

**STATEMENT BY THE MR. ADKHAM IKRAMOV
DEPUTY PRIME-MINISTER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
TO THE GENERAL POLICY DEBATE OF THE
38TH SESSION OF THE UNESCO'S GENERAL CONFERENCE
(Paris, 6 November 2015)**

Dear President of the General Conference!

Dear Chairperson of the Executive Board!

Madam Director-General!

Distinguished Heads of Delegations!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Today as we are marking the seventieth anniversary of our organization, we are presented with an opportunity to review the results of the past period as well as to devise future action plans regarding UNESCO's work and further increasing its impact and efficiency.

We are pleased to note that the process of drafting 38C/5 document was in line with the principles of result-based management and budgeting. In this respect the identification of the expected outcomes should be based on the assessment of the project effectiveness by the direct beneficiaries. Therefore, the Organization's Secretariat is entrusted with a responsible task of boosting partnership with National Commissions for UNESCO and delegating more powers to UNESCO field offices.

The Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 was approved as a rolling strategy, and it provides for making the necessary adjustments required to achieve the set goals.

Therefore, I consider it important to stress that UNESCO's budget for the biennium 2016-2017 should be modified accordingly to reflect the considerable contribution the organization has made to the implementation of the new internationally agreed initiatives.

Madam Director General!

We would like to voice our support for your initiatives aimed at cutting the administrative costs and increasing the share of the costs of program activities, the application of the interdisciplinary approach in relation to each project of UNESCO.

Within the framework of the Regular Budget 38C/5 for education programs we propose an increase in budgetary allocations for the Main Line of Actions, which is in compliance with the strategic objectives on development of education systems in order to ensure quality education and expand life-long learning opportunities for all.

We believe that in the next two years, UNESCO's activities should be focused on achieving practical results from the implementation of Incheon Declaration "Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long learning for all", Shanghai Consensus in the field of technical and vocational education and training, and Qingdao Declaration on the introduction of information and communication technologies at all levels of education and empowerment of open educational resources.

In this respect Uzbekistan is ready to share its achievements in the area of education initiatives, such as:

1. Introducing compulsory secondary and vocational education for all on the scheme 9+3;
2. Development of non-formal education opportunities for all in the field of arts, music and sports;
3. Promotion of the ICT-based competencies of teachers.

The Republic of Uzbekistan stands for a significant increase in budgetary and extra-budgetary resources for the Main Line of Actions in Natural Sciences, aimed at the implementation of the strategic objective to step up international scientific co-operation for peace, sustainability and social inclusion. We advocate the further development of "science diplomacy", as envisaged in the strategy of the "Man and the Biosphere" Programme for 2015-2025, and "water diplomacy", which represents the thrust of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO to reduce vulnerability of the population in Central Asia from climate

change-induced glacial lake outburst floods. It is only through the international scientific cooperation that we can stand up to the unprecedented global challenges to the environment and climate change.

Among these – special attention needs to be paid to the largest in the world's modern history ecological catastrophe of a planetary scale – the tragedy of the Aral Sea, which during the life of one generation came to the verge of extinction. The Aral Sea desiccation resulted in the dramatic climate change, which has adversely affected not only Central Asia, but other regions, too. The extremely unfavourable ecological environment, poor quality drinking water, growth in serious diseases – this is a short and by no means complete list of the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy. Given the planetary nature of the Aral Sea disaster, it is necessary to increase UNESCO's involvement in the development of international research projects in this area.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Humanity exists in a single ecosystem and common market. A growing opportunity to make an impact on people's lives, despite the space and time, requires every individual to be responsible. The understanding and acceptance of diversity, respect for human beings require developing a sense of ownership of common ideals. A sense of belonging is an important component of motivation and responsibility. Therefore, a sense of responsibility for the future of the planet Earth should be reflected in all programs of the Organization.

Thank you for your attention!