

# **National Statement at the General Policy Debate of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO**

**Mr. Hao Ping, Vice-Minister of Education of China**

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(English Translation)

Respected President of the General Conference,  
Respected Madam Director-General,  
Respected Chairperson of the Executive Board,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, please allow me to congratulate Mr. Stanley Simataa from Namibia for his election as the President of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Conference. I would also like to thank the many speakers in the past two days who commended my work as the President of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Conference.

In the seven decades since its founding, UNESCO has upheld its firm conviction in the mission of “building defense of peace in the minds of people”, by promoting education for all, which has increased the educated population in the world by hundreds of millions; by advancing scientific research to build the knowledge base in response to climate change, internet security and the rapid development in emerging new fields; by protecting world natural and cultural heritages, intangible cultural heritages and documentary heritages to enrich cultural diversity and safeguard lasting peace through remembering history, sometimes painful lessons learned from human history. We should always keep in mind the mission and the original intention of the founding of the Organization when forwarding the cause and reform of UNESCO. Reform should be planned and implemented with a holistic long-term view. It should not be misused for promoting selfish interests. And it should be based on comprehensive consensus.

When faced with challenges to humanity, countries in the world have become members of a common destiny community with interwoven interests. No country can single-handedly solve the many global problems. It is imperative to deepen international cooperation. China highly commends the Organization for its active participation in drafting the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda,

which as Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out in his speech at the United Nations Summit for Sustainable Development, are high-standard work orders as well as solemn undertakings. China expects UNESCO to play a more significant role in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Inclusive, equitable and quality education is a powerful weapon for eliminating ignorance and discrimination. It is also a basic driving force for social and economic development. As a champion country of the Global Education First Initiative, China gives priority to education, abides by the commitment to support educational development in developing countries, and emphasizes that education of girls and women is the key to universal improvement of education of the population. Not long ago, while attending the High-level Event on Global Education First Initiative, Madam Peng Liyuan, UNESCO Special Envoy for Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education, called upon all countries to increase their effort to provide quality education to girls. To this end, China will fund the establishment of a UNESCO Girls' and Women's Education Prize, to enable more girls to have access to education at the earliest possible opportunity.

China is supportive to international cooperation in the fields of marine science, fresh water safety, bio-diversity conservation and disaster mitigation. China would like to see the Organization pioneer into new fields and research new problems in order to lead the member states to tackle climate change and environmental problems.

UNESCO is an important forum for preserving cultural diversity and promoting dialogue of civilizations by encouraging defusing confrontation with dialogue of civilizations and by advocating winning for all with intercultural exchanges and mutual learning.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Chinese government will increase its support to UNESCO. To safeguard world peace for creating a better future and to advocate a new type of international relationship with cooperation and winning for all at its core, UNESCO is expected to continue to uphold the mission inscribed 70 years ago by its founders and cherish the modern international order established on the basis of the United Nations Charter and with a consistent view of history. China will actively promote the development of equitable and quality education, and endorse the strategy of African Priority and the application of ICT in improving education quality. China supports the protection of cultural and natural heritages

and intangible cultural heritages. I praise highly the speech made by H.E. President Nursultan Nazarbayev, which states that the history of the Silk Road proves that close cooperation and mutual cultural enrichment are the basis of peace and progress for all humanity. President Nursultan Nazarbayev also calls upon UNESCO to emphasize the history and modern value of the Silk Road. China is in support of reopening the Silk Road Project and completing the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform which is under construction. China would like to see growth of the Creative Cities Network to promote dialogue of civilizations. China calls for strengthening the role of National Commissions to facilitate more participation from private sector enterprises and civil society organizations in the activities of UNESCO.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

Confucius said that people at the age of 70 can follow the dictates of their hearts because their desire no longer oversteps the boundaries of right. After the twists and turns of the past seven decades, we hope that UNESCO will continue to uphold the mission of “building defense of peace in the minds of men and women” and strive to realize the goals of 2030 Sustainable development agenda.

Thank you.