

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

Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr Hao Ping (China)

Item 1.5: Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the commissions and committees

Election of the President of the 37th session of the General Conference

1. **The Temporary President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, I declare open the second plenary meeting. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we will now examine item 1.5 of our agenda, concerning the election of the President of the General Conference. The related documents are 38 C/NOM/1 and its Addendum. I now call upon His Excellency, Mr Michael Worbs, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, to present the recommendation of the Committee for the election of President of the 38th session of the General Conference. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

2. **Mr Michael Worbs** (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you Mr President. The Nominations Committee held its first meeting at noon today during which it examined the recommendation of the Executive Board on the subject of the election of the President of the 38th session of the General Conference. The recommendation of the Nominations Committee is contained in document 38 C/NOM/1 and Addendum. The Nominations Committee decided to recommend that the General Conference approve the candidature of Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa from Namibia as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. Thank you, Mr President.

3.1 **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, your Excellency. Ladies and gentlemen, I see that this proposal is widely supported and I am therefore happy to proclaim the election of His Excellency, Mr Stanley Simataa from Namibia, as President of the 38th session of the General Conference.

(Applause)

3.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a delight for me to introduce to you His Excellency Mr Stanley Simataa. For the past five years, many of us have become familiar with the voice of Mr Simataa, and especially his several interventions during the plenary sessions of the Executive Board. Mr Simataa completed a Masters of Science in Agriculture Education in the United Kingdom and he also holds a Masters of Business Administration degree. He has held several senior governmental posts – in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Ministry of Education, the National Council for Higher Education and, presently, as Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology.

3.3 As a friend and a colleague, I have come to appreciate his personality and contributions to the intellectual watchtower of the United Nations system. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where Africa's challenges are fully taken on board, his Presidency will promote UNESCO's global mission for peace and development for all. Ladies and gentlemen, with these few words I would like to invite the Chairperson of the Executive Board, who wishes to say a few words in this regard as well.

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

Thank you, Mr President. Allow me to express my gratitude to you Mr Hao Ping, Vice-Minister of Education of China, for the friendship that we have developed over these past two years. I wish also to thank you for the wisdom you have kindly shared with me. As the Chinese saying goes, "listening to your advice is better than reading books for 10 years". Representing the supreme governing body of our dear Organization is a challenging task for those who have been so honoured to be elected to do it. I have admired your heartfelt dedication to UNESCO's universal values, your belief in consensus building and your overarching aim to reach harmony in international fora. You were the light for all of us in the Executive Board. We always waited for your words of wisdom, to give us inspiration for our work, and encouragement when necessary. Let me say that I believe that all Members of the Executive Board share this conviction and we wish you Mr Hao Ping well in your future endeavours and look forward very much to meeting up again soon.

4.2 Let me now to turn to the newly-elected President of the General Conference to warmly congratulate him on behalf of all members of the Executive Board, and also in my own name. Your Excellency, Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa I wish to express the collective sentiment of all Members of the Board that this session of the General Conference will benefit from the leadership and wisdom that you demonstrated during your tenure as Member of the Board for your country, Namibia. Through your election to this high office, the entire African continent, to which I also belong, is honoured.

4.3 I know that you will ensure that the "C" in UNESCO, the letter "C" – for communication and information – will get its rightful recognition during your mandate. I also know that the "E", the "S" and the other "C" – culture – will also receive the attention they deserve. Your term of office coincides with this important moment in the life of our Organization as we celebrate our 70th anniversary. We will also begin a new era, guided by the recently-adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for which UNESCO's mandate is more relevant than ever. We are all certain that you will carry out your

responsibilities as President of the General Conference with distinction, commitment and energy, so let me simply wish you every success in your tasks ahead. Thank you very much.

5. **The Temporary President:**

Thank you Mr Chairperson. I now give the floor to the Director-General.

6.1 **The Director-General:**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is an honour for me to congratulate His Excellency Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa, on his election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Namibia is one of UNESCO's great champions, supporting the Organization in its action across the world. We see this in the leadership Namibia has brought to the Executive Board of UNESCO. We saw it in the support Namibia provided to the UNESCO Emergency Fund, and in the vision Namibia provides to advancing the reform of UNESCO.

6.2 Namibia knows the meaning of freedom of expression, a free media, the meaning of a culture of peace and the need for inclusive development. Namibia is one of few countries in the world that pledges in its constitution to safeguard biodiversity and natural resources. As the Namibian proverb says, "The earth is not ours – it is a treasure we hold in trust for future generations". This knowledge is wisdom for today and the future, and it will be especially important to implement the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(The Director-General continues in French)

6.3 Je connais, Monsieur le Président, votre passion pour l'UNESCO, et je me réjouis d'approfondir notre partenariat encore davantage. Je connais l'engagement de la Namibie auprès de l'UNESCO, qu'il s'agisse de la Déclaration de Windhoek, il y a plus de 10 ans, qui a lancé un mouvement mondial pour la liberté de la presse, ou bien de la protection du Patrimoine immatériel, dont la Namibie va accueillir le Comité dans quelques semaines. Cet engagement est important pour l'UNESCO, il est important pour l'Afrique, notre priorité globale, et peut nous aider à faire une différence pour le monde. Excellences, mesdames et messieurs, il m'est aussi agréable de rendre hommage à S. E. M. Hao Ping, Vice-Ministre de l'éducation de la République populaire de Chine, et Président de la 37^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO.

6.4 Monsieur le Président, vous avez donné une impulsion décisive à la coopération de l'UNESCO avec la Chine qui a rejailli sur l'ensemble de nos missions. Je pense à la Conférence historique de Hangzhou de la culture : une clé pour le développement durable, en mai 2013, où vous vous êtes particulièrement impliqué, qui fut une étape capitale pour l'intégration de la culture dans l'Agenda 2030. Je pense également aux deux conférences majeures de Beijing sur les villes apprenantes et sur les villes créatives, au mois d'octobre 2013.

6.5 Moins de six mois après votre élection, l'UNESCO a eu le privilège d'accueillir S. E. le Président Xi Jinping, le 27 mars 2014, pour une visite historique. Le Président Xi Jinping en personne a confirmé cet engagement à de nombreuses reprises, notamment au sein de l'initiative *Éducation avant tout* et, tout dernièrement, dans son message au Forum des jeunes de l'UNESCO, il y a une semaine. J'étais à vos côtés avec le Vice-Premier Ministre, Mme Liu Yandong pour la Conférence de l'UNESCO sur les langues et l'éducation à Suzhou. Nous étions ensemble à Beijing, encore une fois avec le Président Xi, pour la Conférence internationale sur l'ingénierie, les sciences et les technologies, et également lors du Forum mondial sur les glissements de terrain, au mois de juin 2014.

6.6 Vous avez été actif dans tous les domaines de notre mandat : lors du débat thématique de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies (à New York) sur la culture et développement, le 5 mai 2015 ; à la Conférence internationale sur les technologies de l'information pour l'éducation (à Qindao, votre ville natale) au mois de mai ; aux avant-postes pour promouvoir la vision globale de l'UNESCO pour l'éducation, lors du Forum mondial de l'éducation à Incheon (en République de Corée) ; pour la formation des enseignants en Afrique, par l'intermédiaire du fonds-en-dépôt chinois ; et aux côtés de S. E. Mme la Professeure Peng Liyuan, Première Dame de la Chine, et Envoyée spéciale de l'UNESCO pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en anglais)

6.7 Ladies and gentlemen, dear Mr Hao Ping, we saw this leadership embodied on 4 September 2015 at the international seminar on girls and women's education held in Beijing, China, led by UNESCO's Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education, First Lady Professor Peng Liyuan, focusing on the neutrality of female teachers for achieving gender equality. Under your leadership, Mr President, the partnership between China and UNESCO has surged forwards at every level. Being yourself a Vice-Chancellor of Beijing University, we saw this in UNESCO's deepening cooperation with leading universities in China. We see this through the 18 UNESCO Chairs in universities all across the country addressing almost every aspect of UNESCO's mandate. This is the largest number of UNESCO Chairs in Asia and the Pacific region. We see this in UNESCO's intensifying partnerships with the private sector in China: with the HNA Group in Hainan and the Hainan Cihang Community Foundation to advance girls' and women's education in Africa and Asia; with the Weidong Group to harness the power of ICTs in education; and with the company Perfect Game Holding Limited to support the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum. In all this, Mr President, you have acted as a force for cooperation and dialogue.

6.8 Once, Mr President, you told the Executive Board of UNESCO, and I quote: "Please remember that our united will is our strength. When people are united with the same will, they are as strong as great walls". Today, in this spirit of unity, all Member States of UNESCO I am sure will join me to thank you, for the vision that inspired you and helped this Organization become stronger, sharper and more responsive to societies across the world. Today in your inauguration speech, you said that "the aspiration of this Organization is to realize the dream we all share". To this end, Mr Chair, I will join hands with you to shape the future of this Organization for a better world. In this spirit, if you will allow me, I am

honoured to thank you and to award you, Mr President, with the UNESCO Silk Roads Medal, in recognition of your groundbreaking contribution to this Organization, to sustainable development and to lasting peace. Thank you.

7.1 **The Temporary President:**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. Mr Chairman of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, Ministers, distinguished Ambassadors, friends and colleagues, representatives of intergovernmental non-governmental organizations, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen. Finally, it is my time to say goodbye to this stage and to pass the mandate to my friend Mr Simaata. This morning I shared my vision of the Organization's future before my term is drawing to a full stop and I now feel complete and satisfied. In the past two years my colleagues and I worked in solidarity and the achievement belonged to us all. Here I would like to thank all the people that have given me support. I would like to thank my country. I am so deeply grateful to the Chinese Government who gave me full support during my presidency. My thanks also go to the National Commission and the Permanent Delegation. I would like to thank all the Member States and the representatives for your unconditional support for my presidency. You are my backbone and the friendship between us will always be a treasure in my life.

7.2 Madam Director-General, my friend, Irina Bokova, I want to thank you sincerely. The wisdom, global vision and ability through these difficult and complicated times are the precious characteristics of a leader of an international organization. You never wavered in carrying out your duties and you always remained true to your convictions. Today, you are the role model for many young people and you are the best example of women's empowerment. Please accept, Madam Bokova, my most sincere appreciation and respect. To my friend, Mr Mohammed Amr, I thank you for always standing by me, for assisting me in my presidency. We shared the joy and the pain. My most special gratitude goes to those I cannot even name. They may be the cleaning persons who kept my office clean; they may also be the security personnel and my driver. Thanks also to the translators and the interpreters, to the technical personnel and the support workers. You are the treasure of this House. Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to say goodbye. I am not going to say "so long" or "farewell" as I will just move from here to the delegate's seat and I will still be staying here, caring about you and you will always have my support. Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I will see you around. Thank you very much for your attention. I now invite the President of the 38th session of the General Conference to take his place at the podium.

Address by the President of the 38th session of the General Conference

8.1 **Mr Simataa** (Namibia) (President of the 38th session of the General Conference):

Mr President of the 37th session of the General Conference, Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegations, Your Excellencies Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates to UNESCO, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon once again. I am deeply honoured and humbled by the confidence and trust bestowed on me to serve this great Organization as President of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference.

8.2 Your unanimous endorsement of my nomination is testament to the principle of the equality of States as espoused in the UNESCO founding Constitution. It is indeed an honour for Namibia as a young nation, to be accorded the opportunity to preside over the supreme governing body of our Organization. I thank my Government for having endorsed my candidature – this in spite of demanding national responsibilities I am vested with. I also thank my family represented here this afternoon by my wife, Maggie, for providing the much-needed support that rebooted my often-depleted energy levels.

8.3 Equally, I would like to express my gratitude, in particular, to the Africa Group for their unreserved support of my candidature. My predecessor H.E. Mr. Hao Ping, the Vice Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China, is also thanked for his sterling contributions during his tenure. In the same vein, the Chairperson of the Executive Board H.E. Mohamed Sameh Amr, is thanked for his able stewardship of the operations of the Board during very testing times.

8.4 And yes, let me thank someone for whom I once said I had the greatest respect and admiration: that is you of course, Madam Director-General. Your unparalleled endurance in leading our Organization during what will likely go down in the annals of its history as one of the most challenging times is highly appreciated.

8.5 Madam Director-General, where many would have hurriedly exited, you consciously chose to stay the course. Your unrelenting efforts, together with the sacrifices of the unsung heroes of our Organization, the Secretariat, under the measured guidance of the Executive Board, succeeded in ventilating our Organization.

8.6 As Trevor Noah, one of the famous South African comedians, notes and I quote: "every obstacle, every pain, every heartbreak, every fear, every single negative thing in your life, is the fuel you must use to get you to a positive place". Thank you, Madam Director-General, and members of the Secretariat for having kept faith in our UNESCO.

8.7 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the year 2015 is significant in the history of humanity. We are celebrating the 70th anniversaries of both the United Nations and UNESCO. Both organizations were established to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in the world. The United Nations General Assembly recently adopted ambitious and forward-looking Sustainable Development Goals to, among other things, end hunger and poverty and provide equitable quality education.

8.8 In the case of UNESCO, the founding members of our Organization had a lasting vision in mind when they founded our Organization 70 years ago. They remind us today, just as they did 70 years ago, and as stated in the UNESCO Constitution, and I quote, "that a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind."

The historic narrative of a humane world order, characterized by lasting peace, has never been as relevant and has never been as profound, as it is today when the world and humankind continue to experience unending conflicts and natural disasters.

8.9 Coming from a country which had emerged from a lengthy armed conflict filled with hatred and mistrust, I am inclined to reason that humankind needs to invest more in sustained efforts to construct true and lasting peace. We need first to understand who the others are and why they do things the way they do. There is no single correct way of addressing issues. As human beings, it is natural that we look at issues through the lenses framed by our norms, values and cultures.

8.10 Similarly, as individual countries, we appreciate world events based on our backgrounds and experiences. This, your Excellencies, makes our coexistence complex. And coexist we must, for we have got no choice. To appreciate each other's ways, we need firstly a strong and unprejudiced will to listen to each other with open minds. Secondly, we need to pause for a while and put ourselves in others' shoes. Let us allow ourselves a few minutes, secondly we need to pause for a while and put ourselves in others' shoes. Let us allow ourselves a few minutes to forget about our own conditions and visualize ourselves in the situation of fellow human beings experiencing daily challenges. This may change our view and make us understand why countries have different positions. This may bring us to the realization that there is no single right way. Despite opposing views, both views may be right! Only when we try harder to understand and appreciate each other's ways will we be able to tolerate each other and be truly supportive.

8.11 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let us redouble our efforts to ensure that UNESCO achieves its sacred mission of building peace. However, peace and peace alone, is not a sufficient condition to address the prevailing global challenges. As the current President of the Republic of Namibia noted when addressing the Executive Board of UNESCO in 2010, and this is what he continues to remind Namibians, and I quote: "People do not eat peace, democracy, stability, nor do they sleep in good constitutions". Peace, democracy and stability are but prerequisites that enable us to go a step further, to achieve equitable sustainable human development. However, it is true that development, which is sustainable, is premised on enduring peace, security and equitable prosperity of nations and their citizenry.

8.12 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in times of despair, UNESCO is called upon to bring foresight and hope to the peoples of the world through education, including education for peace, tolerance, democracy and human rights; through the sciences, notably with the development and dissemination of scientific knowledge to improve responses to unprecedented environmental changes now occurring; through culture, by building bridges among different cultures, safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage and creativity; and through, of course, communication and information, through the free flow of information and ideas. There is no doubt that UNESCO remains a beacon of hope in a world littered with deep-seated intolerance and despair.

8.13 The celebrations of the 70th anniversaries of UNESCO and the United Nations provide us with opportune spaces for reflection on where we have come from and where we want to go. UNESCO must therefore draw on an ancient Buddhist wisdom, which teaches us that "if you want to know your past, look into your present conditions. If you want to know your future, look into your present actions." Can we as nations build a better world for the future generations characterized by mutual respect, tolerance and coexistence? These are some of the questions to ponder about as we celebrate the 70th anniversaries.

8.14 As Nelson Mandela teaches us in his book *Long Walk to Freedom*, and I quote: "To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning. I have walked that long road to freedom. I have made missteps along the way. I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance that I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk to freedom is not yet ended." The wisdom of Nelson Mandela should inspire our Organization to take stock and embark upon the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with renewed vigour and determination. UNESCO's Member States must reflect deeply on the prevailing conditions of our Organization. We must appreciate the opportunities presented by the SDGs where our Organization has leadership and delivery obligations in the 17 Goals. We must continue to build on measures initiated so far to break the "financial El Niño" hovering over our Organization. We must spare no effort in providing adequate resources to make UNESCO's field network more functional, for it is the field offices that are at the epicentre of our Organization's operations.

8.15 We must pursue initiatives undertaken to tweak, however, with due care the existing governance structure of our Organization, to ensure that we are better placed to lead the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. We dare not lose this opportunity, because if we do the relevance of our mandate will be severely compromised. This, therefore, calls for a recalibration of our actions.

8.16 In the case of Africa, there is an established blueprint: "Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want". Let us draw lessons from our experiences in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goals and promise future generations that we will bequeath them a world in better shape than we ourselves inherited.

8.17 In conclusion, allow me, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, a final quote from the Namibian President. As you are aware, the independence of our country 25 years ago stands out as one of the most successful stories in the history of the United Nations. For this reason, President Hage Geingob, at our 25th Independence Day celebration and on the occasion of his swearing in as the third President of the Republic of Namibia in March this year, reminded Namibians that "Namibia is a child of international solidarity, a friend to all and an enemy to none".

8.18 This is the spirit, your Excellencies, in which I pledge to preside over the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. I will rely on your support and cooperation in exercising my duties and responsibilities. *Merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, xièxie, shukran, spasibo.*

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the 38th session of the General Conference

9. **The President:**

Thank you very much, your Excellencies, We will now proceed with our deliberations on item **1.5** of the agenda concerning the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Conference. The relevant documents are 38 C/NOM/1 and 38 C/NOM/1 Add. I call upon His Excellency, Mr Michael Worbs, the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, to present the list of the 36 Member States who are candidates for the posts of Vice-President for this session. Mr Chairperson, you have the floor.

10. **Mr Michael Worbs** (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Before continuing with item **1.5**, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. You can count on my support as you carry out your duties and responsibilities throughout the term of your presidency. Mr President, the Nominations Committee recommended in its meeting earlier today the election to the post of Vice-Presidents of the 38th session of the General Conference the following 36 Member States: Albania, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, Chad, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Finland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Guinea, Honduras, India, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Sudan, Sweden, Togo and Yemen. I therefore submit Mr President this recommendation of the Nominations Committee concerning the 36 Vice-Presidents of the 38th session of the General Conference. Thank you.

11. **The President:**

Thank you, Sir. I now submit for approval the list proposed by the Nominations Committee. I see no objections. I therefore declare the 36 heads of delegation of the Member States on the list just read out elected Vice-Presidents of the General Conference. *It is so decided.*

Establishment of the Commissions and Committees

12. **The President:**

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will now proceed to nominate the chairpersons of the commissions and committees for this session of the General Conference. If you agree, we will examine as a whole the proposal of the Nominations Committee for the chairpersons of the commissions. I give the floor again to Mr Worbs to present the recommendations of the Committee for the chairpersons of the six commissions. Mr Chairperson, you have the floor.

13. **Mr Michael Worbs** (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you very much, Mr President. Mr President, I have the honour of informing the General Conference that the Nominations Committee's recommendations regarding the chairpersons of commissions and committees of the 38th session of the General Conference are as follows: Finance, Administration and General Questions, Programme Support and External Relations Commission (APX) – Mr Matthew Sudders, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Education Commission (ED) – Ms Kris Rampersad, Trinidad and Tobago; Natural Sciences Commission (SC) – Dr Noorul Ainur Binti Mohd Nur, Malaysia; Social and Human Sciences Commission (SHS) – Ms Hadija Alim Youssouf, Cameroon; Culture Commission (CLT) – Mr Arunas Gelunas, Lithuania; Communications and Information Commission (CI) – Mr Abdulla El Reyes, United Arab Emirates; Legal Committee (LEG) – Mr Pierre-Michel Eisemann, France; Credentials Committee (CRE) – Ms Mariam Katagum, Nigeria; and myself as Chairperson of the Nominations Committee (NOM) – Mr Michael Worbs, Germany. Thank you, Mr President.

14. **The President:**

Thank you very much Mr Chairman. The General Conference notes the following distinguished delegates that have been proposed to chair the commissions as has been read by the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I wish to warmly congratulate those of you who have been nominated. Let me recall that in accordance with Rule 48.1 of the Rules of Procedure, the committees and commissions shall elect their own chairpersons. I also wish to inform you that in accordance with Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure, chairpersons of the commissions are members of the Bureau of the General Conference, which will convene for its first meeting tomorrow at 9 a.m. in Room X. Pending official elections by your respective commissions and committees, I invite nominees to attend tomorrow's meeting of the Bureau. You will receive later today the formal invitation together with the draft agenda for the meeting.

Establishment of the Legal Committee

15. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, in addition to the chairpersons of the six commissions we have just elected and the Nominations and Credentials Committee constituted this morning, we still need to nominate a Chairperson of the Legal Committee. This will complete the composition of the Bureau of the General Conference. I now give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference, who will read out information concerning the composition of the Legal Committee. Mr Secretary, you have the floor.

16. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Mr President. At the 38th session the Legal Committee will be composed of the following 17 members: Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Kenya, Nicaragua, Niger, Palestine, Qatar, Russian Federation, United States of America, and Uzbekistan. Thank you, Mr President.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Rao. On this subject, let me recall again that following Rule 36.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the Legal Committee shall also elect its own Chairperson. Let me also recall that the Executive Board, at its 197th session, recommended Mr Pierre-Michel Eismann of France as the Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee will hold its first meeting tomorrow at 10 a.m. in Room VI. I wish to recall that the Chairperson of the Legal Committee is also a member of the Bureau.

Item 1.2: First report of the Credentials Committee

18. **The President:**

We now proceed to item 1.2 which is the first report of the Credentials Committee, which will be presented by Ms Mariam Katagum of Nigeria, the Chairperson of this Committee. Allow me to congratulate you, Madam, on your election as Chairperson of the Credentials Committee. You now have the floor.

19.1 **Ms Katagum** (Nigeria) (Chairperson of the Credentials Committee):

Thank you very much, Mr President. Permit me to congratulate you on your appointment and wish you a very successful term of office. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to present the first report of the Credentials Committee.

19.2 At its first plenary meeting, held on Tuesday 3 November 2015, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in accordance with Rules 26 and 32 of its Rules of Procedure, established a Credentials Committee for its 38th session, consisting of the following Member States, in alphabetical order: El Salvador, Guinea,, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Turkey, and Yemen.

19.3 The Credentials Committee held its first meeting at 12.00 p.m. on the same day. The Committee elected H.E. Ms Mariam Y. Katagum, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO, as its Chairperson. At the request of the Chairperson, the Legal Adviser informed the Committee of the criteria for deciding whether credentials are valid, as laid down in Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. This Rule provides that the credentials of delegates and alternates shall be issued by the Head of State, the Head of the Government, or the Minister for Foreign Affairs or another minister authorized by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to issue credentials. The Legal Advisor also explained the meaning and implications of the expression "provisional credentials" according to the practice established by the General Conference of UNESCO.

19.4 The Secretariat then informed the Committee of the state of the credentials received so far. The Committee concluded that the credentials of the following Member States had been issued in conformity with Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, namely that the credentials had been issued by the Head of States, the Head of the Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs or another minister authorized by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to issue credentials. The delegations of the Member States whose names are displayed on the screen were accordingly considered to be duly accredited.

19.5 The Committee recommends that the delegations of the above-mentioned Member States be allowed to take part in the work of the General Conference at its 38th session. The delegations of the Member States whose names are coming up on the screen now have submitted credentials in the form of notes, letters or other documents issued by a minister other than the Minister for Foreign Affairs and not so authorized by the latter, by the Head of a diplomatic mission, by a Permanent Delegate to UNESCO or by a senior government official.

19.6 The Committee proposes that these notes, letters and other documents be accepted as the provisional credentials of the delegations of the Member States concerned, subject to later presentation of credentials in due form, and that in the meantime these delegations be allowed to take part in the work of the General Conference at its 38th session. Credentials in due form have been submitted by the delegations of the Associate Members whose names are displayed on the screen. The Committee has also received provisional credentials of the Associate Member whose name is displayed on the screen. Credentials in due form have been submitted by the observer delegation whose name is displayed on the screen. The Committee proposes that these credentials should also be accepted. The delegations of the Member States whose names are displayed on the screen have not yet submitted credentials. The delegations of the Associate Members whose names are displayed on the screen have not yet submitted credentials. The observer delegation whose name is displayed on the screen has not yet submitted credentials. Thank you, Mr President.

20. **The President:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for your report, its excellent presentation and the efficient manner in which the Committee worked. May I take it that we agree to take note of the report? I see no objections. *It is so **decided**.*

Item 2.1: Report by the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2010-2011, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board (38 C/3)

Item 2.2: Reports by the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation

21. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, we now come to the introduction to the general policy debate and we will start with item 2.1 of the agenda, "Report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2012-2013", introduced by the Chair of the Executive Board. The pertinent document is 38 C/3. The Chair of the Executive Board, Mr Mohammed Samir Amr, will also present item 2.2, "Reports by the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation". The relevant document is 38 C/9 Parts I and II. The two reports will be presented by the Chair of the Executive Board. Your Excellency, Mr Amr, you now have the floor, Sir.

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

Thank you very much Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Honorable Ministers, distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. It is my great pleasure to present to the 38th session of the General Conference the oral report of the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation for the 2014-2015 biennium.

22.2 The written report for this item is contained in document 38 C/9. Part I of this document contains the report of the Board on its own activities for the biennium including its methods of work, while Part II outlines the implementation of document 37 C/5, together with results achieved in the previous biennium. In this regard, I am also pleased to introduce to the General Conference the report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2012-2013, as contained in document 38 C/3, which is customarily presented by the Chair of the Executive Board. During its 194th session, the Executive Board examined document 194 EX/4/Draft 38 C/3 and decided to convene between Board sessions, meetings of the Preparatory Group to consider, in close collaboration with the Secretariat, ways to improve the format of results reporting, making it more efficient and better adapted to the new four-year programming cycle.

22.3 At its 195th session, the Executive Board endorsed the new proposed approach to reporting, and at its 196th session, the Director-General presented the first Programme Implementation Report (PIR). This document represents a step forward in reporting on programme implementation, demonstrating progress towards results achievement. It also contains relevant information that the Board can use for its discussions on programme implementation.

22.4 By its 195 EX/Decision 4 (5) transmitted to the General Conference, at its 38th session, in document 38 C/22, the Executive Board recommended that the General Conference endorse the new format of documents EX/4 and C/3, and reporting cycle on programme implementation. As with the previous biennium, 2014-2015 continued to be a challenging period for UNESCO, where much of the work of the Executive Board was directed to strengthening the vitality of the Organization in its efforts to face a difficult budgetary situation.

22.5 It is important to note that throughout this biennium, the Board took decisions it considered appropriate to assist the Director-General in fulfilling the 37 C/5, while also ensuring that she strive for greater impact and sharper delivery of UNESCO's programmes within the Member States and also preserving and strengthening the relevance of the Organization for the future, despite our budgetary constraints. During this period, the Board expressed its appreciation to the Director-General for her efforts to implement the programme and to achieve the 37 C/5 expected results despite significant budgetary cuts.

22.6 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the Board noted key achievements realized in all programme areas, following its prioritization of key programmatic areas, as well as recognizing the progress made in reforming the Organization as a whole. We also encouraged the Director-General to continue her efforts to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of each of the Major Programmes.

22.7 The Board also noted that some activities, by necessity, had to be discontinued or postponed. Corrective measures, including strong extrabudgetary resource mobilization; a strengthening of partnership development; the willingness of Member States to provide secondments, and increased cooperation with external partners, were initiatives that the Board gladly welcomed. Programme implementation throughout the biennium was challenging. However, the Board observed that programme implementation in each of the sectors was always generally on track. We also welcomed the Director-General and her team's dedication to execute the programme, despite the challenges they faced.

22.8 The Board, together with the Director-General and the Assistant Directors-General, systematically assessed each of the programme priorities with a view to continuing to sharpen the Organization's focus. The Board also continued to encourage the implementation of the Operational Strategy for Priority Africa, and the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP 2), noting that both have helped to strengthen UNESCO's two global priorities.

22.9 During the first half of the new four-year cycle (2014-2017), the Executive Board continued to monitor the progress of programme implementation, as well as the reform initiatives undertaken by the Director-General as a follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of UNESCO (IEE). Emphasis was placed on defining a new format of results reporting with a view to aligning it with the new programming cycle, and also to help serve as basis for strategic decision-making by the Executive Board concerning programme implementation matters. Additionally, the Executive Board examined a number of items pertaining to each of the Major Programmes. I would invite you to examine in greater detail all of the progress made during the biennium for each programme sector, as outlined in document 38 C/9.

22.10 Let me also mention the attention the Board made to the Organization's participation and engagement in the United Nations-related processes, leading to positioning UNESCO's core mandate areas in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In this regard, it examined a series of reports presented at each session by the Director-General on UNESCO's engagement and participation in the global and regional processes, leading to the United Nations Summit held in New York last September, during which the Post-2015 Development Agenda was adopted.

22.11 Leading up to the United Nations Summit, the Board: supported a stand-alone goal on education (ED), and amended an overarching goal of ensuring "equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030"; expressed the need for a stand-alone goal on water (SC), including access to water and sanitation, integrated water resources management, and disaster risk reduction; as well as for biodiversity; highlighted the need to prioritize the marginalized and vulnerable groups of society (SHS), to ensure equality and equity, as well as to empower youth; strongly pledged for the recognition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the key role of culture (CLT) as an enabler and a driver of sustainable development; and also emphasized the need for including freedom of expression (CI) and media and for reducing the digital divide. It is my belief that these requests have been at least partially fulfilled by the 2030 Agenda.

22.12 Board Members also considered it important to develop steps and strengths, strategized to achieve the SDGs, as well as to define a framework for action at both regional and national levels to monitor the implementation of the targets. It provides a series of strategic guidelines to be implemented by the Secretariat with a view to further raising the awareness of Member States and ensuring that the thematic areas of education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information were properly reflected in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

22.13 Distinguished delegates of the General Conference, let me now turn to other areas of relevance to programme implementation for which the Board took action. First, our examination of UNESCO's comprehensive partnership strategy; second, the state of progress of the reform of the field network; and finally, the improved management of extrabudgetary funds.

22.14 A comprehensive reform of UNESCO's field network was approved by the General Conference at its 36th session. While phase one of the field reform was implemented in Abuja, Dakar, Harare, Nairobi and Yaoundé, and another 11 national offices, unfortunately, the current financial constraints of the \$507 million expenditure plan of 2014-2015 did not allow for the implementation of the field network reform in other regions. We were continuously kept up-to-date on reform progress throughout the period. The Board also sought clarification pertaining to the accountability and responsibility frameworks of field office directors. We also requested that performance agreements be developed for all Directors/Heads of field offices, with clear performance objectives and targets, and accompanied by consistent performance indicators, in order to ensure this accountability and responsibility. Finally, the Board raised its concerns relative to the size and sustainability of the current field network within the expenditure plan, and emphasized the importance of UNESCO's presence in the field along with other United Nations agencies.

22.15 UNESCO's Comprehensive Partnership Strategy was crafted in response to the recommendations made in the Independent External Evaluation of UNESCO (IEE). The first-ever biennial report on the comprehensive partnership strategy, was presented to the Board at its 195th session. It contained an overview of the evolution and implementation of the strategy as well as a consolidated report of progress against expected results. The Board acknowledged the importance of viewing the comprehensive strategy in a transparent manner and encouraged the Director-General to continue reflecting on its enhancement. The Board also requested that it be annexed to document 38 C/5 with targets and expected results for each category of partner covered by the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy, and to present the next biennial report to the Executive Board at its 199th session.

22.16. A revised action plan for improved management of extrabudgetary funds was presented to the Board during its 195th session. It gave an updated presentation of the processes in place to implement the guiding principles covered by the original plan issued in 2006, and included updated processes for budgeting and cost recovery that were not included in the original plan. The Board emphasized the need for a coherent and transparent approach in the management of extrabudgetary resources, considering their growing role in comparison with available funds under the Regular Programme and bearing in mind that many programmes were now relying entirely on voluntary contributions. The importance of strengthened planning, implementation and monitoring, and full alignment with the C/5 and C/4 documents was underscored.

22.17 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, while the Board constantly requested the Director-General and her team to continue with their efforts towards greater impact of programme implementation within the Member States, on your behalf, we were also aware of the need to undertake a serious examination of our own working methods, with a view to achieving efficiencies and cost savings and to maintain our position as global leader in our fields of competence. It was felt that with improved governance mechanisms we will not only be a better and more efficient organization, we will also be a more attractive organization to external partners and potential donors. This sentiment was confirmed by the External Auditor and during the past months an effort has been made to make this a reality through the work of an informal taskforce on governance.

22.18 At its 197th session, the Board formulated a recommendation to the General Conference to examine further ways and means of improving our governance structure. At that time, it also recommends that the Board meet more often on a trial basis in the coming biennium to better follow up, monitor and prepare decisions, to better involve non-members of the Board and to improve the working relations with the Secretariat. Also, within the framework of the Board's celebration of UNESCO's 70th anniversary, it decided, during its 194th session, to make full use of its role as an intellectual and cultural hub to organize a series of events and debates under the banner "UNESCO at 70: Future Prospects". The objective of these debates was to promote the Organization's mandate and to enrich UNESCO's

contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. High-level personalities and experts from all disciplines and regions addressed the Board during a good number of meetings that provided insight and perspectives on subjects relevant to UNESCO's fields of competence, thus enabling Members to make more informed programmatic decisions. Further information pertaining to the Board's methods of work are outlined in Part V of document 38 C/9.

22.19 Finally, and also with a view to celebrating our 70th anniversary, an extensive renovation of Room X was undertaken. This renovation project was welcomed and approved by the Headquarters Committee in 2014, with works taking just a little under three months during the summer period in 2015. The renovation aimed at modernizing the equipment used, while also improving ergonomics. This work would not have been possible without the generous support of Member States and private partners, and also the efforts of the Director-General and the Secretariat who brought this proposal to fruition and carried out this project within a very restricted time-frame.

22.20 Dear delegates of the General Conference, before concluding my introduction to the general policy debate, I would like to point out that during the 2014-2015 biennium, UNESCO completed its transition to the four-year programming cycle, aligning its strategic planning and management framework with that of the United Nations system at large. The Organization is continuing its push for reform in line with the recommendations of the Independent External Examiner (IEE), in order to strengthen its results and impact for Member States.

22.21 The Executive Board repeatedly expressed concern about the possible continued non-payment of assessed contributions by Member States. It also recognized the negative impact that such a cash flow shortfall has on UNESCO's ability to deliver effectively in its areas of competence, especially during a time when the Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development was being approved at the United Nations. The Board continued to insist that all critical reforms be implemented to carefully ensure a balance between the immediate need to continue adjusting programme implementation within the current and possible future financial reality we live in, while also looking towards our future long-term needs, to strengthen our capacity to fulfil obligations set out in our Constitution, as well as within the vision and mission statements outlined in the Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4), and now also with a view to fully participating in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. With these words, I am pleased to announce that the Executive Board recommends to the General Conference that it endorse our report, as outlined in document 38 C/9. Thank you very much.

Introduction by the Director-General to the general policy debate

23. The President:

Thank you very much Mr Chairperson for your presentation. Allow me to congratulate you for the work accomplished by the Executive Board and your leadership over the past biennium. Ladies and gentlemen, I now invite the Director-General to take the floor and present her introduction to the general policy debate. Madam Director-General you have the floor.

24.1 The Director-General:

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on 25 September, at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, Member States agreed on a new vision for humanity, for the planet, for peace, for the next 15 years, This happens in the year when we celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marks the culmination of years of efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, to chart a new course, to tackle remaining and new challenges.

24.2 UNESCO stands at the heart of this turning point. This reflects the leadership of Member States. This reflects the will that exists across the world to join forces, to make the most of all opportunities. And opportunities are rich – opportunities for dialogue, for cooperation, opportunities for social inclusion, opportunities for sustainable growth and peace.

24.3 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a call for deeper solidarity, for stronger collective leadership, for ownership. This has never been so important. The new Agenda comes at a time of turbulence, when refugee flows have become a crisis, when poverty is rife inequalities are deepening, when the planet faces increasing pressure. Across the world, conflicts are tearing societies apart. We see the unprecedented rise of violent extremism. We see human rights and dignity flouted. We see education under attack and children, especially girls, forced out of learning. We see women violated as targets of warfare, excluded. We see freedom of expression challenged, journalists killed.

24.4 UNESCO, ladies and gentlemen, was created in 1945, in a world rebuilding after a devastating war. UNESCO was founded on the idea that humanity is a single community, sharing values, sharing a past, sharing a future. It is the idea that lasting peace must start with human rights and human dignity. It is the idea that human ingenuity is our greatest force to tackle complexity, to build peace. This idea resonates deeply today.

24.5 On 30 August, the Temple of Bêl in Palmyra, a UNESCO World Heritage, was destroyed by explosives. The Temple was a symbol of millennial dialogue between cultures. This is why it was destroyed. This is what I call cultural cleansing. A war crime, cultural cleansing is a strategy to spread hatred and to undermine peace, by attacking cultural heritage, diversity, by attacking women and men, by infringing upon human rights, by chasing communities.

24.6 Extremists are in fact terrified of history – this is why they attack it, because of the messages it carries of diversity and of dialogue. The museum of Mosul has been vandalised. Parts of ancient Hatra have been bulldozed. Nimrud has been dynamited. The Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo has become a battlefield. In Iraq, two of four UNESCO World Heritage sites have been destroyed -- Hatra and Ashur – as well as at least nine other historic sites. In Syria, all six UNESCO World Heritage sites have been damaged by fighting. Across the region, illicit excavations have taken on industrial scale, financing further violent extremism.

24.7 Culture, ladies and gentlemen, we know from history, has always been the victim of war. But what we see today is unprecedented. We see attacks against people, on the basis of ethnicity and religion. These attacks are attacks against human rights and human dignity, against the humanity we all share.

24.8 The world may have changed since 1945, but the spirit that gave birth to UNESCO has never been so urgent. Seventy years after it was written, we must not tire in repeating the opening of our Constitution: Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed. This, I believe, expresses the essential humanism at the heart of UNESCO.

24.9 Human rights, human dignity, human ingenuity – these are our greatest renewable energies, to eradicate poverty, to advance sustainable development, to build peace. The UNESCO Constitution continues to be a wellspring of hope. I see this hope expressed in the poem *To UNESCO*, written by the great poet Ko Un, from the Republic of Korea, whom this House welcomed just two days ago: How true and good can this world be? How beautiful can this world be, after all? To such painful questions, you reply by past and future.

24.10 Ladies and gentlemen, the challenges are steep – they always are – but so much more is our resolve, so much more is the power that we express through of solidarity. For 70 years, UNESCO has held a promise to be the House of all humanity, to be the House of dialogue and diversity, on the basis of rights, to be the House of ideas and action, to set the agenda, to craft solutions, to deliver.

24.11 UNESCO is fulfilling this promise. UNESCO is leading the fight against cultural cleansing. UNESCO is bringing all its expertise to bear in strategies to prevent violent extremism. Violent extremism may have many faces, but a single goal -- to spread violence, to deepen fragmentation, to attack human rights and dignity, and in fact to attack peace. It destroys heritage, it persecutes people, it violates rights, especially women's rights.

24.12 In 2012, violent extremists destroyed the mausoleums in Timbuktu, a world heritage site, in an attempt to erase the millennial history of Islam in this region. A year later, in 2013, I was invited by the French President François Hollande to visit Mali and Timbuktu, and I promised UNESCO would rebuild the mausoleums. This July, 2015, I returned to Timbuktu, to celebrate the rebuilding of all 14 mausoleums, by UNESCO, with local communities, with the Minister of Culture of Mali and the local constructors, the builders. I saw then the power of culture to restore dignity and pride. I saw the joy of women and men, retrieving their heritage and traditions. I have seen the confidence this brings to build a better future. This is UNESCO's response to extremism, our response to cultural cleansing. We are mobilizing the world to stop the illicit trafficking of cultural objects. We are acting with INTERPOL, with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, to support implementation of the ground breaking United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199, banning the trade of cultural goods from Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

24.13 UNESCO is working with governments, to strengthen legislation, to build capacity, to stop this channel of financing terrorism. This is our response to turbulence. UNESCO is putting forward education as a force for human rights, for jobs, for peace. Young women and men need skills to think critically. They need competences for dialogue across cultures. They need support to their aspirations to become global citizens. This is the new frontline for hearts and minds across the world. This is where UNESCO is leading.

24.14 In June, UNESCO organized the high-level conference on "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism", with the support of China, Egypt and Bulgaria. In March, at the University of Baghdad, with the Iraqi students, I launched "#unite4heritage", a social media campaign that has taken off across the world. On 6 November, UNESCO is organising the first-ever high-level conference on countering violent extremism through education, with the United States and others partners. To accompany educators across the world, UNESCO is developing a teachers' guide for countering violent extremism. This is our response to hate propaganda.

24.15 UNESCO is advancing education for internally displaced persons and refugees, in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic, with the backing of the European Union and Kuwait. UNESCO is spearheading global citizenship education, taking forward the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI). We are crafting education for the twenty-first century, to teach new values, new ways of behaving, for peace, for sustainability. This is why UNESCO led the International Decade for Education for Sustainable Development, which closed with a successful conference in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan in 2014, and we will lead this further.

24.16 No one should be excluded – all voices must be nurtured, especially young people, whose ideas resonated powerfully last week at the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum. UNESCO is nurturing young women and men and youth initiatives in 10 countries across the Mediterranean, through the Networks of Mediterranean Youth Project, backed by the European Union. UNESCO is supporting States to sharpen public policies for social inclusion, led by the flagship intergovernmental programme on Management of Social Transformations (MOST). We are sharpening our foresight, to shape a better future for everyone. This is our response to social exclusion. Young women and men are leading change across the world. They shoulder also its heaviest burdens – both online and offline.

24.17 The Internet must be a force for exchange, for creativity. It must be a platform for human rights, for peace. People speak of a new generation of digital natives. I believe we need a new generation of digital citizens. This spirit underpins the UNESCO comprehensive Internet study, mandated by the last General Conference. We need new forms of media and information literacy. We must advance global citizenship online. We must stand up for freedom of expression.

24.18 Over the past decade, more than 700 journalists have been killed for bringing news and information to the public. As Director-General, I stand every time and call for justice. Here again UNESCO leads the way. UNESCO is championing the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. We are supporting

legislation, working with the police, judiciary and armed forces, building capacity, training journalists across the world -- in Nepal, in South Sudan, in Tunisia, in Pakistan, in Somalia, in Mexico, as well as in Myanmar. We created the Global Alliance on Media and Gender to empower women in and through media.

24.19 All cultures, ladies and gentlemen, are different, and this diversity is a wellspring of strength. But no society stands alone. We stand together. Humanity is one, united by aspirations, by human rights and dignity. This is what UNESCO defends. This is why UNESCO is teaching the most tragic chapters of history, from the slave trade to the Holocaust, to fight against discrimination today, to prevent genocides. UNESCO is leading the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) all across the world. This spirit guided the 3rd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, in Baku, Azerbaijan, last May and the major conference on interreligious dialogue in Astana, Kazakhstan.

(The Director-General continues in Spanish)

24.20 Señoras y señores, o podemos permitir que la humanidad se divida en “nosotros” y “ellos”. La historia ha demostrado dónde esto puede llevarnos. Nadie se quedara atrás. Esta es la convicción que impulsa la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. De acuerdo con las palabras de su Declaración, se trata de “una agenda del pueblo, por el pueblo y para el pueblo.” En todo el mundo, las sociedades están exigiendo un cambio. Los gobiernos han respondido. El Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Señor Ban Ki-moon, calificó la nueva agenda como un “cambio de paradigma”. Según las palabras del Secretario General, y me gustaría rendir homenaje aquí a su liderazgo: Estas metas son un modelo para un futuro mejor. Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio catalizarán grandes avances, en sociedades en todo el mundo. En el año 2000 había cientos de millones de niños fuera de la escuela primaria, actualmente ellos son 29 millones. Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio sacaron millones de personas de la pobreza. Todo esto ha ayudado a los gobiernos a entender y mejor aprovechar el poder de la educación, especialmente la educación de las niñas, para el desarrollo sostenible. Este progreso debe ser aplaudido, y el papel de la UNESCO debe ser reconocido – al liderar el movimiento Educación para Todos, al apoyar a los países en el aprovechamiento de las ciencias, al fomentar la cultura para la inclusión y el desarrollo, al promover la libertad de expresión y el desarrollo de los medios de comunicación, al catalizar el empoderamiento de las niñas y mujeres, al acompañar el renacimiento de África. Pero esto no es suficiente – debemos seguir adelante. La Agenda 2030 terminará asuntos pendientes y abordará nuevos desafíos.

24.21 Estos objetivos, señoras y señores, universales y transformadores son claros: Erradicar la pobreza. Promover la prosperidad para todos. Fortalecer la paz universal. Proteger el planeta. La Agenda 2030 es ambiciosa – esto es lo que hay que hacer. La Agenda 2030 es universal – este es el único camino a seguir. El gran maestro y filósofo brasileño Paulo Freire, dijo: La gran tarea humanista e histórica de los oprimidos: liberarse a sí mismos. El nuevo programa es un programa para la liberación, de la pobreza, de la exclusión. Los diecisiete Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible se basan en la visión y las competencias de la UNESCO. La visión de la UNESCO enmarca el Objetivo 4: “Garantizar una educación inclusiva y equitativa de calidad y promover oportunidades de aprendizaje permanente para todos”. Esto se basa en las consultas dirigidas por la UNESCO, el Acuerdo de Mascate, y los resultados del innovador Foro Mundial de Educación 2015 en Incheon, República de Corea. Una vez más quisiera expresar mi agradecimiento a la presidenta y al gobierno de República de Corea. Esto refleja el amplio enfoque holístico de la UNESCO para la educación. La visión de la UNESCO sobre la fuerza transformadora del empoderamiento de las niñas y de las mujeres se encuentra sola en el Objetivo 5 y afecta a todos los demás objetivos.

24.22 La visión del agua de la UNESCO está incorporada en el Objetivo 6: “Garantizar la disponibilidad y la gestión sostenible del agua y el saneamiento para todos”. Esto se basa en las contribuciones del Programa Hidrológico Internacional de la UNESCO y nuestra “familia del agua”: institutos, centros y cátedras. Y Señoras y Señoras por primera vez, la cultura, el patrimonio cultural y la diversidad son reconocidos como facilitadores del desarrollo inclusivo y sostenible - lo que está incluido en el Objetivo 11 y en la declaración política de la Agenda 2030. Esta fue la promesa de la UNESCO, y mi compromiso personal. Gracias a todos ustedes, a nuestros partners, la promesa se cumple. La visión de la UNESCO ayudó a dar forma al Objetivo 14: “Conservar y utilizar sosteniblemente los océanos, los mares y los recursos marinos para el desarrollo sostenible”. Esto refleja la contribución de la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental de la UNESCO, todo el trabajo de la UNESCO para las ciencias oceánicas y la sostenibilidad. La visión de la UNESCO de la protección de los ecosistemas y de la biodiversidad se refleja en el Objetivo 15, y en el Objetivo 13: “Adoptar medidas urgentes para combatir el cambio climático y sus efectos”.

24.23 La visión de la UNESCO de la importancia de la ciencia, de la tecnología y de la innovación es reconocida en toda la nueva agenda. La visión de la UNESCO de aprovechar las nuevas tecnologías de información y comunicación como multiplicadores de desarrollo está integrada. La visión de la UNESCO de la libertad de expresión y el acceso a la información como un derecho humano, para promover la transparencia, la buena gobernanza, el Estado de Derecho, fue tomada en cuenta. La UNESCO está trayendo esta misma voluntad para apoyar a los gobiernos en la preparación de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático de 2015, la COP21. Estamos contribuyendo con nuestro mandato y en todos los ámbitos de competencia. Esta conferencia debe ser el éxito que el mundo necesita, y me gustaría agradecer al Gobierno del Perú donde la COP tuvo lugar el año pasado y muy particularmente al gobierno de Francia por su liderazgo hacia el éxito de esta Conferencia. ¿En qué mundo queremos vivir? Señoras y señores, la agenda 2030 es nuestra respuesta. El gran escritor y diplomático mexicano Octavio Paz dijo una vez: Merece lo que sueñas. Ahora, tenemos que ir a trabajar, para merecer lo que soñamos, tenemos que movilizar a todas las fuentes de energía, y a todas las fuerzas. La UNESCO está lista.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en russe)

24.24 Дамы и господа, наша общая задача - обновить фундаментальный пакт, лежащий в основе нашей Организации.

24.25 ЮНЕСКО убедительно доказала на протяжении своей долгой истории способность предлагать проекты, которые нас возвышают, которые объединяют народы вокруг высшего идеала. Почти 60 лет назад подъемные краны ЮНЕСКО переместили каменные блоки храма Абу Симбел в Египте, и вот тогда родилась идея международной солидарности, идея нашего общего культурного наследия. За последние годы ЮНЕСКО создала системы предупреждения цунами на всех морях земного шара, вписала культурные достопримечательности, разделенные между несколькими странами на протяжении целых континентов, вдоль Шелкового пути или Дороги инков... ЮНЕСКО воссоздала мавзолеи Тимбукту... ЮНЕСКО должна постоянно держать этот уровень. Всего за одно десятилетие пройден большой путь.

24.26 Взглянем, как обстоят дела в мире с креативными индустриями, с новой ролью культуры как рычага развития экономики знаний, инноваций и новых технологий и как государства инвестируют в культуру, чтобы упрочить социальную включенность, чтобы бороться против бедности, чтобы сделать развитие прочным. Это принципиальные перемены, и это ЮНЕСКО обеспечила большинство инструментов, чтобы раскрыть этот потенциал – от Конвенции 2005 года до исторического признания роли культуры в повестке дня нового тысячелетия.

24.27 Взглянем на радикальную эволюцию всемирных дебатов о роли образования в течение последних 20 лет, которые сначала были сконцентрированы на проблемах доступа к обучению, а сегодня уже на качестве и приобретаемых знаниях...это значительное изменение, и опять же, именно ЮНЕСКО разработала инструментарий, который и определил эти подходы.

24.28 Взглянем на деятельность ЮНЕСКО в Африке, направленную на развитие научной и технологической политики: через 2 года после первого исторического форума, организованного ЮНЕСКО в Найроби, в прошлом году в Рабате была принята Министерская декларация, которая свидетельствует о небывалых политических обязательствах, принятых на этом направлении. Мы должны держать этот курс, приспособив постоянно наши ответы для того, чтобы лучше соответствовать эволюции современного мира.

24.29 Во все более усложняющемся мире, зачастую непредсказуемом, государства не хотят быть простыми потребителями программ. Они хотят сами их разрабатывать и сами хотят претворять их в жизнь. Это видение заложено в самом сердце ЮНЕСКО и специализированных учреждений системы ООН. Идет ли речь о нормативно-правовой поддержке государств, о советах по стратегическому развитию, об усилении возможностей – ЮНЕСКО всегда должна быть рядом с государствами, с правительствами.

24.30 ЮНЕСКО – это всемирное агентство по поддержке талантов и творчества, которые являются нашими неиссякаемыми и непревзойденными ресурсами и ключом к устойчивости. В час, когда человечество сталкивается с ограниченностью своих возможностей, с ограниченностью возможностей планеты, мы должны вкладывать еще больше и определить новые пути защиты общественного всемирного достояния: образования, обмена знаниями, культурного многообразия.

24.31 Великий Лев Толстой говорил об этом, напоминая, что каждый из нас не может знать всего, и что единственная наша надежда – обладать общим знанием, которое объединит человечество. Это отличительный знак ЮНЕСКО, который мы должны пустить в дело. И мы должны верить в наши силы, потому что мы смогли, все вместе, превратить исторический кризис в исторический рычаг реформ.

(La Directrice générale poursuit en français)

24.32 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO fut la première agence spécialisée à voir le jour après la création des Nations Unies, et notre anniversaire coïncide avec les 70 ans des Nations Unies. Dès ma prise de fonction, j'ai pris l'engagement de rapprocher l'UNESCO des autres agences pour mieux travailler ensemble. Le contrat est rempli mais nous allons continuer sur les mêmes rails. Que ce soit avec l'ONU-Femmes et le Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population, pour l'éducation des adolescentes, avec le soutien de la Banque Mondiale, ou bien au sein de l'ONU-SIDA, où nous venons d'adopter une stratégie commune à 10 agences, pour lutter contre le VIH/SIDA.

24.33 Dès demain, nous lancerons le Cadre d'action pour l'Éducation 2030, commun à toutes les agences, qui marque aussi le leadership de l'UNESCO dans ce domaine. Je pense également au Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes, que j'ai lancé en 2011, et qui fédère aussi des partenariats privés : Procter et Gamble, Packard Foundation, la Compagnie aérienne chinoise Hainan, la Société coréenne CJ, et bien d'autres partenaires.

24.34 Dans tous les domaines de notre mandat, au-delà de l'éducation, l'UNESCO a resserré ses liens avec les Nations Unies : que soit avec l'Union internationale des télécommunications, au sein de la Commission sur le haut débit ou avec l'Office des Nations Unies contre la drogue et le crime, dans la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels ; avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement, pour la gestion de l'eau et la protection de la biodiversité ; avec l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme, et le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement ; avec l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, pour les résolutions sur la culture, le développement et la sécurité des journalistes ; et avec le Conseil de sécurité pour traiter du lien entre la culture, l'éducation et la prévention de l'extrémisme violent.

24.35 L'UNESCO a montré sa capacité à conduire des initiatives globales au nom des Nations Unies – le Conseil consultatif scientifique, auprès du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, hébergé par l'UNESCO ou l'Initiative l'Éducation avant tout du Secrétaire général, M. Ban Ki-moon.

24.36 L'UNESCO participe à la mise en œuvre du Mécanisme mondial de transfert des technologies (TFM), qui peut révolutionner le partage des savoir-faire entre pays, et le passage de la formation et des compétences, et l'UNESCO doit être à l'avant-poste. Cette logique des partenariats, l'UNESCO s'en est servie pour élargir notre base de donateurs et surtout repenser les moyens de nous financer : avec le développement de fonds au bénéfice du donateur, avec des

partenariats de long terme, plus prévisibles, et de nouveaux schémas de coopération Sud-Sud. Voilà, concrètement, Mesdames et Messieurs, comment l'UNESCO se transforme. Il faut aller plus loin : l'Agenda 2030 suppose des adaptations à tous les niveaux.

24.37 Mon message aujourd'hui, c'est que l'UNESCO est prête et récolte les fruits de la réforme, mais nous devons aller davantage. L'UNESCO participe déjà aux projets pilotes de partage des ressources entre les agences, pour gagner en synergie. L'UNESCO a investi dans de nouveaux outils de gestion de l'information, connectés entre les services et sur le terrain. Grâce au nouveau portail de transparence, chacun peut voir, d'un simple clic, où va l'argent des donateurs et pour quel impact. C'est un changement radical. Nous avons remis à plat la plupart de nos outils d'évaluation, d'une manière qui a été saluée par le Corps commun d'inspection du système des Nations Unies. L'UNESCO est l'une des toutes premières agences à avoir adopté les nouvelles normes de la comptabilité publique (IPSAS), opérationnelles depuis 2010.

24.38 L'UNESCO a accueilli cette année le Conseil des chefs de secrétariat, et nous sommes pleinement engagés dans la réforme de tout le système des Nations Unies, au sein du Comité de haut niveau sur la gestion (HLCM), que je préside depuis cette dernière an.

24.39 Cette Conférence générale examine un programme et budget conçu à partir d'une gestion axée sur les résultats : ce qui nous place parmi les agences leaders dans ce domaine. Lors de la dernière Conférence générale, vous avez adopté plusieurs mesures pour repenser les relations avec nos partenaires, les ONG, les Ambassadeurs de bonne volonté, le secteur privé. Nous avons scrupuleusement mis en œuvre ces orientations. Le réseau des chaires UNESCO a été réformé, le réseau des centres de catégorie 2 également. La coopération avec les commissions nationales connaît un renouveau dont vous êtes nombreux à témoigner, et j'en suis reconnaissante. Surtout, malgré la crise et le manque de financements, nous avons poursuivi la réforme du dispositif hors Siège en Afrique. Il aurait été plus facile de suspendre ces efforts, en attendant des jours meilleurs. Nous avons préféré anticiper. Nous en avons absorbé les coûts, simplifié le dispositif, renforcé l'autonomie des bureaux et renouvelé leurs directeurs, en mettant l'accent sur l'égalité des genres. Les progrès de l'UNESCO dans ce domaine viennent d'ailleurs d'être salués par Femmes-Nations Unies). Durant toute cette période, nous avons été guidés par une vision stratégique claire, et les principes définis par l'Évaluation externe indépendante, dont nous avons régulièrement rendu compte.

24.40 Bien sûr, l'UNESCO a souffert de la crise. Les programmes ont souffert, et souffrent encore. J'ai supprimé près de 500 postes sur 2,800, et redéployé le personnel d'une manière qui a été saluée par la Fédération des associations des fonctionnaires internationaux (FICSA). Si l'UNESCO est aujourd'hui plus transparente, plus active dans ses deux priorités globales, l'Afrique et l'Égalité des genres, et transformée dans ses méthodes de travail, j'en appelle à investir dans l'UNESCO, dans la qualité de son réseau, de ses équipes, pour construire l'UNESCO plus forte dont vous avez besoin.

24.41 Mesdames et Messieurs, le 1^{er} novembre 1945, Archibald MacLeish ouvrait la première Conférence générale sur ces mots – et je cite : « L'UNESCO doit aider les peuples à mieux se connaître les uns et les autres, pour qu'ils se reconnaissent comme les membres d'une seule humanité ». Se reconnaître comme une seule humanité 70 ans plus tard, dans un monde traversé de fractures et doté de nouveaux outils de dialogue, cette ambition reste intacte, même si les moyens d'y répondre doivent être modernisés.

24.42 Le poète Édouard Glissant disait qu'« après avoir découvert le monde entier, nous devons découvrir le monde ensemble ». Vivre ensemble, et pas seulement côte-à-côte. Vivre ensemble dans des sociétés diversifiées, où les discours abstraits sur le « dialogue des cultures » ne suffisent pas aujourd'hui. Il faut trouver des moyens concrets de vivre ensemble au quotidien – défaire les préjugés, construire les défenses contre le racisme, l'antisémitisme, l'intolérance, dans les médias ou dans la rue, fortifier les droits humains qui nous rassemblent, au contact permanent de la diversité. C'est la nouvelle frontière de la diversité culturelle, et ce défi s'inscrit dans un processus historique de longue durée.

24.43 Depuis les grandes découvertes du 16^e siècle, jusqu'aux nouvelles technologies aujourd'hui, l'humanité a montré sa capacité à créer des contacts et abolir les distances. Il n'y a pas un endroit isolé du globe qui n'ait été intégré au reste de l'humanité, sans distinction de race, d'origine ou de religion. L'enjeu n'est plus d'abolir les distances physiques, mais les distances morales – passer de la « mise en contact » à la « mise en commun ». C'est la proposition que j'ai faite d'un nouvel humanisme. L'enjeu, c'est de construire une nouvelle relation avec les autres et aussi avec l'environnement, qui n'est pas seulement un espace à exploiter dont nous serions « maîtres et possesseurs », mais un lieu où vivre en harmonie, y compris avec les êtres vivants non-humains, la biodiversité. La diversité culturelle est inséparable de la biodiversité – l'UNESCO affirmait ce principe il y a déjà 15 ans. Et aujourd'hui, lorsque les scientifiques nous alertent sur une nouvelle « extinction massive des espèces », et que nous voyons en même temps, les extrémistes pratiquer le nettoyage culturel, l'UNESCO doit sonner l'alarme.

24.44 Devant ce défi colossal, tous les États mesurent la profonde pertinence et la cohérence de notre mandat, et le besoin de traiter ensemble l'éducation, le dialogue des cultures, la liberté de la presse, qui sont des armes de résistance et de résilience, le besoin d'investir dans la recherche, la prévention des risques, l'éducation au développement durable. Nous voyons tous les jours que c'est possible. Je pense au projet scientifique Sésame, en Jordanie, qui rassemble des scientifiques de tous les horizons, et qui, reprend, 60 ans après, le projet du CERN, créé à l'initiative de l'UNESCO. Je pense aux sites du patrimoine transfrontaliers, aux réserves naturelles partagées entre plusieurs pays, notamment celles de notre programme l'Homme et la biosphère. Je pense aux cultures ancestrales qui nous alertent sur les dangers des tsunamis, que ce soit dans des stèles de pierre au Japon, qui marquent l'emplacement de la montée des eaux, ou dans l'architecture traditionnelle des Maldives, qui sauve des vies, et ce savoir relie entre elles les générations successives. Je pense à des élans de solidarité au-delà des frontières – aux foules immenses de Londres et Bagdad, de Rio et

Mumbai, qui ont exprimé leur volonté d'être debout face à l'extrémisme, après les attentats de Paris, de Copenhague, de Bamako et de Tunis.

24.45 Le philosophe Emmanuel Kant disait que cet enthousiasme que nous avons de voir d'autres hommes et femmes se lever pour des valeurs universelles, à l'autre bout du monde, crée en nous le sentiment d'appartenir à une même humanité, engagée vers le progrès, vers une exigence morale. Ce sont ces valeurs que l'UNESCO a le devoir de propager. Et c'est pourquoi, dans ce monde aux multiples fractures, les États membres de l'UNESCO doivent utiliser le patrimoine, matériel, immatériel, documentaire, comme une force de rapprochement et non de division. Et notre responsabilité est de faire vivre des projets qui nous rassemblent dans tous les domaines : consolider l'observatoire mondial de l'océan, accessible à tous en temps réel, 50 ans après le lancement du système d'alerte aux tsunamis ; assurer l'accès à une éducation de qualité pour tous, en utilisant le potentiel des nouvelles technologies ; constituer des archives de notre mémoire commune, des manuels d'histoires en commun ; protéger des sites du patrimoine partagés, au carrefour de plusieurs cultures, confessions, ou États ; changer de regard, par exemple, sur les Petits États insulaires, qui sont en réalité de vastes États océaniques, en première ligne du changement climatique et dont l'expertise est vitale pour le monde – dans l'esprit de l'Agenda de Samoa.

24.46 Partout dans le monde, des initiatives donnent espoir – et nous montrent les infinies ressources du talent humain, sa capacité à créer de nouvelles formes de solidarité. Voilà, Mesdames et Messieurs, le nouvel humanisme. Si l'humanité a réussi, par la science et la technologie, à poser un petit robot sur une comète à 500 millions de kilomètres de la terre, après 10 ans de voyage dans l'espace, l'humanité peut réussir, par l'éducation et la culture, à construire une citoyenneté mondiale, ouverte sur les autres, ouverte sur le monde. La culture, j'en suis convaincue, nous montre la voie : elle enseigne la tolérance et montre qu'il n'y a pas de « culture pure », car nos destins sont liés et s'enrichissent mutuellement, constamment.

24.47 L'extrémisme aura toujours peur de la culture parce qu'elle incarne l'unité du genre humain dans sa diversité. C'est le message des bustes funéraires de Palmyre, qui nous parlent de la rencontre des peuples de l'Europe et de l'Asie, le long des routes caravanières du Moyen-Orient. C'est le message des voyageurs des routes de la Soie, qui ont porté jusqu'en Chine le message du Bouddhisme, de l'Islam et du Christianisme, et jusqu'en Europe le papier, la boussole, le thé. C'est le message de la sagesse Ubuntu, que l'on retrouve sous diverses formes, dans toutes les cultures du monde : « Nous avons besoin des autres pour être pleinement nous-mêmes ».

24.48 C'est notre tour de transmettre ce message, et de dire, par exemple, que si la Renaissance européenne s'est nourrie de savoirs grecs transmis par les arabes, aujourd'hui les Manuscrits de Tombouctou font rêver d'une autre renaissance, née des sables du Sahel, aux sources d'une sagesse islamique millénaire. C'est ce pacte fondamental, pour l'humanisme et pour la diversité culturelle, que nous sommes appelés à renouer. C'était le vœu des fondateurs de l'UNESCO. Il leur a fallu de l'audace, en 1945, pour oser parler de solidarité intellectuelle dans les décombres de la guerre. Devant les urgences du monde actuel, nous devons retrouver la même audace visionnaire – elle est l'âme de l'UNESCO, et résiste au passage du temps.

24.49 Je terminerai, Mesdames et Messieurs, en citant le grand Naguib Mahfouz. Il disait que « la vérité et la justice demeureront aussi longtemps que l'humanité aura un esprit réfléchi et une conscience en éveil », et c'est bien notre mission première : maintenir en éveil la « conscience de l'humanité » dont parlait Jawaharlal Nerhu. Nous y sommes plus déterminés que jamais, et à 70 ans, l'UNESCO n'a jamais été si jeune, si profondément actuelle, pertinente et va continuer de se renouveler, d'innover, pour le développement durable et pour la paix. Je vous remercie.

25.1 The President:

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General and congratulations for this most comprehensive introduction to the general policy debate, an introduction which lays a solid foundation for our forthcoming work. Ladies and gentlemen, we have another very special guest paying us a visit this afternoon, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, and Minister of Finance and Industry of United Arab Emirates. I will now suspend the meeting for five minutes in order to welcome our distinguished visitor. I kindly ask you all to remain in your seats.

The meeting is suspended for five minutes to allow the President of the General Conference to welcome Sheikh Hamdan to Room I and to escort him to his place.

25.2 Your Highness, Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to welcome to UNESCO His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum, the Deputy Ruler of Dubai and the Minister of Finance and Industry of the United Arab Emirates. His Highness Sheikh Hamdan is one of the longest serving ministers who oversaw the process of modernization and development of the United Arab Emirates over the past decades. As a benefactor and patron of several awards and scholarship programmes, Sheikh Hamdan supports distinguished young scholars, researchers, scientists, and medical institutions. Sheikh Hamdan is a great benefactor and we are honoured to count him among the true friends of our Organization. Your Highness, we are eager to hear your address to the General Conference, and I now have the distinguished honour and privilege to invite you to take the floor.

26.1 السيد الشيخ حمدان (الإمارات العربية المتحدة):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، سعادة/إيرينا بوكوفا المدير العام لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة(اليونسكو)، سعادة/رئيس الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، السيدات والسادة، الحضور الكرام، يسعدني تلبية دعوتكم الكريمة لحضور أعمال الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين لمؤتمركم العام، ومقدراً هذه الفرصة التي أتاحت لي التحدث إليكم مباشرة ضمن شراكة تهدف الى سعادة البشرية. ويطيب لي في بداية كلمتي أن أنقل إليكم تحيات حكومة وشعب دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة وعلى رأسها صاحب السمو الشيخ خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان رئيس الدولة "حفظه الله"، وصاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم نائب رئيس الدولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء حاكم دبي "رعاه الله"، وأصحاب السمو أعضاء المجلس الأعلى للاتحاد، حكام الإمارات.

26.2 الحضور الكرام، بكل فخر واعتزاز، ابلاغكم بأن الإمارات تُسخر مكوّناتها البشرية والمادية والثقافية لترسيخ القيم النبيلة، وتتفاعل مع القضايا الإنسانية لوضع الحلول المستدامة لمشكلات العصر لاسيما الفقر والجهد والمرض والكوارث الطبيعية والأزمات، فحرصت على أن تكون آلة بناء مساندة للجهود الدولية في مساعدة النازحين وإغاثة المنكوبين وإيواء المشردين وعلاج المرضى ودعم التعليم وتوفير المياه والغذاء وبناء المدارس والمستوصفات والبنى التحتية، وبفضل نواياها الصادقة وإسهاماتها تلك تبوّأت دولة الإمارات مركزاً متقدماً في ترتيب الدول الأكثر منحاً للمساعدات الإنمائية في عام 2013 بقيمة إجمالية بلغت أكثر من 5 مليارات دولار أمريكي، وجهت إلى أكثر من 137 دولة ومنطقة جغرافية حول العالم من خلال 43 مؤسسة إنسانية وخيرية تعمل في دولة الإمارات، هذا إضافة إلى المبادرات الشخصية المتعددة من أبناء الإمارات ومنها على سبيل المثال: مبادرة صاحب السمو الشيخ خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة من خلال مؤسسة خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان للأعمال الإنسانية، والتي وصلت مساعداتها إلى 87 دولة. كما أطلق صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم نائب رئيس الدولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء حاكم دبي، مؤسسة مبادرات محمد بن راشد العالمية التي تُعد أحد أكبر المؤسسات الداعمة للتنمية الإنسانية وتستهدف حتى عام 2025 تقديم خدمات تنموية لأكثر من مئة وثلاثين مليون إنسان، من خلال استثمار خمسة مليارات ونصف المليار درهم في حاضنة الابتكار، وثلاثة مليارات في إنشاء مراكز الأبحاث والمستشفيات، ومليار ونصف المليار درهم في مبادرات تعليمية ومعرفية، و600 مليون درهم في نشر ثقافة التسامح وغيرها في 116 دولة حول العالم.

26.3 السيدات والسادة، أود أن أعرب عن خالص تقديري لجهودكم الطيبة في مجال التعليم بما فيها من دعم للمبادرات المحلية لبناء مجتمع عالمي للمعرفة تسود فيه القيم النبيلة. إن التعليم في دولة الإمارات يشهد تحولاً نوعياً وفق رؤية متكاملة نحو الانتقال إلى التعلم الذكي بفضل الدعم الحكومي والمبادرات المجتمعية المساندة وقد كان لتبنيكم مبادراتنا للأداء التعليمي المتميز وشراكتنا في جائزة اليونسكو لمكافحة الممارسات المتميزة في مجال تحسين أداء المعلمين، نموذجاً ناجحاً من التعاون حيث تفيد التقارير المحايدة ازدياد عدد المتميزين من عناصر المنظومة التعليمية والاستعداد التام لتحقيق الجودة في التعليم بفضل ثقافة المعرفة التي بدأت بها الجائزة واستمرت على مدى 17 عاماً وحتى الآن. وإن الرغبة تدفعنا نحو المزيد من العمل وبذل الجهود بالتعاون مع اليونسكو لإتاحة مزيد من الفرص لمكافحة الممارسات المتميزة للمعلمين في الدول النامية. إن اهتمامنا في دولة الإمارات بالتعليم يسير متناغماً مع ترسيخ ثقافة الحضارة الإنسانية في الوعي التربوي، حيث أن التراث الإنساني يستحوذ على انتباهنا باستمرار نظراً للقيمة العلمية والتاريخية، ومن هذا المنطلق ندين أي مساس أو تدمير لآثار الحضارات الإنسانية أينما وجدت. إننا ندرك تماماً حجم التحديات التي تواجهنا، ونشهد بكل أسف صور الصراعات الدولية والارهاب والدمار، لذا وجب توحيد الجهود من أجل مستقبل أكثر إشراقاً وازدهاراً للبشرية. أشكركم جميعاً، وفقكم الله وبارك جهودكم، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much for your inspiring words, Your Highness. Ladies and gentlemen, Sheikh Hamdan is so humble that he did not even mention in his speech that he will make an important donation to UNESCO. Part of this very generous donation will benefit UNESCO's educational programmes while the remainder will be dedicated to renovating this conference room where we are. Your Highness, on behalf of all Member States, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generous endowment you have made to UNESCO, an endowment which will ensure a long-lasting legacy. I believe that we can safely say that Room I will never be the same after your visit. Ladies and gentlemen, before I adjourn this meeting, can I kindly ask you to remain seated while Sheikh Hamdan and his entourage leave the room.

Sheikh Hamdan is escorted from Room I.

28. **The President:**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have now come to the end of our second plenary meeting of this General Conference. Our work will resume tomorrow at 10 a.m. sharp. I would like to kindly ask all delegates to be in their seats by 9.45 a.m. in order to enable us to start our work on time. I also wish to remind the members of the Bureau that we will hold our first meeting tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in Room X. Before adjourning the meeting, I wish to give the floor to the Secretary for a brief announcement. Mr Rao, you have the floor.

29. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Deux annonces. D'une part, tout de suite, maintenant, après la clôture de cette séance, aura lieu l'inauguration de l'exposition « Mosaïque du changement », qui est l'exposition organisée à l'occasion du 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO et de la 38^e Conférence générale, et qui aura lieu ici, au rez-de-chaussée, à l'extérieur, dans le hall Ségur. Ensuite, à 19 heures ce soir, le Président de la Conférence générale et la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO offriront une réception à l'occasion de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale en l'honneur des chefs des délégations et des ambassadeurs auprès de l'UNESCO, au 7^e étage. Au 7^e étage, à 19 heures. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

30. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Rao, for those announcements and thank you all for your attention. *The meeting is now adjourned.* I wish a good evening to all of you. Thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.