

First plenary meeting of the 38th session of the General Conference

Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr Hao Ping (China)

Item 1.1: Opening of the 38th session of the General Conference

1.1 The Temporary President (Mr Hao, President of the 37th session of the General Conference):

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, ministers, distinguished ambassadors, friends and colleagues, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you to UNESCO, to the 38th session of its General Conference. As President of the previous session, and in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, I have the honour to preside over this meeting. I therefore declare open the 38th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

1.2 To celebrate the opening of the 38th session of the General Conference and the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, it is my pleasure to introduce a musical moment of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. The music is played by a Finnish string quartet Caje, which is an ensemble of talented musicians and former students of Sibelius Academy. Sibelius Academy is the highest-level music educator in Finland and the flagship of the world famous Finnish musical training. UNESCO is associated with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius and we will have great pleasure listening to two pieces which will open our General Conference in a most inspiring way. Thank you.

(Musical interlude)

2.1 临时主席（郝先生，大会第三十七届会议主席）：

尊敬的执行局主席 Amr 先生，尊敬的总干事博科娃女士，尊敬的各国代表团团长，各位部长，尊敬的各位大使阁下，媒体代表朋友们，女士们，先生们，大家上午好。今年是联合国成立 70 周年，也是教科文组织成立 70 周年。七十年前，那些为了世界和平事业而献出青春和生命的反法西斯英雄们，唤起了人类和平与发展的良知；也是七十年前，那些在二战胜利后开创性地期望“通过人之思想维护世界和平”的有识之士们，创建了教科文组织并成为本组织的奠基人。回首过去七十年，作为联合国系统的有机组成部分，教科文组织通过科学教育普及、文化遗产保护、推动文明间对话与文化多样性建设、推广和平文化等多方面工作，在维护和促进世界和平、全球发展与人类精神进步方面，发挥了不可替代的特殊重要作用。在此，请允许我借今天这个神圣而隆重的场合，向教科文组织中一代又一代为此做出突出贡献的人们，表达我最深、最真诚的敬仰和敬意。

2.2 女士们，先生们，同事们，两年前的此时此刻，我在诸位的掌声和祝贺声中就任教科文组织大会主席，并作出庄严承诺，要和大家一起，在这个有着悠久历史的组织中进一步履行新的历史责任。这一幕至今仍记忆犹新。两年前，我们的组织业已取得辉煌的成就。但也必须承认，由于各种客观原因，在我上任大会主席一职时，我们的组织也面临着严重的困难和危机，改革迫在眉睫。没有改革，大会通过的各项决议将无法得到落实。为此，我们需要寻找新的思想理念来引领改革，需要确定新的机制方法来保障改革，需要更加饱满的热情和切实的行动来实现改革。至今我仍然记得，在我上任的第一天，时任 GBS 的秘书长带着我，几乎走访了秘书处的每间办公室。我看到工作人员们饱含热情，忘我地工作着，脸上挂着真诚的笑容，我为他们所感动。两年履职期间，我走访了教科文组织驻中国、柬埔寨、古巴、伊朗、泰国和突尼斯等办事处，其中印象最深的是在约旦见到了伊拉克办事处的同事们。受地区冲突影响，他们冒着炮火和生命危险撤离伊拉克的情景，仍然历历在目。我从他们的脸上看到的是执着、希望和信念。我赞赏执行局的智慧。在重组本组织计划项目优先次序、推动秘书处改革、确保大会决议的落实方面，执行局发挥了不可替代的作用。我赞赏会员国的慷慨。因为你们，本组织预算外财源才得以不断地增长。“众人拾柴火焰高”。如今，我高兴地看到大会第三十七届会议上的决议均已基本落实，这是对秘书处、执行局和会员国之间求同存异、团结一心、成功应对内部和外部挑战的最好肯定。

2.3 女士们，先生们，2015 年注定是一个将被历史铭记的年份。在不久前的纪念联合国成立 70 周年系列峰会上，与会各国代表共同讨论了当前国际形势的总体特征以及国际社会的共同责任，并制定了包括《2030 年可持续发展议程》在内的一系列愿景规划。大家普遍意识到，当前，人类正处在百年未有的深刻巨变之中，正处在重要的历史转折点上。为了我们子孙后代的未来，我们必须立刻行动起来。这让我回想起本世纪伊始，人们带着美好的憧憬，相聚于南太平洋的汤加，在这个最接近国际变更线的岛国上，迎接千禧年的第一缕阳光，分享着这一幸福美好的时刻。同年 9 月，147 位国家元首和政府首脑会聚在联合国总部，重申共同遵守《联合国宪章》，并通过制定千年发展目标对创建一个更加和平、繁荣和公正的世界做出郑重承诺。十五年的时间很快就过去了。当人们回顾这段历史时，既有各项事业不断取得进步的喜悦，也深刻感受到未来还充满着各种各样的危机、挑战和不确定性。极端贫困、性别不公、教育匮乏、青年失业、恐怖主义、教派冲突、地区动荡、气候变化、环境破坏、肆虐的传染性疾病及各种人道主义灾难等多重挑战，正日益威胁着世界的和平与安全以及各国的稳定与发展的前景。从“9·11”恐怖袭击到“伊斯兰国”崛起，从华尔街金融危机到目前各国普遍面临的发展困境，从“阿拉伯之春”后西亚北非各国政治的动荡到当前令人心痛的大规模叙利亚难民，人类社会就像坐上了一辆过山车，在剧烈震荡中艰难前行。综上所述，当前的世界可能正处在一个较长的变化与重组时期，难免会产生某种程度的动荡与失序，甚至将付出一些沉重的代价。人类社会的发展迫切需要提出新的思想理念与制度创新，而这正是本届大会上需要各位集思广益的命题。

2.4 女士们，先生们，面对国际秩序的深刻变革和全球性挑战的快速增长，教科文组织应该像七十年前创立之初时选择捍卫世界和平为己任那样，敢于再次做出选择，敢于重申我们的选择，要让人们了解到，这将是一个决定未来人类前

途命运的选择！我们也有理由相信，我们会站在前人努力的基础上，使 21 世纪比以往更加和谐美好。为此，我想提出五点建议：首先，要高度珍爱世界和平，始终将捍卫《联合国宪章》所体现的制度框架和价值理念作为我们的首要任务。二战后确立的以《联合国宪章》为核心的国际秩序来之不易，并在过去七十年中为维护世界和平与发展发挥了重要作用。虽然历经七十载，但《联合国宪章》所提倡的价值理念和行为规范依然有效，《联合国宪章》依然是当今和未来世界和平的最重要基石。日前，德国总理默克尔关于二战屠犹历史的表态，得到了在场各国的尊重，也让我钦敬有加。她说，“我们坚持就大屠杀担责，这桩反人类罪行是德国固有的历史责任，我们没有任何理由、以任何方式改变历史观。”我赞赏德国总理勇于正视历史、敢于承担责任的气魄，我认为只有这样，才能真正放下包袱，告别昨天的伤痛和仇恨，以开放包容之心去拥抱和平。

2. 2 第二，要加大工作力度，推动世界各国人民形成并不断强化“命运共同体”的思想和理念。当今世界，人类生活在不同文化、种族、肤色、宗教和不同社会制度所组成的世界里，各国相互联系、相互依存、相互影响的程度空前加深，越来越成为你中有我、我中有你、休戚与共的命运共同体。积极倡导和推动各国强化“命运共同体”意识，是符合世界潮流和时代规律的必然要求，是各国在新时期进一步加强合作、共同应对挑战的重要思想基础，也同教科文组织“通过人之思想维护世界和平”的一贯宗旨一脉相承，更是未来教科文组织无可推卸的重要历史责任。作为联合国的思想库，教科文组织必须有所行动。要通过未来教科文组织的各项行动，进一步提升各国及其民众的无论大小贫富一视同仁的“平等意识”，一方有难八方支援的“互助意识”，既重视自身安全发展又兼顾他人利益的“共赢意识”，以及既有所获取更尽力付出的“责任意识”。

2. 3 第三，要推动不同宗教与文明之间消除误解，开展更多对话，探寻 21 世纪多元文明的和谐共处之道。全世界各个宗教、各个文明拥有人类最基本的共同价值追求，而这正是人类命运共同体的思想基础。只有全天下之人相互尊重，只有国与国之间平等相待，家和国才能稳定、和睦。佛教提倡“众生平等”；《圣经》说，“凡事谦虚、温柔、忍耐，用爱心相互宽容，用和平彼此联络”；《古兰经》中也记载了穆罕穆德的圣训，“只有互亲互爱，方可谈及信仰”。2014 年中国国家主席习近平访问本组织时强调，“文明是多彩的，人类文明因多样才有交流互鉴的价值。文明是平等的，人类文明因平等才有交流互鉴的前提。文明是包容的，人类文明因包容才有交流互鉴的动力。”今年 4 月，我和总干事、执行局主席应邀访问了梵蒂冈，教皇方济各针对当前宗教对立，倡导不同宗教之间开展对话；我所到访的国家包括欧洲、阿拉伯地区、亚洲和拉美等国家也都表达了同样的和平愿望。英国著名哲学家罗素曾在他的《中西文明比较》一文中指出：“历史反复地证明，不同文明之间的交流，乃是人类整体文明发展进步的不竭动力。”美国著名学者、普利策奖获得者威尔·杜兰特及其夫人阿里尔·杜兰特在其代表作《历史的教训》也讲到：“文明是人类合作的产物，几乎所有的民族都对此有所贡献。”我们的一项重要任务，就是推动不同文明之间的和谐共存、交流互鉴、共同进步，让文明交流互鉴成为增进各国人民友谊的桥梁、维护世界和平的纽带、推动人类社会进步的动力。我们应该从不同文明中寻求智慧，汲取营养，为人们提供精神支撑和心灵慰藉，携手解决人类共同面临的各种挑战。

2. 4 第四，紧扣“2030 年可持续发展议程”设定的目标，通过更大范围的普及教育，为彻底消除极端贫困、发展严重失衡以及由此带来的一系列全球挑战而努力。1999 年我担任北京大学副校长时曾主持过南非总统曼德拉先生的一场演讲，当时曼德拉先生曾讲到：“如果数以百万计的人民像现在一样，处于无家可归、饥饿和文盲的状态，自由将是非常脆弱的，我们的文明将成为一句空话。”他寓意深刻、振聋发聩的演讲，至今让我记忆犹新。饥饿、贫困、无知、不平等、不公正正是恐惧的根源，是各类极端主义得以滋生蔓延的土壤。我们必须努力铲除这样的土壤。为此，我们要继续为践行教育第一、促进教育公平而奋斗，切实帮助人们通过教育改变命运。要进一步加大对发展中国家的援助力度，帮助这些国家的政府和人民大力发展教育、科学与文化事业，尤其是维护妇女、儿童和其他弱势群体的受教育权，帮助各国青年群体获得必要的工作技能和工作机会，通过公平发展、开放发展、全面发展、创新发展，为 21 世纪的和平与繁荣奠定坚实基础。

2. 5 第五，要通过机制创新提高运作效率，团结一切可以团结的力量，提升本组织在文明交流领域的专业水平，不断拓展本组织在全球治理中的影响力。本组织七十年的历史已经充分证明，教育、科学、文化是不同文明之间彼此交流的重要途径和桥梁，没有思想隔阂和机制阻碍的互联互通更为持久和稳定。今后，本组织要继续更好地充当各国在教育、科学和文化领域多边交流和沟通的平台，竭诚为各会员国的利益服务，并通过合作机制创新进一步拓展合作空间，释放合作潜力，提高运行效率，放大合作成果。同时，本组织更应该成为全世界最杰出的思想家、科学家、教育家、文学家、艺术家的共同精神家园，凝聚起强大的人才力量，借鉴更多智慧和真知灼见，不断提高文明交流的专业水平，推动文明交流事业深入发展，并进一步加大同联合国系统的其他部门、各国政府以及各类非政府组织与私营机构的沟通合作，集中力量解决人类面临的重大问题。每个人都应该为教科文组织而努力。每个人的努力都将被教科文组织永远铭记。每个人也都因为对教科文组织所做的努力而自豪。最后，请允许我用这样的祈愿来结束我的发言。如果说联合国总部有“更强大的联合国，更美好的世界”的口号，那么我们教科文组织也应该有类似的豪情。让我们共同努力，为建设“更强大的教科文，更美好的世界”而奋斗！谢谢大家。

(The Temporary President continues in English)

2.9 The Temporary President:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now have the honour to invite His Excellency Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chairperson of the UNESCO Executive Board, to take the floor. Please, Sir.

3.1 M. Amr (Egypte), Président du Conseil exécutif :

Bonjour, merci Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale, Honorables ministres, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un plaisir et un grand honneur pour moi de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à la 38e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO au nom de tous les 58 membres du Conseil exécutif et en mon nom propre en tant que Président du Conseil.

3.2 Nous allons célébrer le 70^e anniversaire de notre organisation dans moins de deux semaines. Le Conseil exécutif, en collaboration avec la Directrice générale ont tout mis en œuvre pour la bonne préparation de nos célébrations. Nous sommes tous très honorés que plusieurs chefs d'Etat et de gouvernements représentant toutes les régions du monde, ont décidé de visiter l'UNESCO au cours de ces célébrations. C'est plus qu'une simple marque de respect pour le travail que nous accomplissons. C'est la reconnaissance de la nécessité pérenne d'une organisation comme l'UNESCO et aussi une preuve de la volonté politique au plus haut niveau pour reconnaître la seule organisation des Nations Unies responsable de la politique globale relative à l'éducation, les sciences naturelles, les sciences humaines et sociales, la culture, la communication et la formation. Cette reconnaissance nous rend particulièrement fiers. L'écrivain et aventurier Antoine de Saint-Exupéry nous rappelle que « pour ce qui est de l'avenir, il ne s'agit pas de le prévoir mais de le rendre possible. »

(Le Président du Conseil exécutif poursuit en anglais)

3.3 Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, for decades now, we have known that the world is rapidly evolving in both positive and negative ways. The positive changes created new opportunities – people are more connected. However, it is sometimes difficult to find efficient and relevant solutions to some of the more negative changes we experience. Nonetheless, we must consider sustainable solutions now with a view to preserving our planet – our only planet. As Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales said: "Our children and our grandchildren will ask not what our generation said, but what we did. So let us give them an answer of which we can be proud." These are wise words indeed.

3.4 Let me reiterate we are in a period of profound transformations, not only in social terms, but also in all areas of the Organization's activities and mandate. Transformations are upon us in education, in the sciences, in culture and, above all, in the innovation-driven communications and information field. Today, at a time of such rapid change, and after 70 years of our existence what are our forces that make peace lasting? What are our foundations that make development sustainable and human-oriented? These are the kinds of questions that we must continue to ask ourselves.

3.5 Our objective is that we should be able to keep up-to-date with these kinds of challenges and changes, and provide policy solutions that allow us to confront them head-on. UNESCO is one of the leading specialized agencies within the United Nations system capable of tackling today's major challenges through a prism that concentrates our five fields of competence. This is our added value. And this is what should make us the "go-to" agency to resolve twenty-first century problems that will preserve our world and its universal values for the future. This goal and holistic transformation has formally been announced by the decision of the United Nations summit last September to adopt the post-2015 development agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and another 196 interconnected targets. These goals and targets define the expectations of the world community for the next 15 years, and beyond. This is why I believe that UNESCO now faces a new test of unusual proportion: a review of our relevance, our existence, and our role. Most importantly, we need to adopt a dynamic approach in reviewing our strategy and our plans of action.

3.6 Let me reiterate again and repeat that I believe that the secret to our success will not only lie in multiplying our energies or increasing our financial resources, but also in the kinds of effective partnerships we can achieve with our fellow organizations within the United Nations system, and our alliances with non-governmental partners, including from the private sector, academic circles the media, and other interested stakeholders, in a way similar to the approach followed by the Education Sector in developing SDG 3.

3.7 We should begin to become concerned when we search where our core competences in culture and sciences have been integrated into the globe's transformative agenda. Apart from a few marginal references in some targets, we – and here I mean both the representatives of our Member States and the Secretariat – should continue to invest intensive efforts to make this possible. What has the catchphrase "a driver and an enabler of sustainable development", which can be applied to both culture and the sciences, brought about?

3.8 In this regard, let me take this opportunity to appeal to all of us – and again I say both the Member States and the Secretariat – to redouble our close efforts to gain ground in these areas. We must seriously and honestly undertake a reflection about our future vision, our focus, our priorities and our modus operandi for the next 15 years and beyond. We must ensure that sustainability is written into the genetic code of our Organization. Our current Medium-Term Strategy runs until 2021, that is to say four years, into that transformative period.

3.9 In order to attain further influence and impact, a review and analysis of the Medium-Term Strategy and its relation to the 2030 agenda is considered as our first step of homework towards the world community. The General Conference, therefore, should mandate the Executive Board to review our Medium-Term Strategy next year in an in-depth manner, together with the Director-General. We all know that structural and conceptual changes are difficult to implement and that it is often hard to change, to change our habits including also the need to leave marginal activities aside. But this change has to come from a bottom-up approach, emerging from a space for exchange and thought, and we need to provide support to accompany this process.

3.10 Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to begin with culture for the future. Should UNESCO concentrate almost all of its resources, both human and financial, to focus only on the implementation and administration of our Conventions? Certainly this may satisfy the expectations of many Member States. I would suggest that we must concentrate our efforts to pursue other intellectual and creative dimensions, such as, for example, in the field of the arts, in literature and books, in creativity, and in the linkage to the creative economy and so on, to name just a few. In this regard, I would urge us all not to lose sight of the potential for culture to be a source of human dignity, that the celebration of our diversity becomes the common ground for each to live equally with the Other, and for culture in all its many forms to be that true driver of sustainable development that we so desire.

3.11 Our concept of a culture of peace and intercultural dialogue – which are based on the principle of living together better and on respect and acceptance of one another, were born here at UNESCO and gave rise to the rapprochement of cultures – must be much more than well-meaning slogans. We must regain our moral and intellectual leadership of these meaningful concepts to establish the harmony of civilizations. After all, the world looks to UNESCO for guidance and inspiration on these vital matters.

3.12 Now, Mr President of the General Conference, let me turn to the sciences of the future. The coming years mark a unique and challenging time for UNESCO to reconfirm its relevance and to prove the impact of its mandate in the sciences. UNESCO's role in promoting international science, technology and innovation cooperation, as well as its work concerning the ethics of science and technology, have never been as relevant as they are now, especially as we begin to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our work in the sciences must become more visible. For example, the research and analysis undertaken by the United Nations Secretary-General's scientific advisory board, housed here at UNESCO, must be further promoted. In fact, everything that we do must take into consideration our ability to provide effective policy advice that can easily provide real impact in our Member States. This requires focus, determination and confidence. It asks for support and trust among the Member States and the Secretariat to share this noble mission. We must encourage and facilitate the spread of ideas by today's young and dynamic thinkers. Our youth are too often considered as lacking in experience. However, as the results of the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum show, young people have excellent creative potential and also great aspirations for our Organization. UNESCO must be the House of close collaboration among all generations so that all experiences are mutually beneficial and that knowledge and creativity are transmitted between the generations.

3.13 This now leads me to the field of education which is the cornerstone for our collective future. We must be sure that ICTs will provide the tools for a more human education essential for every individual to accept differences, whatever they are. The use of ICTs is an efficient means to reach this objective through greater efforts towards mobile and e-learning so that through their use we are able to reach the unreachable, in particular, in Africa and the Arab States region. Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me now to address you in my own language, Arabic, one of the official languages of UNESCO, to demonstrate that UNESCO is indeed the house of diversity.

(The Chair continues in Arabic)

٣،١٤ السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيدة المديرية العامة، معالي الوزراء، زملائي وزميلاتي السفراء، وممثلي الدول الوفود. تأسست اليونسكو منذ ٧٠ عاماً تأسست سعياً من مؤسسيها لبناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر وكان الهدف في ذلك الحين هو الحد من حالات استخدام القوة ومنع اللجوء إلى الحروب التي تشتعل بين الدول لتسوية خلافاتها اليوم فرضت المنازعات الداخلية والأهلية نفسها على المشهد تنامي عددها بشكل مخيف وأصبحت أشد في بأسها وأكثر ضراوة من الحروب الدولية التي عرفتها شعوب العالم بمفهومها التقليدي. تأسست اليونسكو عام ١٩٤٥ قبل أن يستخدم الناس جهاز التلفاز، وحتى منتصف الثمانينات كنا لإجراء مكاملة تليفونية دولية نحتاج لقضاء يوم كامل. وحتى نهاية التسعينات كنا طلبة ندرس في الخارج ننتظر أي شخص يحضر من بلادنا ليحضر معه جرائدنا المحلية لنقرأها. الآن كل هذا يمكن أن يتم في لحظة واحدة ومن خلال جهاز واحد نحملة معظمنا في حيننا أو في حقيبتنا فيمكن لنا أن نتابع الأخبار والأحداث التي تقع في أي مكان بالعالم لحظة وقوعها بالصوت والصورة سواء كنا نسير في الشارع أو ننتظر الأتوبيس أو نركب المصعد أو حتى عندما يجلس في قاعات الاجتماعات كما يمكن لنا من نفس الجهاز أن تجري اتصالاتنا الهاتفية سواء كنا على الأرض أو مستقلين الطائرات في السماء.

٣،١٥ عندما تأسست اليونسكو وحتى منتصف التسعينات كانت الأفكار محبوسة في الأجساد وكانت لا تنتقل إلا بانتقال جسم صاحبها من دولة إلى أخرى بما يلزم معه عبور الحدود السياسية والجغرافية وعلى أحسن حال كانت تنتقل من خلال الكتب التي كانت قد تصل إلينا من الخارج وقد لا تصل وعندما كنت باحثاً أكاديمياً في التسعينات كان لزاماً على أن أترك بلدي وأسافر للخارج للحصول على المقالات أو الاطلاع على الكتب في مجال تخصصي العلمي الآن هذا الأمر لا يستغرق مني ساعة أو ساعتين للحصول على جميع المصادر والمراجع العلمية الصادرة في أي مكان في العالم وبأي لغة. وهنا لي أن أتوقف قليلاً وأقول لكم أنني أشعر في بعض الأحيان بالدهشة في عيون بناتي عندما تأتيني أيهما وتقول لي أنها ترغب في السفر إلى دولة أخرى للقاء أصدقائها فيكون ردى عليها تلقائياً بأن عليها الحصول على التأشيرات اللازمة للدخول وهذا يتطلب بعض الوقت فتد على ببساطة شديدة قائمة إذن أدخل حجرتي وأصل بهم جميعاً في الدول المختلفة وأتواصل معهم ويمكن أن نتبادل الآراء والأفكار دون حاجة للحصول على تأشيرات ودون حاجة للعبور الحدود السياسية.

٣،١٦ أن جيلنا المعاصر يشعر بالفخر والزهو بأننا نستطيع استخدام الكمبيوتر وتنصفح الإنترنت بينما جيل أبائنا يتعامل مع الوسائل الإلكترونية بمنتهى السهولة واليسر باعتبارها جزء لا يتجزأ من حياته انظروا لأي طفل لم يتعد العاشرة من عمره كيف يتعامل مع جهاز "التابلت" أو الكمبيوتر أو التلفزيون المحمول بل لعلني لا أبالغ إذا ما قلت إنني شخصياً وأعتقد ان هذا حال معظمنا نلجأ لأبنائنا ليعلمونا كيف نستخدم الأجهزة الإلكترونية الحديثة وكأنهم ولدوا ومعهم جرعة المعرفة التكنولوجية الكافية لاستخدامها. العالم تغير ويتغير بسرعة شديدة وفائقة انتقال الأفكار وتداولها وانتشارها أصبح سريعاً جداً ويبقى التحدي أمامنا كيف نؤمن أبنائنا وبناتنا من صور الاستخدام السيء لوسائل الاتصال كيف نضمن ألا يقعوا ضحايا أو فريسة للفكر المتطرف ودعوات العنف والترويج لاستخدام القوة لايزال البعض منا يعتقد أن حدود دولنا السياسية أو حتى جدران منازلنا تشكل السياج اللازم لحماية أبنائنا وبناتنا والواقع أن هذه الحدود أصبحت بالنسبة لهم حدود افتراضية وأصبح من السهل أن تنتقل الأفكار المغلوطة والمتشددة من أي بقعة في العالم إلى أي ابن أو بنت من أبنائنا وبناتنا في أي وقت وهم داخل منازلنا بل حتى ونحن جالسين معهم في نفس الغرفة بينما نشعر بالاطمئنان بأنهم محصنين من ذلك طالما أننا نخطط بهم داخل المنزل أو الغرفة الواحدة. في ظل كل هذه المتغيرات أصبحت التحديات التي يواجهها العالم مضاعفة وأكثر تعقيداً وأصبحت لها شكل وتكوين مختلف يقتضي منا أن نتعامل ونتفاعل معها بنفس درجة سرعتها وقدرتها على التحور المتنامي.

٣،١٧ هذه المنظمة هي جزء أصيل من عالم اليوم بل بكل مكوناته وبكل تناقضاته أحياناً ولا سبيل أمامنا إلا أن نتوحد لمحاربة التطرف ونبذ العنف ومناهضة الحركات التي تسعى لنشر ثقافات جديدة تهدف إلى إنماء الشعور بعدم الاحترام والاضطهاد والحض على كراهية الآخر ليس فقط لمن يخالفونهم في الحضارة أو الدين أو العقيدة بل للأسف أيضاً لمن يتفق معهم في الحضارة والدين والعقيدة. أن هذه الجماعات تحاول أن تغزو وتحتل عقول شبابنا وعلينا واجب ومسئولية تجاه الأجيال القادمة بأن نوفر لهم الحماية اللازمة من خلال إتاحة فرص التعليم المناسبة بما يحميهم ذاتياً وأن تتم تنشئتهم بما ينمي ملكات التفكير السليم والقدرة على الدخول في حوارات بناءه أن التحدي الذي نعيشه الآن لم يعد يتمثل في البحث عن كيفية التعامل مع الظاهرة بل هو كيف نوفر سبل الوقاية اللازمة قبل ان تتطور هذه الظاهرة وتخرج عن السيطرة تماماً. وهنا يجب أن أؤكد على ضرورة النظر بعناية إلى الدور الذي يلعبه كل من قطاع العلوم

الاجتماعية والانسانية وقطاع الاتصالات والمعلومات بالمنظمة ويجب أن نوفر لهما البيئة والموارد المناسبة لوضع مبادرات وخطط عمل تتسم بالابتكار والتجديد والمرونة.

٣,١٨ ولا يفوتني في هذا المقام أن أعبر عن خالص شكري وتقديري للمديرة العامة إيرينا بوكوفا التي كانت واعية بهذا الخطر ومسؤولية منظمنا لمواجهةته فظمت أول مؤتمر دولي بشأن مكافحة التشدد والتعصب والتطرف لدى الشباب على شبكة الإنترنت خلال شهر يونيو الماضي بدعم مالي من الصين وبلغاريا ومصر. ولقد لمسنا إلى أي مدى كانت المناقشات خلال هذا الاجتماع مفيدة ومثمرة ويلزم علينا أن نستثمر هذا النجاح الكبير ونبني على نتائجه والتحرك بفاعلية وألا ننتظر أكثر من ذلك كي نتحرك قدماً على هدى من نتائجه. إننا إن كنا نخشى انتشار الأسلحة الذرية والأسلحة الدمار الشامل ونعمل بكل السبل على الحد منها فأنتي أعتقد وبشدة أننا علينا أن نخشى انتشار أفكار التطرف والعنف أيضاً حيث أن خطرهما قد يكون أشد فتكاً من الأسلحة النووية ويجب أن نجتهد من جذورها قبل فوات الآوان.

٣,١٩ السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام السيدات والسادة، أنني أومن بدور هذه المنظمة الدولية إيماناً شديداً يصل إلى حد العقيدة وأتمنى أن تستمر في مسيرتها للاضطلاع بدورها الريادي في مجالات عملها وأن تظل اليونسكو قادرة على التعامل مع التحديات التي يواجهها عالم اليوم بنفس الروح والحماس الذي كان موجوداً عند مؤسسيها وكان دافعاً رئيسياً لتأسيسها. علينا أن نواجه مشاكلنا بصراحة وقوة وجرأة، علينا أن نترفع عن التفاصيل الصغيرة وننظر إلى الصورة كاملة، علينا أن ننظر لمشاكلنا "بعين الطائر" وأن نسمو على الخلافات الشكلية والصغيرة، علينا أن نعمل كفريق عمل واحد أن نواجه عدونا المشترك الذي يسعى لإفساد عقول شبابنا وأخطر شيء أن تفسد الرأس جميع الكائنات تفسد إذا فسدت الرأس. لقد اعتبرنا لعقود من الزمان أن اليونسكو هي "ضمير العالم" وإذ أقولها اليوم أمامكم وبصوت عالي أن اليونسكو لا تمثل بالنسبة لي "ضمير العالم" فقط بل أيضاً "عقل العالم". نحن كدول أعضاء يجب أن نمد هذا العقل بالدماء التي تغذيه لنجعلها قادر على أن يفكر بحكمه وواقعيه هذه الدماء التي نضجها لعقل العالم "اليونسكو" هي التي ستمنع من أن تسيل دماء الأبرياء على أرض الواقع نتيجة العنف والجهل.

٣,٢٠ أنني أأمل عند المشاركة في مناقشات اللجان المنبثقة عن هذا المؤتمر أن يحضر كل منا إلى ذهنه يذهب ويضع في ذهنه واعتباره صورة الطفل الذي يريد أن يتعلم ولا يجد فرصه نحاول أن نتخيل هذا الباحث الذي يتمنى أن يبيع ولا يجد مكتبه والعالم الذي لديه فكره علمية أو اختراع وليس أمامه فرصة لإيجاد معمل يجرى فيه تجاربه. علينا أن نتصور حجم العذاب والمشقة الذي يتحملة من يهجر وطنه ومنزله مرغماً باحثاً عن مكان له ولأولاده يشعر فيه بالأمان ويحذوه الأمل أن يوفر لأسرته الحد الأدنى من احتياجاتهم الأساسية من تعليم وصحة. علينا ان نعي أن تراثنا الإنساني المشترك أصبح مستهدفاً ويتعرض للتدمير والسرقة والنهب أكثر من أي مرحلة من مراحل التاريخ. علينا أن نفكر في التبعات والاثار السيئة التي تنتج عن التغيرات المناخية باعتبار ذلك يمثل تحدياً بيئياً جديداً يواجه البشر في كل مناطق العالم. علينا أن نفكر في الأخطار التي تحيق بسكان الجزر الصغيرة التي يمكن أن تندثر وتختفي من على خريطة العالم. علينا أن نعي المشاكل التي يواجهها سكان المناطق التي تعيش مهددة بخطر التصحر والمناطق التي تعاني من ندرة الموارد المائية وأصبح شاغل قادتها الرئيسي هو كيف أن يوفرنا نقطة مياه نظيفة للشرب والزراعة. علينا أن نفكر في كيف أن نوفر مصادر الطاقة النظيفة والمتجددة تحقيقاً لمتطلبات التنمية في الدول بأقل التكاليف. علينا أن نفكر في كيفية توفير الحماية للصحفيين والاعلاميين من المخاطر التي يتعرضون لها عند قيامهم بمباشرة أعمالهم.

٣,٢١ كل هؤلاء وغيرهم من مواطني العالم ينظرون ويتطلعون إلينا باليونسكو ويأملون أن تأتي قراراتنا وبرامجنا التي سنوافق عليها خلال هذه الدورة لنساهم في الوفاء باحتياجاتهم وتحقيق أحلامهم وطموحاتهم الأمر الذي سيعود بالنفع عليهم وعلى جميع مواطني العالم بالرخاء وبالتالي تتمكن من أن تفي المنظمة برسالتها ليعم السلام ويتحقق الرخاء لبني البشر.

٣,٢٢ وعلى المستوى الداخلي لهذه المنظمة علينا أن نسعى لفتح أبوابها بشكل دائم للمتقنين والمفكرين والمبدعين والفنانين والأدباء والعلماء والخبراء بما يمكنهم أن تكون هذه المنظمة ملتقى لقادة التنوير والعلم. علينا أن نشرك الشباب على نحو أكثر عمقاً في أنشطتنا. علينا أن نجذب الشركاء غير الحكوميين ليكون لهم دور مؤثر في مساعدتنا على أداء مهامنا. علينا أن نعمق ثقافة التعددية وأن ننفق بقوة أمام من يحاول فرض فكرة أو تغليب ثقافته على حساب الآخر وأن نزيهنا للجميع بأن التعددية واختلاف الرؤى هي مصدر للأثراء الفكري. علينا أن ننشر "ثقافة احترام الآخر" من جميع جوانبها. علينا أن نعزز مفهوم "التعاون الفكري" الذي أنشئت من أجله هذه المنظمة. علينا أن نشجع الأبداع وإيجاد الحلول المبتكرة. علينا أن نغير نمط وتفكيرنا لنكون قادرين على استشراف التحديات المستقبلية وتنحسب إليها ونلعب دور الطبيب الوقائي وليس دور الطبيب المعالج. علينا أن ندرس بشكل علمي أفضل طرق جذب الموارد المالية للمنظمة وهنا لي أن أتوقف وأقول إنني على ثقة أن هناك أموال يمكن جذبها لتمويل أنشطتنا وبرامجنا إذا ما استطعنا أن نثبت للممولين أن لدينا قصص نجاح وأن برامجنا وأنشطتنا تواكب العصر وتعامل مع التحديات التي يواجهها العالم بالقدر اللازم. علينا أن نستغل مصادر قوتنا وإنجازاتنا التي حققناها في السبعين السنة الماضية لتكون أساس لانطلاقه جديدة كمنظمة قادرة على أن تتعامل مع إشكاليات العالم المتلاحقة بنفس القدر والسرعة.

٣,٢٣ وخلال أعمال هذه الدورة: علينا أن نستثمر وجودنا سوياً وأن نحول طاقتنا لبرامج واقعية يلمسها كل فرد في العالم بشكل علمي ومنتج، علينا ان نستغل الزخم السياسي الكبير من مشاركة القادة الذين سيحضرنا أعمال هذا المؤتمر لتتعرف على المشاكل التي تدور حولنا من منظورهم وتعرف على أفكارهم ورؤاهم بالنسبة لكيفية مواجهتها وأعتقد أنها فرصة متميزة لنقل من خلاهم لشعوب العالم رسالة مفادها "أنا في اليونسكو راغبين في البقاء راغبين في العمل بنفس القدرة والحماس وأنا قادرين على التطوير وقادرين على التفاعل وقادرين على التعامل مع التحديات المعاصرة". أننا في هذه اللحظة الفارقة أمام تحد كبير مفاده "كن أو لا تكون" وأنتي على ثقة بأننا سننجح سوياً وبأننا "سنكون" نعم متأكد بأننا سنكون "النراس" و"سنكون" البوصلة" التي يهتدى بها الجميع لصالح خير البشر وأمنه ولتحقيق التنمية المنشودة وأن يعم السلام بمفهومه الواسع على كافة الأصعدة والمستويات.

٣,٢٤ بهذه الكلمات التي عبرت من خلالها عن آمالي التي تسكن صدري وتشغل عقلي وأنتي على يقين أنها أيضاً تشغلكم بنفس القدر إن لم يكن أكثر أختتم كلمتي وأتمنى لكم جميعاً بالنيابة عن جميع أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة اليونسكو وبأسمى الشخصي أن تؤتي هذه الدورة الثمانية والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو ثمارها المنشودة وأن تكلل جهودنا بالنجاح وأن يكون نجاح غير مسبوق. وأشكركم على حسن استماعكم.

4. The Temporary President:

Thank you for your speech, Mr Chairperson. We shall now have the pleasure to hear the Director-General. Madam Director-General, you have the floor.

5.1 La Directrice générale :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Messieurs les Chefs des délégations, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'inauguration de cette 38^e session de la Conférence générale est un moment spécial et privilégié.

5.2 Je voudrais commencer par remercier l'action du Conseil exécutif sous la présidence de Son Excellence M. Mohamed Sameh Amr pour les préparatifs de cette session décisive. Je vais avoir l'opportunité plus tard de vous remercier, Monsieur le Président de la 37^e session de la Conférence générale, pour tout votre soutien et l'engagement envers l'organisation, mais permettez-moi dès maintenant d'exprimer mon estime et ma reconnaissance.

5.3 Notre ambition, Mesdames et Messieurs, durant les prochaines semaines est double. Il s'agit d'abord de renouveler notre attachement aux principes fondateurs de cette institution 70 ans après sa création. Chaque Conférence générale est l'occasion d'un retour aux sources, et cette fois-ci, nous ressentons tout spécialement l'importance du moment historique, un mois après l'adoption de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable, à quelques semaines de la COP21 et la menace d'un point de non-retour dans le dérèglement climatique, devant les crises multiples qui déstabilisent des régions entières et jettent des millions d'individus sur les routes à la recherche d'un avenir meilleur. Il faut réaffirmer des principes clairs, des valeurs fortes capables d'allumer des lumières dans la nuit. L'UNESCO est née du principe que la paix et le développement pour être durables doivent s'ancre profondément dans le cœur et dans l'esprit des peuples. Cette conviction n'a pas changé et reste notre boussole, dans les mutations du monde actuel.

5.4 Devant les menaces de l'extrémisme violent, tout le monde perçoit la profonde cohérence de notre mandat et le besoin d'aborder ensemble les enjeux de l'éducation, du dialogue des cultures, de la liberté d'expression, qui sont les armes de résistance et de résilience. Ces dimensions ne sont pas séparables et l'UNESCO est le seul lieu où les Etats peuvent créer des synergies entre elles.

5.5 Face au défi climatique, devant la multiplication des phénomènes extrêmes, tout le monde perçoit l'urgence d'investir massivement dans la recherche, la prévention des risques, l'éducation au développement durable, qui sont des priorités de l'UNESCO. Au-delà de la justesse morale qui porte l'UNESCO, au-delà de la pertinence de ses analyses ou de son mandat, l'enjeu de cette Conférence, c'est de s'assurer la mise en œuvre concrète, au plus près des besoins des peuples. Il faut investir dans l'UNESCO. Il faut lui donner les moyens de son immense ambition. Et mon appel, en ouverture de cette Conférence générale, est un appel à la mobilisation générale.

(The Director-General continues in English)

5.6 Ladies and gentlemen, this is my solemn appeal to you today, to advance the education of every child, especially girls, to prevent and counter violent extremism, from ransacking the sites of our common memory, of our common history, to tackle the consequences of climate change, in harmony with the boundaries of our planet; to nurture the greatest renewable energy of humanity, the boundless wellspring that is human ingenuity, human creativity. It is indeed time to invest in UNESCO, the United Nations agency for human rights and dignity, for innovation, for sustainability. UNESCO has changed these last few years, UNESCO has profoundly reformed. This has been root and branch. This has affected all aspects of UNESCO's action and delivery. The Organization has changed, a long road has been travelled and we did this together, the Secretariat and Member States.

5.7 We did this, guided by a clear strategy of transformation, focusing on priorities, betting on our strengths being stable on our values. We did this by remaining indeed true to the values that inspired the founders of this Organization, after a devastating war, 70 years ago. Two years ago, I promised the General Conference of UNESCO, I promised you Mr President, that we will overcome the crisis. Today, UNESCO's priorities are built firmly into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and this was strongly welcomed by the last session of the Executive Board. This shows UNESCO moving; UNESCO is transforming. But we must forge on, to improve efficiency even more, to sharpen delivery even more, to build capacity in our Member States, to support every woman and man, every boy and girl.

5.8 Societies across the world are turning to UNESCO to defend human rights and dignity, to take forward a new humanism. The same spirit inspired the founders of UNESCO to meet in London, in 1942, in the middle of a war that was far from over, to chart a new course for human solidarity and peace in a world riven by devastating conflict and war. Today, in the face of rising violence, in the face of urgent emergencies, we must renew this spirit of audacity because I am deeply convinced that this is the DNA of UNESCO. This is the promise I believe that we must renew today during the 38th session of the General Conference of the Organization. I believe, on the 70th anniversary of the Organization, this is a promise of humanity united. Thank you.

6. The Temporary President:

Thank you very much for your speech, Madam Bokova. Ladies and gentlemen, after having listened to these wonderful pieces of music and speeches from the Executive Board Chair and the Director-General, we are now moving to a more procedural part of this meeting.

Item 1.2: Establishment of the Credentials Committee

7. The Temporary President:

As you know, the General Conference establishes at the beginning of each session committees, commissions and other subsidiary organs as may be required in order for the Conference to conduct its business efficiently. This morning, we will elect two such committees. First, we need to establish the Credentials Committee, which is in charge of verifying the credentials of all delegations, representatives and observers to the Conference. In accordance with Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure, this Committee consists of nine Member States, elected by the General Conference on the proposal of the Temporary President. I would also like to remind you that following 197 EX/Decision (IV) the Executive Board decided to recommend the election of H.E. Ms Mariam Katagum of Nigeria as the Chairperson of the Committee. Now I give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference please.

8. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président, c'est juste pour informer la Conférence générale que, à ce jour, le Secrétariat a reçu, en plus évidemment de la présidente, l'Ambassadrice Katagum, cinq candidatures, à savoir la Turquie, la Guinée, le Niger, le Salvador et le Kazakhstan, pour composer ce comité. Il manque donc encore trois sièges et les Etats qui souhaitent siéger dans ce comité, notamment du Groupe II et du Groupe V.B, sont priés de le faire savoir de suite au Secrétariat, le Comité des candidatures se réunissant à midi en salle VIII. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Establishment of the Nominations Committee9. **The Temporary President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now time for us to set up the Nominations Committee. This Committee will determine and submit to the Conference the list of nominations for the post of President and Vice President, as well as proposals for the composition of committees, commissions and other subsidiary organs of the Conference. According to Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure, the Nominations Committee consists of the heads of all delegations entitled to vote in the Conference. The head of a delegation may appoint another member of his or her delegation to attend meetings and vote in his or her place. Representatives to the Committee may be assisted by another member of their delegation. The Nominations Committee is responsible for electing its own chairperson, but I would also like to remind you that the Executive Board, by means of 196 EX/Decision 21 (IV), recommends for this position His Excellency Mr Michael Worbs, from Germany. I invite the Nominations Committee to meet at 12 p.m. in Room IV.

Item 1.4: Adoption of the agenda10. **The Temporary President:**

We shall now examine item 1.4, the adoption of our agenda, contained in document 38 C/1 Prov. Rev. which was prepared by the Executive Board at its 196th and 197th sessions. Allow me to remind you that, at this stage, according to Rule 15, only new items of an important and urgent character may be added to the agenda. Any such proposals would be considered by the Bureau tomorrow morning, before being put to the General Conference for approval by a two-thirds majority vote. Now I would like to give the floor to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chairperson of the Executive Board, who will present the provisional agenda. Please, sir, you have the floor.

11. **Mr Amr (Egypt), Chair of the Executive Board:**

Thank you. Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. In accordance with the provisions of Article 5.B, paragraph 6 (a) of the Constitution, the provisional agenda of the present session of the General Conference was prepared by the Executive Board at its 196th session on the basis of a document submitted to it by the Director-General. Subsequent to its discussions in this regard, the Board adopted 196 EX/Decision 21 (I). In pursuance of Article 9 paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the provisional agenda was communicated to Member States and Associate Members as soon as possible after the closure of the 196th session, by circular letter dated 21 May 2015. At its 197th session, the Executive Board examined the revised provisional agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference and by 197 EX/Decision 22 (I) retained the five supplementary items that were submitted within the time limits set by Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference as well as the addition of those items stemming from the decisions taken at its 197th session. These items were included in the supplementary list circulated to the Member States and Associate Members, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 12, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, by a circular letter dated 15 September 2015. Mr President, on behalf of the Executive Board, I have the honour to submit for adoption by the General Conference the revised provisional agenda contained in document 38 C/1 Prov. Rev. Thank you.

12.1 **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, sir, for your presentation. I would like to inform you that by letter of 30 October 2015 addressed to the Director-General, the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Saint Lucia who had requested the inclusion of item 5.5 "Transparency at UNESCO" in the revised provisional agenda of the 38th session of the General Conference, have requested to withdraw this item from the agenda. Are there any objections to this? I see none, so this item will be deleted from the agenda. Are there any further comments on this agenda? I see none. *The agenda is adopted.*

12.2 Ladies and gentlemen, Serbia wishes to make a statement.

13. **Serbia:**

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, in relation to item 8.3 concerning the request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO, the Republic of Serbia would like to recall that the way of inclusion of this item in the provisional agenda of the Executive Board of UNESCO raises serious concerns about compliance with the procedure and UNESCO's rules and practices and is contrary to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. The same applies to the inclusion of this item in the revised provisional agenda of the General Conference of UNESCO. The recommendation of the Executive Board was made without debate on this sensitive and complex issue that is creating a dangerous precedence with unforeseen consequences and polarizing the membership of the Organization. The Executive Board meeting on 21 October clearly demonstrates how controversial this issue is. In fact, of the absolute majority of 58 Member States, 31 of them did not support the adoption of this untimely and premature recommendation. This delegation reserves its right to deliberate in more detail its position on the issue during the discussion of this agenda item. Thank you Mr President.

Item 1.7: Admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO, and recommendation of the Executive Board thereon

14. The Temporary President:

Thank you very much. Are there any comments? Ladies and gentlemen, our next task is to examine item 1.7 of our agenda concerning the admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO and recommendations of the Executive Board thereon. The relevant working document is document 38 C/12. I am pleased now to invite once more the Chairperson of the Executive Board to present the Board's recommendations on this matter. Sir you have the floor, please.

15.1 Mr Amr (Egypt), Chair of the Executive Board:

Thank you, Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. In presenting this item to the General Conference I would like to commend the passion and the dedication that our non-governmental organization community has towards the goals and objectives of our Organization. Now, more than ever before, we have come to rely on the important role that NGOs play nationally, regionally and internationally to both promote our work and assist us in the implementation of our programme. Their action and accomplishments demonstrate that together we can accomplish what we set out to do while continuing to strengthen international cooperation for peace and development.

15.2 It is in this spirit that the Executive Board examined item 22, Part V, of the agenda of its 197th session relating to the admission to the 38th session of the General Conference of observers from non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO and on which the Board took a unanimous decision. Mr President, I therefore recommend on behalf of the Executive Board that those organizations now listed in document 38 C/12 be invited to participate in the 38th session of the General Conference as observers in the debates on specific agenda items relating to their fields of competence. Thank you.

16.1 The President:

Thank you for this presentation, Mr Amr. I now wish to submit this recommendation to the approval of the General Conference. As I see no objection, I will take it that this recommendation is adopted unanimously. Thank you very much.

Item 10.2: Request for the admission of Montserrat as an Associate Member of UNESCO

17.1 The President:

We will now examine the item concerning the request from Montserrat for admission as Associate Member of UNESCO. The request for admission of Montserrat as Associate Member of UNESCO is presented in document 38 C/59 and item 8.2. The document includes a letter dated 1 September 2015 from the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland applying for associate membership on behalf of Montserrat whose international relations fall under the responsibility of his country.

17.2 This letter complies with Article 2, paragraph 3 of the Constitution which states that territories which are not responsible for the conduct of their international relations may be admitted as Associate Members by the General Conference by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, upon application made on behalf of such territory by the member having responsibility for their international relations. I now present to the General Conference the request for admission of Montserrat as associate member of UNESCO.

17.3 I see no objection to this request. I therefore declare that Montserrat has been admitted as a new associate member of the Organization. *It is so **decided**.*

17.4 This decision further enriches the cultural diversity of our Organization. I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to Montserrat, our new and the tenth associate member of UNESCO. It is now my pleasure to give the floor to Honourable Janice Panton of Montserrat who will briefly address the General Conference. Please, Madam, you have the floor.

18.1 Ms Janice Panton (Montserrat):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I express sincere thanks on behalf of the Government and people of Montserrat and especially convey the gratitude of the Honorable Premier Mr Donaldson Romeo and his Deputy, Honorable Minister of Education Ms Delmaude Ryan, who regrettably could not be here, for embracing the vision last year in becoming an associate member of UNESCO and today that vision has come to life.

18.2 The activities of UNESCO, now aged 70, are woven into the fabric of national governments as the Organization is seen as an essential resource bank, providing policy guidance on education and science and promoting cultural diversity. The longevity and the status of the Organization says much for its relevance in an ever-changing world.

18.3 The objectives of UNESCO – peace and equitable sustainable development – are the objectives of large and small countries and the method of implementation has the potential to impact on every child in the universe.

18.4 Its inclusive mandate provides small territories like Montserrat the opportunity to share policy guidelines and good practices first hand. Montserrat is a United Kingdom territory, a small island situated in the eastern Caribbean. The

Montserrat flag reflects its status as a British territory, but the observant will notice that the flag includes an emblem showing a lady with a harp. The lady is Erin, from Ireland; the Irish were first to settle on Montserrat under British rule in the late seventeenth century. The names of persons and places in Montserrat reflect this Irish heritage. Africans became the major ethnic group a few decades later providing a rich cultural heritage, reflected in music, song and dance. Montserrat gave the world the Soca anthem “Hot Hot Hot” composed and sung by Arrow (Alphonso Cassell). The development of culture falls under the now fully functional Montserrat Arts Council.

18.5 Historically Montserrat's population fluctuated between 10,000 and 14,000. Today it is approximately 5,000 and that includes a high percentage of recent migrants from within the region including those from Spanish-speaking countries. This reduction in population is a result of volcanic eruption which started in 1995, and which made two-thirds of this 40 square mile island uninhabitable and caused mass off-island evacuation.

18.6 The impact of this crisis has been huge. Montserrat lost its core middle and senior management workers and their offspring. Previous boasts of being in the top educational league in the region is no longer true as standards have dropped due to the inability to recruit and retain qualified teachers, and there is now a need to look afresh at our education system.

18.7 Over the last 20 years, sustained volcanic activity has had, and continues to have, a devastating effect on the island's economy, which had just barely recovered following the damaging effects of category 5 hurricane Hugo in 1989, even though activity is now at a low level. Today, Montserrat is in receipt of budgetary aid.

18.8 The volcanic eruption had other effects. Montserrat now has a volcano observatory, which continues to bring world-class volcanologists and geologists to our shores. The recent winner of one of the most prestigious awards in science, the Vetlesen Prize, considered to be the earth sciences equivalent of the Nobel Prize, is the British volcanologist, Professor Stephen Sparks, once a household name on the island, as were the names of other scientists, as lives depended on this. His work and that of others have been an inspiration to budding scientists and Montserrat now has at least two homegrown earth scientists.

18.9 Another effect of the volcanic eruption is the opportunity it has given Montserrat to turn from fossil fuel to geothermal energy. With aid from the United Kingdom Department for International Development we have commenced drilling and discovered enough geothermal energy resources to meet current needs. This energy resource will provide cleaner and cheaper energy and should boost the economy. Its implementation will call for an educated workforce and skills not currently employed or available on the island.

18.10 Montserrat does not want to be a bystander as technology develops around us. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or global goals require that each individual has a responsibility to contribute towards fulfilling these. As an associate member of UNESCO, our mandate would be to facilitate this where possible.

18.11 In Montserrat we have also seen the negative effect of the volcano in sustaining terrestrial and marine life. During the last twenty years there has been a lack of homegrown fruits and vegetables and our reefs have been affected by volcanic material deposited in the sea during the eruption. More importantly, however, there has been a lack of capacity building due to the small workforce of around 2000.

18.12 In small communities it is taken as given that education is a driver for individual upward mobility, and more often than not the success of an educated son or daughter trickles down to other members of the family. In Montserrat, we are looking, as an associate member of UNESCO, for benefits to include the tools to build an educated community – not just an educated individual, but a whole community of educated individuals who, working together can learn and act on the experiences and policies of UNESCO and its members. We benefit from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in this respect, and we can only imagine the effect that learning from over 190 other UNESCO Member States would have on our development.

18.13 About 10 years ago, a review was undertaken to find out the factors that would encourage Montserratians who settled in the United Kingdom to return to the safe northern part of Montserrat. Not surprisingly, education was a major factor along with available housing and jobs. Unfortunately, we have not yet reached that level of development and this is still a major consideration for the second generation living in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

18.14 The Government of Montserrat has recently reviewed its policy and agenda, and has prioritized three of the Sustainable Development Goals: SDGs 4, 7 and 8. In Montserrat, SDG 4 – to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – can act as a motor for sustainable development through the provision of qualified teachers and a curriculum that would equip our children to aim for a bright and sustainable future.

18.15 In Montserrat, we will in the near future play a part in global carbon reduction while at the same time provide cheaper energy to our consumers using geothermal energy and fulfilling Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals: to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable energy for all.

18.16 In Montserrat, our economic policy is based on Sustainable Development Goal 8: to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. We are committed to UNESCO's mandate, which we see as vital for the betterment of our people.

18.17 In closing, the Government of Montserrat would like to thank the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its support in its application and also for the support given with the process. In this regard we would also to thank UNESCO for affording Montserrat the opportunity to participate in this august Organization. This

is a landmark occasion for the people of Montserrat and we look forward to playing our part as an associate member of UNESCO.

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Madam. I now give the floor to His Excellency, Mr Mohamed Amr, Chairperson of the Executive Board. Please, Sir, you have the floor.

20. **Mr Amr (Egypt), Chair of the Executive Board:**

Thank you, Mr President. It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome “the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean”, otherwise known as Montserrat as an Associate Member of UNESCO on behalf of all Members of the Executive Board and in my own name. UNESCO takes great pride in the universal nature of its membership, currently standing at 195 Members and now with 10 Associate Members. The notion of membership is an important one and we should be glad that everyone wishes to join our ranks. Members join to receive beneficial help, guidance and assistance, but also to share their expertise with others. As a small island developing State, let me assure you, Madam Panton, that UNESCO makes your needs a priority. Associate Membership will ensure that you are part of a wider network of States working towards mitigation and resolution of the challenges that you face. Equally, you should look forward to policy advice that you may seek concerning the protection, preservation and promotion of the flora and fauna that is native to your homeland. I am certain that we all will look forward to the vital contributions that Montserrat will make in the future. Once again, I extend my warmest welcome and heartfelt congratulations to Montserrat. Thank you for your attention. Thank you, Mr President.

21. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Sir. I now give the floor to the Director-General. Madam Director-General, you have the floor.

22.1 **La Directrice générale :**

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président, c'est un privilège d'accueillir Montserrat comme associé de l'UNESCO. Cette nouvelle adhésion marque une étape dans notre cheminement collectif, dans l'affermissement de l'UNESCO comme une plateforme universelle pour un ordre multilatéral plus ouvert et efficace fondé sur la dignité humaine, l'égalité et le respect mutuel.

22.2 L'UNESCO est prête à soutenir les aspirations du peuple de Montserrat pour les droits humains, l'éducation de qualité pour tous, la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel et la diversité des expressions culturelles, y compris la diversité biologique pour atténuer les conséquences du changement climatique. Et j'ajouterais que l'UNESCO a plus que besoin de la voix des petits États insulaires en développement. Au lendemain de l'adoption du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement durable d'ici 2030, à quelques semaines de la Conférence Cop 21, l'expérience, l'expertise et les préoccupations des petits États insulaires en développement sont essentielles pour aller de l'avant et, dans cet esprit, l'adhésion de Montserrat nous renforce collectivement.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)

22.3 Montserrat, ladies and gentlemen, becomes today a new Associate Member but it is a longstanding UNESCO partner. As an overseas territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Montserrat has taken part in a range of programmes implemented through the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean. Montserrat has participated in the capacity-building programme, in education policy, analysis and planning, education statistics, technical and vocational training in education along with skills development, education for sustainable development and quality assurance in higher education.

22.4 Montserrat has taken part in activities aiming at disaster risk reduction as well as of the tsunami and other coastal hazards warning systems for the Caribbean and adjacent regions. Journalists from Montserrat participate every year in UNESCO celebrations of World Press Freedom Day within the framework of the Caribbean media and communication conference. They have taken part in events hosted by the Caribbean Broadcasting Union sponsored by UNESCO including the annual Caribbean Broadcasting Union Awards. So I look forward to strengthening these bonds ever more and I wish to convey today sincere appreciation and gratitude and congratulations to the authorities and people of Montserrat. Welcome to UNESCO. Thank you.

(Applause)

23. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Bokova. Ladies and gentlemen, we have a special guest paying this General Conference a visit this morning, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway. I will now suspend the meeting for five minutes in order to welcome our distinguished visitor. I kindly ask you to remain in your seat until we vacate this room.

The meeting is suspended from 12.10 p.m. to 12.20 p.m. to allow the Temporary President of the General Conference and the Director-General to welcome His Royal Highness Prince Haakon of Norway.

His Royal Highness Prince Haakon of Norway enters Room I and is escorted to his place.

24. **The Temporary President:**

Your Royal Highness, Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct honour, and great pleasure, to welcome to UNESCO His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway. Before listening to Prince Haakon, we will have the great pleasure of listening to a choir, composed

of members from four Confucius Institutes in France. They are students in local universities and colleges, and they will sing one Chinese song and one French song.

(Musical interlude)

Item 4.5: Conclusions of the Youth Forum

25. The Temporary President:

Thank you very much for this beautiful music. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I propose to listen to the report of the Youth Forum which was held from 26 to 28 October 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters and to which the Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message for the success of the opening of the Forum. In this respect, it is my pleasure to give the floor to Ms Virginia Da Graça Da Cruz from Timor-Leste, Mr Elton Bon from Liberia and Ms Annie Thamar Garçon from Haiti, delegates at the Forum who have been selected by their peers to present the conclusions of this year's Youth Forum.

26.1 Ms Annie Thamar Garçon (Haiti – Youth Forum representative):

Son Altesse royale, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, mesdames, messieurs, c'est un honneur et un plaisir pour moi d'être la première participante visant la politique inclusive de l'UNESCO pour la participation des jeunes de la Conférence générale.

26.2 En effet, du 26 au 28 octobre 2015, environ 500 jeunes femmes et jeunes hommes venus de 159 États membres se sont réunis à l'occasion du neuvième Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO qui avait pour thème « Jeunes citoyens du monde pour une planète durable ». Ils ont discuté autour des thématiques liées au changement climatique et au Programme de développement durable à l'horizon de 2030, récemment adopté. Tout au long de ces trois jours, les jeunes participants ont imaginé l'avenir et défini les recommandations mondiales ci après.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

26.3 And now, I would like to introduce my colleague from Timor-Leste, Virginia Da Graça Da Cruz, thank you.

27. Ms Virginia Da Graça Da Cruz (Timor-Leste – Youth Forum representative):

Hello, good afternoon everybody. My name is Virginia Graça from Timor-Leste. Here I would like to present the recommendations from the Youth Forum to this session of the General Conference. On the theme "Young Global Citizens for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", I would like to talk about rights, freedom, responsibilities, diversity and identity. Rights, freedom and responsibilities – we have to encounter human rights every day through innovative forms of education, to learn to respect, enjoy, and live rights. By educating through our peers' experiences, by sharing responsibility with each other and by making a difference in each other's lives, we can all experience our rights. We have to create a contextually adaptable programme or toolkit on global citizenship education using innovative methods to be implemented at all levels to ensure the universal enjoyment of human rights. We have to coordinate a network of organizations that empower young women and men to start and stay in school through mentorship and tutoring. We must guarantee partnerships networking and adequate support for the African and Caribbean regions to ensure their success in achieving their targets for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We need to emphasize further cooperation between local entities and United Nations agencies in order to empower local economies and social actors from targeted communities to be agents of change and dramatically increase and improve allocation of resources in the education sector to accomplish SDG 4.

27.2 For diversity and identity, we must increase intercultural exchange between refugees and youth organizations through exchange programmes and sports events. We should train members of local youth organizations to become peer trainers who will coach their peers in their communities. We must enhance cultural, sexual and ethnic diversity, including breaking down gender stereotypes. We need to create a global environment youth organization, develop a youth foresight knowledge-lab forum to be deployed all around the world starting in countries with UNESCO field offices. Thank you very much. Now I would like to my friend from Liberia, Elton Bon, who is going to read the next recommendation. Thank you very much.

28.1 Mr Elton Bon (Liberia – Youth Forum representative):

Good afternoon again. My name is Elton Bon from Liberia and I will be reading on learning, personal development and sustainability. On education and experience for life, we need a universal community civil service to enable youth to get a better intercultural and inter-societal view of life and its stakeholders. School must be seen as a community, not only as a structure. Therefore, we must build places for development and establishing social skills such as interpersonal communication, critical innovation, thinking and debating. School must be an institution where we can try, learn, fail and succeed, a safe place where we can learn by experience and where we could be encouraged and explore beyond limit. We need community-built knowledge rather than imposed knowledge. We propose the use of crowdsourcing information and normal critical thinking for cultural understanding by developing a platform in which a student would have access to different information about historical events and social norms, leading them to question and search. This will make education more inclusive than discriminatory, allowing voices that are normally not heard to be taken into account. We can help to reduce the gap between adulthood and youth by recognizing vocational training.

28.2 Under the theme "Youth Global Citizens for a Sustainable Planet – Knowledge, Awareness and Media", we call upon UNESCO to create regional capacity between young men and women from different continents by establishing intercontinental social innovation incubators that will produce social start-ups with empowering knowledge skills and experience. We must acknowledge climate as a co-existent cultural heritage and recognize that the way to preserve local

knowledge and cultures is through climate change mitigation, arbitration and transformation. As youth, we are confident that we are agents of sustainable change. We commit ourselves to promoting active global citizenship by adopting and advocating healthy and sustainable lifestyles in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by involving ourselves in the implementation and monitoring of the Goals so as to achieve a better understanding of the issues surrounded the newly-adopted Sustainable Development Goals. We need to implement in local education systems new ways of knowledge creation that increase social and emotional intelligence. I would now like to introduce my colleague, Annie Thamar Garçon from Haiti, who will conclude on the final recommendation.

29.1 **Mme Annie Thamar Garçon** (Haïti, représentante du Forum des jeunes) :

Je suis Annie Thamar. Je viens d'Haïti. Voici les dernières recommandations, « Pratiques locales, biodiversité et prévention des catastrophes naturelles ».

29.2 Notre recommandation est de créer une communauté en ligne qui permettra aux gouvernements, aux organisations internationales et aux organisations locales de partager des informations, des récits positifs et des données avec les communautés du monde entier, encourager les communautés locales à prendre conscience de l'importance de la biodiversité, de la prévention des catastrophes naturelles.

29.3 La communauté en ligne sensibilisera les populations et les communautés du monde entier aux liens existants entre les pratiques locales, la biodiversité et la réduction des catastrophes naturelles. La communauté en ligne permettra aux communautés locales de partager leurs expériences au-delà de leurs frontières afin d'aider à atténuer les catastrophes naturelles par la valorisation de la biodiversité – ceci se faisant en partageant des expériences au niveau individuel et au sein de la communauté afin d'anticiper les futurs risques de catastrophes naturelles – ; en outre, partager des informations relatives aux risques de catastrophes, notamment les pratiques efficaces et les récits positifs ; encourager et inclure les jeunes femmes et jeunes hommes en créant une plate-forme qui fera la promotion du financement participatif des startups, des sociétés de financement et des autres types d'investissements dans des projets innovants qui préservent la biodiversité.

29.4 Comment capter l'énergie de la jeunesse ? Le Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO devrait se tenir tous les jours et partout pour que toutes les voix soient entendues. Le processus devrait être ascendant, les jeunes participants apportant toutes les idées des communautés locales aux responsables internationaux de l'élaboration des politiques. Étendre à l'UNESCO le programme des délégués de la jeunesse auprès des Nations Unies afin d'impliquer activement les jeunes femmes et les jeunes hommes aux processus décisionnels. L'élaboration de programmes-cadres sur l'éducation environnementale, le développement durable et les droits de l'homme pour l'enseignement primaire et secondaire. Les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO devraient coopérer directement avec les Ministères de l'éducation pour l'inclusion des objectifs de développement durable dans les manuels et autres sources pédagogiques, aider à développer les capacités des enseignants et des jeunes leaders dans les établissements éducatifs.

29.5 L'UNESCO, enfin, devrait inclure encore davantage les jeunes et leur être accessible. Les participants au Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO devraient être plus nombreux et devraient être assistés par des experts de l'Organisation. Les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO devraient organiser des réunions préparatoires nationales, avant le Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO, pour discuter du thème du Forum, réunir des idées et les affiner.

29.6 L'UNESCO devrait créer une plate-forme et une application mobile pour créer des liens entre les jeunes leaders, élaborer un système de crédit et débit en matière de pollution, pour réglementer la quantité maximale de déchets produite par les pays.

29.7 Durant ces trois jours, nous avons partagé notre culture, notre enthousiasme, notre énergie mais surtout de l'humanité. Et cette humanité nous a aidés à comprendre que la survie de l'être humain dépend de son influence sur son milieu. Et cette compréhension nous a aidés à prendre un choix intelligent et rationnel, celui de participer à la recherche scientifique, de participer à la promotion des valeurs universelles, et surtout à la construction d'un progrès durable. Et c'est ce que nous vous invitons à faire à travers ces recommandations. Merci.

30.1 **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much. Can I suggest that the General Conference takes note of the report? I see no objections. *It is so **decided**.*

30.2. Your Royal Highness, Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have now the great honour to hear the address of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway to the General Conference. Prince Haakon is a man deeply concerned with international development. Having graduated from the Royal Norwegian Naval Academy, Prince Haakon studied at the University of California at Berkeley and later on at the London School of Economics, where he was awarded a graduate degree in development studies. Over the past 12 years, Prince Haakon has been serving as the United Nations Development Programme's Goodwill Ambassador for the Millennium Development Goals. Crown Prince Haakon also served as a member of the advisory panel for global human development reports, and was an active member of the Young Global Leaders forum. Your Royal Highness, Crown Prince Haakon, you have the floor.

31.1 **His Royal Highness, Haakon Magnus, Crown Prince of Norway:**

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to speak here at the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and I appreciate the opportunity to address you as one of the key organizations in the United Nations family about to celebrate its 70th anniversary. UNESCO's role and mandate is as important today as it was 70 years ago. Education, science, culture, communication and information are all essential in a world where people are increasingly interconnected and dependent on each other. New generations are growing up as global citizens sharing responsibilities. UNESCO was founded in the wake of a world

war. Millions had perished; millions had been forced to flee from death and despair; millions had lost their homes and left everything behind in search of a better future. Today, the world is facing the largest refugee crisis since World War II. Sixty million people are fleeing from war and conflict. We share a joint responsibility to act, each and every one of us, as global citizens, each and every nation, as committed members of the United Nations. We have a responsibility to provide protection and aid. We have a responsibility to promote peace, reconciliation and resilience, to try to prevent future crises of the magnitude we are now witnessing.

31.2 Ladies and gentlemen, today, as it was 70 years ago, UNESCO is in an excellent position to unite and strengthen our efforts. Take global education and development: more than 120 million children and young people are out of school. Lack of quality education and poor learning outcomes leave millions more without the opportunity to make a decent life for themselves and their future families. Hardest hit are the many victims of war, natural disasters and epidemics. Increased efforts are needed to prevent military attacks on schools and universities. More support is necessary to ensure quality education in emergencies and protracted crises. Education is a fundamental human right. It is also essential to ensure inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. Quality education provides people with the skills, knowledge and values they need to tackle the various challenges they are likely to face in society. I would like to mention here the ongoing work on developing a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications. In a world where an increasing number of people are on the move, everybody should be able to get their qualifications assessed and have the opportunity to contribute to the society in which they are living. In my capacity as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador, I have seen how crucial quality education is for development. Girls learn about health and sexuality and avoid early pregnancies. The opportunities of marginalized groups, such as children with disabilities, are improved. Children and adolescents can reach their potential and societies are able to grow and prosper. As the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Malala Yousafzai, put it: "Education is one of the blessings of life and one of its necessities."

31.3 World leaders have recently adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Successful achievement of the goal on education, SDG 4, is crucial to eradicate extreme poverty and to meet many of the targets of the new 2030 Agenda. I would like to congratulate and commend UNESCO for the leading role it has played in promoting access to quality education for all. The framework for action to be agreed on during this session of the General Conference will certainly be a key reference point over the next 15 years. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Director-General Bokova for being one of the convenors of the International Commission on the Financing of Global Education Opportunities that was announced at the Oslo Summit in Education for Development.

31.4 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO's role and mandate is as relevant today as it was 70 years ago. Education is one vital area of its work; freedom of expression is another. As the United Nations agency with a specific mandate to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image, UNESCO plays a key role in fostering free, independent and pluralistic media. Essentially this is about providing us with the information we all need as global citizens, enabling us to understand and make informed decisions in a world that is rapidly changing and becoming increasingly complex. It is not in our interest to create new barriers between peoples. In a world that is ever more closely interconnected, the values of democracy, freedom of expression and freedom of the press, are essential for promoting peace-building, inclusive societies and jointly addressing the challenges we face. Just as important and timely are the efforts UNESCO is making to protect the world's material and immaterial cultural heritage and promote our cultural diversity. Director-General, you have spoken out clearly on this issue. You have been instrumental in mobilizing the United Nations Security Council, governments, legal authorities, market operators, culture experts and, last but not least, young people, against the senseless destruction of cultural heritage and against the illicit trafficking and trade in cultural artefacts. Through initiatives such as "#Unite4Heritage" campaign, launched in Baghdad earlier this year, violent extremism and thefts will be defeated with both specific countermeasures and joint universal messages of tolerance and dialogue.

31.5 Ladies and gentlemen, every human being has the right to lead a dignified life. This means that we all have the opportunity to fulfil our potential which requires adequate healthcare, education, income and security. It means having the freedom to make the decisions governing our own lives and to have this right respected by others. It also means having a common responsibility to strengthen the dignity of others and, through that, ultimately our own. This ties in well with UNESCO's mandate and the notion that peace can only be established on the basis of shared values and close and meaningful dialogue. It ties in well with UNESCO's global citizenship education, the idea that learners are empowered by becoming responsible global citizens, by being equipped with values, knowledge and skills that are based on, and instil respect for, human rights, social justice, diversity, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

31.6 Ladies and gentlemen, this conference coincides with one of the biggest humanitarian crises in recent history. I am confident that UNESCO is well placed to unify and strengthen our response, just as it was 70 years ago. I wish you every success over the next two weeks. Thank you very much.

32. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much for your wonderful speech Your Royal Highness. Ladies and gentlemen, before I adjourn this meeting I would like to be punctual for this afternoon's session, which will resume at 3 p.m. sharp. Thank you in advance. Please remain seated while His Royal Highness Prince Haakon leaves the room. *The meeting is adjourned.*

The meeting rose at 12.53 p.m.