

INTERVENTION
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNESCO CLUBS,
CENTRES AND ASSOCIATIONS (WFUCA), MR. DHIRENDRA BHATNAGAR
GENERAL POLICY DEBATE, 38TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO
7TH NOVEMBER 2015, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS-FRANCE

Honorable President of the General Conference
Honorable Director General
Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Excellences, Ministers and Ambassadors,
Distinguished Delegates
Friends and Colleagues of the UNESCO Clubs movement,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is great pleasure for me to represent the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA) as its President in the 38th General Conference of UNESCO.

UNESCO Club movement which was started first in Japan in the year 1947, almost immediately after the formation of UNESCO, to disseminate the ideals of UNESCO among the people, has now spread to about hundred countries in all continents of the world. Today, there are more than 5000 UNESCO Clubs and Associations engaged in popularizing the programmes and activities of UNESCO among the people, in their respective countries. Started as a small initiative by an individual in Japan it has grown into a strong worldwide movement.

WFUCA established in the year 1981 with the objective to further the ideals of UNESCO is making sincere efforts to reach people at the grass root level, through its member UNESCO Clubs and Associations. WFUCA is an association of

National Federations of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations, admitted as members on recommendation of the National Commission of UNESCO of their respective countries. WFUCA develops programmes based on UNESCO's priority, themes such as Education for Sustainable Development, Culture of Peace, and Rapprochement of Cultures etc. beside others areas which are in conformity with the mandate of UNESCO. WFUCA enjoys the status of an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO.

WFUCA urges its member federations to formulate programmes and activities in consultation and guidance of the National Commission in their respective countries. They are reminded to be careful in the use of UNESCO's name, acronym, logo and internet domain, which is to be done in accordance with the guidelines of UNESCO in this regard.

One of the priorities of WFUCA is to organize joint activities with the Regional and National Federations of UNESCO Clubs and Associations on themes and subjects which find reference in the UNESCO's current medium term strategy and its regular programmes.

On the global screen, a very complex and contradictory world scenario is displayed. On one hand there is tremendous progress in science and technology, be it the medical or computer sciences, space technology, communication and transportation etc. to name a few. On the other hand conflicts, terrorism, intolerance, discrimination, disparities, inflation, population explosion, climate change, escalation of natural calamities triggered by human behavior and over

exploitation of natural resources have posed unprecedented challenges before the humanity forcing urgent attention of the world community.

Never before the desperate need was felt to sensitize people about the problems and challenges to save this planet. Adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by the recently concluded UN General Assembly is the clear manifestations of the concerns of the world community.

The overwhelming and comprehensive goals set up by the world leaders can not be achieved without spreading awareness and urging active involvement of people of all ages, particularly the young.

Renewed efforts would be made to revamp the dormant national federations of UNESCO Clubs and Associations. Cooperation and support of the National Commissions and the Regional Federations of UNESCO Clubs and Associations would be sought to open UNESCO Clubs and Associations in the countries where the movement does not exist to make it truly a people's movement for peace and tolerance. Greater emphasis would be given on opening the UNESCO Clubs in schools and colleges to involve maximum number of young people to harness their energy and potential to develop the world to a better living place for peaceful coexistence.

I reiterate and reaffirm that WFUCA is committed to work for the promotion of the ideals of UNESCO which is to promote a Culture of Peace through tolerance, solidarity of people and respect for cultural diversity.

I thank you for providing me this opportunity to speak to the August gathering