

**The 34<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference**

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Mr. President,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,  
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), let me extend warm congratulations to you, Your Excellency Mr. George Anastassopoulos, on your election to the presidency of the current session of the General Conference.

Mr. President,

The 34<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference is of special importance since it will summarize the success and experiences achieved in the period of the last medium-term and adopt a new Medium-Term Strategy with a view to further activate the functions and role of the Organization in keeping with the global trends of multilateralism.

In the process of implementing the last Medium-Term Strategy, it was well proved that UNESCO performs its mission fully as an unique intellectual organization of promoting and coordinating development of education, science, culture, etc.

Such examples could be found in further strengthened leading role of UNESCO in global activities for the development

of education and successful adoption and enforcement of the “International Declaration on the Human Genetic Data”, the “Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human rights” and the “Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” as well.

DPRK has actively participated in UNESCO’s activities as its member state.

The Koguryo Mural Tombs was inscribed in the World Heritage List in 2004, followed by the project for preservation and management of mural paintings, while various capacity-building projects in education, science, etc. have been successfully implemented.

Mr. President,

My delegation fully supports such overarching objectives of the draft Medium-Term Strategy as “attaining quality education for all”, “Mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development”, “fostering cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue” and considers that further attention should be given to ensuring its effectiveness.

During the new medium-term period, further efforts should be made to attain most of the internationally agreed development goals such as MDGs, the six EFA goals, the UN

Literacy Decade and the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development, with substantial results gained in their implementation.

My delegation is of the opinion that UNESCO should participate in the process of UN reform on the principle of maintaining its uniqueness as an intellectual organization.

And it is very important to constantly streamline and improve its working methods and procedures for the maximum results.

We believe that UNESCO should make its contribution to sustainable development through enhancing activities in the field of culture and encourage dissemination and transfer of science and technology for sustainable development to the developing countries.

The Organization should strengthen its leading role in promoting global development of culture and take practical measures to facilitate inclusion of "culture" projects as an integral part of national development plans of Member States.

And as a leading agency for United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO should pay due attention to sharing latest scientific and technological discoveries among all the countries, including developing

countries to help achieve economic growth without damaging environment.

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to UNESCO for its due attention to the preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and regards that it is very important to take global measures for return to country of the origin cultural properties, displaced illegally in the past including the Second World War, in order to promote reconciliation among the nations and world peace and security.

Mr. President,

In DPRK, people are struggling hard to build a great powerful and prosperous nation with confidence and optimism under the Songun leadership of the Great Leader General KIM JONG IL.

The DPRK Government directs much attention in developing education, science, culture rapidly in conformity with requirements of new Century.

It is making consistent efforts to bring a new phase in North-South relations and reunification of the country in conformity with the spirit of "by our nation itself".

The DPRK Government will, in coming years, intensify cooperation with UNESCO and other Member States under its foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship and actively contribute to international efforts in implementation of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013.

Thank you.