

38th General UNESCO Conference, Paris, 06th November 2015

Speech by Minister of Civil Affairs, Mr Adil Osmanovic

Distinguished Chairman,
Distinguished General Director,
Your Excellences,
Ladies and gentleman,

Please allow me to welcome you on behalf of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to express my pleasure to be here at this year 38th session of the General UNESCO Conference.

Role of UNESCO today, when we celebrate 70 years of establishing, is even more significant, since mission of UNESCO provides us with guidelines that through cooperation in the area of education, science, communication and culture we build better future.

UNESCO is organization that is capable to provide answers on key global social challenges of modern world, and in that sense we find that priorities should be set and activities defined.

I want to express support to proposed UNESCO Program for the following period, and to emphasize commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina for active cooperation with UNESCO, aiming to realize set goals.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina Reform agenda has been adopted, and very significant reforms are ongoing in the areas which are within the mandate of UNESCO.

Especially significant reforms are being implemented in the area of education with aim to ensure equal approach to education for all, respecting diversity and preventing discrimination, and to develop modern education system.

Up to now experience has showed that education is very important for preserving peace and for development of democratic society, based on connection, experience exchange and dialogue at the local, national and international level.

In the science area, in accordance with strategic documents, we find that among key goals is finding solution for issues of preserving environment, water and other natural resources.

We find that only through joint work and cooperation we can reach answers on global questions and challenges that only science can provide, so we support initiatives and project that contribute to this cause.

In sports we are committed to cooperation, especially in the area which relates on prevention of violence at the sport facilities, and prevention of doping in sports. By investing in sports we contribute development of society, and by promotion of sport values we take care about peace, tolerance and human dignity.

Cultural diversity is one of the key elements of the traditional and cultural values of Bosnia and Herzegovina. First element of non-tangible heritage, Zmijanč embroidery, has entered World representative list of non-tangible heritage, while this year we expect positive answer related to Konjic woodcarving.

Especially I want to note that Bosnia and Herzegovina has handed over its candidacy for membership in the World heritage committee, and I sincerely hope that we will get necessary support and opportunity to contribute and share our experiences through participating in the work of this very important body.

That culture knows no borders, and that our cultural heritage connects us all shows the experience of joint nomination of stećak, medieval tombstones for inscription on the World Heritage List, where we worked together with Serbia, Croatian and Montenegro.

This year we marked the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, bearing in mind that the preservation and fostering of cultural diversity is prerequisite of the existence of basic human values of society and fundamental human rights

Once again, I want to express desire and readiness of Bosnia and Herzegovina to contribute further on to realizing goals and priorities of UNESCO in direction of preserving peace, eradication of poverty, ensuring sustainable development and promotion of intercultural dialogue, respecting cultural diversity.

Thank you for attention!