



MINISTRY OF DES SECONDARY AND
HIGHER LEVEL

OFFICE OF THE MINISTERCABINET

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BURKINA FASO

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COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

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Mr. President of the General Conference;

Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board;

Madam Director General;

Ladies and gentlemen Head of delegation.

Mr. President,

I should like to start by offering the warmest congratulations of the delegation of Burkina Faso on your successful election as President of the 38th session of the general Conference. Let be assured that my delegation will spare no effort for the success of your presidency.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year UNESCO celebrates its seventeenth anniversary, of contributing in the best way to the building of a better world.

Unfortunately, the 38th session of the general Conference takes place at a time when international news is highly dominated by many areas of tension, the rise of terrorism and violent extremism and also of numerous social and economic crises that inflame all the development and impact negatively on individual and collective lives.

In these circumstances, projects such as UNCCT-UNESCO relating to a culture of peace and the fight of terrorism have contributed to the sensitization and formation of more than fifty thousand(50 000) persons in Sahel and Center regions in Burkina in 2014 and 2015. These kind of projects are welcome and should be followed up.

Burkina Faso invites all member states, the have and the less well to more individual and collective responsibilities and that to enable UNESCO to ensure the implementation of the objectives of its creation in 1945.

Burkina Faso welcomes the contribution of UNESCO to the adoption of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development whose 17 objectives and 169 targets take into account all the areas of competence of UNESCO.

I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Director General, Madam Irina BOKOVA for her particular and determinant role in the adoption of that agenda, for her leadership and the result achieved under difficult circumstances.

Our Conference is also taking place few weeks before the 21th Conference of State parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The wish of Burkina Faso is that at last, the conclusion will lead to a binding agreement that will help to save our planet.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen;

In re-examining the priorities of UNESCO programme of action, Burkina Faso welcomes the evolution of the envelope allocated to priority Africa despite the context of declining resources of the organization.

By declaring 2015-2024, International Decade for People of African descent, UNESCO is promoting new perspectives on African history in member states in its project entitled "Pedagogical use of Africa General History".

On this subject and for the last volumes to be written, Burkina Faso encourages UNESCO to pursue its strategy for partnership and mobilization of resources and congratulate the UNESCO African Group for the initiatives it should consider putting in place for the purpose of the contribution of all African States for its realization.

As a reminder, Professor Joseph KI-ZERBO, one of the main and eminent author of General History of Africa promoted all along his life the identity, the history of Africa and worked for endogenous development, integration and unity of Africa.

As regards **Education** that is the core of UNESCO's mandate; Burkina Faso rejoices of the renewed commitment of the United Nations in the agenda post 2015 and encourages UNESCO to play fully its leadership towards achieving education for all (EFA).

In that matter, the Government of Burkina Faso has quite a few provisions in the framework of its policy to building capacity of teachers, decision makers and civil society organizations on good citizenship, good governance, systematization of cultural facts and their implementation in educational systems.

Concerning **girl's education** in particular, Burkina Faso welcomes the decision of the Executive Board to extend the **International Centre for Girls and Women's Education** (CIEFFA/African Union) in view of the results achieved despite numerous difficulties. My country recommends a synergy of actions between UNESCO and African Union Commission in order to make the center more effective.

Burkina Faso acknowledges the commitment of UNESCO in the implementation of the priority "Gender Equality" and welcomes the results already met during the biennium in all the different education programmes.

On **Culture**, my delegation welcomes the actions taken by UNESCO and the Director General against the destruction of cultural heritage and religious, and also for the preservation of cultural goods particularly on supporting the sister Republic of Mali in the reconstruction of Mausoleums of Tombouctou, classified world heritage by UNESCO. Burkina Faso brings moreover its support to the draft submitted by Mali on support of UNESCO in the implementation of peace and reconstruction agreement in Mali.

My country also voices its support to the proposal to strengthen the role of museums in societies and to measures and actions for the protection, promotion and transmission of cultural heritage.

As I am turning to the subject of culture, let me seize the opportunity to ask all members to back the candidacy of Burkina Faso to the Comity of

World Heritage at the Assembly of state parties to hold from 18th to 20th November 2015 here at UNESCO headquarters.

I should not like to finish without paying tribute to media of my country that has been severely tested at the time of the attempted coup in Burkina Faso. Journalists and media have been victims of great violence.

This gives me the opportunity to express my gratitude on behalf the people and Government of Burkina Faso to all countries without exception, to international organizations, civil society organizations and journalists from all over the world for their contributions and supports that contributed to the failure of the coup and to take back institutions of the Transition that prepare legislative and presidential elections that will take place in November 30th 2015.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude my statement, my country is grateful for the backing it has received and reaffirms before this august assembly its commitment to the values and founding principles of UNESCO, believes in the ability of the organization to answer efficiently to the expectations and growing demands of all its members and humanity as a whole.

Thank you!