

**SPEECH**  
**BY H.E MR.PHAM CONG TAC**  
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**PRESIDENT OF THE VIET NAM NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR**  
**UNESCO,**  
**HEAD OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION**  
**AT THE 38<sup>TH</sup> UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE**  
**(Paris, .....November 2015)**

*Your Excellency Mr. Stanley Mutumba Simataa, President of the 38<sup>th</sup> UNESCO General Conference,*

*Madam Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, to extend the warmest congratulations to the President of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO. I am confident that with your competence and experience and under your leadership, this General Conference will be crowned with great success.

*Mr. President,*

The 38<sup>th</sup> UNESCO General Conference takes place at a special juncture when the United Nations has just adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development last September, putting forward a new strategic vision and reflecting mankind's common desire to live in a peaceful, safe, equal, green and clean world. The 2030 Agenda also lays down new frameworks and orientations for countries to respond to common economic, social and environmental challenges.

This year marks seventieth anniversary of UNESCO. Throughout 70 years of development, UNESCO has gained many successes in the formulation and implementation of programs in its domain. Viet Nam commends UNESCO on its untiring efforts over the seven past decades to accomplish its noble mission to contribute to the building of peace, poverty eradication, lasting development and

intercultural dialogue. Viet Nam is also preparing for the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNESCO this month.

Viet Nam supports UNESCO's prioritized goals on gender equality and acknowledges the efforts made by the UNESCO Director-General in promoting gender equality and education for girls. We are drawing upon all resources available to raise people's awareness of gender equality, eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and promote education programs and initiatives for women. In this endeavor, we have set up a focal point on gender equality under the Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO.

As a candidate to the Executive Board of UNESCO for the term 2015-2019, Viet Nam wishes to contribute to the formulation and implementation of long-term and short-term policies in the fields of competence of UNESCO. Viet Nam believes that the experiences gained in the reform of its country within nearly 30 years would help UNESCO to carry out the reform forward in spite of the financial difficulty. We are thankful to your supports on this election.

Education for sustainable development has always been one of UNESCO's primary goals. Viet Nam believes that it is essential to enhance the teacher-parent-community relationship, public-private partnership together with the engagement of the mass media in order to promote education and increase the responsibly and the role of all in the society.

Viet Nam are ready to work with other UNESCO members to preserve and promote the values of cultural, natural and intangible heritages and cultural diversity worldwide. In the context of recent destruction of many cultural and natural heritages, Viet Nam supports the "United for Heritage" initiative launched by UNESCO. We endorse the transfer of intangible cultural heritages in need of urgent safeguarding to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritages of Humanity once the requirements for preservation are fully met. In this regard, we commend the efforts made by ICH and WHC over the past years to uphold these two flagship programs of UNESCO.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Viet Nam wishes to thank the members of UNESCO's Executive Board for adopting the Resolution to recommend the 38<sup>th</sup> General Conference to adopt the establishment of two category 2 International Centers of Math and Physics in Viet Nam under the auspices of UNESCO. This is the first time Viet Nam has proposed the establishment of category-2 centers in our country, which demonstrates our desire to contribute to UNESCO's common work. We are committed to provide all necessary material conditions and resources for the operation of these two centers, thus creating exchange and learning opportunities for young and female scientists in ASEAN and other regions, especially Africa. This will also help increase the visibility of UNESCO in Viet Nam and Southeast Asia.

Being aware of the importance of the Biosphere Reserves, Viet Nam is working closely with UNESCO in implementing a number of initiatives to ensure each citizen will become an environment ambassador with greater responsibilities for bio-diversity protection. We also look forward to UNESCO's continued support for the activities of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and promoting the initiative on green growth and low carbon in biosphere reserves. Such initiative is conducive to the SDGs and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Global Geopark has been playing a ever greater role as a contributor to sustainable socio-economic development in local areas. Viet Nam supports the transformation of the Global Geopark program into an official program of UNESCO and is willing to provide appropriate resources for this program.

In the area of information and communication, with the assistance of UNESCO, Viet Nam is taking various measures to ensure access to information for the local communities and ethnic minority groups in remote areas in order to make sure no one is left behind in today's interconnected world.

Today's globalized world is exerting strong impacts on the social development of all nations. Therefore, increasing cooperation between policy

makers and scientists in social management has become more important than ever before. On that note, Viet Nam has established a Sub-Committee on Management of Social Transformation to deal with arising matters in social management.

Finally, Viet Nam always supports UNESCO's endeavors to contribute to world peace and development. We are committed to stand by UNESCO and other member countries in implementing its programs and initiatives to bring UNESCO closer to the people and communities all over the world.

Thank you.