

38th session of the UNESCO's General Conference

**The speech of His Excellency Mr Ivo Goldstein,
Ambassador, Permanent delegate of the
Republic of Croatia to UNESCO**

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Distinguished Mister President of the General Conference,
Mister Chairman of the Executive Board,
Madam Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished Mr. President, allow me to express my congratulations for being elected as the President of the General Conference.

Being well aware of the important role UNESCO has to play, we would also like to express our support to Madam Irina Bokova for all the reforms of UNESCO and a clear redefinition of the Organisation's priorities.

The United Nations and UNESCO are celebrating their 70th anniversaries, and the Republic of Croatia would like to confirm its strong support and commitment to these organizations, as well as to multilateralism in addressing the challenges we all face together.

In September this year the world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UN - a plan of action to try to change the world we all live in, for the next fifteen years.

2030 Agenda follows goals and achievements that were already set and some of them achieved in the Millennium Development Goals, and it shows new intention and new path in every part of UNESCO's agenda: culture, education, human rights, science, access to information, technology and innovation, to mention a few. The fundamental role of education, science, culture and communications is one of the main conditions for the maintenance of peace, accomplishment of social cohesion and sustainable development.

The Republic of Croatia effectively promotes all of UNESCO's programme areas and in coordination with other governmental and non-governmental organization, supports UNESCO's long-term initiatives and projects. The unique structure of UNESCO creates a synergy between the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations and the civic society.

Dear colleagues,

As a member of the World Heritage Committee the Republic of Croatia wishes first of all to contribute to the preservation and protection of inscribed heritage on the World Heritage List, identifying new and extraordinary world heritage, encouraging international cooperation, and promoting a balanced World Heritage List.

The Republic of Croatia recognizes education and science as its priorities for development as a basis for long-term social stability, economic progress and security and, by all means, cultural identity.

That is the one of the reasons we are proud that our initiative for proclamation of 5th November as the “World Day of Romani Language” was endorsed by the Executive Board this October. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to UNESCO and all the state parties for having supported this proposal, thereby enhancing intercultural dialogue and linguistic diversity of the world. Our gratitude goes especially to Hungary who co-signed the proposal, and Slovenia, Saudi Arabia and Greece for signing the proposal.

We would also like to thank you once more on behalf of the Republic of Croatia for providing funds for flood affected areas in Croatia from the UNESCO Emergency Participation Programme for the protection, preservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage in Sisak-Moslavina County, Library Milivoj Cvetnić in Hrvatska Kostajnica.

We are also very pleased that our projects: Education for schoolgirls to reduce poverty in Tanzania and the project of the National and university Library in Zagreb Information literacy of graduates in Ethiopia, were chosen in the framework of UNESCO Participation Program. We strongly believe that these programs have the perspective of a long-term cooperation

Let me conclude with one important subject for us, and that is the regional cooperation. Croatia has been actively cooperating with all the countries in the region for years. In the forthcoming period we are hoping to widen the scope of regional, as well as European and non-European cooperation, and to carry out new innovative projects in the field of education, science and culture in order to support peace and development in our and every other part of the world.

Thank you