enticed to join ISIL by a jihadist soccer star in their community. "Everybody loved him," one teenager said. "He was the cool guy who everyone wanted to be." As this story and many others illustrate, we need compelling inputs to persuade young people to reject the forces that divide, foment hatred and demonize the so-called Other, and equip them with the tools and values that they need to embrace tolerance and inclusion.

29.5 A third priority is improving educational opportunities for girls and women, a core goal of UNESCO and the United States. Our focus is two-fold: improving literacy for primary school students through teacher training, use of mobile technologies and early parental intervention, and expanding educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics, known as STEAM, for girls in secondary schools. This summer, for instance, in conjunction with our country's State Department, UNESCO, and other partners, we will host a three-week camp in Rwanda for 120 girls: 30 from the United States and 90 from eight African countries. We hope to launch a similar programme in the United States and, over time, to build other regional STEAM camp centres around the world. The pilot Rwandan camp will expose girls not only to coding but also to leadership and entrepreneurial training in a multicultural setting. Our goal is to stimulate interest in technology fields and then provide opportunities for continuous learning at home. I invite my colleagues to help us to identify powerful role models who can inspire the girls to expand their conceptions of what is possible for their lives.

29.6 A fourth priority is deepening our work in protecting both freedom of expression and the safety of journalists. Our focus is on developing ways to increase public awareness of threats to press freedom, and enhancing training and other resources for journalists in danger zones, in conjunction with the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

29.7 Fifth, we are working actively to develop new UNESCO partners, including prominent private sector leaders and celebrities, who can help to raise UNESCO's visibility and impact.

29.8 Finally, in the light of last week's challenging meetings of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), we hope to facilitate further dialogue on how we can improve the functioning and

impact of the Committee in order to fulfil UNESCO's human rights mandate. But we need to respect the Committee's statutes, integrity and commitment to consensus in the process. As we mark UNESCO's 70th anniversary, the United States reaffirms its commitment to find practical and creative ways to help this Organization to advance. Together, we can achieve new heights.

30.1 **Mr Kalinoe** (Papua New Guinea) *in extenso*:

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset may I commend you, Mr Chair, on your leadership in conducting this meeting and convey the apologies of the Minister for Education and Chair of the Papua New Guinea National Commission for UNESCO, who is not able to attend this session. However, on his behalf, I take this opportunity to reaffirm Papua New Guinea's commitment to UNESCO and the goals and objectives to which the Organization aspires. My delegation has taken note of the challenges and opportunities that you outlined clearly, Mr Chair, in your opening remarks yesterday. Recent unfriendly activities in certain regions of the world pose a serious threat to the orderly execution of UNESCO's mandate and the fulfilment of its responsibilities. Further, according to the Director-General's statement, resource constraints including an insufficient budget are limiting UNESCO's full potential to deliver on its mandate. Despite these challenges, the Director-General and her team are determined to push ahead, and that is encouraging. All that is needed to achieve the agreed objectives is for Member States and UNESCO's partners to assist in this push.

30.2 Mr Chair, Papua New Guinea appreciates what UNESCO has done and is doing to fulfil its core responsibilities. In this regard, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General on her commitment and dedication to assisting the small islands developing States (SIDS) in overcoming the challenges they face by preparing a draft action plan for SIDS, based on the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, which is before this Board for consideration. Some of the issues proposed for action require an immediate response, including those relating to enhancing the resilience and sustainability of the environment, oceans, fresh water and natural resources. We are pleased to note that priority 1 of the action plan identifies quality education and education delivery as variables needed to achieve sustainable development through education. As part of Papua New Guinea's efforts to implement the education for all agenda, these issues are being identified as areas for attention. While teacher training and adequate resources, including financial resources, continue to be important elements in any programme roll-out, our experience has shown that remote and isolated communities require special attention. In addition to teachers and the usual methods of delivery, these communities need innovative methods such as combining sustainable energy power, information technology and communication to ensure quality, relevance and accessibility. Consideration should therefore be given to including sustainable energy, information technology and communication in learning as part of the delivery mechanism for education for sustainable development under priority 1 of the draft action plan. My delegation supports the general thrust of the action plan and looks forward to its implementation.

30.3 Mr Chair, on the issue of climate change, adaptation and sustainability, Papua New Guinea has taken a very serious and practical approach in a number

of areas, including natural resource sustainability in the field of forest management. We were part of the original group of like-minded countries from Africa and South America that initiated the move to preserve our rainforest for the betterment of the rest of the world. We hope that the initiative will be on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris this year and that it will result in a framework for sustainable development using our natural resources.

30.4 Mr Chair, the areas of biodiversity, culture and heritage are each important in their own right. The unwarranted destruction of sites and monuments of national cultural heritage significance and the trafficking in valuable materials of that kind must be stopped. The work done by UNESCO to preserve biodiversity, culture and heritage is very useful indeed. Nonetheless, Papua New Guinea would like to see UNESCO's efforts backed up by a well-coordinated global response to overcome the challenges posed by the destruction of and trafficking in materials of cultural heritage significance and value. I thank you, Mr Chair.

31.1 **M. Niiazov** (Turkmenistan) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, je voudrais souligner tout d'abord que le Turkménistan s'associe à la déclaration faite au nom du Groupe ASPAC par la délégation du Bangladesh. Les débats d'hier et d'aujourd'hui, très enrichissants, portent sur l'avenir de l'UNESCO et se fondent sur les résultats très positifs des activités menées par l'Organisation depuis sa création. Il est évident cependant que l'avenir de notre Organisation dépendra de nos efforts collectifs. Nous remercions la Directrice générale et la Présidente du Groupe préparatoire des rapports présentés sur les programmes pour l'après-2015 et nous soutenons pleinement les réformes proposées pour notre Maison.

(L'orateur poursuit en russe)

31.2 С другой стороны, вопросы культуры и образования, науки и коммуникации неразделимы и в конечном счете призваны обеспечить стабильность через толерантность в широком смысле слова. Туркменистан, 20-летие статуса постоянного нейтралитета которого отмечается в этом году, на основе двусторонних отношений и активного участия в деятельности региональных и глобальных международных организаций вносит свою лепту в сохранение мира и развитие отношений в пользу общечеловеческих ценностей. Относительно разделяемой нами стратегии ЮНЕСКО наша позиция заключается в том, что каждый должен внести свою лепту в повышение эффективности деятельности ЮНЕСКО, возможно, через еще большую децентрализацию, с усилением внимания на проблемах образования в Африке и в особенности образования женщин. В этом вопросе Туркменистан накопил определенный опыт и мог бы поделиться им и оказать нашему общему дому свою соответствующую поддержку.

31.3 Относительно текущих бюджетных трудностей нам представляется важным сохранение традиций

ЮНЕСКО, сложившихся в течение 70 лет, несмотря на нынешние трудности, которые, мы уверены, являются временными и преодолимыми, о чем свидетельствуют меры, принимаемые госпожой Генеральной директором ЮНЕСКО и Секретариатом. С другой стороны, нам представляется, что наши решения, принимаемые документы должны быть понятны всем, в том числе с точки зрения терминологии: к сожалению, и уже давно, приняты и находятся в обороте некоторые понятия без их конкретного определения и без определения конкретного содержания, что не позволяет нам определить однозначное отношение к этим понятиям. В целом, Туркменистан намерен усилить и расширить свое участие в деятельности ЮНЕСКО, особенно в борьбе против насилия и терроризма в любой их форме. Спасибо за внимание.

(31.2) On the other hand, issues of culture and education, sciences and communications are inseparable and in the end are called upon to provide stability through tolerance in the broad sense of the word. Turkmenistan, which this year marks the twentieth anniversary of its permanent neutrality, on the basis of its bilateral relations and its active participation in international organizations on the regional and global levels, makes its contribution to maintaining peace and the development of relations on behalf of values which are common to all humankind. Concerning the UNESCO strategies in which we share, our position comes down to the fact that everyone must make his or her contribution to improving the effectiveness of UNESCO's activities, perhaps through greater decentralization, with greater attention paid to issues of education in Africa and women's education in particular. Turkmenistan has accumulated a certain experience in this area and would be able to share it and give its appropriate support to our common home.

(31.3) Concerning the current budgetary difficulties, we believe it is important to preserve the traditions of UNESCO, which have been laid down over a period of 70 years, despite the current difficulties which we are sure are temporary and surmountable, as is shown by the measures being taken by the Director-General and the Secretariat. On the other hand, we believe that our decisions and the documents we adopt must be understood by all, including from the viewpoint of terminology: unfortunately, for many years, some concepts have been taken and are in circulation without concrete definitions and without a definition of their concrete substance, which means that we are unable to determine a simple approach to those concepts. As a whole, Turkmenistan intends to strengthen and broaden its participation in UNESCO's activities, particularly in combating violence and all forms of terrorism. Thank you for your attention.

The meeting rose at 1.00 p.m.

FOURTH MEETING

Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 3.10 p.m.

Chair: Mr Amr

REPORTING ITEMS (*continued*)

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme Implementation Report (PIR) (1 January-31 December 2014) (196 EX/4 Part I and Corr.-Corr.2; 196 EX/4.INF; 196 EX/4.INF.4; 196 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37C/5) as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited), budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited) (196 EX/4 Part II and Corr. and Add.; 196 EX/4.INF.2; 196 EX/4.INF.3; 196 EX/PG.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions (*continued*)

Item 5.I: Programme issues (196 EX/5 Part I and Add.; 196 EX/5.INF.3) (*continued*)

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (196 EX/5 Part II) (*continued*)

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues (196 EX/5 Part III and Corr.) (*continued*)

Item 5.IV: Management issues (196 EX/5 Part IV; 196 EX/5.INF) (*continued*)

Item 5.V: Human resources issues (196 EX/5 Part V; 196 EX/5.INF.2; 196 EX/5.INF.4) (*continued*)

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

Item 15: Draft budget for the Biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5) (38 C/5 Draft; 196 EX/15.INF and Rev.; 196 EX/15.INF.3) (*continued*)

Plenary debate (*continued*)

1. **The Chair** invited observers of Member States and of non-Member States to address the Board under Rule 30(3) of its Rules of Procedure.

2.1 **Mr Godia** (Permanent Delegate of Kenya to UNESCO) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government and people of Kenya, I sincerely appreciate the tribute paid to the memory of the victims of the attack on Garissa University College. Kenya has received many messages of condolence and strong expressions of solidarity from permanent delegations to UNESCO, the Director-General and staff of UNESCO as well as many people of goodwill. Your solidarity underlines the fact that the attack was not only against innocent and promising youth but against all of humanity. It also affirms that terrorism and all forms of extremism present a global threat requiring robust international partnerships.

2.2 Kenya has embraced its diversity. Our multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-religious character has been and will remain a point of pride for Kenya and a source of great strength against adversity. "*Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences*

of peace must be constructed": 70 years after the creation of UNESCO, this quote from the UNESCO Constitution continues to be very relevant. The tragic event at Garissa University College further reinforces the relevance of UNESCO's mandate, particularly with regard to the promotion of education for a culture of peace and non-violence, the appreciation of cultural and religious diversity, the management of social and religious transformations, and youth empowerment.

2.3 Finally, Kenya stands firmly in solidarity with those Member States that are also confronted by such violence. We must ensure that UNESCO's message reaches young people who are particularly vulnerable to radicalization. In a globalized world, learning to live with diversity is not an option. Youth has an enormous potential to promote tolerance, mutual understanding and dialogue. Thank you for your attention.

3. **Mr Dalsgaard** (Secretary-General of the Danish National Commission) *in extenso*:

Thank you, Mr Chair. I have asked for the floor to comment on the question of the budget – this concerns all Member States and all of UNESCO and its capacity to deliver. We often confirm each other in our belief in the continued relevance and urgency of UNESCO's mandate and our wish to see more action, stronger impact and clearer leadership, not least in the follow-up to the post-2015 education agenda, and in all the future sustainable development goals (SDGs) relevant to UNESCO's mandate. Now is the time for Member States to accompany the sweet talk by action. Our delegation has a clear mandate to support the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) budget scenario as proposed by the Director-General. Listening to the plenary debate, it is obvious that this is shared by a vast majority of Members of the Board. So, we echo the statement of Sweden and others and strongly encourage the Board to make a clear recommendation to the General Conference in favour of a ZNG+ budget, and we are perfectly ready to contribute our share to the increase, as and when necessary. Thank you.

4.1 **Sra Casati** (Delegada Permanente Adjunto del Paraguay ante la UNESCO) *in extenso*:

Muchas gracias. Los valores y el rol de la UNESCO hoy se encuentran más vigentes que nunca y está en manos de este Consejo Ejecutivo examinar los elementos necesarios para darle las herramientas que le permitan responder a las expectativas que el mundo tiene de la Organización.

4.2 El Paraguay, ahora que se está celebrando el 60º aniversario de su ingreso en la UNESCO y presenta su candidatura al Consejo Ejecutivo. Con el apoyo de todos ustedes, esperamos estar por primera vez en este órgano rector en la próxima reunión de la primavera, contribuyendo a la búsqueda de las respuestas que necesita nuestra Organización.

4.3 El liderazgo de la UNESCO en el sector de la educación, y específicamente en relación con los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible de la agenda de la educación para después de 2015, que consta de un objetivo global y siete metas por desarrollar, ubican al organismo ante el gran desafío de buscar un mundo mejor por medio de una educación de calidad. En este sentido, pensamos que el próximo Foro Mundial sobre la Educación de 2015, que se celebrará en Incheon (República de Corea), le otorgará al proceso la legitimidad necesaria para continuar avanzando hacia los objetivos propuestos.

4.4 En el sector de la cultura, es necesario continuar trabajando en la hoja de ruta que marcan convenciones a fin de hacer frente a los desafíos contemporáneos.

4.5 En el sector de la comunicación y la información, estamos convencidos de la imperiosa necesidad de promover la libertad de expresión y del relevante rol de los poderes judiciales en la lucha contra la impunidad de los crímenes contra periodistas. Por consiguiente, En hemos otorgado nuestro apoyo al proyecto de decisión presentado por la Delegación de Suecia.

4.6 Igualmente seguimos muy de cerca el debate sobre el presupuesto. Esperamos que esta reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo nos permita esclarecer dudas, encontrar soluciones y alcanzar entre todos los compromisos que desemboquen en una UNESCO más robusta, dinámica y eficiente. Muchas gracias.

(4.1) **Mme Casati** (Délégué permanent adjoint du Paraguay auprès de l'UNESCO) *in extenso* (traduit de l'espagnol) :

Les valeurs et le rôle de l'UNESCO n'ont jamais été autant d'actualité et il appartient au Conseil exécutif d'étudier les éléments nécessaires pour donner à l'Organisation les moyens de répondre aux attentes que le monde place en elle.

(4.2) Le Paraguay, qui célèbre le 60^e anniversaire de son adhésion à l'UNESCO, présente sa candidature au Conseil exécutif. Avec votre appui à tous, nous espérons siéger pour la première fois au sein de cet organe directeur à la prochaine session de printemps, et ainsi contribuer à trouver les réponses dont notre Organisation a besoin.

(4.3) Le *leadership* de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de l'éducation, notamment pour ce qui est des objectifs de développement durable de l'agenda pour l'éducation post-2015, qui comporte un objectif global et sept cibles à définir, place l'UNESCO face à l'immense défi d'édifier un monde meilleur grâce à une éducation de qualité. À cet égard, nous pensons que le Forum mondial sur l'éducation 2015, qui se tiendra prochainement à Incheon (République de Corée), permettra de conférer à ce processus la légitimité nécessaire pour continuer d'avancer en direction des objectifs proposés.

(4.4) Dans le domaine de la culture, il faut continuer de suivre la feuille de route que constituent les conventions en la matière afin de relever les défis d'aujourd'hui.

(4.5) Dans le domaine de la communication et de l'information, nous sommes convaincus de la nécessité impérieuse de promouvoir la liberté d'expression ainsi que le rôle remarquable des autorités judiciaires dans la lutte contre l'impunité concernant les crimes commis contre des journalistes. C'est pourquoi nous apportons notre soutien au projet de décision présenté par la délégation de la Suède.

(4.6) Nous suivons également de très près les discussions à propos du budget. Nous espérons que la présente session du Conseil exécutif nous permettra de lever certains doutes, de trouver des solutions et de parvenir à des compromis qui rendront l'UNESCO plus robuste, plus dynamique et plus efficace. Je vous remercie.

5. **Mr Sheya** (Deputy Permanent Delegate, United Republic of Tanzania) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, at the outset, please allow me to commend the Director-General for the implementation of UNESCO's programme in spite of the financial difficulty the Organization is facing. The year 2015 presents a turning point in the history of UNESCO. The year 2015 marks the end of the EFA Goals and education-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The year 2015 offers a new opportunity to conclude the debate on the post-2015 development agenda. Given that EFA is still unfinished business in a great number of countries, particularly in Africa, the post-2015 agenda offers yet another opportunity to work on what we were not able to accomplish under education for all and the Millennium Development Goals. We commend UNESCO for its contribution to the post-2015 agenda and its various processes. It is now up to UNESCO's Member States to maintain the momentum, and to ensure that the gains made so far in the areas of education, the sciences, culture, communication and information are not lost – indeed, they should be strengthened. The power of UNESCO lies in its ability to deliver. This calls for adequate financial and human capital. It is the responsibility of Member States to ensure that the Organization is empowered to carry out its work efficiently and effectively. While we commend the Director-General for her efforts to streamline the staff of the Organization in order to reduce administrative costs, there is a limit to what she is able to do and what she is able to cut. My delegation welcomes the zero nominal growth plus budget scenario even though we are aware that, with the \$518 million expenditure plan, the Organization will still be operating under stringent budgetary conditions in addressing the two UNESCO global priorities, Africa and Gender Equality, and indeed the six African flagship programmes. I thank you, Mr Chair.

6.1 **Ms Lazaro** (Permanent Delegate of the Philippines to UNESCO) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We thank the Director-General for her remarks and for the reports of the Secretariat to the Executive Board under items 4, 5, and 15. We also thank you for giving us the opportunity to deliver this statement.

6.2 The Group of 77 and China consists of 134 United Nations Member States and represents over half the world's population. While many of our members have made great progress in raising the living standards of their peoples, we continue to face severe challenges to development and remain in need of the international cooperation provided through the Organization. Thus, UNESCO's work sector-wide remains extremely important to the members of the G77 and China, in all the Organization's fields of competence: education, natural, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information. We also support UNESCO's priorities, particularly the action plan based on the SAMOA Pathway, and youth-related issues.

6.3 As we celebrate UNESCO's 70th anniversary and look forward to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, we believe this year, 2015, is a time for collective reflection, renewal and concerted action. More than ever, the demands on UNESCO are increasing as we witness the rise of violent extremism and conflicts, widening inequalities and global challenges such as natural disasters and climate change. These affect all countries, whether from the South or North, whether developed or developing.

6.4 We agree, as stated in the draft programme and budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5 Draft), that “UNESCO’s mandate is vital to the success of the future agenda, to build sound foundations for sustainable development, lasting peace, and meaningful international cooperation, on the basis of solidarity, dialogue, mutual respect and justice”. We are quite concerned about the financial constraints facing the Organization. Core programmes and capacities of the Organization under the regular budget, such as Priority Africa, gender equality, intercultural dialogue, the culture of peace, protection of cultural and natural heritage, and the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), among others, must be strengthened. Overdependence on extrabudgetary resources reduces predictability and hampers sustainability. Transparency and accountability are more necessary than ever. We therefore encourage the Member States on the Executive Board to adopt a constructive and forward-looking approach when analysing the draft programme and budget. Thank you.

7.1 **Mr Soelaiman** (Deputy Permanent Delegate of Indonesia to UNESCO) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair, as chair for the year 2015 of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of its ten Member States, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. We wish to thank the Director-General for her report.

7.2 The year 2015 is of great importance for ASEAN member countries. By the end of this year, ASEAN will have established an ASEAN Community built on three pillars: the ASEAN Political Community, the ASEAN Economic Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. The 650 million people in the ten ASEAN countries shall formally become one entity, reflecting an identity of political cohesion, economic integration and social responsibility. The creation of the ASEAN Community has strengthened the peace and stability of our region. It allows our regional and national economies to flourish and develop. This benefits not only the region, but the international community as a whole, as ASEAN contributes to peace, stability, and prosperity at the global level. In strengthening the cooperation between ASEAN and UNESCO, a framework agreement for cooperation between the two organizations was signed in 2013. The challenge is now to implement the agreement. In that regard, we look forward to enhanced dialogue and cooperation with the Secretariat, including with the regional offices in Jakarta and Bangkok. In conclusion, with the ASEAN Community in place, ten sovereign Member States stand ready to work closely with UNESCO in its fields of competence, namely, education, science, culture, information and communication, to maintain and promote peace and sustainable development. I thank you.

8.1 **The President of the General Conference** *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished Ambassadors, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Usually, my speeches to the Executive Board are before lunch, when everyone is very hungry and tired. I think that is a way of telling me to keep my speech short. When I heard that I was going to speak this afternoon, I was very happy to have enough time to exchange ideas with you. First of all I would like to thank the Chair of the Executive Board, the Director-General, the Secretariat and all the representatives of the Member States for the efficient and careful preparation of the meeting.

8.2 This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the war and the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. Throughout the general debate of the past two days, representatives have expressed pride and joy over the many achievements, as well as concerns over the growth of extremism and cultural intolerance in some parts of the world, and the recent violence of extremism, especially against civilians, among them women, children, students, and cultural heritage. The most recent tragedy in Kenya killed 148 students. These events present challenges to the human conscience. As a Chinese saying goes, ice one metre deep is not frozen in one day. Globalization in the twenty-first century has not only accelerated economic growth, but also widened the gap between the rich and the poor, leading to growing social disparity. Now we have come to a crucial crossroads: conflict or peace? We cannot afford to hesitate. We must take action and make the right choice. I believe reconciliation and peace is the only choice.

8.3 Ladies and gentlemen, as both history and reality show, resentment and hostility cannot eliminate cultural differences. War and conflict will only bring loss of life, destruction of cultural heritage, and trauma to human hearts. Humankind has only one earth, and it is home to all countries. To live together peacefully and construct the community of common destiny, all Member States should uphold at least three basic principles: mutual respect, equal dialogue and harmonious coexistence. First of all, mutual respect is fundamental for friendly exchanges and the peaceful coexistence of different peoples. Differences are not causes of conflict. When he visited UNESCO last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping said: “Civilizations have come in different colours, and such diversity has made exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations relevant and valuable.” Last week during his visit to UNESCO, Prime Minister Modi of India also said: “Culture must connect, not divide, our world.” To make the connections for understanding, mutual trust and friendship, mutual respect is the first step we should take. Secondly, equal dialogue has to be the way to deal with differences. The world is full of contradictions. In frequent international communication and exchanges, disagreement is normal. But violence is not the solution to disagreement, because stability gained by violence will not last long. Only through equal dialogue can we find common ground, avoid misunderstanding and build lasting peace. Finally, harmonious coexistence is the goal that we are pursuing. In traditional Chinese philosophy, the concept of “harmony” is the key to keeping the balance among humans, nature and the universe. This balance will lead to a desirable state in which everyone and everything get along well, with no harm to the environment or to others. In a world where people differ, with mutual admiration, perfection based on diversity can be achieved. The harmony we promote means that all countries are defenders of the idea of living together, the attitude of tolerance and respect of differences, and the preservation of harmony as one of our dearest values.

8.4 In fact, the above principles are not new. They have already been incorporated in our Organization’s conventions and documents, such as the 2001 UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. The Silk Roads Project, started in 1990, is also a good embodiment of cultural exchanges, equal dialogue and peaceful coexistence of peoples of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. I would like to see more of silk roads, including the Maritime Silk Road, inscribed on the World Heritage List in order to promote tolerance, understanding and cooperation for peaceful development. I would also like to emphasize that the purpose of education is to build peace in the minds of people and transmit it from generation

to generation, like genes. Under the Global Education First Initiative (GEFI), UNESCO promotes education for responsible citizenship; the principles of living together, love and compassion, and peace; and cooperation on the post-2015 development agenda. The World Education Forum in the Republic of Korea, the International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Post-2015 Education in China next month, and the Ninth UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris in October, will provide good platforms for promoting peace education.

8.5 Meanwhile, I encourage you to make every effort to promote social inclusion and intercultural dialogue in the age of social transformation, as endorsed by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 37th session. I believe that the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in June 2015 in Bonn, Germany will fine-tune our action on cultural heritage protection and preservation and cultural exchange. As proposed by President Xi Jinping at the 2015 Boao Forum for Asia, a conference for dialogue among Asian civilizations, and even worldwide, would be of major significance. Taking the initiative in the dialogue of civilizations will demonstrate UNESCO's leadership in promoting equal dialogue.

8.6 Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, the success of the entire year depends on a good start in the spring. The 196th session of the Executive Board is important for making plans for future work, and for the 38th session of the General Conference in the autumn. I am confident that our concerted efforts will bring a better future for the Organization, which will be the best way to celebrate its 70th anniversary. Thank you very much.

9. **The Chair** invited the Director-General to make her reply to the statements made during the plenary debate.

Reply by the Director-General to the plenary debate

10.1 **The Director-General** *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to start by thanking all the Members of the Board for the clarity and depth of the commitment to this Organization they have expressed. The tone was set eloquently and powerfully by you, Mr Chair, in an introductory speech that explored the origins of the Organization in London in 1942, that reminded us of the vision that inspired UNESCO's creation in 1945, that shone light on the salience of the Organization's mandate today, in new times of turbulence and change. As you said, Mr Chair, this is a moment of responsibility for Member States, for this Organization, for the international community as a whole. In your words, this calls for strategic decision-making, decision-making that renews the spirit and values of this Organization, decision-making that rises above the technocratic.

10.2 This message of strategic responsibility was echoed by all the permanent delegates from across the world. The distinguished representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland spoke of the importance of UNESCO, noting that "world events have tragically shown how nothing we work for at UNESCO can be taken for granted". The Chair of GRULAC, the distinguished representative of Ecuador, highlighted the profound crisis affecting all countries today – a political, economic, social and ecological crisis – which makes it incumbent on all Member States to engage ever more firmly with the core mandate of UNESCO. The distinguished representative of Japan said "The Organization stands at a critical juncture." In a similar vein, the distinguished representative of Italy spoke of the Organization facing "a

turning point in its history". The distinguished representative of Brazil emphasized that "the role of UNESCO has never been more relevant". This was echoed by the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea, who spoke of UNESCO's importance in what he called a "monumental year" for the international community, as it shapes a new global sustainable development agenda.

10.3 The distinguished representative of Uganda underlined UNESCO's role in addressing the rising "peacelessness" across the world, just as the distinguished representative of Cuba stressed the importance of peace as the condition for all development. In this context, the distinguished representative of Indonesia reminded us all of the urgent need for "bringing into reality UNESCO's purpose".

10.4 The distinguished representative of Angola, speaking on behalf of the Africa Group, called for Member States to demonstrate greater determination in supporting the Organization at a time of such high expectations. The distinguished representative of Ethiopia made the stakes clear – without the necessary means, UNESCO will be faced with "weaker delivery, a reduced field presence, a considerable loss of expertise and lower visibility within the United Nations system". The distinguished representative of Estonia was equally clear – "under both expenditure plans [...] the funds will not be sufficient to deliver on the high expectations of Member States and the global community in the framework of the post-2015 agenda". In this context, the distinguished representative of Namibia made a powerful appeal to all, to "rise to the occasion," in order to provide the Organization with the support it needs, today and tomorrow. The distinguished representative of Mexico took a high-level strategic perspective, focusing on the weakness of investment in peace and in education, and calling on all Member States to support UNESCO. Similarly, the distinguished representative of India called on Member States "to rededicate ourselves to building a global society of tolerance based on universal human rights, respect for diversity and a permanent and creative dialogue, governed by mutual respect". The distinguished representative of China called for a renewed resolution to find solutions, to support the Organization with adequate resources – and the distinguished representative of Sweden called for a "stable, predictable and sufficient level of financing". In a similar spirit, the distinguished representative of Morocco called on Member States to mobilize to strengthen UNESCO's action and "provide concrete support to exit from this unsustainable financial situation".

10.5 From all this, I believe, emerges a clear message. Created 70 years ago, UNESCO has never been so in tune with the needs of societies, so relevant to the demands of new times. This is true today, in societies undergoing transformation across the world, in conflicts where education and culture stand on the front lines. This will be true tomorrow, for the success of the new global sustainable development agenda. Education, the sciences, culture, communication and information – these are foundations for human rights and dignity, these are forces for the sustainability of all efforts for poverty eradication and development, these are the strongest defences of lasting peace. And yet UNESCO is working today in unsustainable circumstances. So, yes, this is a moment for strategic decision-making. Yes, this is a moment of responsibility. Responsibility for the values that have guided this Organization for 70 years. Responsibility to answer the call for UNESCO that is rising from societies across the world. Responsibility for the success of the future sustainable

development agenda. I heard recognition of this responsibility in every statement.

10.6 I agree with the Member States – this is a turning point, and I wish to thank all the representatives for the determination they expressed to make the choices required to support the Organization. Every statement showed the commitment of States to find solutions, to craft new paths for UNESCO to deliver effectively, to set the Organization on a predictable foundation. Every statement highlighted the fact that there is only one way forward. That way is together, guided by our shared vision. It is through further deep reform. It is through further support, to shape the Organization all societies need, on a sufficient and predictable basis. The distinguished representative of Belize cited the great singer and songwriter Bob Marley – “we are coming in from the cold” – and I welcome this spirit of resolve, determination and optimism. We are coming in from the cold.

10.7 The distinguished representative of Argentina reminded us of the words of the great Eduardo Galeano, who sadly passed away yesterday: “*La utopía está en el horizonte. Me acerco dos pasos, y ella se aleja dos pasos. Camino diez pasos y el horizonte se corre diez pasos más allá.*” “*Entonces, ¿para qué sirve la utopía?*” We must, indeed, continue to step forward together – this was highlighted in all statements –, guided by a common vision, guided by the values and objectives we share. This is true for all UNESCO’s action.

10.8 I thank Member States for their endorsement of UNESCO for promoting freedom of expression – including through our leadership of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. Much has been accomplished, but there is room for ever stronger action, so I welcome the calls by so many Member States for additional support. There was similar strong support for UNESCO’s Global Priority Gender Equality – starting with you, Mr Chair, when you spoke of the need to promote women’s empowerment as indispensable to the post-2015 agenda as a pillar of peaceful and sustainable societies.

(The Director-General continued in French)

10.9 Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi d’en venir à une question extrêmement importante, abordée par la majorité des États membres, si ce n’est l’ensemble d’entre eux, pendant le débat général. Vous avez évoqué avec émotion et un profond engagement les attaques multiples perpétrées contre les écoles, les étudiants, l’éducation en général, les universités, les bibliothèques, le patrimoine, les journalistes, les professeurs. C’est un enjeu contemporain, qui touche au cœur de la mission de l’UNESCO et, comme l’a souligné le distingué représentant de l’ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine, nous travaillons à enraciner les fondements de la sécurité moderne.

10.10 L’UNESCO, j’en suis convaincue, remplit une mission essentielle pour la paix et la sécurité dans le monde actuel, dans une guerre où la force des armes ne suffit pas. Cette pertinence, cette urgence, et je dirais même cette évidence de l’UNESCO ont été réaffirmées par le pape François lors de l’audience solennelle qu’il nous a accordée avec le Président de la Conférence générale et le Président du Conseil exécutif, à Rome, le 2 mars dernier. Sa Sainteté a justement salué l’action de l’UNESCO en faveur du dialogue interculturel et interreligieux, ainsi que l’importance de l’éducation dans la lutte contre l’exclusion et l’intolérance. Nous devons avoir

les moyens de faire vivre ce dialogue au quotidien, sur le terrain, auprès des jeunes.

10.11 Vous avez condamné avec force la destruction délibérée du patrimoine culturel mondial. Vous avez condamné avec force les attaques terroristes contre le Musée du Bardo. Je remercie à ce propos le distingué représentant de la Tunisie pour avoir salué l’action de l’UNESCO, qui a défendu le peuple tunisien et lui a exprimé sa solidarité. Vous avez aussi évoqué vos propres initiatives, que je salue, en vue d’adopter des résolutions fortes et claires concernant le mandat et l’action de l’UNESCO en faveur de ce patrimoine qui revêt une telle importance pour toute l’humanité, pour le dialogue et pour la paix future. Je crois que la défense de ce patrimoine correspond à un besoin vital des sociétés et, à bien des égards, nous sommes les seuls à pouvoir y répondre. Nous avons la responsabilité de le faire, avec l’aide des chefs politiques et religieux, des rabbins, des évêques et des imams que nous avons réunis ici, à l’UNESCO, ou récemment à Bagdad avec notre organisation sœur, l’Organisation islamique pour l’éducation, les sciences et la culture (ISESCO).

10.12 Notre rôle est d’élever des remparts contre la haine et l’extrémisme, par l’éducation, la culture, la connaissance, le dialogue interculturel. La distinguée représentante de l’Italie l’a parfaitement résumé en rappelant qu’« aucun progrès durable ne peut être atteint si les individus ne possèdent pas les moyens d’accéder aux connaissances et à la culture ». Il faut ici évoquer également la question de la liberté d’expression car notre plaidoyer en la matière concerne aussi la liberté d’accéder aux connaissances et à la culture, la liberté de s’exprimer et de s’épanouir pleinement dans le respect des autres, dans un monde globalisé.

10.13 Voilà notre stratégie. Elle s’incarne dans des programmes phares que nous devons avoir les moyens de mener à bien en vue du programme de développement pour l’après-2015. Notre défi consiste à revoir nos méthodes pour que la pertinence de notre mandat nous permette d’obtenir encore davantage de bénéfices concrets et de résultats tangibles. L’UNESCO doit avoir les moyens de remplir cette mission, en gardant à l’esprit la sagesse de Martin Luther King, qui déclarait dans son discours de réception du prix Nobel, si justement rappelé ce matin par le distingué représentant de Belize : « La vérité désarmée et l’amour inconditionnel auront toujours le dernier mot. Et le bien, même temporairement vaincu, est plus fort que le mal qui triomphe ». C’est par cette citation, Monsieur le Président, que je termine mon introduction et, avec votre permission, je demanderais aux sous-directeurs généraux de faire en sorte que des réponses concrètes soient données à certaines des interventions de ce matin. J’invite à présent le Directeur général adjoint, Monsieur Getachew Engida, à s’exprimer sur les questions relatives à la liberté d’expression, la sécurité des journalistes et l’accès à l’information et à la communication.

11. **Mr Engida** (acting Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information – ADG/CI a.i.) said that many delegations had emphasized the importance of freedom of expression, the free flow of information and the issue of impunity. Regrettably, impunity remained the norm, with fewer than one in ten killings resulting in a conviction, and political commitment to the safety of journalists remained low. UNESCO was leading efforts to tackle those pressing challenges, including by spearheading the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. In that

regard, the Director-General was very grateful for the extrabudgetary support received during the current biennium from Austria, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and Norway and the European Union, to promote an enabling environment, online and offline, for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalists' safety. UNESCO was also endeavouring to improve information sharing between field offices and Headquarters on matters relating to the United Nations Plan of Action, including through a dedicated bimonthly newsletter. Furthermore, it contributed to the United Nations universal periodic review process by providing information on issues relating to freedom of expression and the safety of journalists. An important aspect of those efforts involved strengthening cooperation with other stakeholders, especially regarding the safety of women journalists. UNESCO had recently added to its new model journalism curricula a compendium on safety issues and on promotion of gender-sensitive indicators in the media, and journalist safety indicators worldwide.

12. **Mr Tang** (Assistant Director-General for Education – ADG/ED) said that UNESCO was endeavouring to address the “unfinished” business of education for all, which was of particular concern to the African countries. To that end, a meeting was being planned with the Commission of the African Union to review the current EFA situation and determine how the particular needs of African countries could be reflected in the policy and methodology used to implement the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Many Board Members had commended the Director-General for positioning UNESCO to play a leading role in drawing up the agenda. In that regard, the Final Statement issued by the Global Education for All Meeting in May 2014, known as the Muscat Agreement, had been a milestone: a substantial portion of its content was reflected in goal 4 proposed by the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, clearly demonstrating that education could play a central role in the overall sustainable development agenda. The content not covered under goal 4 would be incorporated into the framework for action, and the final declaration to be drawn up at the World Education Forum in May 2015, the most important event in educational development in two decades. A global coordination architecture to assist Member States in implementing the new development agenda would also be elaborated at the Forum. The large number of countries that had already registered for it demonstrated the international community's determination to implement the new agenda, with UNESCO playing a key role as the United Nations agency specialized in education.

13.1 The **Director-General** said that she had just received news of a bomb attack on a United Nations building in Mogadishu, Somalia. A UNESCO official who was attending an EFA meeting in the building was unharmed, and a security officer was monitoring the situation. The incident showed, however, that UNESCO was not immune to the threat of violence.

13.2 In respect of the forthcoming World Education Forum, she thanked the Republic of Korea and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for convening, in cooperation with UNESCO, an information meeting about the Forum, which had brought together United Nations agencies and Member States during the final stages of preparation for the Forum and would undoubtedly contribute to its success.

14.1 **Ms Schlegel** (Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences – ADG/SC) thanked Member States for supporting the programmes executed by the Natural Sciences Sector, in particular capacity building in science

and engineering. The Organization, in partnership with the German Commission for UNESCO, had produced a prototype manual for use in training biosphere reserve managers. Several regional training courses had been conducted in 2014. For example, technical training on ecological monitoring of biosphere reserves, geoparks and cultural heritage sites had been provided through cooperation with the International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education in Beijing, a UNESCO category 2 centre.

14.2 UNESCO had long supported the efforts of Member States to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including through the use of early warning systems and disaster risk reduction plans. It was committed to the success of the proposed interdisciplinary SIDS action plan. Financed by regular and extrabudgetary funds, the action plan would be of vital importance to SIDS Member States as they grappled with the challenge of climate change. The Director-General had established early in 2015 a UNESCO task force on climate change, headed by the Natural Sciences Sector, to ensure that the Organization's contribution to climate change issues would be visible, relevant and well-coordinated. The events in which UNESCO was participating in the lead up to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were posted on the UNESCO COP 21 website.

14.3 The increasing focus on the natural and social sciences within the post-2015 sustainable development agenda was welcome. UNESCO had various frameworks for monitoring progress towards the sustainable development goals, including the World Water Development Report, the UNESCO Science Report and the Global Observatory on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments. It was also hosting an official side event during the forthcoming negotiations on the post-2015 agenda. It pledged to help its Member States to develop science and technology policies and build genuine knowledge-based societies, one of the keys to successful implementation of the post-2015 agenda.

14.4 UNESCO was the main beneficiary of research funding under the European Union Framework Programme 7 and was engaged in negotiations with the European Commission on broader cooperation in the field of science diplomacy. SESAME, the synchrotron research and training facility for the Middle East region developed under the auspices of UNESCO, had recently been cited as a model for capacity building and science diplomacy.

15.1 **Mr Ryabinin** (Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Assistant Director-General – ADG/IOC) said that the concerns expressed by the Members with regard to climate change and oceanography had been clear: the growing risks of climate change disaster faced by small island developing States and their increased exposure to ocean hazards; the effect of oceans on climate; the role of oceans in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) had ranked those subjects high on its agenda and, under the Organization's new budget, it hoped to achieve certain very specific targets. It would be working to develop, preserve and protect tsunami warning systems in all regions where the problem existed, which required a strong commitment from Member States. It would be studying the impact regionally of rising sea levels, an unsolved issue that was key to determining the vulnerability of low-lying coastal States. It had created a new paradigm highlighting the role of the oceans in

determining climatic conditions and, within that framework, it was important to monitor the oceans' uptake of excess carbon emissions and to study ocean acidification. The Commission would continue to make important contributions to the sustainable development agenda by studying the role of the ocean in life support systems, and providing leadership in achieving the dedicated sustainable development goal for the ocean.

15.2 The Global Ocean Observing System, in which the Commission played a leading role, was currently undergoing a radical change to prepare it to manage ocean-related risk and maximize ocean-related benefits. To that end, IOC's role in technology transfer and capacity building would be developed by strengthening regional activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, reaching out to wider audiences including women, children and the poor, using cutting-edge science and technology, and raising awareness of the aesthetic and cultural value of the ocean, recognized by the United Nations as the common heritage of humankind.

16.1 **Ms Al-Nashif** (Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences – ADG/SHS) said that the statements made during the plenary debate had confirmed that Members were eager to see social transformations on the UNESCO agenda in 2015. Two themes merited particular attention in that regard. The first was youth. The process of radicalization might suggest that young men and women were a challenge or a problem, but they were in fact an important part of the solution. Guided by its Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021, the Organization was working to ensure that young people benefitted from inter-generational justice in terms of access to resources and opportunities. It was also important to build young people's capacity in all UNESCO's fields of competence, to give them a chance to make successful transitions to adulthood, particularly in terms of employment and social integration. Young people also needed role models and mentors, a matter that would be discussed at the ninth UNESCO Youth Forum in October 2015.

16.2 The second theme was intercultural dialogue. UNESCO would continue to implement its Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), with an emphasis on more targeted action and more creative ways of using the many contributions made to the Plan. An informal advisory group would help to devise an implementation strategy that included benchmarks. Partnerships would be critical, in particular with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the Council of Europe, the African Union and other intergovernmental organizations.

16.3 The representative of Malawi had raised a question about support for Africa. It was planned to add three social and human sciences posts, in Harare, Yaoundé and Abuja, to the two existing posts in Nairobi and Dakar. Africa remained a priority though it would inevitably be affected by the reduction in resources.

17. **Mr Falt** (Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information – ADG/ERI) said that the Secretariat was committed to enhancing its cooperation with the National Commissions under to the Action Plan adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 97). In respect of consultations on the preparation of the next programme and budget (document 39 C/5), the Secretariat had proposed alternative modalities for regional consultations and Member States had been invited by the Executive Board to make use of

them if they wished to continue with face-to-face consultations. The Secretariat would therefore submit to the Board, for consideration at its 197th session, a roadmap and cost plan for the consultations on document 39 C/5 which would begin in 2016.

18. **Ms Thompson-Flores** (Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning – ADG/BSP), speaking in her capacity as former Director of the Bureau of Human Resources Management and replying to the question raised about the External Auditor's report on human resources issues, said that the Secretariat endorsed the External Auditor's recommendations relating to staffing, competency-based management and the use of temporary service contracts in the field, but had some concerns about the rationale underlying them. The issues on which the External Auditor had focused had already been part of the Organization's human resources strategy, but the financial crisis had resulted in the postponement of a number of initiatives since the resources originally allocated to them had been redirected to the redeployment process, review of the proposed organizational structure, and identification of posts to be abolished. It had not been possible to do everything at the same time. The pace at which the External Auditor's recommendations would be implemented, and the resources allocated to that task, would be decided by the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources Management *ad interim* or the new Director, when appointed. Implementation of one of the recommendations – the reform of service contracts in the field – had already begun four years previously, as part of an overall review designed to bring contractual modalities at Headquarters and in the field into alignment. That initiative would certainly be pursued.

19. **M. Matoko** (Directeur du Bureau de liaison de l'UNESCO à Addis-Abeba) remercie l'ensemble des États membres pour l'appui apporté à la priorité Afrique et l'appel renouvelé en faveur du renforcement des capacités des bureaux régionaux pour la mise en œuvre de cette priorité. S'agissant justement de la nécessité de renforcer les capacités humaines des bureaux hors Siège, la réforme du réseau en cours va permettre d'identifier les besoins de manière globale et d'y répondre après consultation des États membres aux niveaux national et régional en proposant le détachement de fonctionnaires nationaux. Des consultations vont être entamées dans les prochaines semaines auprès des États membres qui souhaitent mettre des fonctionnaires nationaux à la disposition de bureaux de l'Organisation. En ce qui concerne la mobilisation des ressources financières, notamment aux fins de mise en œuvre de la Stratégie opérationnelle pour la priorité Afrique (2014-2021) et des programmes phares, le Bureau de la planification stratégique, le Département Afrique et les bureaux régionaux travaillent actuellement à définir des modalités de financement innovant avec les donateurs traditionnels comme les banques régionales (BASD, BID...) et les communautés économiques régionales, de façon à obtenir au niveau national les ressources disponibles sur le continent pour financer tous ces programmes. L'orateur rappelle également le renforcement du partenariat avec l'Union africaine, qui permettra d'aligner les programmes de l'Organisation sur l'Agenda 2063 ainsi que sur les décisions prises par les chefs d'État au sommet de l'Union africaine au sujet de questions qui intéressent l'UNESCO, comme l'organisation de la Biennale de la culture de la paix à Luanda, évoquée par le représentant de l'Angola, ou la création d'une école de la paix en Afrique en coopération avec la Côte d'Ivoire.

20. **Ms Carat** (Director of the Division for Gender Equality – DIR/ODG/GE) said that UNESCO's programmes on girls' and women's education, which had been mentioned by several speakers in the plenary debate, continued to be a priority of the Director-General, who had recently launched a joint programme with UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank. The year 2015 was a time for taking stock of the progress made over the past 20 years. Much had been achieved, but discriminatory practices and obstacles to equality were still deeply rooted. Progress was not the same as success. More vigilance was needed and, as recommended by Malala Yousafzai, more stubbornness. Continuing support from Member States would therefore be welcome.

21. **The Chair** thanked the Director-General and the members of her team for their replies to the plenary debate and opened the floor to Board Members for the question-and-answer session.

Questions and answers with the Director-General

22. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** said that the recent edition of the *EFA Global Monitoring Report* had contained an article on the history of the education for all initiative, including a section on UNESCO's role in it. That part was out of date as it referred to a period before UNESCO had reformed the global EFA coordination architecture and made a fresh effort to gain political traction, beginning in 2010. It was a pity that such an influential and widely read report did not give UNESCO credit for its recent efforts or reflect its current political capability. He wondered what impact that article might have on the debate at the forthcoming World Education Forum and hoped the Director-General would be able to make clear to the Forum participants how much had changed since the period described in the article.

23. The representative of **Indonesia** said that he wished to ask three questions, First, what efforts were being made by the Education Sector, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, civil society and the business sector, to strengthen initiatives aimed at the 58 million children not enrolled in primary school? Second, did criteria exist for measuring the success of some of UNESCO's high-impact activities such as the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), and social transformation initiatives involving women in science? Third, what could be done to guarantee freedom of expression, privacy and an ethical approach to the information society, and what was the impact of the efforts being made to ensure the safety of journalists? In general, he wished to know how UNESCO determined if its programmes were actually working. With regard to the National Commissions, a desire for improvement had been evident at the first interregional meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held in Kazakhstan in July 2014, and information on any follow up to the meeting would be welcome. In terms of development goals, cultural values must become the driver and enabler of development in education, science and the media.

24. **中国**代表感谢总干事女士及其团队对会员国当天上午和前一天辩论的全面反馈和其中提供的新信息。上个星期教科文组织公布了教育监测报告, 其中指出, 全世界只有三分之一的国家实现了 2015 年的全民教育目标。中国希望了解, 教科文组织如何在落实 2015 年后教育发展目标的过程中兼顾好全民教育发展目标 and 可持续发展目标, 以便使每个会员国的教育都能在这个过程中得到比较好的发展。

(24) La représentante de la **Chine** remercie la Directrice générale et son équipe pour les informations complémentaires fournies suite aux débats de la matinée et de la veille. Le Rapport mondial de suivi sur l'éducation pour tous, rendu public par l'UNESCO la semaine précédente, indique que seulement un tiers des pays du monde ont réalisé les objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous en 2015. La Chine souhaite savoir comment l'UNESCO, dans sa mise en œuvre des objectifs de l'agenda pour l'éducation post-2015, conciliera la réalisation des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous et celle des objectifs de développement durable de cet agenda, afin que les États membres puissent en profiter pleinement dans le domaine de l'éducation.

25.1 **The Director-General** said that she was grateful to the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for mentioning the *EFA Global Monitoring Report*. The article to which he had referred not only had failed to recognize UNESCO's role in the education for all movement but also had taken no account of developments after 2010, when substantial changes had been made to EFA monitoring. She had expressed her views to the *Global Monitoring Report* editors and awaited the opportunity to work together with them to resolve the issue. The article would probably not have any impact on the forthcoming World Education Forum since the *Report* was otherwise very sound. UNESCO's role as undisputed leader in the field of education must be reflected adequately in the final document of the Forum.

25.2 In response to the representative of China, the Director-General agreed that the *Global Monitoring Report* had demonstrated the grave nature of the situation: only one third of countries had achieved all six EFA goals. That unfinished business must be incorporated into the sustainable development agenda, the goals of which must be holistic to reflect the fact that many countries were hampered by poor quality education, inadequate curricula and a lack of trained teachers. By introducing the element of quality education, achievement of the education for all goals could be accelerated.

25.3 A very clear set of measurement criteria was applied to the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB): Member States with biosphere reserves had to meet the requirements under the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. With regard to women in science, UNESCO participated in many of the global partnerships for women's and girls' education. Through a partnership between UNESCO and L'Oréal, for example, a significant number of young women had been awarded prizes or fellowships in science. A new project, financed under a partnership agreement between UNESCO, the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) and Malaysia, involved the promotion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education (STEM) for girls. In respect of freedom of expression and privacy, a comprehensive study of Internet-related issues was being prepared pursuant to 37 C/Resolution 52, and a major conference had been held with all relevant stakeholders in February 2015. The safety of journalists was a subject UNESCO took very seriously. Progress in that field was being made in various pilot countries under the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. In Guatemala, one of the pilot countries, UNESCO was helping the Government to set up a special mechanism for the safety of journalists, which included raising public awareness, and the Director-General had met the country's independent human rights prosecutor to

discuss further cooperation. She would also be discussing the issue on a forthcoming visit to Nepal.

26. **M. Falt** (Sous-Directeur général pour les relations extérieures et l'information du public – ADG/ERI), en réponse à l'Indonésie, rappelle que la traditionnelle réunion des commissions nationales se tiendra les deux prochains jours en marge du Conseil, et sera l'occasion de dévoiler le second rapport annuel des activités des commissions nationales. Il ajoute que « l'esprit d'Astana » reste bien vivant, comme il ressort notamment d'un document que le Conseil examinera prochainement et qui offre un tour d'horizon des nombreuses initiatives faisant suite aux recommandations du Groupe de travail tripartite.

27. The representative of **Nepal** said that his main concern was the allocation of resources to programmes with the highest priority. The need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the education for all goals, gender equality and social inclusion was greatest in the least developed countries. Where did they rank in terms of the Organization's priorities? UNESCO should harmonize its priorities with those of the United Nations General Assembly and the international community.

28. The representative of **Gambia** commended UNESCO for the work it was doing around the globe. Its task was not easy, and the challenges were great. Given the current state of the world, where national interests were pursued seemingly without regard for the interests of others, did the Director-General believe that the foreign policy of the developed countries, especially the G-8 members, was partly responsible for the high degree of intolerance, mainly religious intolerance, around the world? What could UNESCO do to encourage countries to factor peace into the pursuit of their political and economic interests?

29. The representative of **Germany** recalled that at its 194th session, the Executive Board had adopted a decision requesting the Director-General to report to it at its 196th session on the sustainability of the field network under the \$507 million expenditure plan. According to document 196 EX/5 Part IV, consideration of the issue had been postponed to the 200th session of the Board. Could the Director-General clarify that situation?

30.1 **The Director-General** said, in response to the representative of Nepal, that resources would be allocated to the least developed countries to the extent possible. Although not a UNESCO priority *per se*, the least developed countries were very much part of the two cross-cutting priorities adopted by the General Conference, and UNESCO was always seeking ways of helping them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. For example, Nepal had been chosen for a pilot project on education for adolescent girls, in recognition of the challenges it faced in that area.

30.2 She was not sure how to reply to Gambia's million-dollar question. UNESCO was a forum for debate for all types of countries from the G8 to the BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and LDCs. That was its great advantage, and she encouraged all Member States to make use of it. UNESCO had always been able to achieve consensus on its main lines of action, even in the most difficult circumstances.

31. **Ms Thompson-Flores** (Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning – ADG/BSP), responding to the question from the representative of Germany, said that the Organization had decided to use a two-tier approach to field office reform: first, the field office structure in Africa would be reformed, and then the rest of the field offices, using a

different mechanism. Ensuring that the field office network was sustainable required an in-depth review from an organizational perspective, taking into account budgetary and other yet undetermined factors. The Secretariat had therefore decided to wait until the review had been completed before preparing its report so that it could provide an overview and complete information on all the factors involved.

32. Le représentant du **Togo** remercie le Secrétariat des réponses apportées, dont certaines seront approfondies lors des Commissions PX et FA. Il souhaiterait toutefois recevoir des informations relatives au nouveau rapport sur l'éducation et l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie, qu'il espérait voir paraître avant d'amorcer le tournant de l'après-2015, et s'enquiert notamment des projets et des perspectives en ce domaine. Par ailleurs, faisant écho à l'intervention de l'Allemagne, il fait observer que les documents de travail examinés à la présente session posent la question de la viabilité des instituts et des bureaux hors Siège dans le cadre du Plan de dépenses de 507 millions de dollars. Quelles sont les propositions de la Directrice générale à cet égard, en particulier concernant une participation accrue des pays d'accueil à la prise en charge des bureaux ?

33. The representative of **Indonesia** said that it was time to talk about the safety of schools in addition to the safety of journalists. School administrations should design and implement prevention and information programmes with a view to ensuring that pupils were safe on their way to and from school. UNESCO should act proactively and set up a plan of action.

34. The representative of **Pakistan** congratulated the Director-General and the Secretariat on the excellent quality of the Board documents. Documents 196 EX/4 and 196 EX/5 were of particular value and demonstrated a great improvement in format and reporting quality. Turning to the issue of school safety, he endorsed the comments made by the representative of Indonesia. Pakistan had suffered an attack on schoolchildren in Peshawar in December 2014. With regard to the field offices, the developing countries considered the field network to be far more important than policy meetings, which could be conducted online, since it was in the field that UNESCO's work made an impact on the lives of real people. With respect to the work done by the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), the Secretariat had submitted valuable proposals to improve the Committee's approach to monitoring the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments. It might also be useful to have a set of proposals to improve the Committee's work on the examination of communications.

35.1 **La Directrice générale** indique au Togo que l'ADG/ED lui répondra sur le premier point. S'agissant de la question du budget alloué au dispositif hors Siège, également évoquée par le Pakistan, elle rappelle son attachement à la présence de l'UNESCO sur le terrain. Cet aspect fait l'objet d'un débat au sein du Conseil exécutif car l'UNESCO n'était pas considérée au départ comme une organisation participant à la mise en œuvre des programmes. La Directrice générale a cependant le sentiment qu'aujourd'hui, les États membres attendent de l'UNESCO qu'elle coopère sur le terrain avec les autres organismes des Nations Unies dans ses domaines de compétence. Il s'agit donc de définir la valeur ajoutée de l'UNESCO sur le terrain et d'étudier les moyens de renforcer son action hors Siège – celle-ci a en effet un réel impact et a notamment permis d'obtenir des résultats concernant le système éducatif, l'inclusion sociale, les

compétences, la liberté d'expression, la formation des journalistes, la jeunesse, la protection du patrimoine ou encore la diversité culturelle – en trouvant l'équilibre entre l'action normative et cette présence sur le terrain. Une implication plus forte des pays d'accueil, comme l'a mentionné le Togo, pourrait être une solution aux contraintes budgétaires actuelles. Le Brésil en est un bon exemple, et des pays de plus en plus nombreux réclament l'expertise de l'UNESCO et la soutiennent financièrement. La Directrice générale encourage donc les États qui le souhaitent à s'impliquer davantage à l'avenir, et donne l'exemple du fonds autofinancé du Pérou pour la mise en œuvre du « Programme de renforcement du développement des enseignants » (10 millions de dollars), qui a rencontré un réel succès, et du lancement d'un projet de soutien à la recherche financé par l'Angola.

35.2 Continuing in English, the Director-General said in respect of the comments made by the representative of Indonesia on school safety, an Education for All (EFA) *Global Monitoring Report* on the subject had been published in 2011. As recent experience in Pakistan and elsewhere had shown, educational institutions were increasingly coming under attack. UNESCO must therefore do everything possible to protect children in school.

36. **Mr Tang** (Assistant Director-General for Education – ADG/ED) said that the *Report to UNESCO of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century*, known as the Delors Report, published by UNESCO in 1996, had been reviewed by a senior expert group set up by the Director-General. A revised report had been drafted and then published online for comments. Professor John Morgan, a co-chair of the senior expert group, would present the revised report to the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) under item 7 of its agenda. A special session at the World Education Forum would be devoted to discussion of the report, which was expected to be a valuable source of insight and guidance for action under the post-2015 education agenda.

37. **Ms Segall** (Legal Adviser), replying to the question raised by the representative of Pakistan, said that the Working Group on the Methods of Work of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) had been asked to determine whether there was insufficient emphasis on the first aspect of the Committee's mandate, namely monitoring the implementation of standard-setting instruments. To date, the Working Group had not been requested to examine the second aspect of the Committee's mandate, which pertained to its examination of communications.

38. **The Director-General** suggested that the same question should be addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) so that she could respond to it when she presented the findings of the Working Group.

39. Le représentant du **Mali**, évoquant le résultat escompté 5 du grand programme IV, souligne que les directives conceptuelles et pratiques relatives à l'élaboration du volume IX de l'*Histoire générale de l'Afrique* soulèvent également selon lui la question de la conférence internationale sur la lecture croisée de l'Histoire. Il souhaite par ailleurs adresser les remerciements de son gouvernement à l'ensemble des pays membres et institutions qui apportent leur appui financier à l'initiative conjointe de l'UNESCO et du Mali – notamment la Norvège, la Suisse et l'Union européenne –, ainsi qu'à ceux qui ont contribué au compte spécial de l'UNESCO pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine mondial au Mali – Andorre, la

Croatie, Bahreïn, Maurice et la Fondation MBI Al Jaber. Il remercie enfin les ambassadeurs de l'Allemagne, de l'Afrique du Sud, du Maroc et des États-Unis, qui se sont rendus à Tombouctou pour visiter les chantiers.

40. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** said that ensuring the sustainability of field offices meant making sure they could survive and have a long-term impact, but not necessarily a smaller presence. Many of the problems identified in the external audits of the field offices did not seem to have been addressed, including using the regular budget to support administrative functions in the field rather than programme posts; the high level of vacancies in the field; lack of performance appraisals for heads of field offices; the handling of staff contracts. A number of those appeared to be recurring problems. The Secretariat might not have best served the interests of the Board by deferring its report on the field offices for another 18 months, effectively postponing assessment and debate for more than two years after the request for the report had been made.

41. The representative of **Bangladesh** said that he appreciated the professional manner in which the Director-General was leading UNESCO. His question concerned inclusive education. As he saw it, education should always be inclusive, but in many parts of the world, the physical facilities of educational institutions, including those for children with disabilities, were not adequate. How did UNESCO plan to tackle those issues under the post-2015 education agenda?

42. La représentante du **Gabon**, après avoir à son tour félicité la Directrice générale et le Secrétariat pour toutes les précisions apportées, ajoute qu'en tant que présidente du Groupe préparatoire du Conseil exécutif, elle aurait souhaité s'entretenir avec le directeur des ressources humaines avant la réunion du groupe mais n'a pas réussi à obtenir d'informations sur son éventuelle nomination.

43.1 **La Directrice générale** réaffirme au représentant du Mali l'engagement de l'UNESCO aux côtés de son pays. S'agissant du volume IX de l'*Histoire générale de l'Afrique*, elle renouvelle son appel aux financements et remercie à cet égard le Brésil de sa participation. Elle prend bonne note de la réflexion du Mali concernant la conférence internationale sur la lecture croisée de l'Histoire, proposition intéressante dont il faudra discuter.

43.2 Continuing in English, and turning to the observations made by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Director-General said that generalizations about the performance of heads of field offices should not be made on the basis of one statement in an audit. Furthermore, it was not the case that the same problems occurred time after time. UNESCO had excellent directors and specialists in the field. There was, however, room for improvement in field office operations. The entire field office reform was behind schedule because of financial constraints, and it would probably not be possible to carry out the reform as currently envisaged. An audit of the newly completed field reform in Africa was being conducted and the findings would be integrated into the overall assessment. The Secretariat still had to be stabilized following the massive reduction of the Organization's workforce and needed time to carry out a proper evaluation of the entire field office network.

43.3 In reply to the question about inclusive education raised by the representative of Bangladesh, she commended Bangladesh and other countries that had demonstrated strong political will and had put their resources into areas where they could make substantial

progress, thus proving that, in education, it only took a few years to bring about significant change.

43.4 La Directrice générale, poursuivant en français, indique à la représentante du Gabon que le processus de recrutement d'un nouveau directeur des ressources humaines touche à sa fin et que ce dernier devrait prochainement prendre ses fonctions. Le Conseil exécutif sera informé de cette nomination à sa prochaine session.

44. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** said that he wished to make it clear that he was not questioning the competence of

the heads of field offices. However, successive external audit reports on field offices very often identified the same problems, and the one that came up most often was a systemic issue – the lack of agreed performance appraisal measures for heads of offices.

45. **The Chair** thanked the Director-General and her team for answering the questions raised.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

FIFTH MEETING

Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 3.35 p.m.

Chair: Mr Amr

PRIVATE MEETINGS

Announcement concerning the private meetings held on Wednesday 22 April 2015

1. The Secretary *in extenso*:

At the private meetings held today, the Executive Board considered item 3 and item 18 of its agenda.

Item 3: Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board (196 EX/PRIV.1)

In accordance with Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Director-General *informed* the Board about the general situation regarding staff at D-1 level and above and the decisions she has taken regarding appointments and extensions of contract of staff members at grade D-1 and above whose posts come under the regular programme of the Organization.

Item 18: Examination of the communications transmitted to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations in pursuance of 104 EX/Decision 3.3, and report of the Committee thereon

The Executive Board *examined* the report of its Committee on Conventions and Recommendations concerning the communications received by the Organization on the subject of cases and questions of alleged violations of human rights in UNESCO's fields of competence.

The Executive Board, *having taken note* of the Committee's report, *endorsed* the wishes expressed therein.

ADOPTION DES PROJETS DE DÉCISION RECOMMANDÉS AU CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF

Comité sur les conventions et recommandations (CR) : rapport et projet de décision recommandé au Conseil exécutif (196 EX/36)

Point 19 : Application des instruments normatifs (196 EX/19)

Point 20 : Rapport du Groupe de travail sur les méthodes de travail du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations (196 EX/20)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 18 du document 196 EX/36

2.1 Mme Chatardová (République tchèque) (Présidente du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations) *in extenso* :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, chers collègues, je saisis tout d'abord l'occasion de cette séance publique pour renouveler mes remerciements à S. E. M. Agron Budjaku, représentant de l'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine, pour avoir conduit les débats autour du point 19 en mon absence.

2.2 Dans l'après-midi du vendredi 10 avril dernier, le Comité devait examiner les quatre parties du point 19 concernant l'application des instruments normatifs. Cependant, ne disposant pas du temps nécessaire pour examiner le point 19 concernant le premier volet du mandat du Comité, les membres de ce dernier ont recommandé d'ajourner le débat sur les quatre parties de

ce point à la 197^e session du Conseil exécutif. À cet égard, je vous rappelle que les quatre parties du point 19 sont les suivantes : (I) Suivi général de l'application des instruments normatifs ; (II) Examen du projet révisé de principes directeurs pour l'établissement des rapports des États membres sur l'application de la Convention et de la recommandation concernant la lutte contre la discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement (1960) ; (III) Mise en œuvre de la recommandation de 1993 sur la reconnaissance des études et des titres de l'enseignement supérieur ; et (IV) Application de la recommandation sur la promotion et l'usage du multilinguisme et l'accès universel au cyberspace (2003). Le Comité examinera donc ces quatre parties lors de la prochaine session d'automne du Conseil exécutif.

2.3 En application des décisions 192 EX/19, 193 EX/7, 194 EX/20 et 195 EX/16, le Groupe de travail sur les méthodes de travail du Comité sur les conventions et recommandations s'était réuni le mardi 14 octobre 2014 à la veille de la réunion du Comité à l'occasion de la 195^e session du Conseil, et s'est à nouveau réuni le mardi 7 avril 2015 à la veille de la réunion du Comité à l'occasion de la présente session. Conformément à la décision 192 EX/19, le Groupe de travail a présenté les résultats de ses travaux au Comité à la présente session du Conseil exécutif. Le Comité a fait siennes les améliorations de ses méthodes de travail recommandées par le Groupe de travail. Aux paragraphes 6 à 11 du document 196 EX/36, vous trouverez les améliorations portant sur le premier volet du mandat du Comité consacré à l'examen des rapports des États membres sur l'application des instruments normatifs de l'UNESCO. Au paragraphe 12 figurent les améliorations portant sur le deuxième volet du mandat du Comité, c'est-à-dire l'examen des communications concernant l'exercice des droits de l'homme dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO. Ces améliorations seront mises en place dès la prochaine session, et ce afin de rééquilibrer sans plus attendre les deux volets du mandat du Comité.

2.4 En ma qualité de présidente du Groupe de travail, je tiens à souligner que les travaux de ce groupe se sont déroulés dans un esprit de conciliation et de compréhension mutuelle tout au long de ses réunions. Je me félicite donc que le Comité ait fait siennes les conclusions formulées par le Groupe de travail. À cet égard, je voudrais remercier les membres du Groupe de travail, mais aussi les membres du Comité, pour leur esprit de coopération. Enfin, je remercie les personnes responsables au Secrétariat, notamment M. Guillermo Trasancos, pour toute l'assistance fournie. Vous trouverez le projet de décision au paragraphe 18 du document 196 EX/36. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

3. The Chair invited comments on the draft decision in paragraph 18 of document 196 EX/36. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the decision.

4. *It was so decided.*

5. The Chair commended the representative of the Czech Republic for her excellent leadership of the Committee and thanked the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for chairing the Committee temporarily in her absence. He recalled that on the recommendation of the Committee, the Board had agreed to postpone debate on item 19 until its 197th session.

Comité spécial (SP) : rapport et projets de décision recommandés au Conseil exécutif (196 EX/37)

Point 5.IV.C : Questions relatives à la gestion – Plan et charge de travail des sessions du Conseil exécutif (196 EX/5 Partie IV (C))

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 5 du document 196 EX/37

Point 16 : Examen de la procédure à suivre en vue de la proposition d'un candidat au poste de Directeur général de l'Organisation (196 EX/16 ; 196 EX/16.INF)

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 7 du document 196 EX/37

6.1 **M. Seddoh (Togo) in extenso :**

Monsieur le Président, le Togo présentera ce rapport au nom du Président du Comité spécial, l'Ambassadeur M. Camara (Guinée), retenu par ses fonctions d'ambassadeur bilatéral. Je donnerai donc lecture du rapport en son nom.

6.2 « Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, pour la deuxième fois au cours des six derniers mois, j'ai l'honneur de présenter aux membres du Conseil exécutif le rapport du Comité spécial. Le Comité ayant un rôle important à jouer dans le bon fonctionnement de notre Organisation, le débat a été bien préparé en amont, riche et constructif. Bien préparé, car un groupe informel de membres du Comité spécial, ouvert également aux États membres – le groupe des « amis du SP » – avait lancé, bien avant, des consultations sur les points de discussion qui ont permis de déblayer le terrain, d'atténuer d'éventuels désaccords et de parvenir à un consensus sur la teneur des décisions à prendre en salle. Riche, car comme en témoigne le contenu des décisions du Comité spécial, ses travaux ont donné lieu à des discussions approfondies, et de nombreux amendements ont été apportés aux projets de décision proposés dans les documents de travail. Constructif enfin, au vu de la fluidité des débats et de l'esprit de compréhension et d'entente ayant régné au cours des discussions, qui n'ont connu aucun point de divergence majeure ni aucun blocage. Le professionnalisme et la personnalité même de chacun des membres, tous prêts à jouer leur rôle de manière active et constructive, et soucieux d'écouter avec attention le point de vue d'autrui au nom de l'entente sur l'essentiel, ont été déterminants pour la réussite de nos travaux, qui ont pu être finalisés avec un jour d'avance par rapport au temps qui nous avait été alloué. Malgré cette célérité, tout le monde a pu s'exprimer, y compris les représentants des États non membres du Comité spécial.

6.3 Pour diriger les travaux, comme cela a été dit, j'ai eu à mes côtés un président temporaire en la personne du professeur Komlavi Francisco Seddoh, représentant du Togo au Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO, qui avait déjà tenu ce rôle au cours de la session précédente ; son élection a été décidée au début de la session, conformément à l'article 16 (2) du Règlement intérieur du Conseil exécutif.

6.4 L'ordre du jour provisoire, approuvé sans amendement, contenait deux points : le premier point était intitulé « Plan et charge de travail des sessions du Conseil exécutif ». Le document correspondant était le 196 EX/5 Partie IV (C). Le deuxième point, initialement inscrit à l'ordre du jour du Conseil exécutif à l'initiative du Canada, était le point 16, « Examen de la procédure à suivre en vue de la proposition d'un candidat au poste de Directeur

général de l'Organisation ». Le document de travail 196 EX/16.INF qui lui était associé a été apprécié par les États membres du Comité spécial. Comme vous le savez, le Comité spécial avait déjà commencé à discuter de ce deuxième point au cours de la réunion du 16 octobre – à la 195^e session du Conseil exécutif –, avant que le Conseil ne décide de reporter le débat et d'inscrire finalement ce point à l'ordre du jour provisoire de la présente 196^e session, afin de laisser du temps pour les concertations nécessaires.

6.5 La discussion du premier point, « Plan et charge de travail des sessions du Conseil exécutif », a permis de finaliser assez rapidement l'adoption du projet de décision grâce au travail très utile accompli par le groupe des amis du Comité spécial avant la séance, et par le groupe de rédaction pendant la pause déjeuner. Nous avons ainsi pu disposer d'un projet de décision amendé et amélioré, et approuver ce projet de manière extrêmement consensuelle.

6.6 En ce qui concerne le deuxième point, « Examen de la procédure à suivre en vue de la proposition d'un candidat au poste de Directeur général de l'Organisation », nous avons donc repris notre discussion là où nous l'avions interrompue, en examinant un projet de décision (proposé au paragraphe 10 du document 196 EX/16) qui reflétait fidèlement les termes de notre débat ainsi que les amendements apportés au cours de la réunion du Comité spécial du 16 octobre dernier ; ce projet de décision a donc servi de point de départ à notre débat – comme l'avait demandé le Conseil exécutif à sa 195^e session.

6.7 Puisque ce point avait été à l'origine présenté par le Canada, en accord avec les membres du Comité spécial, j'ai invité le représentant de ce pays à présenter le document, conformément à l'article 30 du Règlement intérieur du Conseil exécutif concernant les droits des non-membres et/ou des observateurs. Là aussi, le débat a été extrêmement riche et toujours positif : le consensus sur le projet de décision a été obtenu assez rapidement. Et là aussi, le travail en amont du groupe des amis du Comité spécial s'est révélé déterminant. Je tiens à ce propos à remercier la Suède, qui a assuré la coordination de ce groupe, ainsi que le groupe arabe, qui a rédigé le rapport de synthèse. En effet, le projet de décision apporte des modifications d'ordre générique à la procédure suivie pour la nomination du Directeur général, qui ne font pas précisément référence à des sessions à venir et qui sont donc applicables au cycle de travail du Conseil exécutif et de la Conférence générale. Les amendements entraînent seulement la modification du paragraphe 1 de l'article 58 du Règlement intérieur du Conseil exécutif.

6.8 Monsieur le Président, le rapport que je viens de présenter au nom du Comité spécial est bien reflété dans le rapport écrit de ce dernier, qui reste à la disposition du Conseil exécutif pour s'acquitter de toute fonction conforme à son mandat. Je remercie l'ensemble des membres du Comité spécial ainsi que les non-membres qui ont assisté et participé à cette discussion. Je remercie aussi le Secrétariat : le Secrétaire du Conseil, M. Jacques Rao, et la Secrétaire adjointe, Mme Susana Sam-Vargas, ainsi que leur équipe, le Secrétaire adjoint de la Conférence générale, M. Luis Salamanques, et la représentante du Conseil juridique de l'Organisation, Mme Chantal Claxton-Proust ; merci au Secrétaire du Comité spécial, M. Mauro Rosi, et aux trois collègues qui l'ont assisté, M. Dulat Kasymov, M. Francisco Gómez Durán et Mme Racki Sy. Je tiens à remercier également les représentants des services et des secteurs concernés qui

ont fourni des éclaircissements pendant les débats. Merci enfin au personnel technique, au responsable de la sonorisation, aux commis de salle, et un grand merci aux interprètes. »

7. **The Chair** thanked the Temporary Chair of the Special Committee for presenting the Committee's report in the absence of the Chair, commended the Chair of the Committee on his excellent leadership, and thanked the Group of Friends of the Special Committee, whose support had proved invaluable in building consensus. He asked the Members if they wished to request that either of the draft decisions be adopted separately. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt both of the draft decisions contained in document 196 EX/37.

8. *It was so **decided**.*

Presentation of the newly-appointed Ethics Adviser

9.1 **The Director-General** said that, as stated in the Ivory Note issued on 17 October 2014, she had decided to appoint Ms Rebecca Trott from the United Kingdom to the post of Ethics Adviser at the P-5 level. Ms Trott held a Master's Degree in International and European Public Law obtained in June 2009 from Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. In 1987, she had begun her professional career as a trainee lawyer before joining Lloyd's of London as legal regulatory counsel in 1990. Starting in 2000, Ms Trott had worked as lead counsel before becoming a European Union legal consultant in the Netherlands in June 2003, liaising with the private sector and ministries, as well as with international organizations. She joined Europol in November 2004 and worked as a senior legal officer before taking up the position of interim legal counsel for the Europe, Middle East and Africa region at Tyco International in December 2010.

9.2 Since November 2011, Ms Trott had worked, in her capacity as head of legal services, in the areas of conflict of interest, anti-fraud, data protection, ethics and integrity, in addition to leading the ethics and integrity initiative for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Stockholm, Sweden, advising on statutory compliance, drafting legislative texts, and instructing external legal counsel before the European Court of Justice. She had also served as a data protection officer.

9.3 Ms Trott had served on a number of committees, liaising with the European Commission to create a common approach on ethical issues, and had chaired the European Union Inter-Agency Legal Network. She had taken office as UNESCO Ethics Adviser on 1 November 2014 and her background as outlined, especially in dealing with conflict of interest, fraud and ethical issues in many different environments and organizations, was a considerable asset. UNESCO was privileged to have such an experienced person as ethics adviser to the Organization.

10.1 **Ms Trott** (Ethics Adviser) thanked the Director-General, the Members of the Board and her colleagues for placing their trust in her as Ethics Adviser. She appreciated in particular the fact that, following her appointment, a number of Board Members had offered her suggestions with regard to her mission at UNESCO and representatives of both staff unions had transmitted to her their views on ethics within the Organization. The Ethics Office reported to the Director-General directly and to the Board through an annual report which, if the Board so desired, could be made available ahead of the session at which it would be considered. She was impressed by the

respect shown for ethics at UNESCO especially since, in her view, the manner in which an organization fulfilled its mandate was as important as its achievements.

10.2 The creation of the Ethics Office in 2009 was fortuitous, as one year later, the Organization's measures to ensure an ethical working environment had been cited by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit report *Ethics in the United Nations System* [REF un.org] as being ahead of the game [the speaker's words, rather than a quote from the report, pak]. Since then, the mandate of the Ethics Office had continued to expand within the framework of its basic mission: to provide confidential advice on ethics and standards of conduct to both the Organization and its employees; promote ethical awareness through training, communication, policy development and liaison; and resolve allegations of unethical behaviour and wrongdoing. Within that framework, she met regularly with members of the Senior Management Team (SMT) to provide confidential feedback on trends and concerns.

10.3 The staff, which represented a variety of nationalities, backgrounds, religious beliefs, moral concepts, ages, genders and ethical views, needed a coherent view of ethical behaviour since the field of ethics was constantly changing. Moreover, management staff in the field offices and at Headquarters had requested advice on how to embed ethical values in their work programmes. To that end, the Office had launched an ethical leadership training programme in 2015. Despite budgetary restrictions and the temporary absence of a Legal Adviser, which had resulted in less training than planned, another ambitious programme had been launched at Headquarters to provide training in basic ethical awareness to all staff. The Office hoped in the future to provide regular ethics training for everyone working for UNESCO, including staff members, contractual staff and interns.

10.4 The Ethics Office used the Organization's communications channels to ensure that staff members were aware of its ethical mandate. It also developed policy, such as the financial disclosure programme, under which potential conflicts of interest were identified and discussed with the staff members involved to find ways to mitigate risk. Each year, the Office received approximately 200 queries or formal complaints regarding unethical behaviour or wrongdoing. Some were resolved with a simple conversation, while others required months of review and investigation with the assistance of the Organization's central services. The aim in all cases was to find pragmatic solutions to the problems and draw up policies to mitigate the risks of future incidents.

10.5 She thanked the Director-General and the Board for giving her the opportunity to present the work of the Ethics Office, which relied strongly on their support.

11. **The Chair** thanked the Ethics Adviser for her presentation and assured her that the Board attached the utmost importance to her role, particularly in the context of its efforts to improve transparency, accountability and good governance.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Item 21: Preparation of the 38th session of the General Conference

Item 21.I: Preparation of the provisional agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference (196 EX/21 Part I)

Draft decision in paragraph 7 of document 196 EX/21 Part I

12. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the decision in paragraph 7 of document 196 EX/21 Part I.

13. *It was so decided.*

Point 21.II : Projet de plan pour l'organisation des travaux de la 38e session de la Conférence générale (196 EX/21 Partie II et Rev. (arabe seulement))

Projet de décision figurant au paragraphe 34 du document 196 EX/21 Partie II

14. Le **Secrétaire** indique que le document 196 EX/21 Partie II contient un projet de plan pour l'organisation des travaux de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale. La durée de la session serait de 13 jours et demi ouvrables et des efforts seront déployés pour réduire encore le volume de la documentation, tous les documents devant être mis en ligne dès leur parution. Pour limiter la durée de la session, il est proposé que les rapports des commissions soient directement présentés pour adoption en plénière sans avoir été préalablement adoptés au sein de chaque commission. Il est proposé que la Conférence générale institue six commissions, qui se réuniront en séance conjointe en fin de session afin d'examiner la Résolution portant ouverture de crédits pour 2016-2017 ainsi que les éventuels projets de résolution proposant des amendements ayant des incidences budgétaires qui se rapportent à deux ou plusieurs résolutions figurant dans le 37 C/5. Le Secrétaire souligne que le Forum des dirigeants sera organisé sous un format différent, avec la participation de chefs d'État, et se tiendra les trois derniers jours de la Conférence générale afin de coïncider avec la célébration du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO.

15. **The Chair** recalled that according to Rule 1.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the "opening date of the session shall be fixed by the Director-General, after consulting the Members of the Executive Board". In reply to a request from the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and following consultations with the host country, the Director-General, the President of the General Conference and the Chair of the Executive Board, it had been agreed to provide the Organization's facilities to the UNFCCC secretariat from 24 to 27 November 2015. The Director-General was therefore proposing that the 38th session of the General Conference should be held from 3 to 18 November 2015.

16. Le **Secrétaire** confirme que les dates de la Conférence générale ont été négociées avec les présidents des organes directeurs et le représentant du pays hôte. Le Secrétariat exécutif de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques souhaitant utiliser les locaux de l'UNESCO dans le cadre des préparatifs de la COP-21, il a été décidé d'avancer la Conférence générale d'une semaine afin d'éviter tout chevauchement des travaux.

17. The representative of **Sweden** said that she had two questions. First, how had the Organization's decision to shift its programme of work to a four-year cycle been implemented, and what were the implications for the General Conference? That decision did not appear to be having any impact on the plans for the 38th session of the General Conference, which was disappointing, since the time usually devoted by the General Conference to the programme of work could have been used to draw on the

expertise of the delegates by introducing new arrangements, such as joint transdisciplinary meetings for the commissions or forward-looking debates under the umbrella of UNESCO's 70th anniversary. Second, since it had been decided that document 37 C/5 was still valid, would the Secretariat be submitting a new version of document 37 C/5 to the General Conference for its consideration?

18. **The Secretary** said that the governing bodies had indeed decided to institute a four-year programme cycle, although the two-year budget cycle would remain unchanged. Under the new arrangement, the General Conference at its next session should not, in principle, need to revisit at length a programme of work that it had already adopted, thus giving the commissions more time for substantive debate. Nevertheless, Member States might still wish to adjust programmes for the second biennium of the cycle, so the amount of additional time available was as yet unknown.

19. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision in paragraph 34 of document 196 EX/21 Part II.

20. *It was so decided.*

21. **The Chair** invited the representative of Gabon to draw the name of the Member State that would serve as the starting point for the seating of delegations, in alphabetical order in French, at the 38th session of the General Conference.

22. La représentante du **Gabon** annonce que l'État membre dont le nom a été tiré au sort est l'Angola.

23. **The Chair** said that Angola had been selected as the starting point for the seating at the 38th session of the General Conference.

Item 21.III: Invitations to the 38th session of the General Conference (196 EX/21 Part III)

Draft decision in paragraph 9 of document 196 EX/21 Part III

24. **The Chair** said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision in paragraph 9 of document 196 EX/21 Part III.

25. *It was so decided.*

26. **The Chair** said that in order to give the regional groups extra time for consultations, item **21.IV** "Submission of nominations for the offices of chairpersons of the commissions and committees of the 38th session of the General Conference" would be discussed the following day at the closing plenary session.

27. **大会主席表示**, 在执行局全体会员国的共同努力下, 大家讨论了很多方面的工作, 如 2015 年后教育进程、反恐情况下的文化遗产保护、文化多样性问题、记者安全问题, 等等, 也介绍了韩国世界教育论坛和中国 ICT 教育国际大会的筹备情况, 在许多方面形成共识。他指出, 这次会议特别讨论了 38 C/5 草案, 大家也对人事问题进行了开诚布公的讨论, 总干事当天上午就这个问题做了很好的说明。大会主席强调, 大会第三十八届会议临近, 大家应该集中精力做好大会的筹备工作, 研究重大问题和前瞻性问题, 提出富有建设性的主张; 教科文组织是一个大家庭, 我们应当面向未来, 和谐共处, 求同存异。大会主席赞成刚才通过的这几项关于筹备大会的决议。最后, 大会主席预祝大会第三十八届会议的筹备工作进展顺利, 并祝大会和在

大会期间举行的庆祝教科文组织 70 周年的领导人论坛取得圆满成功。

(27) **The President of the General Conference** pointed out that, with the joint efforts of all Member States of the Executive Board, many issues had been discussed, namely the post-2015 phase of education, the protection of cultural heritage in the anti-terrorism context, cultural diversity, safety of journalists, and so forth. Presentations were also made on the preparations for the World Education Forum in the Republic of Korea and the International Conference on ICT in Education in China, and consensus had been reached in many areas. He indicated that during the present session, there had been debates dedicated exclusively to document 38 C/5 Draft and straightforward discussions on human resources issues, on which the Director-General had given a clear explanation at that morning's session. He emphasized that, with the approach of the 38th session of the General Conference, it was necessary to focus on preparations for it and on research on important and forward-looking issues and make constructive proposals; within the large UNESCO family, it was important to look forward, coexist in peace and attain the harmony of differences. He endorsed the decisions on the preparations for the upcoming General Conference session, which had just been adopted. Finally, he expressed his best wishes for the preparations for the 38th session of the General Conference and for the success of both the next session of the General Conference and the Leaders' Forum marking the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, to be held during that session.

28. **The Chair** thanked the President of the General Conference for being a constant source of wisdom and encouragement for the Executive Board.

29. Представитель **Российской Федерации** информирует Исполнительный совет о том, что всем членам Совета был направлен проект декларации о 70-летию окончания Второй мировой войны, пункты

которой в основном опираются на уже принятую консенсусом резолюцию ООН 69/267 и памятную декларацию министров ОБСЕ. В ходе проведенных дискуссий с членами Исполнительного совета принципиальных возражений высказано не было, а все замечания были впоследствии учтены. Вследствие чего оратор предлагает членам Исполнительного совета принять эту декларацию и поручить Председателю опубликовать ее на сайте ЮНЕСКО с возможным использованием ее текста по случаю соответствующих празднований.

(29) The representative of the **Russian Federation** informed the Executive Board that a draft declaration on the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War had been sent to all Board Members, and that the articles of the declaration were based mainly on United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/267 and OSCE Ministerial Commemorative Declaration No.7 that had already been adopted by consensus. In the course of the discussions that had taken place with Executive Board Members, no major objections had been raised, and all comments had been subsequently taken into account. She therefore proposed that the Members of the Executive Board adopt the declaration and charge the Chair with publishing it on the UNESCO website with the possible use of the text on the occasion of the corresponding commemoration.

30. **The Chair** said that while the Executive Board could not adopt the proposed draft declaration, it could make a recommendation to the General Conference to that effect. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft declaration proposed by the representative of the Russian Federation.

31. *It was so agreed.*

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

SIXTH MEETING

Thursday 23 April 2015 at 10.10 a.m.

Chair: Mr Amr

ADOPTION OF DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (*continued*)

Programme and External Relations Commission (PX): report and draft decisions recommended to the Executive Board

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.I: Programme Implementation Report (PIR) (1 January-31 December 2014) (196 EX/4 Part I, Corr. and Corr.2; 196 EX/4.INF; 196 EX/4.INF.4; 196 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 2 of document 196 EX/39

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (196 EX/5 Part I and Add.)

Item 5.I.A: Sharing of good practices in education

Draft decision in paragraph 3 of document 196 EX/39

Item 5.I.D: Protection of Iraqi heritage

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 196 EX/39

Item 5.I.E: Implementation of the activities related to the preparation and publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa*

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 196 EX/39

Item 5.I.F: Internet-related issues: including access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy and ethical dimensions of the information society

Draft decision in paragraph 6 of document 196 EX/39

Item 5.I.G: Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO

Draft decision in paragraph 7 of document 196 EX/39

Item 5.II: Intersectoral activities (196 EX/5 Part II)

Item 5.II.A: Possible ways to protect and strengthen brand recognition of biosphere reserves, world heritage properties and proposed UNESCO global geoparks

Draft decision in paragraph 8 of document 196 EX/39

Item 5.II.B: Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)

Draft decision in paragraph 9 of document 196 EX/39

Item 6: Report on the Strategy for Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and directions for follow-up beyond 2015 (196 EX/6; 196 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 10 of document 196 EX/39

Item 7: Education beyond 2015 (196 EX/7; 196 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 11 of document 196 EX/39

Item 8: UNESCO's participation in the preparations for a post-2015 development agenda (196 EX/8; 196 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 12 of document 196 EX/39

Item 17: Report on the implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) (196 EX/17)

Draft decision in paragraph 13 of document 196 EX/39

Item 26: Occupied Palestine (196 EX/26)

Draft decision in paragraph 14 of document 196 EX/39

Item 27: Implementation of 37 C/Resolution 67 and 195 EX/Decision 28 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories (196 EX/27)

Draft decision in paragraph 15 of document 196 EX/39

Item 30: Learning without fear: preventing and combating school-related gender-based violence (196 EX/30 and Add.; 196 EX/DG.INF Rev.)

Draft decision in paragraph 16 of document 196 EX/39

Item 31: Safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (196 EX/31 and Add.; 196 EX/DG.INF Rev.)

Draft decision in paragraph 31 of document 196 EX/39

Item 32: UNESCO's role and responsibilities in implementing Global Citizenship Education and promoting peace and human rights education for sustainable development (196 EX/32 and Add.; 196 EX/32.INF; 196 EX/DG.INF Rev.)

Draft decision in paragraph 18 of document 196 EX/39

Item 33: International Day of University Sport (196 EX/33; 196 EX/DG.INF Rev.)

Draft decision in paragraph 19 of document 196 EX/39

Item 34: Leveraging ICTs to support the achievement of the post-2015 Education Agenda (196 EX/34; 196 EX/DG.INF Rev.)

Draft decision in paragraph 20 of document 196 EX/39

1.1 **Mr Muñoz Ledo** (Mexico) (Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission – PX) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Mr President of the General Conference, Director-General, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to present to you the results of the work of the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX) at the 196th session of the Executive Board. The Commission adopted its timetable during the opening session and then elected as Temporary Chair Ms Kris Rampersad, the distinguished representative of Trinidad and Tobago. The Commission examined 19 items on the agenda of the Board, during eight sessions, and issued its recommendations on 19 decisions. Four of the items had been extensively discussed by the Preparatory Group of the Executive Board and its recommendations were recalled before the examination of each of these items. The agenda of this session of the PX Commission was of particular interest to the Member States, which was demonstrated, *inter alia*, by the large number of sponsors of the draft decisions, both among Members of the Board and observer Member States. There were at least 500 interventions by Member States during the general debate and we arrived at a

consensus on 16 draft decisions, and voted on three. I requested two representatives to facilitate the negotiations on three draft decisions, and asked Member States to hold informal consultations outside the room between meetings to facilitate the adoption of at least another five draft decisions. I wish to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the Chair of the Preparatory Group, Ms Gisele Marie Hortense Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Gabon to UNESCO, for the work accomplished by the Group.

1.2 My oral report will cover salient points of the debates that took place in the PX Commission. I have recollected, to the best of my knowledge, the information which was requested for inclusion in this report. I thank you for your indulgence, should anything have been omitted. In order to comply with the time limits on the presentation of oral reports, I will refer only to the number of the items and sub-items, but omit reading the titles.

1.3 Distinguished colleagues, the Commission started its work by examining agenda item 4.I. The Programme Implementation Report, which benefited from the collaboration of actively engaged Member States with the Secretariat, was considered to be a significant improvement and to allow a better analysis of programme execution. Nevertheless, it was noted that some inconsistencies relating to programme delivery still remained to be addressed. A number of representatives called for further improvement in the information presented under the executive summary, with a self-critical assessment, based on facts, realistic analysis and specific remedial measures, thus allowing for challenges to be tackled. Some members emphasized that crises affecting some countries in certain regions represented a significant obstacle to effective programme delivery. The need for stronger collaboration among sectors on various programmes, as well as greater synergies with the network of UNESCO Chairs and institutes was emphasized. Some members suggested that national activities that contributed to the achievement of expected results could be identified by getting feedback from Member States. In the ensuing debate, members engaged in an exchange with the Secretariat, analysing, sector by sector, the status of the programme and the impact of the current financial situation on its implementation. In that respect, concerns were expressed with regard to the Education Sector's increased reliance on extrabudgetary resources for implementation at the country level, while the rest of the resources of the regular programme were spent mainly at Headquarters. Clarification was sought on the low expenditure rate, notably in Africa, and the high rate of decentralization to the field. Questions were also raised on the apparent inconsistency between the generally high level of programme implementation compared with information provided in the reports on lack of progress because of limited resources.

1.4 With regard to the Natural Sciences Sector (SC), it was noted that cost-cutting measures might lower programme quality, incurring the risk of losing visibility for programmes such as the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), especially in view of UNESCO's contribution to combating climate change through education and science. A number of speakers expressed strong support for the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), noting its wide acceptance at local level and the important role of National Commissions. It was recalled, however, that more regional partnerships and extrabudgetary funds might not compensate for the budgetary reductions to the programme. With regard to

the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), members expressed concern about the impact of the current financial situation, particularly with regard to the length and quality of meetings, essential for governance and programmatic guidance. It was mentioned that achievements had been made owing mainly to extrabudgetary resources.

1.5 Expressing concern about the very limited number of items pertaining to Major Programme III on the agenda of the Executive Board, the importance of the work in the field of social and human sciences was highlighted by a number of speakers, especially in the context of the post-2015 agenda. The lack of strategic interconnection and the need to enhance the visibility of the work at global and national levels was underlined, and members were informed of the ongoing work on better monitoring, benchmarking and measuring of results. The importance of the flagship Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme to the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) countries was reaffirmed, especially in the context of the post-2015 agenda, which had increased expectations for social development. Several members requested information on the strategy of the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) in the area of human rights, social transformations, and foresight. UNESCO was called upon to support countries in the development of their national prospective reports.

1.6 Several members invited UNESCO to pursue its efforts for the integration of culture in the post-2015 development agenda, renewing their support in that regard. Concern was expressed with regard to the gap between available resources and activities to be carried out, in particular the capacity to implement the conventions, with special attention to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. In that regard, members stressed that cultural conventions must be ratified by Member States and provided with an adequate level of resources for their implementation. Speakers emphasized the need for the conventions' governing bodies and Member States to elaborate a long-term strategy on the future of the cultural standard-setting regime and to carry out governance reforms and further prioritize projects and activities. Several members took the floor to refer to the initiatives undertaken by the Culture Sector to protect cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict contexts, welcoming the establishment of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit, and encouraging the Secretariat to strengthen intersectoral collaboration with the Education Sector in that regard. Finally, members welcomed the establishment of the new Common Conventions Services Unit as a positive step to help harmonize practices, optimize resources and better serve Member States and States Parties.

1.7 Concerning the Communication and Information Sector (CI), members reiterated their strong support for the work on freedom of expression and safety of journalists and made inquiries about new strategies to overcome hurdles encountered in that regard. Additional information was requested on the Sector's work on promoting gender equality in and through the media, sharing information about the Ebola virus in Western Africa and the Open Access Initiative. Responding to the question of how to address the high expectations from Member States and dire financial resources, the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) confirmed that

UIS was in a good position to play a leading role and intended to strengthen efforts in mobilizing extrabudgetary resources to that effect. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 2 of document 196 EX/39.

1.8 The Commission then considered item **5.I** of the agenda. After examining item **5.I.A**, the Commission took note of document 196 EX/5 Part I.A. With regard to item **5.I.D**, the Secretariat acknowledged the generous support received by the Governments of Japan and Norway and drew attention to the challenges that were hampering UNESCO's action, including the difficulty in obtaining reliable information on the state of the cultural heritage in areas affected by conflict. Members condemned the destruction of Iraq's cultural heritage, the trafficking of its cultural property and the attacks on the country's cultural diversity, and expressed their full support for the spirit of the proposed draft decision. Some speakers noted the recurrent use of the terms "cultural cleansing" and "protected cultural zones" in the discourse of UNESCO, and suggested that a more precise definition of those terms be developed, considering the possible legal implications of their utilization in the context of international law. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 4 of document 196 EX/39.

1.9 Esteemed colleagues, under item **5.I.E** relating to Volume IX of the *General History of Africa*, it was recalled that the project would contribute to the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), and that it should also be promoted through education in the framework of the post-2015 agenda. Several members, stressing the need to finalize the work on Volume IX by the end of 2016, invited all Member States to contribute to the project, and requested the Director-General to mobilize the necessary additional funds. Several speakers referred to the importance of the project for African diasporas, and the need therefore to ensure appropriate geographical and linguistic balance in the selection of authors and the definition of themes. The significance of the project to humanity as a whole was reflected in the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of document 196 EX/39.

1.10 Introducing item **5.I.F**, on "Internet-related issues", the Secretariat mentioned the outcome document adopted by the multistakeholder conference "CONNECTing the Dots" at UNESCO, and the representatives of Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States endorsed the document. Several members expressed their satisfaction at the manner in which UNESCO had conducted the 18-month consultative process on a study covering issues of access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy and ethical dimensions of the information society, bringing together a wide cross section of stakeholders. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 6 of document 196 EX/39. After approval of the draft decision, the representative of the United States recognized the compromise in order to facilitate the decision.

1.11 Under item **5.I.G**, one member of the Commission underlined the importance of noting in this context the outcomes of the Tenth Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America, held in 2014 in Ecuador. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 7 of document 196 EX/39.

1.12 Ladies and gentlemen, the Commission then considered item **5.II.A**. Concerns were expressed about the proliferation of logos and the risk of competition and rivalry between brands which might have a negative effect at the local level, and calls were made for strengthened brand recognition with clear differences between them. On the other hand, it was considered that multiple designations represented strength – both for protection of the sites and for raising awareness of visitors and local communities. A call was made for increased use of the brands in small island developing States (SIDS) and for more training and capacity building on branding, to harness its value for local communities. The Secretariat stressed that branding was work in progress, and members were in agreement in looking forward to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) report in late 2016, which would focus on local-level best practices developed with communities. Concerns were raised regarding overlap of brands on sites with multiple designations and the need for better coordination in that respect. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 8 of document 196 EX/39.

1.13 Distinguished Members of the Board, following the debate on item **5.II.B** of the agenda, the Commission recommended taking a roll call vote on the draft resolution. The Commission decided to recommend the draft decision, following a vote by roll call, with 19 votes in favour, 4 against and 25 abstentions. Cuba requested that the Secretariat announce the results in full, including the "absents". On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 9 of document 196 EX/39, with the details of the vote.

1.14 The Commission examined without debate item **17** of the agenda and the recommended draft decision is contained in paragraph 13 of document 196 EX/39.

1.15 When examining item **6**, members expressed their appreciation for progress made on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) since 2010, which was in line with the Shanghai Consensus. Members called upon the Secretariat to improve the work on the identification of skills relating to the green economy and to coordinate with other organizations working on youth and skills, including the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), while ensuring UNESCO's distinctive role. Questions were raised about the scope of the evaluation report, the impact of the strategy on gender equality and the development of subregional and regional strategies. It was recommended that the new strategy should be clearly based on the evaluation of the current one and linked to the Framework for action on education beyond 2015. During the discussion, the value of upstream policy advice and related capacity development, for integrating TVET into national development strategies, received particular mention. Some speakers expressed their willingness to develop partnerships in the field of TVET, and mention was made of the new BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) cooperation initiatives and of the Brasilia Declaration, which refers specifically to TVET. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 10 of document 196 EX/39.

1.16 Ladies and gentlemen, under item **7** of the agenda, many speakers reaffirmed education post-2015 as a top priority and commended UNESCO for its strong leadership role in the preparation of the post-2015 education agenda. Members expressed their appreciation

to the Republic of Korea for hosting the World Education Forum 2015, and noted that adoption of the post-2015 education agenda should be a milestone event. The importance of having one single integrated new education agenda was strongly emphasized, and representatives expected the World Education Forum 2015 to support the achievement of the education targets proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Several speakers called for financing for education to be included in the education agenda and for both countries and donors to be held accountable. Monitoring was also indicated as of vital importance, as well as the need to identify best practice at the regional level. While noting that the number of indicators could be further reduced, the need to involve countries in the work on indicators was stressed. The Secretariat proposed holding an information meeting on the matter in early May. Some members stated that it would address the key missing elements of the agenda as expressed in the Muscat Agreement and the regional ministerial meetings. The representative of Brazil mentioned that it would have been better to have the list of priorities established by the ministries. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 11 of document 196 EX/39.

1.17 Introducing item **30** of the agenda, the representative of France pointed out that 246 million children were estimated to suffer from some form of school-related gender-based violence annually, which affected boys and girls, teachers and learners, with a detrimental effect on learning and health. Speakers thanked the representative of France for presenting the draft decision on “Learning without fear: Preventing and combating school-related gender-based violence” and appreciated the timing of the Executive Board’s discussion on the item, considering that the draft decision was long overdue. It was regretted that certain cultural norms could become obstacles in exposing the full extent of the problem. One member stressed that support should be provided to children to encourage them to speak out about violence they had experienced. It was proposed that the text be used as a template for UNESCO’s action on discrimination against other marginalized groups. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 16 of document 196 EX/39.

1.18 The Commission then examined item **32** of the agenda. One of the co-authors indicated that global citizenship education was key to bridging societies and encouraging the non-violent resolution of conflicts, and that it had gained momentum with the launch of the United Nations Secretary General’s Global Education First Initiative (GEFI). Various speakers expressed concern over the increase of violence, violent extremism, and intolerance throughout the world, and supported the spirit of the related decision, promoting values of respect, tolerance, justice, gender equality and cultural diversity. UNESCO was encouraged to continue taking a leading role; to mainstream global citizenship education at all levels, as part of the post-2015 development agenda, linked with human rights education, citizenship education and school-related gender-based violence; and to address violent extremism and the prevention of mass atrocities. Some members requested UNESCO’s assistance to further develop and clarify the underlying concepts, indicating that global citizenship education implementation should be contextualized and that indicators would need to be developed in that area. Synergies with education for sustainable development (ESD) and the importance of teacher training and multilingualism as relevant entry points were highlighted. On this item, the Commission

recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 18 of document 196 EX/39.

1.19 During the examination of item **34** of the agenda, several speakers expressed appreciation to the Government of China for organizing the upcoming International Conference on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT2015), and many expressed interest in the participation of their ministers in the conference, as an opportunity for North-South knowledge sharing. Members highlighted the crucial role of leveraging ICTs to achieve post-2015 education targets, and reaffirmed the important role of ICTs in facilitating access to learning opportunities and in improving the quality of education, also through the development of educationally appropriate content. Greater synergies among the programme sectors in the thematic area were encouraged, and the importance of ICTs in education for highly-populated countries with large rural areas was stressed, as well as the relevance of the initiative to the programme on inclusive ICTs for persons with disabilities. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 20 of document 196 EX/39.

1.20 During the debate on item **8** of the agenda, a number of speakers noted that UNESCO’s priority areas were well reflected in the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets proposed by the Open Working Group, and stressed the importance of continuing to promote the stand-alone SDGs on water, biodiversity and oceans, in cooperation with United Nations partners. The need to develop appropriate monitoring systems with indicators applicable at the country-level was also highlighted, as well as the crucial role of science in the post-2015 development agenda. Ensuring effective and adequate financing for the implementation of SDGs, particularly for the least developed countries, was also noted. Additional information was requested on UNESCO’s contribution to the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development, particularly with respect to the zero draft of the outcome document. Various members stressed the importance of the input from the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training and the need to consider this dimension in the post-2015 development agenda. While one member expressed doubt as to the appropriateness of inclusion of the issue, he joined the overall agreement in the room to distinctly reflect that specific aspect in the draft decision. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 12 of the 196 EX/39. After the vote, the United States of America mentioned that it was not a Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In joining consensus on the decision, the United States noted that it did not recognize any change in the current state of conventional or customary international law.

1.21 The Commission decided to consider the decisions on items **26** and **27** of the agenda without debate. Concerning item **26**, the Commission approved the relevant draft decision, following a vote by roll call, with 29 votes in favour, 3 against and 20 abstentions. The Commission then approved the draft decision on item **27**, following a vote by roll call, with 47 votes in favour, 1 against and 9 abstentions. On these items, the Commission recommended the draft decisions as contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of document 196 EX/39, with the detail of the vote. Following the vote, the representative of Bangladesh stated that if his delegation had been present, it would have voted in favour

of the draft decision on item **26**. Three other Member States and four observers also took the floor after the vote.

1.22 In examining item **31** of the agenda, members welcomed the draft decision, which would complement UNESCO's efforts to protect journalists. Various speakers reiterated their previous support for the Organization's coordinating role in the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and lauded the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) for its role in addressing safety issues. Members expressed gratitude to Sweden for presenting a draft decision that promoted international cooperation for the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. Members also expressed concern over the rise of attacks against journalists, particularly women, and noted that few perpetrators of those attacks were being brought to justice. Attention was also drawn to the fact that other media professionals, such as camera operators, were also victims of the attacks. Members supported the proposal of organizing a conference on the issue, involving media houses on the issue of journalists' safety, funded by extrabudgetary resources. On this item, the Commission recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 17 of document 196 EX/39.

1.23 Finally, the Commission examined item **33**, and recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 19 of document 196 EX/39.

1.24 Dear Mr Chair, Madam Director-General, dear colleagues, I have come to the end of my report on the work of the Programme and External Relations Commission and I sincerely hope that in my attempt to summarize our debates, you will forgive me if I have overlooked something. As I have already mentioned, our Commission examined 19 items with extended sessions and late hours. I wish to thank the distinguished members of the PX Commission whose understanding, collaboration and support during the debates, consultations and extended sessions have led us to the successful accomplishment of our task. I also wish to express my gratitude to the Temporary Chair, Ms Kris Rampersad, the distinguished representative of Trinidad and Tobago, for her readiness and support. Let me thank again the Chair of the Preparatory Group, Ms Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe, whose work greatly facilitated our deliberations: thank you for your support; I wish you success in your future endeavours. I thank especially the Director-General and the Secretariat, for having supported the Commission in its deliberations with the necessary explanations and clarifications under all circumstances. I recognize the difficult financial situation of the Organization which makes increasingly difficult the timely distribution of the documents and I applaud the extra efforts of Secretariat staff to comply with the deadlines under these dire circumstances. The PX Commission worked under a very tight schedule and I suggest that it may be necessary to foresee at least eight meetings at future Executive Board sessions to deal with the ever-increasing, rather than decreasing, workload. I would like to apologize particularly to the SIDS countries for not having sufficient time to consider their very important item, which received enormous consensus. Once again, I beg you for your understanding. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Secretary of our Commission, Ms Magda Landry, and the members of her team, Ms Ana Iglesias-Morel, Ms María del Mar Marcos, Mr Davide Storti, and Ms Reiko Yoshida. I also wish to thank the technical

assistants for providing their valuable assistance, the room clerks, the interpreters and the translators. Finally let me thank all the Members of the Executive Board, and especially you, Mr Chair, for contributing together to the success of the work of the PX Commission. Thank you very much.

2. **The Chair** commended Mr Muñoz Ledo on his outstanding work as Chair of the PX Commission, especially considering the large number of items on its agenda. He reminded the Board that, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, representatives might request that a draft decision be adopted separately, but indicated that it was not the time for proposing amendments. If Members wished to submit changes of a purely editorial nature, they should address them to the Secretary of the Executive Board, who would ensure that they would be taken into account by a professional editor. He understood that a consensus had been reached in the PX Commission relative to its draft decisions, and asked Board Members if they wished to request that any draft decisions be adopted separately. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the entire set of draft decisions contained in document 196 EX/39.

3. *It was so **decided**.*

Finance and Administrative Commission (FA): report and draft decisions recommended to the Executive Board

Item 4: Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference

Item 4.II: Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37 C/5) as at 31 December 2014 (unaudited), Budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 31 December 2014 (unaudited) (196 EX/4 Part II and Corr. and 196 EX/4 Part II Add., 196 EX/4 INF.2, 196 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 2 of document 196 EX/38

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.IV: Management issues (196 EX/5 Part IV, and 196 EX/5 INF.)

Item 5.IV.A: Management of the education-related category 1 institutes

Draft decision in paragraph 3 of document 196 EX/38

Item 5.IV.D: Knowledge Management and Information Technologies for Enhanced Programme Delivery

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 196 EX/38

Item 5.V: Human resources issues (196 EX/5 Part V, 196 EX/5 INF.2, 196 EX/5 INF.4)

Item 5.V.A: Annual report (2014) by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). Report by the Director-General

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 196 EX/38

Item 5.V. B: Feasibility study on introducing a new health insurance scheme

Draft decision in paragraph 6 of document 196 EX/38

Item 14: Renewal of Category 2 institutes and centres (196 EX/14)

Draft decision in paragraph 7 of document 196 EX/38

Item 22: Financial Regulations of Special Accounts (196 EX/22, 196 EX/22 Add and 196 EX/22 Add. Rev.)

Draft decision in paragraph 8 of document 196 EX/38

Item 23: New audits by the External Auditor

Item 23 Part I: Audit of the UNESCO multisectoral regional office in Nairobi (196 EX/23 Part I and Corr. (Spanish only) and 196 EX/23.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 9 of document 196 EX/38

Item 23 Part II: Audit of the UNESCO Cluster Office for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama – San José, Costa Rica (196 EX/23 Part II, 196 EX/23.INF.2 and Corr. (French only))

Draft decision in paragraph 10 of document 196 EX/38

Item 23 Part III: Audit report on forward-looking management of jobs, staffing and skills (196 EX/23 Part III and 196 EX/23.INF.3)

Draft decision in paragraph 11 of document 196 EX/38

Item 23 Part IV: Audit report on the follow-up to the independent evaluation by the UNESCO External Auditor of the implementation of the global strategy for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List (196 EX/23 Part IV and 196 EX/23.INF.4)

Draft decision in paragraph 12 of document 196 EX/38

4.1 **Mr Sudders** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chair of the Finance and Administrative Commission – FA) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished Members of the Executive Board, Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends, it is my duty to submit to this plenary meeting the report on the work of the third Finance and Administrative Commission of the biennium. At the outset, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Preparatory Group and its Chair, the Ambassador of Gabon, for their contribution to this report through their recommendations on item 4.II. *Dr. Gisèle, vous allez nous manquer.* Mr Chair, dear colleagues, the FA Commission examined a total of five items and took 15 decisions. These items can be found in paragraph 1 of document 196 EX/38. Now, with your permission, I shall proceed to highlight the most critical elements of our debates.

4.2 The Commission first considered item 4.II “Budgetary situation of the Organization for 2014-2015 (37 C/5) as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited), budget adjustments arising from donations and special contributions received and Management Chart for Programme Execution in 2014-2015 (37 C/5 Approved) Status as at 31 December 2014 (Unaudited)”. The representative of the Director-General made an elaborate presentation on that item which is at the disposal of the Member States. The evolution of the current work plans versus the previous biennium’s regular programme expenditures was presented, which showed a decrease by \$24 million in the staff component and an increase in the activity component of \$14 million. In terms of the budget

evolution over the years, Member States were presented with the current budget in relation to that of 2008-2009, which showed a decrease of 20.3%, translating into reductions of 33% for Part II.B corresponding to programme-related services, 27% for corporate services and 20% for programmes. It was also noted that of the total number of posts at the end of December 2014 (1,505), 59% were located in Headquarters and 41% in the field. The vacancy rate of 11% in December 2014 comprised 19% in the field and 6% at Headquarters. Member States had been presented with a request for the Board’s approval of a transfer of \$2.6 million from Part V of the budget mainly to Part II.A justifying this request to compensate programme sectors for the transition costs charged to their budgets during the restructuring of the Organization. That request gave rise to a lengthy debate.

4.3 Mr Chair, I must report that almost all members expressed the opinion that the transition costs should be covered by the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund and not by Part V; upon learning the status of the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund at that time, members expressed serious concern and discontent with the transfer of funds from the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund to another special account without prior information from the Secretariat. You will recall that Member States had raised the issue of reviewing the status of that fund at the budget orientation debate and at the Preparatory Group and were thus dismayed at the ‘disappearance’ of the funds between then and the beginning of the 196th session of the Executive Board, two weeks later, and questioned the timing of that decision. Speakers also recalled the original intention of Part V, which was to cover for inflation and anticipated cost increases. The request from the Secretariat was not a cost increase, inflationary or otherwise, but a transition cost. The Emergency Multi-Donor Fund, it is also to be recalled, already had a provision to finance transition costs and that provision thus could have been put to use. There was however considerable confusion in the debate regarding the actual status of the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund. A document had been issued (196 EX/22 Add.) which indicated that the balance of the fund was being transferred to a new Special Account. Members struggled to get answers on whether that had already been done, whether doing so would have been in conformity with the regulations of the Special Account containing the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund on the purpose, use and closure of the Fund, and whether those actions would have ultimately deprived them of the possibility of using the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund balance to partially fund the “+” in the budget scenario. I wrote to the Director-General regarding the specific financial regulations which members had expressed concern about, asking for her to look into the matter. I have this morning seen that a response has been forthcoming but have not yet had time to study it in detail. I propose to do so as soon as possible and will rely on your wisdom, Mr Chair, to help guide any next steps which may be deemed necessary. I do not believe that the response provided will alter the decision members have taken in respect to the ultimate use of the Fund. The Commission was very grateful to the Director-General herself for having cleared up the confusion on that matter. The Director-General made it clear that the paper had been placed before the Board in order to enable it to have a discussion on the matter. Nonetheless, having heard the Members, she understood the confusion and, in order to be clear, she had personally ordered that all funds be immediately restored to the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund pending any further discussion on the matter. I will further elaborate on

this matter in my oral report for the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions.

4.4 Mr Chair, dear colleagues, in the ensuing discussions members questioned the fact that the vacancy rate had not evolved over the previous six months and voiced concern that the vacancy rate was especially high in the field offices. The Secretariat did offer assurance, saying that in all regions the majority of the posts were under recruitment. In Africa, 83% of the vacant posts were under recruitment.

4.5 On queries concerning expenditure rates and mechanisms to improve the capacities of field offices, it was recalled that \$1.7 million had been allocated that biennium from the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund to provide field capacity for delivery, which had translated into the creation of temporary positions mostly at national level in order to provide backstopping and operational support. Members were informed that some of those positions were expected to be incorporated within the proposals under document 38 C/5.

4.6 Mr Chair, dear delegates, the FA Commission then turned to item 5 "Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions". The item was divided into two parts for the consideration and review of the Executive Board: Part IV on Management Issues and Part V on Human Resources. Under item 5.IV, the Executive Board was presented with two subdivisions: the first report concerned management of the education-related category I institutes and the second concerned knowledge management and information technologies for enhanced programme delivery.

4.7 In discussing item 5.IV.A, the 2012 joint Internal Oversight Service/Education Sector evaluation of the education-related category I institutes and the Executive Board's examination at the 191st session of challenges to their effective performance and management was recalled. The members were presented with a document serving as a follow-up and update on the management of the institutes which raised the issue of their future sustainability. All members pointed to the vital function and role the institutes played in the implementation of the education programme and the valuable services they provided to Member States within their area of expertise. Several speakers stressed the unique character and specificities of the institutes, and that consideration of education institutes should seriously take into account those variations. As a solution to ensure their continuity, the Secretariat is proposing that the existing financial arrangement between UNESCO and the Government of India for the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) should be viewed as a possible model for consideration. Some members believed that the model currently in place proposed by the Secretariat might not be an appropriate solution to all institutes' financial sustainability. A few members also stressed the fact that the task of securing institute's futures should not be a burden only to the host countries.

4.8 The representative of the Director-General mentioned recent exchanges with the authorities of the Russian Federation regarding the situation of the Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE), and reported on early signs of progress in obtaining funding from the host country. Furthermore, during the April 2015 meeting of the Governing Board of the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin

America and the Caribbean (IESALC), the Governing Board had proposed a plan to further encourage Member States of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) to support IESALC. Dissatisfaction, however, was expressed at the lack of information on the actual measures taken so far to improve the management of the Institute and on the update provided on outstanding related Internal Oversight Service (IOS) recommendations. It was also noted that contributions already made by host countries of institutes had not been sufficiently recognized and that the impression that certain institutes were more favoured than others must be avoided at all costs. Members also recalled the recommendation of the External Auditor and IOS to fund education institutes according to their performance. In the ensuing discussions, members also referred to the ongoing process of defining institutes' authority and accountability and emphasized the importance of maintaining institutes' financial autonomy as centres of excellence. The representative of the Director-General provided information on practical measures that had been taken to improve institutes' management and performance, including the alignment of the statutes of all education-related category I institutes. The representative of the Director-General explained that each institute had its own structure and organizational set-up, and specific historical links with UNESCO. It was only recently that the Secretariat had been able to work on harmonizing the shared elements and align common issues. The work would continue on financial and human resources matters, and all concerned stakeholders were working together closely to define a table of authority and accountability, which was expected to be completed by the end of the biennium.

4.9 During the discussions of the draft decisions, a few speakers strongly pressed for finalization of the appointment of institute directors, as that would have enabled two institutes to develop their future operational and financial strategies. A request was also made for submission at the 197th session of the Executive Board of updated information on the management of institutes and a report on the implementation of the IOS recommendations. In responding to the members' strong wish to finalize the appointment of institute directors, it was made clear by the Secretariat that UNESCO's regular programme allocation to IITE and IESALC would not be sufficient to fund the institute directors' posts, after taking into account the cost of other staff currently working in those institutes.

4.10 Mr Chair, the Commission then turned to item 5.IV.D "Knowledge management and information technologies for enhanced programme delivery". Members highly commended the efforts of the Secretariat and the progress achieved so far, in particular with regard to the UNESCO Transparency Portal and connectivity in the field, which was based on a clear strategy. They also very much appreciated the clear business case presented for the investments, including information on savings, return on investment and payback period. It was acknowledged that no further progress was possible with the resources available under the regular programme alone. However, relying only on voluntary extrabudgetary contributions did not appear to be sustainable and it was stated that knowledge management and ICT funding requirements should be considered under an investment fund. On a query regarding the funding requirements noted in the document, members received clarification that the funding needs had been rough estimates requiring revision, based on concrete business cases and work plans. However,

none of those were available in the existing regular budget. Funding sources, such as the Headquarters Utilization Fund, were mentioned as possibilities rather than concrete arrangements, and it would be up to the Headquarters Committee to discuss and decide upon any real funding possibilities or amounts under the Headquarters Utilization Fund. Regarding the issue of risks related to the use of “cloud” solutions and cybercrime, the representative of the Director-General informed the Commission that extensive consultations had been held both internally and with other United Nations agencies, and all possible security measures had been taken or planned.

4.11 Mr Chair, the FA Commission also discussed human resources issues under item 5. The Commission was presented with two documents: the first was a report by the Director General pertaining to the 2014 annual report by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the second was a feasibility study on introducing a new health care scheme. In expressing concern at the potential financial implications for UNESCO arising from ICSC and General Assembly decisions, one member asked about the legal basis for increases in salaries and allowances, for example, the recent increase in General Service salaries for Paris, and whether UNESCO was able to introduce changes to the frequency with which annual increments were awarded to staff on the basis of satisfactory performance, with a view to compressing spending. The representative of the Director-General indicated that the ICSC review would be looking into salary scale structure and the frequency of incremental steps as part of its remit. He noted that the General Conference authorized the Director-General to implement the recommendations and decisions of ICSC and the General Assembly, which reflected UNESCO's participation in the United Nations Common System of Salaries, Allowances and Other Benefits. As such, the methodologies for setting General Service salaries in Paris and the frequency of incremental steps for staff were approved by the General Assembly.

4.12 One speaker asked about the situation in UNESCO with regard to establishing gender equality across the Organization. The representative of the Director-General reported that, overall, 54% of staff in UNESCO were female. In the grades P1 to P5, 50% of staff were female. And while the percentage of female staff at Director level and above was only 38%, that was a legacy from the past and the situation in those grades had been improving steadily in recent years.

4.13 On the feasibility study on introducing a new health insurance scheme, and to end item 5 and close the topic of follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions, it was recalled that the unfunded liability for the provision of After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) was what had led to the request for such a study. Several speakers welcomed the United Nations system-wide study being carried out and asked the Secretariat for updates as the study progressed. Members expressed concern at the current financial situation of the Medical Benefits Fund (MBF) and the unfunded ASHI liability, which was estimated at \$1.2 billion. The representative of the Director-General noted that the day-to-day financial situation of the MBF was stable, with income from participants and UNESCO broadly in balance. The issue for the Organization was how the long-term cost it faced for contributions in respect of retired staff was to be financed. Three ways in which the ASHI liability could be

funded were noted: a direct charge on the payroll; a payment from the regular budget (the draft document 38C/5 contained a proposal to set aside 1% for that purpose); and/or through the provision of special funds. On 1 January 2015, the Organization had introduced an ASHI payroll charge for staff on extrabudgetary projects. A number of speakers asked how the financial liability would be funded in the future, how a special account established for the purpose would be set up and managed, and how such funds would be used in practice. The representative of the Director-General further noted that Annex 4 to document 196 EX/22 discussed proposals regarding the use of a special account for managing the funds set aside for ASHI for that purpose, which would be managed in accordance with the Organization's investment policy for short-term and long-term funds. One member noted that it would not be impossible to set up a new scheme and discontinue the previous one, the surplus backstopping the liability of the latter. One member requested that the study of alternative medical insurance plans should explore different ways of providing after-service health care cover, for example, private sector arrangements or buying back into national schemes. Members requested that reports be presented to the Executive Board at its 199th session on the ICSC recommendations, the General Assembly's decision on the compensation review, and the United Nations High Level Committee on Management report on the outcome of the feasibility study for a new health insurance scheme.

4.14 Mr Chair, please note that both staff unions, the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) and the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU), were given the floor for five minutes each on human resources issues.

4.15 Mr Chair, the FA Commission then welcomed the intervention of Mr Didier Migaud, President of the French *Cour des Comptes*, our External Auditor, on item 23 “New Audits by the External Auditor, Parts I to IV”. The External Auditor, in presenting the audit of the UNESCO multisectoral regional office in Nairobi (item 23.I) and the audit of the UNESCO Cluster Office for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama – San José, Costa Rica (item 23.II), reminded members that the audit had been conducted pursuant to article 12.4 of the Financial Regulations and that no significant irregularities had been observed.

4.16 Several speakers asked for an explanation from the Secretariat on the absence of a performance agreement for the Director of Office in Nairobi as reported by the External Auditor, which contradicted information received from the Secretariat on the full implementation of performance agreements. They were assured that the Director's performance agreements had been finalized in a tool called “My Talent” at the end of 2014.

4.17 Several members also stressed the importance of implementing external audit recommendations, in particular in view of the Director-General's comment on the report that “she accepts all recommendations made and will implement them as far as practicable”. As requested by members, an update on each recommendation in the Nairobi report was given by the representative of the Director General, all having been accepted and either already implemented, or in progress. The audit recommendation in relation to the release of vacant office space would have to be seen in light of the staffing perspective of that office, which was expected to grow as a result of the increase in extrabudgetary funding.

4.18 Members also asked the External Auditor about the recurrence of the findings he reported and how those findings should be taken into account in a global approach to UNESCO reform and financial and human resources management. The External Auditor responded that an audit of field reform was included in the 2015 audit plan, which would provide the opportunity to undertake such an in-depth review.

4.19 Turning to item **23.II** addressing the audit on the Cluster Office in San José, one member raised the matter of financial constraints that could determine the timing of the implementation of the audit recommendations, and another recalled the cost saving potential through synergies within the United Nations system in various domains including procurement or local offices. The representative of the Director-General provided information on the current status of implementation of the 11 recommendations.

4.20 Turning to item **23.III** "Audit Report on Forward-Looking Management of Jobs, Staffing and Skills", the External Auditor briefly outlined the main findings of the audit. He pointed out that the management of human resources needed significant improvement. He also recalled that the Executive Board, in 2011, had stated that effective strategic planning of human resources had to be put in place. That had been postponed and the External Auditor could not track decisions, nor the rationale for such decisions while in a time of crisis, and a tool for human resources planning would have been particularly useful to have. Members expressed serious concern about the content of the audit report, which they found alarming and worrying and which pointed to many deficiencies in human resource management. They noted in particular the suspension of more than half of the actions of the human resources strategy; an absence of reflection on the core business of the Organization; and a field office network that appeared to be side-lined.

4.21 Members also expressed disappointment about the recurrent issues in each External Auditor report that had not been addressed and pointed to, notably that of the lack of performance agreements for directors of field offices. More generally, members challenged the relevance of performance agreements in terms of whether they corresponded to what was needed, and requested more information on the tool "My Talent" and on the skills assessment recommended by the External Auditor, specifically how long it would take to implement the skills assessment, whether it could be done internally and what the cost would be. On performance agreements, the External Auditor indicated that a good performance agreement must set objectives vis-à-vis the challenges of the job (not generic, but specific) and that such objectives needed to be measurable so that results could be evaluated. He explained that from what they had seen, "My Talent" was a very rudimentary tool and was still being rolled out at the time of his audit.

4.22 Members of the Commission expressed surprise about the high number of service contract staff in the field and asked for clarifications about their use. Specific questions were raised, including whether service contract staff performing core jobs were funded by the regular programme; how UNESCO compared to other agencies; and how the use of the contracts would be aligned with UNESCO Staff Regulations in the future. Members inquired about legal implications for the Organization. The External Auditor, while noting that the use of service contracts was common across United Nations agencies,

said that it was not to be regarded as a good practice. He indicated that the legal risk was the re-qualification of contracts, in the case of their long-term use for core functions. The representative of the Secretariat explained that it was a systemic issue within the United Nations system. UNESCO was not the highest user in the system. The percentage of non-staff in UNESCO was currently at 44%, while in other field-based agencies, including specialized ones, the percentage ranged from 50% up to 80%. The issue concerned the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), for instance.

4.23 Clarifications were sought on the Special Redeployment Committee and the involvement of the sectors. The External Auditor's report mentioned that the Redeployment Committee had protected "individual interests", which was highlighted and questions were asked. Concerns were also expressed about the departure of highly skilled staff and the loss of expertise as a result of the redeployment. With regard to the redeployment exercise, supervisors were not consulted, and that should have been addressed. The representative of the Secretariat acknowledged the comments of the members and noted the crisis context that had characterized the Organization during the period reviewed by the External Auditor. He said that in his own external view, UNESCO had managed the exercise very well, avoiding years of litigation, retaining valuable staff and skills and avoiding a significant drop in morale that often followed a big lay-off exercise. The sectors' Assistant Directors-General (ADGs) had been members of the Special Redeployment Committee. However, when cases in their own sector had been considered, they had not been consulted, to avoid any bias. That particular method was put in place for that specific, large exercise to ensure that the Organization's staff interests at large were taken into account, while under the standard procedure for ad hoc redeployment cases, supervisors were always consulted.

4.24 Finally, on item **23.IV**, the Commission briefly evoked the audit report on the follow-up to the independent evaluation by the UNESCO External Auditor of the implementation of the global strategy for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List. As Member States would have the opportunity to discuss the audit report at the governing body sessions of the World Heritage Convention, during the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (June-July 2015) as well as during the 20th session of the General Assembly of States Parties (November 2015), a debate on that item was therefore not necessary within the FA Commission at that stage.

4.25 It will give you great pleasure, Mr Chair, to know that my report on item **14** "Renewal of category II institutes and centres" will be very short as the item was adopted without debate and the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones (RCTWS), a category II centre located in Egypt, was renewed by acclamation.

4.26 Lastly, the FA Commission members discussed item **22** "Financial regulations of special accounts", following the discussion at the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions on item **15** "Draft Budget for the Biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5)". The document under

consideration was accompanied by an original document dated 12 March with four Special Accounts, an addendum dated 13 April with five Special Accounts and a revised addendum dated 16 April back to four Special Accounts. The so called “Fit For Purpose” Special Account therefore had a theoretical existence of approximately 48 hours. Now, dear colleagues, members of the Commission had already seen the addendum dated 13 April at the start of the FA Commission meeting and so, noting that mistakes can be corrected but history cannot be rewritten, we proceeded to take a decision which took full account of all the documents. As stated earlier, given that the Director-General had appeared before the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions and given the late hour, members were indulgent and willing to “forgive and forget”. However, Mr Chair, in recommending the adoption of the draft decision, Member States, who are sovereign, reserved the right to request the General Conference to change some of the existing provisions of the regulations governing Special Accounts for the future. After all, those who do not learn from the mistakes of history may ultimately, unfortunately, repeat them.

4.27 Mr Chair, dear colleagues, I have now come to the end of my oral presentation. As I informed you earlier, the draft decisions recommended to the Executive Board are all in document 196 EX/38. Note that in the draft decision relating to document 196 EX/4 Part II, the approved Appropriation Resolution has been cited to ensure conformity with what was agreed to in the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions. As this will come after the report of the FA Commission, we will “correct” that reference to the decision rather than to the resolution.

4.28 With your permission, I should like to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of our work. Let me start, Mr Chair, by thanking you for your support and your advice, which has always been invaluable. I would also like to thank the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, the Assistant Director General/Bureau of Strategic Planning (ADG/BSP), the Director of Human Resources Management a.i. (DIR/HRM), the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), the Director of the Internal Oversight Service (DIR/IOS), the Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs (DIR/LA), the Director of the Division of Knowledge Management and Information Systems (DIR/KMI) and the other colleagues on the Senior Management Team who provided us with the necessary input and clarifications to carry out our work effectively; a well-wisher, who will recognize herself when I say “thank you for the chocolates, and we wish you were here – you kept us going during all those long sessions!”; and last but by no means least, the interpreters, translators, screen-typists, document production unit, room clerks, and technicians, all of whom we entirely depended on for the functioning of our work. This time we were working back-to-back and so we are especially grateful. Finally, I want to thank the Secretary of the FA Commission, Mr Sachin Bhatt and his team: Daniela Larrière-Cardoso, Juan Frias-Velatti, Emily Stirnemann and Olive Ugo-Nlemadin. Dear colleagues, I thank you all for your attention, I apologize for not being as brief as I wanted to, and remain at your disposal to reply to any questions or comments.

5. **The Chair** thanked the Chair of the FA Commission for his report and commended the firm and capable manner in which he had conducted the work of the Commission. He reminded Board Members that, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Board should adopt the entire set of

draft decisions recommended by each plenary commission as a whole, unless a Board Member requested that a specific decision be adopted separately. If Members wished to submit changes of a purely editorial nature, they should address them to the Secretary of the Executive Board, who would ensure that they would be taken into account by a professional editor. Members might request that a draft decision be adopted separately, but it was not the time for proposing amendments. He understood that a consensus had been reached in the FA Commission relative to its draft decisions, and asked the Members if they wished to request that any draft decisions be adopted separately. Seeing no such requests, he took it that the Board wished to adopt the entire set of draft decisions contained in document 196 EX/38.

6. *It was so decided.*

Joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions: report and draft decisions recommended to the Executive Board

Item 5: Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions

Item 5.I: Programme issues (196 EX/5 Part I; 196 EX/5.INF.3)

Item 5.I.B: Report on the outcomes of the Third International Conference on SIDS and proposed follow-up within the Organization’s programme and budget for 2014-2017

Draft decision in paragraph 2 of document 196 EX/40

Item 5.I.C: UNESCO Global Geoparks Initiative

Draft decision in paragraph 3 of document 196 EX/40

Item 5.III: Evaluation issues: Progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO (196 EX/5 Part III and Corr.)

Draft decision in paragraph 4 of document 196 EX/40

Item 5.IV: Management issues (196 EX/5 Part IV)

Item 5.IV.B: Sustainability of the current field network under the \$507 million expenditure plan

Draft decision in paragraph 5 of document 196 EX/40

Item 9: Report on the progress of the revision of the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport (196 EX/9)

Draft decision in paragraph 6 of document 196 EX/40

Item 11: The New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality (196 EX/11)

Draft decision in paragraph 7 of document 196 EX/40

Item 12: UNESCO prizes

Item 12.I: Revised strategy (196 EX/12 Part I and Corr.)

Draft decision in paragraph 8 of document 196 EX/40

Item 12.2: Renewal and review of prizes (196 EX/12 Part II)

Draft decision in paragraph 9 of document 196 EX/40

Item 13: Report by the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) on the activities of the Institute (196 EX/13)

Draft decision in paragraph 10 of document 196 EX/40

Item 15: Draft budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (38 C/5) (Draft 38 C/5; 196 EX/15.INF and Rev. (English only); 196 EX/15.INF.2; 196 EX/15.INF.3)

Draft decision in paragraph 11 of document 196 EX/40

Item 23: New audits by the External Auditor

Item 23.V: Status report on the audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities (196 EX/23 Part V and Corr. (French only); 196 EX/23.INF.5 and Corr. (French only))

Draft decision in paragraph 12 of document 196 EX/40

Item 24: Annual report of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) 2014 (196 EX/24; 196 EX/24.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 13 of document 196 EX/40

Item 25: Proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2016-2017 with which UNESCO could be associated (196 EX/25 and Add.; 196 EX/25.INF; 196 EX/PG.INF)

Draft decision in paragraph 14 of document 196 EX/40

Item 29: Culture in conflict areas: a humanitarian concern and a safety issue. UNESCO's role and responsibilities (196 EX/29; 196 EX/DG.INF Rev.)

Draft decision in paragraph 15 of document 196 EX/40

7.1 **Sr. Sudders** (Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte) (Presidente de la Comisión Administrativa y de Hacienda – FA) *in extenso*:
Señor Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo, señora Directora General, excelencias, estimados colegas: muy buenos días a todos. Tuve el gran honor de copresidir la reunión conjunta de la Comisión del Programa y de Relaciones Exteriores (PX) y de la Comisión Administrativa y de Hacienda (FA) del Consejo Ejecutivo junto a mi colega y amigo, el excelentísimo señor Embajador Muñoz-Ledo.

(7.1) **M. Sudders** (Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord) (Président de la Commission financière et administrative – FA) *in extenso (traduit de l'espagnol)* :

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, chers collègues, bonjour à tous. J'ai eu l'immense honneur de coprésider la réunion conjointe de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures (PX) et de la Commission financière et administrative (FA) du Conseil exécutif, aux côtés de mon collègue et ami, S. E. M. l'Ambassadeur Muñoz Ledo.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

7.2 We, in the joint meeting of the Programme and External Relations (PX) and the Finance and Administrative (FA) Commissions of the Executive Board, considered five items. My oral report on the items that I had the honour of chairing will be brief and based on some of the highlights that we want to bring to your attention. My statement will be followed by that of Ambassador Muñoz-Ledo on the items he chaired. The list can be found in paragraph 1 of document 196 EX/40 containing the draft decisions recommended by the PX and FA Commissions at their joint meeting. At the end of our joint report, Mr Chair, we would like to propose that the Executive Board globally adopt the draft decisions in document 196 EX/40.

7.3 Mr Chair, the discussion on item 15 relating to the draft programme and budget for the biennium 2016-2017 was initiated in the context of the previously held budget orientation debate of 23 March 2015. I will not go into the details as we, the Chair of the PX Commission and I, had already briefed the plenary previously.

7.4 As I had the occasion to state in my report on the meeting of the Finance and Administrative Commission (FA), the Director-General was present at the opening of the Board's session, along with you, Mr Chair, to express regret concerning the confusion centred around the status of the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund. It was noted that, as an immediate response to Member States' concerns, she had given instructions to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and the Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning (ADG/BSP) to reconstitute the funds and keep open the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund until the Executive Board had reached a decision on how the remaining funds should be used. She further noted that continued dialogue and transparency were essential in these times of financial constraints, and she reaffirmed her commitment to those principles as she led the reform efforts forward. Members highly appreciated her intervention and expressed their sincere thanks to the Director-General.

7.5 Members who took the floor agreed that UNESCO's mandate was more relevant than ever, and in light of the increasing demands on the Organization, there was unanimous support for the zero nominal growth plus (ZNG+) scenario. While some members were initially willing to finance the increased budget through increased assessed contributions, they were also willing to listen to other Member States whose governments could not support an increase in their assessed levels at the present time. In that light, collectively, the members supported the draft resolution which recommend that the General Conference approve a ZNG+ ceiling of \$667 million for major programmes and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), by funding the \$14 million reinforcement from the remaining balance on the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund and from the Part V of the Approved Programme and Budget (2014-2017) "Anticipated cost increases". Any funds remaining on those two accounts thereafter could then be used to finance reform and efficiency measures through an 'invest for efficient delivery' fund to be established exclusively for those purposes. A few members requested clarification as to whether that proposal was feasible and whether it represented a sustainable solution for the future. In response to the questions, the representative of the Director-General said that it would be feasible. As to the future budgets, it was recalled that budgets were approved for a period of the biennium only and while normally the previously approved appropriation level was used as the basis for preparing the budget estimates for the following biennium, Member States were sovereign to determine the budget ceilings for the next draft budget (39 C/5) irrespective of the appropriation approved in the previous biennium. It was also recalled that the Organization had to prepare future budget proposals using results-based budgeting methodology where the budget ceilings *per se* were secondary to the idea of building up from the cost of activities. Let me recall a Dilbert cartoon here which says: "Never base your budget requests on realistic assumptions, as this could lead to a decrease in your funding".

7.6 In the ensuing discussions, a number of speakers expressed concern that the budget distribution for some expected results did not fully respect the priority rankings

approved by Member States in the decision taken at the fifth special session of the Executive Board. In response to questions raised about the reasons for the divergence between the budget allocations and the priority rankings contained in 5 X/EX/Decision 2, the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC) admitted that the desired allocations for some expected results had not materialized from the bottom-up results-based budgeting exercise, but that the Secretariat was ready to adjust the work plans and the staff and activity budgets to align them with the priorities set by the Member States. Members particularly thanked ADG/SC for her candid and transparent response. It was refreshing. The joint meeting agreed that the Secretariat should review the financial allocations proposed in the expenditure plans in order to align them as closely as possible with the priority rankings approved by the General Conference, and to present the amended tables at the next session of the Executive Board. One member questioned the proposal to close action point 1(f) under Independent External Evaluation (IEE) Strategic Direction 1, as set out in document 196 EX/15 INF.2. As a reminder, action point 1(f) recommends that criteria be established for introducing new programmes and for maintaining existing programmes for regular and extrabudgetary programmes. Some call this the “sunset clause”. The member noted that clear criteria for sunset clauses had not yet been determined, and requested that the item be maintained on the agenda for further reporting. He further requested that a list of criteria be presented at the next Executive Board. The Secretariat took due note of that request.

7.7 Mr Chair, I will not go into the discussions related to the recommendations by the Executive Board on preparation of the draft programme and budget, or the need for a working group, which was to meet over the weekend of 18 to 19 April, as no draft decision was tabled that recommended a change in the draft programme presented and the few concrete proposals for modifications were done within the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions, obviating the need for a working group over the weekend. Mr Chair, please note that the avoidance of the need to work over the weekend was met with applause, as was the consensual spirit of the debate, including on the budget ceiling.

7.8 In the ensuing discussions, questions were raised about the sustainability of the field network reform, and about the fact that the Secretariat did not seem to have consulted the programme sectors when determining the lapse factor rate and the expenditure plan envelopes. The representative of the Director General informed the joint meeting that a report on the field network reform had been presented in document 196 EX/5 Part IV.B. But a more detailed study was forthcoming, as more time was needed in order to take into consideration the evaluation by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) of field reform in Africa. The representative of the Director-General informed the members that as per normal procedures, the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) prepared provisional budget envelopes, which were approved by the Director-General and communicated to the sectors and bureaux to enable them to begin the process of preparing the draft budget. Thereafter, sectors and bureaux had full autonomy to determine their budget proposals on the basis of those initial envelopes. Once the sector submissions were completed, the Director-General then adjusted the initial envelopes in accordance with the additional needs identified in the sectors’ costed submissions. With regard to determining the lapse factor rate for document 38 C/5, BSP consulted closely with the Bureau of Human

Resources Management (HRM) and the Bureau of Financial Management (BFM), which were the offices responsible for providing consolidated information on vacancy trends and on the use of temporary assistance. As the calculation was more technical than programmatic, the Secretariat considered that it could be done centrally.

7.9 A number of members raised questions concerning the status of the assistant director-general (ADG) posts approved in document 37 C/5 and those proposed in document 38 C/5, for the Communication Sector (CI) and the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP). Concerning the ADG/BSP post, the joint meeting noted that the post was marked as approved as a Director post (D2) in the Approved Programme and Budget (37 C/5), but was marked at ADG grade in the approved 37 C/5 expenditure plan. They questioned the coherence of having a higher grade post in a lower financial scenario. The members also noted that the ADG/CI post was included in both the Approved Programme and Budget (37 C/5) and in the \$507 million expenditure plan and that it was not proposed in the draft 38 C/5 expenditure plan.

7.10 In response to the questions, the Deputy Director-General explained at length the history of the decisions taken concerning the ADG/CI and ADG/BSP posts in the course of preparation of document 37 C/5; the statement by the Deputy-Director General would be circulated to all members along with a written reply from the Legal Adviser based on subsequent statements by members. It is worth recalling that the exceptional nature of the situation at the time of the adoption of document 37 C/5 would have contributed to the confusion. The Organization was forced to consider a transition from a financial crisis to an unwanted new “normal”. In order to do that, we became one of the only United Nations agencies to rank its programmes in order of priority. Those priorities meant the abolition of a considerable number of posts, but until the final decision had been taken, the redeployment could not begin and detailed staffing tables would have pre-empted any possible redeployment decision. The General Conference therefore had before it a full programme and budget document, with detailed tables, but an expenditure plan without tables. The problem only really arose because a detailed staffing table was published in a document called 37 C/5 Approved when in fact Member States had never seen it. In theory that problem should not arise in future since we regrettably live continuously in the restricted cash-flow situation and any further redeployment is unlikely to be needed unless the programme or strategy changes. After those complicated explanations, we all wished to focus on what the Executive Board needed to do in future if it wanted to change the staffing and organization structure proposals. History will show that previous General Conferences had been considerably more prescriptive and restrictive. Member States did not, however, have an overwhelming desire to go too far in that direction, or to limit the prerogative of the Director-General. Nonetheless, such problems arose partly because of a difference in expectations rather than prerogatives and because the practice had changed regularly. The governance review might like to consider how that kind of misunderstanding could be prevented in future.

7.11 Mr Chair, distinguished delegates, after a very long debate, which occupied almost six hours of our time, the draft decision was approved by consensus and greeted by applause. I wish to salute the exemplary spirit of constructive debate and understanding across the

board. I also wish to salute the many sponsors of the draft decision.

7.12 Mr Chair, the discussion continued with item **5.IV.B** on the follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions, specifically on management issues and with a particular focus on the sustainability of the field office network under the \$507 million implementation plan. Members emphasized the importance of UNESCO's presence in the field along with other United Nations agencies. Some of them expressed satisfaction with the field offices they were hosting and requested more recognition of Member States' support to those offices. Several members asked the representative of the Director-General to strengthen further the management competencies and delivery capacities of field offices, notably by filling vacant posts, validating performance agreements for field directors and staff, and improving the offices' efficiency and accountability. Some speakers also requested that more exchanges be organized between field offices and permanent delegations at Headquarters to share information and raise the visibility of UNESCO's action in the field. Information meetings with permanent delegations of Member States on UNESCO's action in the field will be held and it was agreed to meet with interested Member States to identify additional communication mechanisms.

7.13 Let me report also on item **5.III** "Evaluation issues", and more specifically on the progress report on the implementation of the action plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO. In brief, speakers raised questions about the organization of the second interregional meeting of National Commissions to be held at Headquarters just before the 38th session of the General Conference; how to improve cooperation between National Commissions and field offices, in particular with regard to field office staff; and continuity of the Director-General's regional consultations regarding document C/5. The representative of the Director-General confirmed that the agenda of the second interregional meeting of National Commissions would be left up to the National Commissions themselves and that the views of the field offices would be conveyed to the meeting. He added that UNESCO would provide, as customary, financial support for participants from least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) attending the General Conference in order to ensure maximum participation rate and representativity.

7.14 Mr Chair, the Joint Commission then turned to item **23.V** "Status report on the audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities". That item was well received but was not accompanied by a draft decision, as the report was an interim report representing work in progress. Several members said they would welcome being provided with limited, specific, innovative and challenging recommendations on critical issues for their consideration, with an analysis based on various sources. Several speakers requested the advice of the External Auditor on possible ways to obtain a consensus on constructive changes in governance. They also asked whether changes in governance were subject to legal changes or could be made without major amendments to rules and procedures. The External Auditor stressed the complex and ever-growing structure of UNESCO but assured members that pointers or indicators to facilitate decision-making would be provided in his final report. Several

members requested the External Auditor to take into account in his audit any previous work done on governance. The External Auditor agreed that work previously conducted on governance would be taken into account in the current review. Several members pointed out that potential cost optimization should not restrict the representation of Member States on the governing bodies, while potential duplication of the work of the governing bodies needed to be avoided through strict terms of reference. The External Auditor responded to concerns raised by some speakers that the final report would concentrate only on economic issues by assuring them that it would also take into account the political dimension as necessary. He welcomed any additional input from the Member States to the status report, which would be used to prepare the full report.

7.15 In relation to the list of statutory bodies under the scope of the governance audit, one member asked the Secretariat for an exhaustive map of UNESCO statutory bodies. The representative of the Director-General spoke about the process of preparing a comprehensive list of UNESCO statutory bodies, as requested by the External Auditor, and, in line with the definition provided by the External Auditor, of determining the precise parameters of the bodies that should be included on the list. A mapping of such bodies did not exist and to develop one at that time would overlap with the governance audit in process. Perhaps the non-existence of the list was itself an indicator of a governance issue. The comprehensive list of statutory bodies, to supplement the Annex to document 191 EX/16 Part IV, would be provided to the External Auditor by mid-May 2015.

7.16 Mr Chair, dear colleagues, members welcomed the Annual Report of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) of 2014 (item **24**), for its quality and relevance. Several representatives stressed the importance of multilingualism in UNESCO's work and expressed support for the IOS audit recommendation that UNESCO's web governance be improved in that regard. The Director of IOS indicated that the main challenge was cost. IOS did not currently translate its reports into other languages, but was looking for creative solutions, for example just translating executive summaries. IOS also systematically reviewed the state of implementation of multilingualism as a regular part of its internal audits. A number of representatives inquired about IOS resources for fulfilling its mandate effectively. The Director of IOS explained that the IOS budget was very limited, but that it had not undergone further cuts. In recent times, IOS had succeeded in finding creative solutions to fund its work. Speakers also raised questions about the implementation of internal audit and evaluation recommendations and asked the Secretariat for its view on increasing the level of visibility and accountability with regard to the implementation of recommendations. One member inquired about the implementation status of investigation recommendations. The Director of IOS explained that each IOS report included management comments and action plans, and IOS regularly engaged at least twice a year with sectors and field offices for follow up. Furthermore, the Senior Management Team, as well as the Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC), was informed of progress on a regular basis, which encouraged ownership and accountability. With regard to investigation recommendations, the IOS annual report provided information on allegations and on disciplinary action taken, which in some cases had resulted in dismissal. Investigation recommendations were addressed to the Director-General and were then usually transmitted to the Bureau of Human Resources

Management for action. IOS followed up on those recommendations until final action was taken. Regarding the proposed revised terms of reference of the Oversight Advisory Committee, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions heard from its Chair, Ms Hilary Wild, for the first time, and I hereby wish to put on record the joint meeting's appreciation of her contribution. In the subsequent discussion, a query was raised on whether members of OAC had access to all UNESCO staff and not just members of the Senior Management Team. The Director of IOS explained that OAC had full access to anyone they wished to speak with and that the Committee's revised terms of reference could reflect that.

7.17 Mr Chair, with regard to item **12.I** "Revised strategy", members who took the floor welcomed the introduction of an external review of prize feasibility studies and renewals, and urged the Secretariat to pursue the ongoing review of prizes. Some speakers inquired about the additional costs the external review would have for donors. One member wanted to know the number of UNESCO prizes not yet aligned with the revised strategy and whether the creation of new UNESCO prizes was envisaged. Ultimately, members concluded that the external review of prize proposals and renewals, in accordance with the criteria set out by the Secretariat, was the way forward and was consistent with other UNESCO designations. In his reply, the representative of the Director-General thanked members for their statements and informed them that since the 191st session of the Executive Board and the adoption of the amendments to the revised strategy for prizes, the Secretariat had undertaken a complete examination of all UNESCO prizes with a view to aligning them with the strategy. To date, only four prizes were not aligned. He also informed the members that the Secretariat was holding discussions with at least two donors with a view to creating two new prizes.

7.18 On item **12.II** "Renewal and review of prizes", the joint meeting unanimously recommended to the Executive Board that it renew the UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize for a period of six years, for outstanding contributions to preservation of documentary heritage as a common heritage of humanity.

7.19 Mr Chair, I have come to an end of my presentation. With your permission, Mr Chair, I would like to give the floor to my esteemed co-chair, the Chair of the PX Commission. I thank you all for your kind attention.

8.1 **Mr Muñoz Ledo** (Mexico) (Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission – PX) *in extenso*:

Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Director-General, dear colleagues, I have the honour to present you the results of the work of the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions, which I co-chaired with my esteemed colleague and friend, His Excellency Matthew Sudders. My report will cover the debates and issues concerning the seven items of the agenda that I chaired.

8.2. In examining item **13** of the agenda, members commended the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) for the strategic work it had done and stressed its crucial role in strengthening global data collection and quality of statistical data, thereby helping to foster a culture of evaluation, especially in the context of the future sustainable development goals (SDGs). In their statements, members also expressed their concern about the financial situation of UIS, and asked how it could attract more resources. The Secretariat assured the joint meeting that there was no particular risk to UIS activities

but the Institute needed more financial support. On this item, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision contained in paragraph 10 of the document 196 EX/39.

8.3 During consideration of item **5.I.C** "UNESCO Global Geoparks Initiative", reference was made to the issue of branding and competition and in that context it was deemed essential to indicate clearly the added value of the Global Geoparks Initiative and to distinguish it from other UNESCO-designated sites. One member drew attention to the implication of approving "in one go" 111 or more geoparks as UNESCO Geoparks without proper consideration of each designation, and requested that at least a brief geological description of each geopark be made available prior to the General Conference to help Member States make an informed decision when deciding which sites merited the UNESCO geoparks designation. Others raised legal questions about the protection of geological sites that became part of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (GGN). Another member drew attention to the lack of a conflict resolution mechanism in the event of a designation contested by Member States. Financial issues were mentioned by a number of countries, particularly with regard to implications for the regular budget. The Secretariat assured members that no additional resources from the regular budget would be used in that regard. Many members said that capacity building was important and that contributions of US \$1,000 per UNESCO Geopark might not be enough. Some members asked about plans to mobilize additional resources for capacity building and the revalidation process, and some others recommended raising the financial contribution for each UNESCO Geopark. On this item, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision contained in paragraph 3 of the 196 EX/39.

8.4 The joint meeting then moved to the examination of item **9** of the agenda. The Secretariat highlighted the collective effort that had led to the elaboration of the final draft of the revised International Charter of Physical Education and Sport and expressed gratitude to Colombia, Monaco and the International Olympic Committee for their financial and in-kind contributions. During the debate, members stressed that the revision of the Charter was needed to reflect significant developments in the field of physical education, physical activity and sport since the adoption of the original Charter in 1978. Several speakers questioned the lack of time available at the consultative process to negotiate the issue of "autonomy of sports organizations", and agreed to adopt the Charter without paragraph 10.8. On this item, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision contained in paragraph 6 of document 196 EX/39. Following the recommendation, the representative of the United States of America, while joining the consensus on the draft decision, noted that the language of the draft revised Charter conflicted in some respects with the governance framework for education of her country, and that the Charter, as a statement of goals and principles, was not legally binding upon Member States.

8.5 The joint meeting then examined agenda item **11**. The Secretariat, in its presentation, recalled that there were more than one billion people with disabilities in the world, and they often suffered from discrimination and social exclusion. Members welcomed the New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities and thanked UNESCO, the Governments of India and Kuwait, and other partners for organizing the New Delhi

conference. It was noted that the Declaration would strengthen UNESCO's efforts to improve access to information and knowledge using inclusive and affordable ICTs for people living with disabilities, and that the Declaration demonstrated UNESCO's commitment to promoting inclusivity. Members encouraged UNESCO to continue its work in that area, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and to implement the relevant recommendations of the Declaration. On this item, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 7 of document 196 EX/39.

8.6 On item **25** of the agenda, members took note that the list of anniversaries proposed for celebration in association with UNESCO was not gender-balanced or equitably geographically distributed, despite new criteria and procedures, and expressed its regret in that regard. It was hoped that those two aspects would improve by the second submission period. One member referred to difficulties in achieving gender balance. Responding to one member's concern about the costs entailed by each proposal, the Secretariat recalled that the application of the new criteria and procedures had resulted in the reduction by about two thirds of the total number of proposals, compared to the previous biennium. The Secretariat also confirmed that in accordance with 195 EX/Decision 25, unrepresented or under-represented Member States could have the possibility of submitting new requests during the appeal period. On this item, the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 14 of document 196 EX/39.

8.7 Ladies and gentlemen, item **29** of the agenda was introduced by the representative of Italy, who explained the rationale behind the initiative on the protection of culture in conflict areas, recalling that the attacks against places of memory, history and worship fed into spirals of revenge that destabilized the social cohesion and peace of the countries concerned. Most members condemned the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq, Syria and Libya, and stressed the need for UNESCO to act immediately to prevent the intentional destruction of cultural heritage and the trafficking of cultural property. Some speakers emphasized as well the need to construct a solid base for UNESCO's future action in that field. It was stressed that Member States' had a duty to react, under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015) and the mandate given to UNESCO to prevent trafficking and protect cultural heritage. It was noted that the lack of additional ratification of international legislation aimed at the protection of cultural heritage may have been the cause of the lack of national legislation, and greater impunity for perpetrators. In that regard, speakers requested that a comprehensive strategy on implementation of UNESCO's cultural conventions and identification of the gaps therein, particularly with respect to armed conflict, be prepared. The draft decision was unanimously supported by the members. I wish to draw your attention to the fact that in paragraph 9 of the draft decision, a line was left out when the paragraphs were rearranged. The Secretariat will correct the omission in the final version of the report. During examination of the draft decision, the representative of Mexico expressed the view that the third paragraph could lead to confusion between protection of cultural heritage in case of armed conflict, and protection of cultural property that was destroyed intentionally, which might constitute a war crime. Furthermore, in reference to the same paragraph, the representative of Brazil expressed concern about possible

interpretations of the phrase "provided they are not military objectives", which could constitute a waiver with regard to the overall purpose of the paragraph, which was to qualify, according to international law, intentional attacks on the cultural heritage of humanity as a war crime. While proposing an amendment to the text in that respect, the representative of Brazil understood that some proponents of the draft decision could not accept his amendment because not all UNESCO Member States were parties to the 1954 Convention and its Second Protocol. On that issue, the general feeling was that the paragraph had been carefully drafted to reflect agreed language and should be left unchanged. The representative of Gabon expressed her concern about the fact that the proposed text did not explicitly mention protection of "intangible heritage", after which it was clarified that references to cultural heritage included both tangible and intangible heritage. The representative of Gabon also said that her delegation had a distinct understanding of the presentation of the draft decision, particularly with regard to the chronological order of the paragraphs. The joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended by acclamation the draft decision as contained in paragraph 15 of document 196 EX/39. After the recommendation had been made, the representative of Italy affirmed his belief that the responsibility to protect cultural heritage threatened by crises could only be collective, shared by all members of the international community. He therefore proposed that UNESCO might wish to raise these issues with the Security Council, so that consideration could be given to an effective mechanism for international protection of cultural heritage, based on the model of multinational peacekeeping forces, and operated by "culture peacekeepers".

8.8 Ladies and gentlemen, under item **5.I.B**, speakers praised the Organization for including small island developing States (SIDS) as a priority target group in its Medium-Term Strategy. Concern was expressed about the lack of precise figures and a budget, such as measurable indicators relating to the Action Plan, activities to be implemented under document 38 C/5 and the corresponding financial allocations and costing. The need to identify funding gaps that would require additional extrabudgetary funds was also highlighted. Although the Action Plan should be more focused, members also acknowledged that the characteristics of small island developing States differed from one region to another, making the task increasingly challenging. The joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions recommended the draft decision as contained in paragraph 2 of document 196 EX/39.

8.9 Dear Mr Chair, colleagues, having come to the end of my oral report, I wish to take the opportunity to express once again my sincere thanks to the distinguished members of the joint meeting of the PX and FA Commissions, for their support, patience and cooperation during the long debates and extended sessions. I wish to thank the Director-General who, with the help of the Deputy Director-General and Assistant Directors-General, presented the joint meeting with pertinent information and documents and provided useful explanations and clarifications when needed. Kindly let me also express my gratitude to my distinguished co-Chair, Ambassador Matthew Sudders, for his advice, support and collaboration, as well as for his efficient leadership of the debates under his able chairmanship. Our gratitude goes to the temporary Chairs of the PX Commission, Ms Kris Rampersad, the distinguished representative of Trinidad and Tobago, and of the FA Commission, Mr Lionel

Strengart Veer, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, distinguished representative of the Netherlands, for having helped us conduct the work of the Commissions whenever necessary. Let me also thank the Chair of the Preparatory Group, Ms Ossakedjombo-Ngoua Memiaghe, for the work accomplished by the Group. I express, also on behalf of my esteemed co-Chair, my sincere thanks to the secretariats of the two Commissions. The Secretary of the PX Commission, Ms Magda Landry, and the members of her team, Ms Ana Iglesias-Morel, Ms María del Mar Marcos, Mr Davide Storti, and Ms Reiko Yoshida. The Secretary of the FA Commission, Mr Sachin Bhatt and his team, Ms Daniela Cardoso, Ms Emily Stirnemann, Ms Olive Ugo-Nlemadim, and Mr Juan Frías Velatti. I also wish to thank the technical assistants for providing their valuable assistance, the room clerks for ensuring that the documents were in good order, and the interpreters and translators, who worked with great efficiency and endurance. Finally I would like to thank you again, Mr Chair, for your support for the work of the two Commissions.

9. **The Chair** congratulated Mr Sudders, Chair of the FA Commission, and Mr Muñoz Ledo, Chair of the PX Commission, for their excellent presentations and the way in which they had conducted their work, particularly given the complexity of the items considered during the joint meeting and their tight work schedule. He asked if any Member wished to request that a draft decision be adopted separately. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the entire set of draft decisions contained in document 196 EX/40.

10. *It was so decided.*

GENERAL CONFERENCE (*continued*)

Item 21: Preparation of the 38th session of the General Conference (*continued*)

Item 21.IV: Submission of nominations for the offices of chairpersons of the commissions and committees of the 38th session of the General Conference (196 EX/21.INF)

11. The representative of the **Netherlands** (Vice-Chair for Group I) said that her electoral group wished to nominate the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, H.E. Mr Matthew Sudders, for the office of Chairperson of the APX Commission (Finance, Administration and General Questions, Programme Support and External Relations) and the Ambassador of Germany, H. E. Mr Michael Worbs, for the office of Chairperson of the Nominations Committee.

12. The representative of **Albania** (Vice-Chair for Group II) said that her electoral group would like to nominate the Ambassador of Lithuania, H. E. Mr Arunas Gelūnas, for the office of Chairperson of the Culture Commission (CLT).

13. El representante del **Ecuador** (Vicepresidente por el Grupo III) propone la candidatura de la Sra. Kris Rampersad, representante de Trinidad y Tobago, para presidir la Comisión ED (Educación).

(13) Le représentant de l'**Équateur** (Vice-Président pour le Groupe III) propose la candidature de Mme Kris Rampersad, représentante de Trinité-et-Tobago, à la présidence de la Commission ED (Éducation).

14. The representative of **Bangladesh** (Vice-Chair for Group IV) said that his group was pleased to nominate

Malaysia for the office of Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission (SC).

15. Le représentant de l'**Angola** (Vice-Président du Conseil exécutif pour le Groupe V(a)) déclare que le Groupe Afrique propose de présider la Commission des sciences sociales et humaines mais n'a pas encore déterminé quel pays assumerait cette responsabilité.

١٦ أفاد ممثل الإمارات العربية المتحدة (نائب الرئيس عن مجموعة الدول العربية) بأن المجموعة العربية ترشح لبنان لرئاسة لجنة الاتصال والمعلومات.

(16) Le représentant des **Émirats arabes unis** (Vice-Président pour le Groupe V(b)) dit que le Groupe arabe présente la candidature du Liban pour la présidence de la Commission CI (Communication et information).

17. **The Chair** said that the electoral groups clearly needed more time for consultation in order to choose their candidates for the remaining positions. Candidatures should be submitted to him by 22 June at the latest. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to approve the preliminary list of nominees for the offices as contained in document 196 EX/21.INF.

18. *It was so decided.*

Item 28: Dates of the 197th session and provisional list of matters to be examined by the Executive Board at its 197th session (196 EX/28.INF; 196 EX/28.INF.2)

Dates of the 197th session of the Executive Board (196 EX/28.INF)

19. **The Chair** said that since it had been agreed that the 38th session of the General Conference would take place from 3 to 18 November 2015, the Bureau of the Executive Board had recommended that the 197th session of the Board should be held from 7 to 20 October 2015, instead of 14 to 27 October, as initially planned. The 198th session of the Executive Board could be held on Friday, 20 November 2015 and the Preparatory Group would meet, as originally planned, from 21 to 23 September 2015. An information meeting with the Director-General would be held in July and Members would be duly informed of the date. Did any Member of the Board wish to comment on the proposed dates for the 197th session?

20. El representante del **Ecuador**, tras subrayar la enorme carga de trabajo que asume la Comisión PX, así como la especial complejidad que reviste esa labor, propone que se estudie la posibilidad de incrementar en uno o dos días el calendario de trabajo de la Comisión PX, de forma que disponga de un mayor número de sesiones, previo acuerdo, desde luego, de su Presidente.

(20) Le représentant de l'**Équateur**, soulignant l'énorme charge de travail de la Commission PX et la complexité particulière de ses travaux, propose d'étudier la possibilité de prolonger d'un jour ou deux le calendrier de travail de la Commission de façon à ce qu'elle puisse tenir un plus grand nombre de séances, avec l'aval de son Président bien entendu.

21. **The Chair** said that an extension of the 197th session of the Board would depend on the number of agenda items submitted by Member States for consideration. If it appeared that an extension of one or two days was needed, he would, pursuant to Rule 2 and Rule 14.1 of the Rules of Procedure, consult with the

Bureau with regard to extending the 197th session to 21 or 22 October.

22. La representante de **El Salvador** suscribe la propuesta formulada por el Ecuador, que permitiría a la Comisión PX trabajar a fondo y con una organización eficaz del tiempo sobre los temas que tiene encomendados.

(22) La représentante d'**El Salvador** souscrit à la proposition de l'Équateur, qui permettrait à la Commission PX d'effectuer un travail approfondi en organisant efficacement son temps autour des thèmes dont elle est chargée.

23. The representative of **Austria** said that the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP), of which his country was a member, was scheduled to meet for a two-day period during the 197th session of the Executive Board. In the past, the Committee had only met for one day and had had no trouble dealing with all the items on its agenda. Short, focused meetings should be the norm, including for the NGP Committee.

24. **The Secretary** said that at its 192nd session, the Executive Board had decided that the NGP and SP Committees would meet, if circumstances permitted, for just one day per session. However, in years when the General Conference met, the NPG Committee had, in addition to the usual items on its agenda, two additional items: review of a statutory report for submission to the General Conference, and admission of non-governmental partners (NGPs) into official relations with UNESCO. That was why a two-day meeting period had been proposed.

25. **The Chair** said that the Bureau would adjust the meeting time set aside for the NGP Committee on the basis of the agenda for its 197th session.

26 **El Sr. Muñoz Ledo** (México) (Presidente de la Comisión del Programa y de Relaciones Exteriores -PX) pone de relieve que la Secretaría ha propuesto al Presidente reducir la duración de la próxima reunión del Consejo Ejecutivo a diez días laborables, cuando los 13 que duró la actual ya resultaron escasos. Esta reducción tendría efectos negativos en la labor de la Comisión PX, que tendrá un orden del día cargado puesto que en casi todas las decisiones que acaban de adoptarse se piden informes para la siguiente reunión del Consejo. Por ello, propone que se mantengan los 13 días de reunión y que si hubiera que realizar consultas a tal efecto se realizaran con total transparencia, para que todos los miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo, que no necesariamente están en la Mesa ampliada, sepan lo problemático que sería reducir a diez días laborables la reunión.

(26) **M. Muñoz Ledo** (Mexique) (Président de la Commission du programme et des relations extérieures – PX), notant que le Secrétariat a proposé au Président de ramener la durée de la prochaine session du Conseil exécutif à 10 jours ouvrables, fait observer que les 13 jours consacrés à la 196^e session se sont déjà révélés insuffisants. Il considère qu'une telle réduction aura des conséquences néfastes pour les travaux de la Commission PX, dont l'ordre du jour sera chargé étant donné que la quasi-totalité des décisions venant d'être adoptées prévoient la soumission de rapports à la prochaine session du Conseil. Il propose donc que la session conserve une durée de 13 jours et que, s'il était nécessaire de mener des consultations à cet égard, celles-ci se déroulent dans la plus grande transparence, afin que les membres du Conseil exécutif, qui ne siègent pas

tous au bureau élargi, soient tous conscients des difficultés qu'entraînerait une réduction de la durée de la réunion à 10 jours ouvrables.

27. The representative of the **United States of America** said that the schedule as it stood was satisfactory, especially since it only overlapped with two days of the French school holidays. Recent Executive Board sessions had conflicted with the school holidays, giving rise to difficulties for Members with school-age children. It was to be hoped that account would be taken of that issue in future.

28. La representante de **Cuba** se suma a las propuestas del Ecuador y México, habida cuenta de la importante labor que realiza la Comisión PX y la amplitud de los temas que deberá tratar.

(28) La représentante de **Cuba**, compte tenu de l'importance des travaux de la Commission PX et de l'ampleur des thèmes à traiter, s'associe aux propositions de l'Équateur et du Mexique.

29. **The Chair**, noting that the representatives of Brazil, Argentina and Mali wished to speak, asked the representatives if they were taking the floor to endorse an extension of the 197th session. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the representatives of Brazil, Argentina and Mali wished to place their views on record without taking the floor.

30. *It was so agreed.*

31. The representative of **Sweden** said that as she recalled, the Executive Board had adopted a decision to the effect that the length of its session preceding the General Conference should be shorter than its other sessions. Was the Board within its legal rights in proposing to extend its 197th session?

32. The representative of **Mexico** said that the representative of Sweden was correct: the Board had decided in the past that the length of the Executive Board session prior to the General Conference should be shorter than its other sessions. However, that decision could be reversed at any time by the Executive Board itself, if the need arose. In the case under consideration, a large number of reports were already on the agenda of the 197th session, meaning that the Board would have more work than usual. It might therefore be worthwhile to extend the session.

33. **The Chair** said that in the light of the views expressed, he wished to propose that the date for the end of the 197th session of the Executive Board, as set out in document 196 EX/28.INF., be extended by one day to 21 October 2015. If necessary, the session could be extended by one more day, to 22 October 2015, subject to the approval of the Bureau and the Chairs of the PX and FA Commissions. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to approve the proposal to hold the 197th session of the Executive Board from 7 October to 21 October 2015, and if necessary to extend the session by one more day, to 22 October 2015.

34. *It was so agreed.*

Provisional list of matters to be examined by the Executive Board at its 197th session (197 EX/28.INF.2)

35. **The Chair** said that the provisional list of matters to be examined by the Executive Board at its 197th session had been distributed purely for the information of the Members of the Board and was not exhaustive. The list had been prepared on the basis of resolutions adopted

by the General Conference, decisions taken by the Executive Board, and statutory provisions in force. The draft provisional agenda for the 197th session of the Board would include all the matters on the provisional list as well as questions that had arisen during the Board's current session and new items proposed by Member States. Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, he would dispatch the draft provisional agenda to all Members of the Board at least 30 days before the opening of the 197th session. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to approve the provisional list contained in document 196 EX/28.INF.2.

36. *It was so decided.*

37. **The Chair** said that he wished to pay tribute, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Executive Board, to two Members of the Executive Board whose term was drawing to an end. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to Ms Gisele Marie Hortense Ossakedjombou-Ngoua Memiaghe, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Gabon, for her fine leadership of the Preparatory Group and her devotion to the ideals of the Organization. He also thanked Mr Lautaro Pozo Malo, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Ecuador, who had been an active member of the Bureau as Vice-Chair for Group III and whose contributions had always been much valued and appreciated. They would both be dearly missed by all at future sessions of the Board.

38. El representante de **Chile**, que toma la palabra en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC), expresa su agradecimiento al Excmo. Sr. Pozo, Delegado Permanente del Ecuador y Vicepresidente del Consejo Ejecutivo por el GRULAC, que deja sus funciones en la UNESCO, por su esfuerzo, su excelencia profesional y su compromiso con la Organización y la región América Latina y el Caribe, y le desea nuevos éxitos en su carrera.

(38) Le représentant du **Chili**, prenant la parole au nom du Groupe de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes (GRULAC), exprime sa gratitude à S. E. M. Pozo, Délégué permanent de l'Équateur et Vice-Président du Conseil exécutif pour le GRULAC, qui quitte ses fonctions à l'UNESCO, le remerciant pour ses efforts, son excellence professionnelle et son engagement auprès de l'Organisation et de la région de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes et lui souhaitant de nouveaux succès dans sa carrière.

39. La representante de la **Argentina** expresa también su agradecimiento y sus mejores deseos para el futuro al Sr. Pozo, quien con su intenso trabajo a lo largo de los años ha contribuido a que la voz del GRULAC se tenga más en cuenta en la Organización.

(39) La representante de l'**Argentine** adresse également ses remerciements et ses meilleurs vœux pour l'avenir à M. Pozo, qui, par le travail intense qu'il a mené au long des années, a contribué à faire davantage entendre la voix du GRULAC au sein de l'Organisation.

40. En sa qualité de Président du Groupe Afrique, le représentant du **Cameroun** salue la représentante du Gabon à l'occasion de son départ. Il déclare que le Groupe est fier du travail efficace qu'elle a accompli au sein du Conseil et estime qu'elle a fait honneur à sa région.

41. El representante del **Ecuador** da las gracias al Presidente del Consejo Ejecutivo y a la representante de

la Argentina por sus generosas palabras; expresa su reconocimiento y aprecio a los delegados permanentes, a la Directora General, al personal de la UNESCO y muy especialmente a los miembros de la Mesa, a los presidentes de las comisiones PX y FA y de los comités del Consejo, a sus colegas del GRULAC y al personal de la Delegación Permanente del Ecuador ante la UNESCO; y declara que ha sido un honor representar al Ecuador ante la UNESCO y ejercer de Vicepresidente por el GRULAC, grupo en el que a pesar de la complejidad de los temas tratados siempre ha reinado un clima positivo de concertación.

(41) Le représentant de l'**Équateur** remercie le Président du Conseil exécutif et la représentante de l'Argentine de leurs généreuses paroles. Il fait part de sa reconnaissance et de son estime aux délégués permanents, à la Directrice générale, au personnel de l'UNESCO et tout particulièrement aux membres du Bureau, aux présidents des Commissions PX et FA et des comités du Conseil, à ses collègues du GRULAC et au personnel de la délégation permanente de l'Équateur auprès de l'UNESCO. Cela a été un honneur pour lui de représenter l'Équateur devant l'UNESCO et d'exercer la fonction de Vice-Président pour le GRULAC, groupe au sein duquel, en dépit de la complexité des thèmes traités, a toujours régné un climat positif de concertation.

CLOSURE OF THE 196TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

42.1 **The Chair** *in extenso*:

Madam Director-General of UNESCO, distinguished Members of the Board, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, we now come to the end of a long journey that only began some fifteen days ago. Though, some could argue that it seems much longer than that. Allow me, first of all, to say a word of thanks to the Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board. We meet frequently, sometimes in an informal manner, to touch base between sessions. I think this has helped to establish a relationship between us, which I feel has helped us to move towards our own objective of helping to ensure that we have the Organization that we all desire and helping the Director-General in her efforts to execute our programme, despite the many obstacles she and her team face. The manner in which we conduct our business is also something that we should all be very proud of. The saying, "in adversity comes innovation" really does apply to us as an Organization and specifically to us as a Board.

42.2 The difficulties that UNESCO is facing today are not unique to our Organization. The current international financial situation is such that budgets are constrained everywhere. Every Member State is seeking ways to optimize precious resources – both human and financial. So UNESCO is not alone. UNESCO's Director-General has successfully managed to keep a steady hand on the wheel, and has steered us safely through some very turbulent waters in the past. She and all members of the UNESCO staff have had to work under extremely difficult and uncertain conditions. Every member of the staff should be praised for their professionalism and should be recognized for managing to maintain UNESCO's sterling reputation internationally. Our financial situation, unfortunately, will not change in the near future – and we can only encourage the representatives of Member States to do what they can to improve this situation. Nonetheless, there is a general consensus among the Members of the Board to demonstrate our confidence in the Director-General's plan for the next budget cycle. I can only praise you for coming to agreement on the ZNG+ proposal. As I

mentioned in my opening remarks, this is what I had hoped to see as a concrete outcome of this session of the Board. Reaching consensus on this subject was not easy – to say the least.

42.3 I would encourage the Director-General and her team to continue to improve the Secretariat's work of providing comprehensive and transparent information relative to the execution of the programme, and especially in relation to budgetary expenditures, so that we, as a governing body, can fully exercise our constitutional role of overseeing the execution of the programme. In this regard, I would like to commend and congratulate the Chair of the Preparatory Group, as well as the chairs of the committees and commissions whose efficient stewardship helped us all to move forward on some challenging items. You were obliged to work into the night on several occasions. But, despite the difficulties you faced, the spirit of consensus prevailed, which has successfully brought us to today. And when I say consensus, I do not mean only coming to agreement at the lowest common level – you worked hard to reach a satisfactory agreement, with a view to ensuring that UNESCO has the means it requires to meet the expectations we all have for this much-needed and very unique United Nations specialized agency. In this regard, let us look forward to this continued spirit of consensus wherever possible, and despite all our differences, because UNESCO's overarching aim is one of promoting mutual understanding and universal values for the benefit of all.

42.4 Together during this session, we have made solid achievements and taken important decisions in programmatic areas, ranging from education in the post-2015 agenda, to culture in conflict areas, global citizenship education, the safety of journalists, the empowerment of people with disabilities, actions in favour of SIDS and the fight against gender-based violence in schools – to name just a few. As a governing body we have made great advances in our collective understanding of what governance is and what it means to us as a Board, in relation to the support and oversight we must give to the Director-General throughout the biennial budgetary period, on behalf of and in the name of the General Conference. This is a work in progress, and I salute all of you who have actively participated in this endeavour and will continue to do so. Self-examination and objective questioning of established long-standing practices leads to improvements and innovations. For our much-loved Organization, which has successfully navigated the high seas for the past 70 years, this approach will ensure that the years to come are just as prosperous. In this regard, I should like to acknowledge the work of the External Auditor, who provided us with useful elements in his interim report on the governance of UNESCO. The information provided will help to guide the Executive Board's informal task force on governance. I hope that the efforts of this group will enable us to present proposals to the Executive Board at its next session that can lead us to improve our strategic oversight role. I hope also that the efforts of this group will help to improve our methods of work, thus making better use of the time available and, ultimately, help to reduce the operating costs of the Board.

42.5 Now ladies and gentlemen, the forthcoming 197th session of the Board will also be an important one, and it is the last session left during this biennium. Let us continue our ongoing efforts to complete our work to further improve transparency, accountability, good governance and, at the end of the day, the impact of UNESCO's action throughout the world. Personally, I very

much look forward to the programme that the Director-General is preparing, and encourage all Member States to make a special effort to hold celebrations at home in your own countries – thus improving the visibility of the very valuable work that UNESCO does to help to improve the lives of our citizens in every way. We must therefore make maximum use of the coming months to prepare effectively for this final session of the Board for this biennium. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, before we convene again there will be several events that we should all mark on our calendars, including the World Education Forum 2015 that will be held in May in Incheon, Republic of Korea; the International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Post-2015 Education that will be held in Qingdao, China; and the COP 21 meeting that will be held in Paris immediately after the General Conference. We need to show the world that UNESCO is more relevant than ever in the twenty-first century, and each of these events will help to secure UNESCO's rightful place in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

42.6 Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to announce that the next time we meet, we will meet in conditions that will be much improved in comparison to our current working environment. The renovation of Room X and the *Salon des Délégués* is a collective effort on the part of all Member States and will ensure that Room X, which has not been fully renovated since it was inaugurated in the late 1950s, is modernized to meet the needs of the twenty-first century. Shortly after the close of this session, and throughout the intersessional period, infrastructure work will be carried out to modernize our Executive Board room and to renovate our *Salon*. These works were approved by the Headquarters Committee in June 2014 and are based on plans presented to it by the Secretariat; an update on the situation will be presented by the Secretariat to the Headquarters Committee at its next meeting. I would like to thank the Secretariat for all its efforts over the past months in preparation for the renovation works. I also wish to thank the Director-General for her enthusiasm for the project and for promising full support for completing the renovation work before the 197th session, so that we can celebrate the opening of the renovated room at the same time that we celebrate our 70th anniversary. I am sure, with the Director-General's support, together with our ability to face challenges, we will be able to finalize this work within this timeframe. I am very happy to announce that the renovation works have been made possible through the very generous contributions of Member States, to which I would like to express my thanks, and which include Cambodia, Nigeria and Malaysia, and from our very own UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Mr Zurab Tsereteli, whose contributions have already been received. I should also like to thank Angola, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, which have promised to provide their contributions in the near future. I am also pleased to announce that we are in the process of finalizing generous partnerships with the companies Roche-Bobois, Samsung and Orange, among others, which are also eager to help improve the Executive Board. I urge all of you to find ways of helping out in this endeavour, which will not only help to improve our working environment, but will help to maintain and keep up this part of the Headquarters building, which is in need of extensive maintenance and repair. I invite you to consult, starting next week, a new page on the Executive Board's website which will include all the information I have just provided and will be continuously updated with news of all future contributions received.

42.7 Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to thank all those who worked on our behalf with discretion and efficiency, including the interpreters and our colleagues in the Secretariat and on the Executive Board team. Without them, none of us could have accomplished our tasks. With these words in mind, I invite you all to enjoy the warm spring weather in Paris. To everyone, I wish you a safe journey to your next

destination. To those who will be back again, let me say that I look forward to seeing you here for our 197th session in October. With this, *I declare the 196th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO closed.*

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.