

## Fifth plenary meeting of the 38th session of the General Conference

Thursday 5 November 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

President: Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa (Namibia)

### General policy debate (*continued*)

#### 1. The President:

Good morning Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the fifth plenary meeting of the General Conference. Today we will continue with the national statements, and in the afternoon we will hear reports from the Credentials Committee. Can we please take our seats, ladies and gentlemen? Since we have a long list of eminent speakers, I propose that we start immediately with our work. I wish to remind you that each national statement will be limited to six minutes. I now have the honour to call on our first speaker this morning, Her Excellency Dr Mahali Phamotse, Minister of Education and Training of Lesotho. Excellency, you have the floor.

#### 2.1 Mr Phamotse (Lesotho):

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Your Excellences, dear colleagues, it is a great honour to be afforded this opportunity of delivering my maiden speech to this auspicious gathering. I bring to you all special warm regards and best wishes for a fruitful 38th session of the General Conference from His Majesty King Letsie III, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

2.2 Mr President, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as the President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and to wish you every success in your new assignment. I am particularly proud of you coming from the southern Africa region. I have no doubt that you will steer this session successfully based on your background knowledge as a member of the Executive Board.

2.3 Mr President, Lesotho has studied the work done in the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy (document 37 C/4), the report by the Executive Board on its activities and the implementation of the Programme and Budget for 2014-2017 (37 C/5). We truly are satisfied with the planned strategies which we believe will turn UNESCO's vision for the post-2015 global agenda into reality.

2.4 Since 2000, efforts towards achieving education for all (EFA) have yielded unprecedented progress. As we are now at the end of the EFA goals, I am glad to announce that Lesotho performed particularly well on three of those goals, attaining 85% on youth and adult learning literacy and 72% on improving levels of adult literacy. On goal number two of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we achieved 80% for universal primary education. For this, we thank the UNESCO family and particularly the countries that provided financial, technical and other forms of support without which all these could not have been achieved. I must mention that Lesotho allocates 23% of the national budget and 13% of its gross domestic product (GDP) to education. However this high investment is not translated into an equally high output which therefore requires our full effort on enhancing quality, equity and access.

2.5 Mr President, we from the Kingdom of Lesotho understand very well the financial crisis that UNESCO has been experiencing for over six years now. It would therefore be remiss of me not to acknowledge UNESCO's efforts in categorizing Africa as a global priority. My country has, for instance, been a beneficiary of many supported projects through the participation projects and the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). We indeed are thankful to the Organization for this generous support, and hope that robust measures will be taken to ensure that the reforms are implemented efficiently and strategically to deliver the post-2015 development agenda and those goals related to regional offices.

2.6 Mr President, in the past biennium, Lesotho was the beneficiary of a number of projects. These include: the empowerment of youth groups in southern districts, the development of an electronic record management system for the teaching service department, and support for distance and rural learners/teachers through a mobile digital library model. Other projects include the science club network, a living library approach, and capacity building of Lesotho media houses. UNESCO's support in the strengthening of communication and information initiatives in Africa in general, and the Kingdom of Lesotho in particular, resulted in the establishment of two first-ever community radio stations operating in the rural areas of Lesotho. On issues of HIV-AIDS, UNESCO supports Lesotho through its Global Initiative on Education and HIV and AIDS (EDUCAIDS) programmes. This is commendable.

2.7 On North-South and South-South cooperation, Lesotho and some of the National Commissions of sub-Saharan Africa are benefitting from cooperation they have established with both the Korean and German National Commissions. Lesotho in particular has been fortunate, despite the prevailing financial crisis which has forced UNESCO to reduce its budget for capacity-building for the National Commissions. Today our country's cooperation with the German National Commission for UNESCO has been renewed to focus on staff capacity building and on the establishment of subregional networks for mutual capacity as effective mechanisms of knowledge exchange. Similarly, in cooperation with the Korea National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Africa BRIDGE programme, three community learning centres in two districts have been established since 2012 in Lesotho. On the same note, we also boast income-generating activities such as aloe vaseline making, poultry and others.

2.8 Mr President, one other important invaluable resource of Lesotho is water, which is not maximally utilized to benefit Basotho. Economically Lesotho depends to a large extent on its water resources to generate revenue. One of the challenges, however, is that many of Lesotho's rural and urban citizens have limited access to safe, clean drinking water and often have to walk long distances for hours to reach water access points, which may at times not be working. Mr President, being aware that water will soon be a vital limiting factor in world development, we would like UNESCO to help us improve the water situation in Lesotho. On this note, I have to say also that on the cultural conventions we have now inscribed Sehlabathebe National Park on the World Heritage List and hope to make progress bringing this asset to

the required standards. On this note, I would like to express our hope that the financial constraints that have beset this Organization for some time now shall finally be resolved when negotiations between the Director-General and our partners come to function sooner than later. I thank you.

3. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Ellen Trane Norby, Minister for Children, Education and Gender Equality of Denmark. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

4.1 **Ms Norby (Denmark):**

Thank you, Mr President. Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me start by congratulating every one of us with the anniversary and the achievements of UNESCO in the 70 years of its existence. We mark this anniversary at a time when Member States and the United Nations have come together and launched a new compelling agreement to eradicate extreme poverty and to set an agenda for global sustainable development towards 2030. Denmark is fully committed to following up on the 2030 Agenda nationally and in cooperation with our international development partners.

4.2 In the ongoing conflicts with extremism and terrorism we have witnessed throughout the world these past years, we have seen unprecedented destruction and plundering of outstanding cultural heritage and cultural artefacts. We support the work of UNESCO and the Director-General in fighting these attacks and in condemning them.

4.3 We also underline the importance of UNESCO's standard-setting and operational work in the field of media development, freedom of expression and safety of journalists throughout the world. Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right and a basic condition for progress and democracy which needs to be protected and strengthened. Denmark is an active member of the council and the bureau of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). In the same vein, we are also co-organizing an important side event this Friday, 6 November, on artistic freedom in connection with the session of the Culture Commission. I hope that many of you will participate because artistic and cultural freedom is another freedom of expression that is extremely important to protect in our world of today.

4.4 We are aware that UNESCO for the last four years has had to deal with some extraordinary budget issues, and I wish to thank the Director-General and her staff for managing to keep up the spirit and important programme activities. This has been key – that we have succeeded in reforming UNESCO while at the same time keeping the focus on the content. Looking back, only a week ago the University of Aalborg in the northern part of Denmark co-hosted a conference on the impact of UNESCO. Numerous studies have shown that UNESCO activities do have an impact on different countries, and I think it is important that we also document these findings.

4.5 Looking forward, we need to focus exactly on the same question: how do we further strengthen the relevance and impact of UNESCO in the world and in our respective countries? The Danish Government shares the vision of the Director-General to shape an Organization that is more “fit to deliver”, and we encourage her to continue the necessary reforms, not just of structures and costs but also in terms of the quality of the programmes that are delivered and generate changes.

4.6 Governance in UNESCO needs to be lighter, less costly, more efficient and more strategic. At the national level in Denmark, we are currently working to increase the visibility and relevance of UNESCO with a view to strengthening action across traditional administrative and policy silos. Let me mention just a few of the points where we see that UNESCO matters to us.

4.7 Quality education in a globalized world must involve a global outlook and understanding of interconnections. There, UNESCO's values and inclusive work on education for global citizenship and sustainable development, really matter. UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities is an important initiative for a number of cities in Denmark, and we are working to join the network to gain inspiration on how best to put inclusive learning at the centre of sustainable city development, a city development that also includes citizens in the cities.

4.8 In relation to global geoparks and the Man and Biosphere Programme, we have projects approved and under way in Denmark, that help communities to focus on their special qualities and potential, and stimulate positive local development and dynamics. In order to achieve sustainable development, we will have to include our local communities even more into the Organization and into policy decisions.

4.9 For all of these reasons, the work of UNESCO is important not only to us in Denmark but also on a global level. Education for everybody, protection of the cultural heritage, focus on the freedom of expression and the right of people to express themselves, be they journalists, artists, or people in general, is an important value not least in our world of today. From the Danish perspective, we look forward to closer cooperation within the UNESCO framework and I thank you for your attention.

5. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Elizabeta Kancheska Milevska, Minister of Culture of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

6.1 **Ms Milevska (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia):**

Thank you, dear Mr President of the General Conference, dear Director-General of UNESCO, dear Mr Chair of the Executive Board, dear heads of delegations, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I would like at the outset to express my great pleasure that today I have the opportunity to address this eminent forum, which again underlines the importance of UNESCO and the authority that the Organization has, inspiring the world's intellectual and political elite as well as media outlets.

6.2 This is the forum that is expected to show dialogue and leadership in addressing the changes of today. This is the forum that proved our efforts could hold activities which would benefit all of us, the UNESCO member countries. I am

pleased to say that our country, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, has special respect for UNESCO as an organization that has justified its existence exactly by the concentration of political and development goals of our common interest. In this regard, I would like to express my conviction that this 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, by which we mark the great jubilee of 70 years of UNESCO, will also enable us to sum up the achieved results and even to set new goals in the spirit of the Organization, promote cooperation and serve the needs of the citizens of our countries.

6.3 Ladies and gentlemen, as Minister of Culture and President of the National Commission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to UNESCO, I would like to underline the fact that the Government of our country pays great attention to cooperation with the Organization and tries to establish active and constructive cooperation with other countries and UNESCO Member States.

6.4 All projects which we have thus far implemented with UNESCO gives strong impetus to the recognition of the universal values of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and provide opportunities for institutions, experts and young talented people from our country to be actively involved. I avail myself of this opportunity to mention some of the major activities that we have implemented together with UNESCO in the fields of culture, education, environment and media: for example, opening the centre for digitization of cultural heritage; proclaiming the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology (ISIS) in Skopje, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO; opening two UNESCO Chairs: one in Intercultural Studies and Research at the University St Cyril and Methodius, and the other in Media, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding at the School of Journalism and Public Relations; establishing many UNESCO Clubs and the inclusion of many schools in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia into the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

6.5 Of paramount importance also is the fact that thus far we have inscribed two cultural properties on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Another very important project carried out with our neighbours and other countries from the region is the exhibition entitled "Imagining the Balkans: Identities and Memory in the long 19th century", through which we promote the common treasures that are part of the world's cultural heritage.

6.6 Ladies and gentlemen, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been fully committed to the process of inter-civilization dialogue, bringing different cultures closer together by implementing joint cooperation and communication, which is also advocated by UNESCO. In this regard, since 2007 we have organized together with UNESCO three global conferences on inter-religious and inter-civilization dialogue. By fruitful discussion and exchanges of experiences and knowledge at those conferences, representatives of all world religions, experts, and prominent members of international organizations, have once more acknowledged the fact that culture and religion are the most monolithic factors of peace, living together, prosperity and well-being. I am here to inform you that in 2016 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will host the fourth World Conference on Inter-Religious and Inter-Civilization Dialogue.

6.7 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has for a long time been very successfully and effectively involved in the great European and international project on participation of its population in education as part of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We invest in modern and practical education which will respond to the development needs of the country and will be comparable with that offered by other European Union countries.

6.8 Let me take the opportunity to note that it was a special honour for our country to have a seat on UNESCO's Executive Board. Being part of the Board for the past four years, we were consistent in our commitment to enhance the international rule of UNESCO in order to further promote traditional cooperation with all member countries.

6.9 Ladies and gentlemen, it is up to us to see what kind of world we will live in, what kind of education will be offered to future generations, and what kind of treatment will be given to culture. Let me offer congratulations to UNESCO celebrating 70 years since the establishment of our Organization. I call on you as Member States of UNESCO to continue your commitment by implementation of the initiatives and programmes of the Organization in order to achieve visible results for a better and more prosperous future for generations to come and for humanity in general. Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

## 7. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Hussain Ibrahim Mohamed Ibrahim Alhammedi, Minister of Education of the United Arab Emirates. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

### 8.1 السيد الحمادي (الإمارات العربية المتحدة) :

سعادة رئيس المؤتمر العام، سعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، سعادة المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو، أصحاب الفخامة، المعالي والسعادة، رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، حضرات السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته. أستهل كلمتي أمام مؤتمركم الكريم، ناقلاً إليكم تحيات وتمنيات رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، صاحب السمو الشيخ خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان "حفظه الله" وأخيه نائب رئيس الدولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء حاكم دبي راعاه الله صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم، وأعضاء الحكومة والشعب الإماراتي. وأحيي رئيس المؤتمر العام، وفريق الإعداد وتنظيم هذا الحدث الرفيع. وأخص بلفتة تقدير وتنويه المديرية العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا التي عرفت بخبرتها ومراسها. وتمسكت بدورها المنظمة التربوي والثقافي والعلمي. ورسخت بذلك فرادتها وريادتها في مجالات اختصاصها. وأمام هذا التحول النوعي، نخصت يونسكو جديدة على قاعدة الثوابت التي أرساها الآباء المؤسسون، وفي طليعتها بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر. وهذه رسالة نبيلة للإنسانية جمعاء لكي نستنهض إرادات الخير والبناء الكامنة فيها. فنطوى صفحة الحروب والنزاعات والمجتمعات، وتنخرط في مشروع تنمية السلام، مشروع سلام التنمية كحجر عبور إلى مستقبل الرفاه، والازدهار، والرفي الإنساني الأكثر إشعاعاً، والأبعد دلالة، والأعمق أثراً، في عالم القيم الكونية الجديدة

8.2 أيها السيدات والسادة، بعد أقل من شهر من الآن، تحتفل دولتنا بالعيد الوطني الأربع والأربعين. التي تأسست على يد المغفور له القائد المؤسس الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان "طيب الله ثراه" وفي هذه المساحة الزمنية القصيرة نسبياً في عمر الدول والأمم، واعتمدنا مبدأ "استخلاص الممكن من المستحيل". وقد مشينا بخطى ثابتة في هذا الطريق. ولأمسنا الإعجاز في الإنجاز بشهادة المؤسسات الدولية ذات الصلة، على مختلف الأصعدة والمستويات. وإذا كان الذين يزورون دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة أو يقيمون على أرضها 200 جنسية تعمل وتتفاعل وتتعايش بسلام ووثام، يعجبون بعملقة الحجر، فإننا لا نألو

جهداً، أيضاً، في عملاقة البشر من خلال إقامة مجتمع المعرفة والاستثمار في منظومات التربية الأكثر انخراطاً في العصر التكنولوجية وثرواتها. ونحمد الله ونثني على قيادتنا الحكيمة، لأنه أصبحت لدينا قوائم بنية التحتية التعليمية التربوية المتميزة بناها بتجهيزاتها، وتقنياتها المبتكرة. ومن خلالها، نتطلع إلى غد أفضل لأجيالنا الطالعة، قائم على التفكير، والتنوير، وقيم المعرفة. ونراهن على الجودة والابتكار في كل مراحل العملية التربوية. ونركز على الحلقة المحورية في هذه العملية، وهي المعلم وتدريب المعلم، ونتطلع إلى "اقتصاد المعرفة"، فإننا لا ندخر وسيلة تقنية، أو رافداً علمياً، إلا وأدرجناها في سياق البرامج والمقررات وطرائق التوجيه والتعليم. من هذا اجتذابنا كبرى المعاهد والجامعات في العالم، لإقامة فروع لها في بلادنا، للإحاطة بالفكر والثقافة في جميع أنحاءنا. وعلى الرغم من اعتماد التقنيات الرقمية في العملية التربوية، والانفتاح على موضوعات البيئة، والتنوع الحيوي، والمواطنة العالمية، وهي جديدة في مناهجنا ومقرراتنا، فإننا نركز على صقل مهارات الفكر والتفكير، وشحن المثابرة والمبادرة، وتنمية ذائقة الجماليات والفنون. وهدفنا الأول والأخير هو توطيد ثقافة السلام وتعزيز التنوع، والترويج لقيم الانفتاح والتسامح. على مختلف الأديان والأعراف التي تتشكل منها القرية الكونية.

8.3 الأخوات والإخوة الأفاضل، أيها الحفل الكريم، إن دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة تتناغم مع اليونسكو في مجال التراث بشقيه المادي وغير المادي. وهذا القطاع عزيز علينا. وأحفظناه بكل ما يستحقه من عناية ودأب واهتمام، لأن من ليس له ماضٍ، لا حاضر ولا مستقبل له" كما كان يردد مؤسس الدولة وقائد كيانتنا الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان "طيب الله ثراه" ونحن بلد عريق في تاريخه، وفي حضارته. والشواهد على العراقة ممثلة للعيان في خريطة واسعة ومتنوعة من المتاحف. وهي منجم للمعرفة. وهوية وطنية جماعية. وتحت أجيالنا الطالعة على أن تستلهم دروسها، وتنهل من ينابيع عطاياها الذي لا ينضب.

8.4 أيها الحضور الكريم، إن دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة تعبر بخطى وثيقة من آبار النفط إلى آبار المعرفة. وتخرج من التلقين في التعليم إلى رحاب التفكير والتنوير. وتبني العقل التواصل للتعامل مع موجبات حضارات القرية الكونية. وتمسك بالممارسة الأخلاقية في العمل السياسي. وترى أن كل الشهادات تفقد معناها إذا لم تكن جواز عبور إلى إنسانية القيم، كما ورد في كتاب اليونسكو "القيم إلى أين؟" الصادر عام 2000. لذلك ندعو إلى تفعيل عمل هذه المنظمة. ولعل العالم المأزوم اليوم بالمشكلات، والأزمات، ولعبة المصالح الضارية، في حاجة إلى اليونسكو، كما إلى حكمة القيادة الإماراتية، واعتدالها، ومبدئية مواقفها، لتغلب على دوامة الصراعات، واقتراح الحلول والبدائل للخروج من طرق النزاعات. وشكراً لكم على حسن إصغائكم. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

#### 9. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency, Ms Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Education and Culture of Finland. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

#### 10.1 Ms Grahn-Laasonen (Finland):

Mr President, distinguished delegates, Finland concurs with the European Union statement. Excellencies, human rights matter. Education matters. Gender equality matters. Freedom of expression matters. They are some of the key components of the new sustainable development agenda. I wish to congratulate the Director-General for UNESCO's active input in the preparatory work.

10.2 In celebrating the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, we must face our challenges with the same determination as our predecessors did in 1945. Finland is committed to supporting UNESCO in its important work. Despite the challenging economic situation, Finland is proud to be able to continue its voluntary contribution to UNESCO.

10.3 Excellencies, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is encouraging. It is holistic and cross-cutting. It is not short on ambition and concerns all of us. It is an immense boost for UNESCO's future programme. It gives a huge opportunity to re-design the programme and calibrate the expected results and indicators. We hope for action towards even more concrete and applicable policy recommendations. Evaluations are done, but there is still a need for follow-up capacities across the board.

10.4 Today, events are moving with high speed, often outpacing the efforts of organizations built for another age, 70 years ago. A rejuvenated UNESCO must therefore be fit to respond to changes, and efficient governance is key. The external governance audit deserves a holistic and careful study. This is also an area that we will be promoting as a Member of the Executive Board from 2017 onwards.

10.5 Ladies and gentlemen, all of us face inequalities, both within and between our countries. The 2030 Agenda supports a more people-centred approach, one with provisions also for people with disabilities and youth. Young people are not only policy objects – they must be allowed to be active, contributing citizens. I am concerned by the wave of intolerance and the spread of radicalization and violent extremism, to which young men are particularly prone. We need to invest in global citizenship education and education for sustainable development.

10.6 To Finland, education comes first. The education agenda we approved yesterday quite rightly brings learning and quality to the forefront. No one should be denied the right to education, but still girls continue to draw the short straw. More needs to be done to secure education of women and girls. We are pleased with the commitment to inclusion and equity and the call for well-educated teachers. Equal opportunities are fundamental. Education provides skills for employment, for decent work, and a way out of poverty. Therefore, education is also one of Finland's priority fields for our voluntary contribution.

10.7 Ladies and gentlemen, technology transfer and water-related questions on the 2030 Agenda are highly relevant for UNESCO's next programme. Finland strongly supports an integrated science approach. Finland values UNESCO's work for freedom of expression, press freedom, safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. They are essential for the next programme, as is equal and open access to knowledge and information. The "Connecting the Dots" outcome document provides a solid building block for Internet-related issues. I am pleased to confirm that Finland will continue its support to the Communication and Information Sector. Finland proudly hosts UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day event next year and I am happy to welcome you all to Helsinki in May.

10.8 We are all terrified by the destruction of cultural heritage. Finland, as a Member of the World Heritage Committee, supports UNESCO in this area, including the campaign "#Unite4heritage". We all have a shared responsibility. To quote the former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan: "Violence is never justifiable, it is not inevitable and where the underlying causes are addressed, violence is entirely preventable." We have come together to make UNESCO fulfil its global mandate in tandem with the 2030 Agenda. We have the elements and we will all be held to account. What counts now is to move from promises to real change. I want to thank you all for your attention.

**11. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Gustav Fridolin, Minister for Education of Sweden. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

**12.1 Mr Fridolin (Sweden):**

Mr President, distinguished delegates, it is an honour for me to address the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Sweden fully aligns itself with the European Union statement. We live in a time of huge transformation. The defining challenge is countering climate change. We need a course of action to create a low-carbon and climate-resilient world economy. The escalating conflicts stemming from drought and climate change shows clearly that the world must reach a fair, ambitious and legally binding agreement in Paris in December. It is not a choice, but a necessity for the survival of our civilizations as we know them. UNESCO's work with regards to oceans and freshwater is crucial. Sweden supports small island developing States (SIDS) or more correctly large ocean States, in addressing the specific challenges with which they are faced.

12.2 The new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a milestone. It is universal and we all have a responsibility for its realization. UNESCO has an important role in translating the goals into action. We look forward to engaging with all of you in the work ahead of us.

12.3 A sustainable future is impossible without ensuring gender equality. It is time to once and for all get rid of the oppressing structures that hinder women from the right to decide over themselves and to participate in political and economic life. Anything else is an immoral waste of human resources. Equal rights and the right to education is a priority for the Swedish Government's feminist foreign policy. Inclusive and equitable quality education for all girls and boys features prominently in the 2030 Agenda. Education for all is a key driver for change and education for sustainable development and global citizenship education are key components. Comprehensive sexuality education, as shown by UNESCO's programme, is essential in the work towards both gender equality and sustainable development.

12.4 In order to achieve fair and equal societies, UNESCO always has a vital role in promoting access to information and press freedom. Sweden will continue to engage on the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. The upcoming conference with news organizations in February will provide a unique platform for dialogue on journalists' safety. We also welcome UNESCO's recent report on world trends in freedom of expression and media development and we invite more countries to contribute to this. UNESCO must continue to promote human rights, including freedom of expression, online as well as offline. It is unacceptable that journalists are killed and threatened when they do their job. We must speak out on behalf of those who have had their own voices silenced, like the Swedish-Eritrean journalist Dawit Isaak. Our aim is that he should be released.

12.5 Mr President, while we need joint efforts in building a more sustainable future, we also need collective action for the challenges of today. The current refugee situation is a global crisis. It is a human right to seek, and if in need, enjoy asylum. A boy or a girl on the run from war or oppression can seldom be educated. A girl or a boy with a safe new home country can. Sweden is proud that many refugees over the years have made Sweden a second home country. They have contributed to make Sweden richer, as Sweden will continue to take its responsibility. In this situation, more countries need to give help to those in need. Sweden has a clear stand: no State can flee its legal or international obligations. Global crisis demands global responsibility.

12.6 To solve the crisis, the horrors in Syrian Arab Republic must be stopped. Addressing the root causes of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic is key. That is why all actors, regional as well as international, must intensify their efforts in support of the United Nations-led political track and political solution. The fabric of entire civilizations is torn apart. When artists and journalists cannot work, books are burnt and cultural heritage is destroyed it is a sign of repressive, dark times. It is also the moment when UNESCO's mandate is more important than ever.

12.7 Sweden strongly supports the implementation of the culture conventions and the actions undertaken by UNESCO and the global community to counteract the demolition and illicit trafficking in cultural objects. A Nordic initiative for enhanced international collaboration will start in Oslo in December this year.

12.8 Distinguished delegates, Sweden has always been a strong supporter of the United Nations, both politically and financially. Over the years, Sweden has stood by those in the world who fight against repression and inequality and for independence and dignity. We now seek your confidence for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the period 2017-2018. We will work towards a more representative, transparent and effective Council that can respond swiftly to the security challenges of our time.

12.9 Mr President, we would also like to acknowledge all the hard work carried out by the UNESCO staff and the Director-General, Madam Bokova. Sweden fully supports the Director-General's work for reform of UNESCO and we are actively engaged for better governance of the Organization. Through further reform, UNESCO will be even more relevant and more focused on its mandate, which will deliver more results. In order to do this, the budget level must match the goals we have set up.

12.10 As I said at the outset, we live in a time of huge transformation and the founding ideas and principles of UNESCO are as vibrantly urgent as ever. Sweden stands ready to continue our important joint work ahead to create a sustainable, equal and peaceful development. Thank you.

**13. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Rodolfo Alarcón Ortíz, Minister of Higher Education of Cuba. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

**14.1 Sr. Alarcón Ortiz (Cuba):**

Muchas gracias. Señor Presidente de la Conferencia General, señora Directora General, distinguidas delegadas y delegados, deseo comenzar mi intervención felicitando al señor Stanley Mutumba Simataa por su elección

como presidente de este 38 periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO. Hace pocas semanas los jefes de estado y de gobierno adoptaron en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas la Agenda para el Desarrollo post-2015. Lamentablemente, los modestos compromisos decididos en el año 2000 como objetivos para el desarrollo del milenio no se cumplieron. Los avances son insuficientes, existen problemas que se acumulan y agravan en un mundo expoliado y saqueado, marcado por conflictos en diferentes regiones del mundo donde la paz y la estabilidad necesarias para avanzar hacia el desarrollo sostenible son aún una quimera.

14.2 El subdesarrollo se perpetúa, crece el abismo entre ricos y pobres, aumentan las desigualdades entre las naciones, y dentro de las naciones. Parece indetenible la destrucción del medio ambiente y la pérdida de la biodiversidad. Suben las temperaturas como consecuencia del calentamiento global y se deteriora el equilibrio natural de los ecosistemas. Es inadmisibles que en la actualidad 757 millones de adultos sigan sin poseer competencias básicas en la lectura y escritura, y que el número de niños y adolescentes sin escolarizar continúe aumentando hasta ascender a 124 millones en el mundo.

14.3 Cuba no sólo cumplió los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, también brindó apoyo y colaboración a otros países en desarrollo. Eso ha sido posible gracias a la voluntad política del gobierno, al respaldo indiscutible del pueblo y a su vocación solidaria e internacionalista basada en el principio de compartir los limitados recursos que dispone y no los que le sobran. La obra de la revolución cubana está en plena correspondencia con los objetivos de la UNESCO. A lo largo de 57 años, el sostenido esfuerzo realizado ha permitido dotar a nuestro pueblo de un sistema gratuito, general y universal de educación, masificar la cultura y el deporte, desarrollar un sistema de salud que exhiben elevados indicadores y desplegar notablemente los potenciales científicos. Todo ello en medio del injusto y cruel bloqueo impuesto por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos, que hace apenas unos días recibió una muestra más de abrumador rechazo de la comunidad internacional en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

14.4 Distinguidos delegados, el marco de acción de educación 2030 que acabamos de aprobar en la reunión de alto nivel de esta 38 Conferencia General refleja una visión compartida e integral en pos de una educación equitativa para todos. Cuba reitera su compromiso con el Laboratorio Latinoamericano de Evaluación de la Calidad de la Educación y apoya a la preservación del Instituto de Educación superior para América Latina y el Caribe, IESALC, institución llamada a promover y desarrollar la educación superior en la región. La UNESCO deberá seguir liderando el debate mundial sobre el papel de la cultura como elemento esencial en el desarrollo sostenible de nuestras naciones. Este tema ocupó un lugar precedente en la agenda de la pasada reunión de ministros de cultura de los países miembros de la CELAC celebrada en La Habana el pasado mes de septiembre.

14.5 Distinguidas delegadas y delegados, señora Directora General, al cumplir 70 años de creada, la UNESCO deberá continuar desempeñando un papel de vanguardia en la incansable lucha contra el analfabetismo, en la promoción de una educación de calidad para todas y todos a lo largo de toda la vida, en la defensa y preservación del patrimonio y de la diversidad cultural, en el desarrollo de las ciencias y la investigación y en el acceso universal a la información y a las comunicaciones más modernas. Hago propicia la ocasión para agradecer la reciente y exitosa visita a nuestro país de la señora Irina Bokova, así como la del presidente de la Conferencia General, señor Hao Ping, a quien felicitamos por el mandato que recién concluye. Cuba continuará comprometida con la UNESCO y con sus principios fundacionales. Confiamos en su liderazgo, en su papel de vanguardia dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas, en su gestión por hacer realidad el sueño de alcanzar sociedades caracterizadas por un legítimo desarrollo sostenible. Muchas gracias.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr José Antonio Rodríguez, Minister of Culture of Dominican Republic. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

16.1 **Sr. Rodríguez (República Dominicana):**

Señor presidente de la vigésima octava conferencia general de la UNESCO su excelencia señor Stanlin Simaca viceministro de información y comunicación tecnológica de Namibia, Excelentísima Señora Irina Bokova, Directora general de la UNESCO. Señores Jefes de Delegaciones, Ministros, delegados, honorables embajadores, Señoras y Señores.

16.2 Paz, peace, paix, miex, salam, hopen, esta conferencia hace 70 años fue concebida por y para la paz, pero que razón tiene la palabra sino provoca una reacción, el Papa Francisco elabora la tesis de que el mundo está inmerso en la tercera guerra mundial y que la misma se realiza de manera fragmentada, y ¿saben?: tiene razón. ¿O no es guerra el analfabetismo, la pobreza, las diferencias religiosas, el cambio climático, el fanatismo, el hambre, el narcotráfico, el terrorismo, el extremismo, la apatía, y un largo etcétera que nos obliga a colocar la paz como tema central. No pasa un minuto sin que las geografías de las naciones se tiñan de sangre humana, nos conmueve el niño Aylan al Kurdi en aquella remota playa de Turquía porque todos de alguna manera todos, somos sus padres. Toda guerra es un insulto a la razón, toda muerte de un ser humano a manos violentas del otro es desprecio rampante del amor. Hoy estamos aquí y el mes que viene estaremos en otro escenario estampando nuestras firmas en valiosos documentos. Pero de que nos sirven los encuentros, los tratados los acuerdos sino tenemos paz. Los acuerdos tienen el valor de la justicia cuando se pueden firmar entre todos. El poder es un artilugio inútil si no nos sirve para invitar a nuestro semejante a beber café, té o vino en torno a una mesa de cooperación. Todos somos ciudadanos del mundo, demos pasos concretos para corregir lo que está mal ahora.

16.3 Demos la milla extra no por obligación, sino por pasión, desde el corazón del Caribe, les digo observemos la grandeza de la humildad que existe en nuestros corazones y mostremos frutos, que sea visible nuestra acción restauradora de la paz, es tiempo de parar. La tierra puede ser mejor si lo decidimos así, provoquemos una ola de paz, una que se eleve por encima de los mares, y arroje de esperanza a los corazones de miles de millones que ahora no tienen vida porque su cotidianidad es el sobresalto y la huida, no somos mejores somos iguales, lo que me pasa a mi te pasa a ti, lo que te pasa a ti, le pasa al mundo, sé que hablo por todos. Queremos que las futuras generaciones nos recuerden como artífices de paz en cada país del globo. Hagamos que triunfen los abrazos, que en las agendas

internacionales los temas sólo sean de cooperación, solidaridad, hermandad, provecho mutuo. No tenemos una vida con autocorrección, nuestros silencios son errores, que tienen consecuencias, en estos momentos que hablo a todos, todos y cada uno de ustedes me han entendido, es como si todos hablaran español, si eso es posible gracias a la tecnología y a un traductor o una traductora, si es posible la paz, puesto de pie y con una mano en el corazón, les aseguro que si podemos, trabajemos ahora por la paz mundial, muchas gracias, mucha paz.

**17. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Mountaga Tall, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Mali. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

**18.1 M. Tall (Mali):**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations au Président de la Conférence générale pour le choix porté sur lui pour diriger travaux de la 38<sup>e</sup> session. Je salue aussi les efforts déployés par le Président du Conseil exécutif, depuis la dernière Conférence Générale, pour suivre et orienter les actions de l'UNESCO en vue de l'atteinte de ses objectifs. Je voudrais enfin, et particulièrement, rendre hommage au travail titanesque accompli par la Directrice générale et à l'intérêt qu'elle a constamment manifesté pour la promotion de la paix en Afrique et le développement de notre continent dans les domaines de compétence de l'Organisation.

18.2 Mesdames, Messieurs, le monde s'apprête à célébrer, le 16 novembre prochain, le 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'adoption de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO. Cet événement marquera 70 ans d'un engagement exceptionnel de notre Organisation pour la paix dans le monde, par les moyens de l'éducation, la science, la culture et la communication. Permettez-moi alors de saluer à cette occasion la qualité de la coopération entre mon pays, le Mali, et l'UNESCO, pour la réalisation des idéaux de l'Organisation.

18.3 Plus particulièrement, je voudrais mentionner la sensibilisation de l'opinion internationale à la cause du Mali lors de la crise politico-sécuritaire que notre pays a vécue en 2012, la restauration des mausolées saccagés par des groupes armés, la préservation des manuscrits anciens et le renforcement de l'éducation à la culture de la paix et aux droits de l'homme. Dans ce cadre et malgré des conditions difficiles, Mme la Directrice Générale a été à deux reprises sur le terrain, dans le Nord du Mali, après la libération de la ville de Tombouctou et des régions du Nord et après la reconstruction des mausolées de Tombouctou. Nul ne s'étonnera donc que j'évoque son engagement personnel et sa solidarité qui ont été jugés à leur juste valeur par notre peuple et par notre gouvernement. Vous me permettrez de mentionner, dans ce contexte, la traduction récente devant la justice internationale d'un des responsables de la destruction des mausolées de Tombouctou. Nul doute que ce geste fort, une première dans l'histoire, aura une portée dissuasive pour ceux qui s'adonnent à travers le monde à la destruction du patrimoine culturel mondial de l'humanité.

18.4 Mesdames, Messieurs, le Mali tout entier se mobilise pour la mise en œuvre de l'Accord de paix et de réconciliation nationale, issu du processus d'Alger, et qui vise à amener définitivement la paix dans notre pays. C'est le lieu d'exprimer les remerciements du Gouvernement et du peuple maliens à tous ceux qui se sont investis pour l'atteinte de ce résultat. Notre pays a déposé un projet de résolution en faveur de la mise en œuvre de cet accord. Je voudrais profiter de cette tribune pour réitérer à la communauté internationale en général et à l'UNESCO en particulier notre appel à nous appuyer dans sa mise en œuvre.

18.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, toujours dans la dynamique de la paix, de la reconstruction et de la réconciliation nationale, notre pays met un accent particulier sur la remise en route de l'école sur toute l'étendue du territoire national, en veillant particulièrement à la scolarisation des filles. C'est donc tout naturellement qu'au niveau du grand programme sur l'Éducation, le Mali manifeste son intérêt pour l'éducation à la culture de la paix et aux droits de l'homme. Dans ce cadre, la tenue d'une session de formation des enseignants du nord à Mopti, au Mali, avec le soutien de l'UNESCO, et d'un forum sur l'éducation à la culture de la paix à Bamako, contribueront certainement à consolider la paix dans le milieu scolaire et, de façon générale, dans notre pays.

18.6 Accordant une grande importance au développement qui est un facteur important pour la consolidation de la paix, notre pays attache beaucoup de prix à l'éducation en vue du développement durable et, de ce fait, à la Déclaration de Aichi-Nagoya sur l'Éducation en vue du développement durable. Enfin, dans le domaine de l'éducation, la formation des planificateurs rentre aussi dans les lignes de priorité de notre pays.

18.7 Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Mali porte un grand intérêt au renforcement des capacités des populations en matière de résilience face aux changements et la variabilité du climat, ainsi que l'attestent les résultats des travaux de l'atelier de formation des jeunes sur les négociations de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur le changement climatique, tenue les 15 et 16 octobre 2015 à Bamako. Dans le domaine des Sciences sociales et humaines et compte tenu de la situation de notre pays, le Mali appuie tous les programmes sur la paix, la réconciliation et la consolidation de la cohésion sociale. Au titre du grand programme sur la Culture, l'une de nos préoccupations est de mettre la culture au service de la prévention des conflits en mettant l'accent sur le rôle des langues nationales. Enfin, le grand programme portant sur l'Information et la Communication, la lutte contre la cybercriminalité retiennent particulièrement notre attention.

18.8 Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi pour terminer de réaffirmer la ferme détermination du Mali à continuer d'œuvrer pour le triomphe des idéaux de notre Organisation, l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

**19. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Illugi Gunnarsson, Minister of Education, Science and Culture of Iceland. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

**20.1 Mr Gunnarsson (Iceland):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, I would like to express our congratulations to you, Mr President, on your election. We also wish to thank the outgoing President and the Chair of the Board.

20.2 Excellencies, in today's international community, nations are engaged in never-ceasing competition where it takes a strong economy and a flourishing society to attract young and dynamic people. Quality education is a key ingredient in the development of any economy or society. In that respect, the point of reference is not necessarily the length of schooling, but the competence individuals have acquired on leaving school and their ability to use it to improve their living standards and contribute to society. There is no question in my mind that education is the key – the key to contributing to lasting peace, the key to contributing to sustainable development and the key to the eradication of poverty. It is my belief that education is a fundamental human right of which nobody should be deprived.

20.3 The world has changed enormously since the establishment of UNESCO 70 years ago. We live in a period of rapid technological development, globalization and natural and societal changes. Regardless of where we think the world is heading, most people agree that a good education is the best asset to bring on to that journey. A solid education makes it easier for young people to find their way in a complex and ever-changing world, besides being the foundation of a strong economy and the citizens' well-being.

20.4 Education and gender equality are two key elements in the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The balance reached in this universal and integrated 2030 Agenda is an achievement of which we should be proud. We are particularly proud to have been among the proponents of gender equality and empowerment of women as an overarching element, necessary to achieving the other goals of our Agenda.

20.5 Our aims within UNESCO are also to spread knowledge and promote freedom of expression, global citizenship, enhance sustainable development, and to encourage acceptance of cultural diversity, to mention just some areas of great concern. These areas are all first and foremost addressed through better education. We need to invest in this education and are pleased with the framework agenda in its commitment to equality and well-educated teachers.

20.6 One characteristic of a just and humane society is the treatment of its minorities. Iceland is deeply committed to continue its work with others against discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

20.7 Mr President, UNESCO has a unique mandate for safeguarding the freedom of expression and the media, which Iceland strongly supports. Not only is this a fundamental human right, which is vital for open societies, democracy and free market economies, but it is also as a key ingredient in realizing our ambitions in education, science and culture. The potentials established by the new media need to be continued to be harnessed in the same spirit of freedom so that they may best contribute to our goals.

20.8 This brings us to the importance of another important role of UNESCO for the promotion of linguistic diversity. Language is at the heart of cultural diversity, being one of the strongest components of cultural identity. It remains the most forceful vehicle of the world's intangible heritage. In this regard, our former President, Ms Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, has been, and continues to be, an active participant in UNESCO's work, also in her capacities as Goodwill Ambassador for linguistic diversity and with the International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding, which is a UNESCO category 2 institute located in Reykjavík. We are convinced that the Institute will contribute in an important way to UNESCO's role and our common objectives in safeguarding linguistic heritage worldwide, and supporting linguistic diversity.

20.9 Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO's role as a champion of peace, understanding and tolerance is as urgent and vital as ever. Education for all, gender equality and sustainability must be cross-cutting themes in all our work. Iceland is firmly committed to playing an active role in contributing to UNESCO's role and thereby working towards a common good. The universal nature of our new 2030 Agenda common goals requires each of our States to contribute at the national, regional and global levels. None of us can succeed alone. Iceland is committed to playing its part in reaching these ambitious goals. Thank you for your attention.

**21. The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Albert Damantang Camara, Minister of Technical Education and Employment of Guinea. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

**22.1 M. Camara (Guinée) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs, vous permettrez que mes premiers mots à l'adresse de cette auguste assemblée soit un message de paix, de concorde et de gratitude à l'endroit de l'UNESCO qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour accompagner notre pays depuis son adhésion à l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation.

22.2 En prenant part aux travaux de la 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, la République de Guinée, par ma voix, voudrait tout d'abord apporter aux éminents représentants des États membres de l'UNESCO le salut fraternel et amical du peuple de Guinée, du Gouvernement guinéen et tout particulièrement de S. E. le Professeur Alpha Conde, Président de la République. Il m'est aussi agréable, au nom de la délégation de la République de Guinée, de féliciter chaleureusement M. le Président pour sa brillante élection à la tête de cette 38<sup>e</sup> session de notre Conférence générale. Je suis, d'ores et déjà, persuadé que ses immenses qualités professionnelles et sa riche expérience lui permettront de conduire avec efficacité les travaux de la présente session.

22.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, la multiplicité et la complexité des défis qui interpellent nos États les moins avancés dans le contexte d'un monde globalisé invitent, certes, à une mobilisation des ressources financières mais aussi, et



surtout, à des réformes structurelles et méthodologiques tendant à mieux cerner les problèmes et les réalités à la base. Comme vous le mentionniez lors de la séance inaugurale, les valeurs cardinales de l'UNESCO, et notamment celles de partage et de solidarité, doivent plus que jamais gouverner notre marche vers les objectifs de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. C'est à cet égard que la République de Guinée se félicite du précieux soutien de la communauté internationale et de sa solidarité à l'endroit du peuple de Guinée dans sa lutte contre la fièvre hémorragique à virus Ébola, en termes d'appui technique, d'accompagnement structurel et financier en faveur des trois pays touchés : la Guinée, le Libéria et la Sierra Leone.

22.4 Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, après la mise en place de toutes les institutions républicaines qui ont permis un meilleur ancrage démocratique, mon pays vient d'organiser, le 11 octobre dernier, pour la deuxième fois consécutive, l'élection présidentielle qui a permis de renouveler le mandat du Président de la République, le Professeur Alpha Conde. Aussi, en prélude à l'élaboration de nouvelles politiques nationales dans les différents domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, le Gouvernement guinéen envisage d'organiser les États généraux du Secteur de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture et de la communication.

22.5 Toujours dans cet élan, le Gouvernement guinéen a engagé un vaste programme de consultations de la jeunesse à travers le projet « Nos jeunes ont du talent » dont la réalisation a permis au Ministère en charge de la jeunesse de se mettre à l'écoute des problèmes de la jeunesse, notamment en matière d'éducation et d'emploi, afin de mieux les accompagner et de les responsabiliser davantage. Tout cela s'inscrit dans la vision prospective du Président de la République visant à promouvoir une refondation et un développement de notre système éducatif dont la mise en œuvre a besoin d'un soutien attendu de tous nos partenaires techniques et financiers, en particulier l'UNESCO.

22.6 L'éducation est notre priorité, une priorité politique, une priorité de programme. Nous devons continuer à créer une forte dynamique politique autour de l'éducation en faisant valoir les progrès accomplis au cours des 10 dernières années et en démontrant sans relâche l'impact positif de l'éducation sur tous les indicateurs du développement. L'ambition des autorités politiques est de faire de la Guinée un pays émergent d'ici 15 à 25 ans ; stratégie déclinée dans une vision appelée « Guinée 2035 » qui rassemble les différentes composantes de la société guinéenne et qui s'appuie sur sa principale force : sa jeunesse qui compose 43 % de notre population.

22.7 Mesdames et Messieurs, le choix de Conakry comme « Capitale mondiale du livre » pour l'année 2017 par un comité international d'experts, le 30 juin dernier, au Siège de l'UNESCO, reste gravé désormais dans les annales de notre histoire. Cet événement promet, d'ores et déjà, d'être un véritable laboratoire d'idées et un espace d'échange sur les grandes questions intellectuelles des décennies à venir. En vous remerciant, Madame la Directrice générale, pour ce choix porté sur notre pays et pour cette marque de confiance, nous sollicitons l'expertise multidisciplinaire de l'UNESCO pour soutenir les efforts de construction d'une société moderne du savoir dans notre pays. Nous sommes, en effet, convaincus que c'est aussi à travers un savant dosage entre l'éducation, la science et la culture, que l'Afrique pourra se doter de ressources humaines nécessaires pour accélérer sa croissance et son développement économique. À ce titre, il serait souhaitable de renforcer l'apport de l'UNESCO pour valoriser les secteurs de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique, de l'enseignement pré-universitaire, de l'enseignement technique et de la formation professionnelle et la création de centres d'excellence.

22.8 Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, avant de terminer, je formule le vœu ardent que l'action de l'UNESCO, notamment en Afrique, s'amplifie et se consolide à travers des programmes et projets novateurs porteurs d'espoir et d'espérance pour faire reculer les frontières de l'analphabétisme, de l'ignorance, de l'incompétence scientifique et technique, de l'incompréhension et de l'intolérance, en vue de promouvoir le développement et consolider la paix. Je souhaite plein succès aux travaux de la 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Vive l'UNESCO ! Vive la coopération et la solidarité entre les peuples ! Je vous remercie.

### 23. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Janvière Ndirahisha, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research of Burundi. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

### 24.1 **Mme Ndirahisha (Burundi) :**

Monsieur le Président de la 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, auguste assemblée, tout protocole observé, nous voudrions d'abord rendre grâce à Dieu Tout Puissant qui nous a guidés tout au long de notre voyage et qui continue d'être à nos côtés durant notre séjour à Paris. Permettez-moi de vous présenter, au nom du Gouvernement du Burundi, de ma délégation et en mon nom propre, les salutations du peuple burundais et de S. E. M. Pierre Nkurunziza, Président de la République du Burundi.

24.2 Monsieur le Président, en ce moment inoubliable, nous avons un grand honneur et un réel plaisir de nous acquitter d'un agréable devoir de vous présenter nos vives et sincères félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection comme Président de cette 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Nous ne doutons pas que vous allez assurer avec succès les lourdes mais nobles tâches qui vous ont été confiées et vous assurons un soutien ferme de la République du Burundi.

24.3 Nous saisissons également cette opportunité pour adresser nos félicitations à l'UNESCO pour son 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire et, en particulier, à Mme Irina Bokova pour la sagesse et la diligence avec lesquelles elle conduit les destinées de notre prestigieuse organisation.

24.4 Monsieur le Président, le Burundi est en train de se relever difficilement mais courageusement d'une dure crise politico-sociale de plus d'une décennie, et très dernièrement des violences pré et postélectorales. Les avancées significatives qu'il est en train de marquer sont dues à la ferme volonté de la population burundaise de se réconcilier et d'œuvrer la main dans la main pour son développement socioéconomique ainsi qu'aux soutiens multiformes des pays amis et des organisations internationales dont l'UNESCO. En effet, l'UNESCO a été toujours aux côtés du peuple

burundais au plus fort de la crise en créant la « Maison de l'UNESCO pour la culture de la paix au Burundi » en 1994 qui garde sa dénomination et sa raison d'être même aujourd'hui. Ceci montre à suffisance que l'UNESCO reste résolument engagée pour accompagner le Burundi dans le processus de consolidation de la paix et l'édification d'une société inclusive, pacifique et résiliente dans un esprit de tolérance mutuelle.

24.5 Le soutien de l'UNESCO à l'État du Burundi s'est aussi manifesté à travers le programme de participation : sept projets ont été approuvés pour le biennium 2014-2015 ; à l'heure actuelle, ils ont tous été exécutés et leurs rapports viennent d'être déposés. L'on ne pourrait pas passer sous silence le programme « Capacity Building for Education For All » (CapEFA) fonctionnel depuis 2011, et qui aide le Burundi à améliorer la qualité de la formation et de la gestion des enseignants, du moment que le Gouvernement du Burundi a commencé les réformes de son système éducatif par l'école fondamentale de 9 ans, post-fondamental à l'éducation de base et le système Baccalauréat Master Doctorat au niveau de l'enseignement supérieur.

24.6 Monsieur le Président, le Burundi est une des victimes des effets dévastateurs des changements climatiques. En effet, c'était le 9 février 2014 que des pluies diluviennes se sont abattues sur les quartiers du Nord de la capitale du Burundi, faisant plusieurs morts et laissant des familles entières dans la désolation. Nous remercions vivement l'UNESCO qui nous a été très proche, notamment à travers l'aide d'urgence aux écoles victimes de cette catastrophe. D'autres actions de bonne volonté de l'UNESCO à l'endroit du peuple burundais se sont aussi manifestées ces deux dernières années ; entre autres, l'octroi des bourses coparrainées et la facilitation de la coopération des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO, tant aux niveaux sous-régional, régional qu'international.

24.7 Monsieur le Président, le Burundi se réjouit de l'alignement par l'UNESCO de « l'Afrique et l'Égalité des genres » parmi ses priorités et réaffirme sa ferme volonté de rester fidèle à la Charte de l'UNESCO et à promouvoir ses idéaux de paix et de développement équitable et durable à travers les six programmes phares, profondément intersectoriels, élaborés lors de la Consultation d'Abidjan – Côte d'Ivoire – en juin 2012.

24.8 Avec l'appui de l'UNESCO, du Fonds commun de l'éducation et du Conseil interuniversitaire de l'Afrique de l'Est, le Gouvernement du Burundi a organisé, en décembre 2014, une grande réflexion lors des États généraux de l'éducation qui ont connu une grande mobilisation des acteurs et partenaires du secteur Éducation. Cette réflexion nous a aidés à faire une évaluation à mi-parcours de notre plan de développement du secteur de l'éducation et de la formation et à produire une série de recommandations – 29 au total – avec une feuille de route de leur mise en œuvre. Les défis relevés aussi bien au niveau de l'accès, de la qualité et du pilotage du Secteur éducation nécessiteront l'engagement de tous. Nous lançons donc un appel à l'auguste assemblée, ici réunie, de nous prêter main forte.

24.9 Au vu des défis en présence qui interpellent notre conscience, l'UNESCO a besoin, aujourd'hui plus qu'hier, de l'engagement des États membres pour mettre en œuvre les projets innovants qu'elle ne cesse de présenter. Ainsi puis-je lancer un appel à l'endroit des États membres et aux âmes généreuses pour contribuer efficacement à la réalisation des objectifs dont elle s'est assignée pour le bien-être de toute l'humanité et la création d'un monde meilleur pour les générations futures.

24.10 Monsieur le Président, Auguste assemblée, je ne saurais terminer mon propos sans réitérer mes vifs et sincères remerciements à Mme la Directrice générale et souhaite plein succès à la 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je vous remercie.

25. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Ali Mariama Elhadji Ibrahim, Minister for Primary Education, Literacy, Promotion of National Languages and Civic Education of Niger. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

26.1 **Mme Elhadji Ibrahim (Niger):**

Merci, Monsieur le Président de la 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, c'est pour moi un réel plaisir de prendre la parole, à l'occasion de cette 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO qui coïncide cette année avec le 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la création de cette Organisation, pour féliciter l'UNESCO et tous les pays membres et féliciter vous aussi, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection en qualité de Président de cette session.

26.2 Permettez-moi aussi de réitérer, de vive voix, à la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mme Irina Bokova, tous les hommages mérités du Président de la République du Niger, Chef de l'État, S. E. M. Issoufou Mahamadou pour le dynamisme insufflé à cette Organisation qu'elle dirige avec efficacité, en dépit des difficultés d'ordre financier qu'elle rencontre.

26.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, le Niger, faut-il le rappeler, est membre de l'UNESCO depuis 1960 et, à ce titre, a toujours accompagné l'UNESCO dans son combat pour la construction de la paix dans le monde par l'éducation, la science, la culture et la communication, et dans sa lutte pour le rapprochement des peuples et des civilisations dans un monde en proie aux crises sociales et aux conflits armés dont l'ampleur grandissante menace chaque jour la stabilité et le développement durable des communautés.

26.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est pourquoi le Niger, par ma voix, approuve entièrement l'option choisie par l'UNESCO de faire du patrimoine le véritable levier de la paix dans le monde et c'est à travers le dialogue interculturel et toutes les autres formes d'expressions à même de contribuer à l'équilibre social et à la consolidation de la paix. Mesdames et Messieurs, au Niger, nous avons la ferme conviction que la culture constitue le véritable levier de l'unité nationale. Et c'est pourquoi nous avons institutionnalisé un cadre d'expression culturelle connu sous l'appellation de « cousinage à plaisanterie » et nous nous réjouissons de son inscription en 2015 sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel.

26.5 Mesdames et Messieurs, dans le domaine de l'éducation et de la formation, permettez-moi de souligner que le Niger s'inscrit pleinement dans les orientations de l'objectif 4 des Objectifs pour le développement durable (ODD), et l'adoption, hier, du Cadre d'action 2030, à l'unanimité, en est une parfaite illustration. Il me plaît de rappeler que le Niger a défendu, à Kigali et à Incheon, deux orientations pouvant contribuer au développement de notre système éducatif. La première est relative au programme d'éradication de l'analphabétisme à l'horizon 2024. Et la deuxième porte sur l'importance des programmes d'alimentation scolaires comme facteurs déterminants de l'accès et du maintien des élèves à l'école et comme vecteurs du développement et de lutte contre la pauvreté à travers les achats des aliments locaux auprès des petits producteurs.

26.6 Au niveau de l'enseignement secondaire, le Niger salue l'UNESCO et ses partenaires pour leur appui à la mise en œuvre du projet « Électrification des écoles rurales » qui a pour but de promouvoir l'utilisation des énergies renouvelables comme l'énergie solaire.

26.7 S'agissant de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, nous saluons les efforts que l'UNESCO déploie dans le cadre du Projet d'appui au développement des technologies de l'information et de la communication (PADTICE) dans la mise en œuvre de la réforme LMD (« Licence-Master-Doctorat ») dans l'espace UEMOA. Et dans le domaine de l'enseignement technique et de la formation professionnelle, le Niger a gagné le pari de porter la proportion des apprenants de 8 à 21 % en cinq ans.

26.8 Dans le cadre de l'hydraulique et de l'assainissement, la mise en œuvre du programme national d'alimentation en eau potable et assainissement 2011-2015 a permis de relever significativement le taux d'accès à l'eau potable aussi bien en milieu urbain que rural, et le Niger envisage de développer une planification stratégique et opérationnelle selon deux axes prioritaires correspondant à la Vision africaine de l'eau à l'horizon 2025.

26.9 Sur le plan de l'environnement et de la culture, le Niger dispose d'un important potentiel dont trois sites sont déjà classés au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Il s'agit de la Réserve de biosphère de l'Air et du Ténéré, celle du « W » et le Centre historique de la ville d'Agadez.

26.10 Face aux phénomènes de changement climatique, le Niger a ratifié Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC) ainsi que le Protocole de Kyoto.

26.11 Sur le plan de la communication, le Président de la République du Niger, S. E. M. Issoufou Mahamadou, est le premier homme d'État à adopter la Déclaration de la montagne de la table (DTM) qui dépénalise les délits des presses et replace la liberté de la presse au cœur des discussions.

26.11 Mesdames et Messieurs, tous ces progrès ont été réalisés au Niger en dépit de la situation d'insécurité imposée par les sorties terroristes du Boko Haram, AQMI et Moujahid, sur nos frontières avec le Niger, le Nigéria, la Libye et le Mali. Aussi la gestion de ces crises grèvent nos ressources et risquent d'entraîner une baisse de nos indicateurs, et c'est pourquoi nous lançons un appel à la communauté internationale à soutenir le Niger dans ses combats contre les forces obscurantistes afin de contrecarrer leur velléité de remise en cause de cet important acquis commun qu'est le droit à l'éducation de nos enfants. Vive l'UNESCO ! Vive la coopération internationale. Je vous remercie.

## 27. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman, Minister of State of Federal Education and Professional Training of Pakistan. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

## 28.1 Mr Baligh ur Rehman (Pakistan):

*Bismillāh ir-rahmān ir-rahīm* (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate). Honourable Director-General, respected President of the General Conference, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning and *as-salāmu 'alaikum* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). It is indeed a privilege and a great honour to contribute to the discussions at the 38th session of the General Conference. While UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary, Pakistan admires, acknowledges and strongly supports the continued efforts of UNESCO, in the critically vital and important sectors of education, culture and science. UNESCO's role in shaping up and finalizing the educational agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda is truly commendable.

28.2 A dynamic and strong organization has to be ever-evolving and should continue reforming itself from within. Pakistan wants to see UNESCO grow stronger and more effective. After finalizing the education agenda and adopting the framework of action for SDGs in the 2030 Agenda, now UNESCO has to prove its relevance and effectiveness through demonstrating results in its strategic areas of intervention by not only keeping an oversight and mapping the progress towards achieving the relevant goals, but also has to be very effective in ensuring financing for development and official development assistance (ODA) targets, without which all of us know that it will remain a shattered dream.

28.3 The Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 are human-centred targets. They talk of every child, every human being and our planet Earth without any discrimination. Pakistan stands fully committed to these goals, so much so that we have declared and adopted these goals as our national development goals for 2030. We have established cells at foreign offices, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education for SDGs which are fully functional now, while remaining relevant ministries are in the process of doing the same. Our national strategy and plans are being aligned with these ambitious goals. The current federal and provincial governments of Pakistan inherited huge problems in education with millions of out-of-school children, high drop-out rates, gender disparity and low literacy rate. Within the first year of the new government, that is in 2013-14, we saw that all the provincial governments were spending one quarter of their entire budget towards education. The results were impressive. Within one year, the number of out-of-school children dropped by 10%. Net enrolment went up by 7%. The literacy rate went up by 3.5%. It is very promising, and speaks volumes about our commitment, resolve and seriousness.

28.4 Ladies and gentlemen, the Director-General in her opening address made an appeal for advancing education of every child, especially girls. Girls' education is very close to our hearts. Pakistan has seen those terrible times when

schools, especially girls' schools, were being blown up by terrorists. All of us know the story of Malala Yousufzai, the courageous daughter of Pakistan who stood up for education. Malala Yousufzai, a Nobel laureate now, is a towering figure and is recognized throughout the globe as an icon for education, especially for girls' education. Pakistan by donating \$10 million has helped create a UNESCO-Malala Fund to be utilized globally for the cause of girls' education. I urge that all nations should contribute to this UNESCO-Malala Fund, no matter how big or small your contribution is. All of us must be supportive of this noble cause.

28.5 Here I must also share with you that besides education, ending extremism has been one of the top four priorities of the Government. After impressive ongoing military operations, legislation and other measures, the extremist elements have either been taken out or are on the run. The incidence of terrorism and bomb blasts has been reduced significantly. The areas where schools were being blown up or evacuated is now witnessing new schools being built. Extremists and terrorists have lost and the Malala mind-set has won. But it is just the beginning.

28.6 Yesterday, I witnessed the impressive ceremony for the awarding of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science. I congratulate UNESCO for duly recognizing and highlighting the importance of ethics in science which is much needed today. I would also like to thank the Government of Iran for co-sponsoring the Prize. Here, I would like to congratulate the winner of the Prize, Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari, who is an accomplished Pakistani scientist for making us all proud of him and his achievements which are now being recognized globally. Here, I would also like to draw the attention of the House towards weak conventions and legislation regarding stolen cultural artefacts. Pakistan had to run from pillar to post, but we still could not get back our illegally excavated fasting Buddha and other numerous artefacts which are still being illegally held in the United States. We must further strengthen our conventions in this regard.

28.7 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in the end let me emphasize that the very purpose of this august gathering is to streamline international cooperation, bring about solidarity, promote tolerance and understanding and respect other's point of view to share good practices and synergize. These goals of human development cannot be achieved even if a single nation or country or human being is left behind. No one should be allowed to stay behind for the lack of resources or bad governance or anything else. Let us stand united for the common goal of a better future, a better world. Thank you all.

29. **The President:**

Our next speaker on the list is Her Excellency, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation of Namibia.

30.1 **Ms Kandjii-Murangi (Namibia):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Honourable Ministers, heads of delegations, Excellencies, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate the President of the 38th session of the General Conference on his election to preside over this session. It is an honour for me personally to address the plenary under your Presidency.

30.2. As a country, we are humbled to be accorded the opportunity to preside over the supreme governing body of UNESCO. This session is taking place after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which among other issues, recognizes sustainable human development and poverty eradication as critical. Namibia is committed to eliminating poverty and to promoting peace, tolerance and harmonious coexistence. The 38th session of the General Conference is also taking place against the backdrop of the World Education Forum, which agreed on a common global education agenda. Namibia embraces the Education 2030 agenda aimed at empowering the youth with skills, and promoting equity, access and inclusivity.

30.3 Namibia acknowledges the importance of strategic university collaboration networks that facilitate expertise, knowledge and research sharing. Hence, our desire to see the replication of the "Connect Asia" project in Africa. It is platforms such as these that facilitate internationalization of higher education. Now is the opportune time for UNESCO to re-align its efforts to contribute strategically to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Namibia supports a coordinated approach to the ongoing reforms, and is convinced that this will yield positive results for both UNESCO and the Member States. My delegation is, however, concerned with the results of the outcome of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluation of the field network reform in Africa. We therefore urge the Director-General to take all the necessary steps to ensure the successful completion of the field network reform.

30.4 Culture plays a pivotal role in promoting diversity and social cohesion. Within the Culture Sector, Namibia supports the protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. It is in this context that Namibia will host the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Namibia would like to express gratitude to UNESCO for accepting our offer to host this session. On behalf of our government and the people of Namibia, I warmly welcome you all to the tenth session to be held in our country.

30.5 We value the natural science programmes as the key enablers of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Namibia support programmes aimed at improving the interactions and relationships between people and their environment. In the same vein, we also acknowledge the need to safeguard our diversity and environmental sustainability, and look forward to the outcomes of COP 21. We value the work of UNESCO's expert bodies, such as the International Bioethics Committee, which is vital in informing the interface issues between science and society.

30.6 Namibia promotes freedom of expression as a fundamental human right as proclaimed by the Windhoek Declaration. We therefore appreciate the continued focus of UNESCO on the training of media practitioners and the support to community media, including radios, to facilitate and accelerate knowledge and information sharing. Finally, Namibia is fully committed to the ideals of UNESCO and we look forward to our concerted efforts as Member States to deliver on UNESCO's strategic goals. I thank you all for your kind attention.

31. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education of Sri Lanka. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

32.1 **Mr Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. At the outset, I wish to extend the warmest congratulations of my country to His Excellency Stanley Mutumba Simataa, the newly elected President of the 38th session of the General Conference. Sri Lanka would like to express to you our fullest cooperation. I would also like to place on record our sincere appreciation to the outgoing President of the General Conference, His Excellency Mr Hao Ping, for his commendable leadership. I take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to His Excellency Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chair of the Executive Board and his team, for their excellent efforts during the past two years for the upliftment of the work of UNESCO. Under the excellent stewardship of Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO has managed to increase its visibility and contributed for the betterment and sustainability of our planet. At this moment, I wish to express our appreciation to Madam Director-General.

32.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, a new era of democracy and good governance has dawned in Sri Lanka. Today, we are rebuilding our country which suffered the consequences of 30 years of conflict, as a single nation of multiple ethnicities. His Excellency the President, Honourable Prime Minister and the Government of Sri Lanka have given absolute priority to sensitive issues such as equitable quality education for all, sustainable development, social cohesion and sustainable peace, and right to information.

32.3 Sri Lanka has provided universal free education at primary, secondary and university levels for the past six decades. These sustained efforts in education, health and other social infrastructure sectors have managed to bring about outstanding social development in Sri Lanka, securing the rank of 73 in the Human Development Report (HDR) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ahead of other countries in the south Asian region. With the aim of making Sri Lanka a knowledge hub in the region, the Government has decided to increase the investment in education to 6% of its gross domestic product (GDP) in a phased manner within the next three years.

32.4 Distinguished delegates, Sri Lanka will also reiterate the importance of education in promoting human rights, human development, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and aspiration of cultural diversity. The Government is taking steps to set up a strong legal framework through new education reforms in assuring reduction of the barriers to education and improvement of the quality of education at all levels. Initiatives such as the early childhood care and education (ECCE) policy, the programme for the development of one thousand secondary schools, the “nearest is the best” school programme and the “sanitation first programme” are targeted to improve the access to quality primary and secondary education. Development of teacher education and school leadership, improvement of science, and information and communication technology (ICT) are also identified as priority areas. We fully endorse the vision, principles and targets laid down in the overarching goal to “ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030”.

32.5 Ladies and gentlemen, we are fully aware of the global challenges of climate change and its consequences. Being an island nation, the impacts are felt severely by us compared to most other countries. The current leadership in Sri Lanka has placed the highest significance on environmental conservation and sustainable development. Special emphasis has been given to preventing the degradation of forest and coastal areas, central highlands and other sensitive ecosystems such as urban wetlands and water bodies.

32.6 Your Excellencies, Sri Lanka commends the UNESCO initiatives in protecting cultural heritage during conflict. It is our responsibility to protect and promote tangible and intangible heritage of our countries for the generations to come. We are in the process of strengthening and building capacities of the institutional setup for that purpose. The subject of history has been made compulsory at the secondary-school level in my country to create awareness and appreciation about these valuable assets among younger generations.

32.7 Distinguished delegates, the Government of Sri Lanka is implementing social protection and social safety-net programmes to ensure social empowerment and welfare. Our special focus is on under-privileged and vulnerable groups. These programmes are not confined to monetary assistance but also include improved accessibility, and capacity building through vocational training to provide equal opportunities to them. It is my great pleasure to report that the Government of Sri Lanka is in the process of enacting a bill to ensure access to information. The introduction of media ethics and ensuring the rights and protection of journalists are new initiatives of the Government.

32.8 Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion I would like to reiterate the importance of collective efforts to save this planet from all the current challenges it faces. Sri Lanka pledges its fullest cooperation to the efforts of UNESCO to realize the noble objective of building peace in the minds of men and women. I wish every success to the endeavours of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference. May the Noble Triple Gem bless you all.

33. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Dr Lazarus Dokoro, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education of Zimbabwe. Your Excellency you have the floor.

34.1 **Mr Dokoro (Zimbabwe):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Your Excellencies and delegates. Mr President, my delegation congratulates you on your election and recognizes the sterling work done by your predecessor, Professor Hao Ping. Your election is historic and is significant in that you are the first president from the southern Africa subregion, and this is a cause for celebration. Mr President and Madam Director-General, you can count on my Government’s full support as you execute your onerous responsibilities. The 37th session of the General Conference highlighted the fact that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were an unfinished business. A call was made to complete that business and to transcend those challenges. Thanks to the collective efforts

of Member States and the Secretariat under the able leadership of the Director-General there have been significant achievements. These are reflected in the United Nations document “Transforming our world: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, adopted by heads of State and government at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in September 2015.

34.2 Madam Director-General, through your efforts Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 has already been transformed into a framework of action which was adopted yesterday by the Education 2030 High-Level Meeting. Zimbabwe would like to acknowledge the efforts by the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in coordinating the development of the regional and national frameworks of action for Education 2030.

34.3 Mr President, Member States of UNESCO should effectively mobilize resources for the successful implementation of the national and regional frameworks. Zimbabwe has made significant progress from 2000-2015 in promoting education for all. Madam Director-General, at the commencement of the current biennium, Zimbabwe had a mere 90,000 learners at the early childhood development (ECD) level. ECD has been expanded to 451,000 currently and mainstreamed in all primary schools as part of the infant school merger which now stands at 1.2 million. Of the required teacher target of 11,000 by 2017, 3,960 teachers have so far been delivered at the infant school level. Access to primary education throughout the country has been achieved through the establishment of over 1,400 satellite schools in new resettlement and remote rural villages. From infants to high school, the total enrolment is 4.1 million learners. The gender parity index stands at 0.98, and the steady improvement in completion rates at primary and secondary levels stand at 77% and 65% respectively. Zimbabwe recently completed the development of a science- and skills-oriented curriculum for basic education which emphasizes technical and vocational education and training (TVET), information and communication technologies (ICTs) and science, technology, engineering, mathematics and arts – issues which will receive added focus in the period 2016 to 2030. Zimbabwe’s literacy rate stands at 92.4% and is currently the highest in Africa and the greater part of the developing world.

34.4 At the tertiary level, females outnumber males at teacher-training colleges, constituting 74% of the enrolment. However, in the polytechnics and universities, female enrolment stands at 40%. Mr President, we have put in place strategies to increase the participation of women in this regard. On average we only have 28.5% women teachers for science and mathematics in the current establishment. Our focus in the next 15 years is to improve quality learning outcomes through teacher capacity development, the provision of housing for teachers, and the use of ICTs and other emerging technologies. To this end, the Government of Zimbabwe greatly appreciates the inclusion of Zimbabwe in the UNESCO Korean Funds-in-Trust for rolling out ICTs in education. The SDGs have embraced science technology and innovation, which resonates well with Zimbabwe’s national aspirations to build capacities in science and engineering as contained in its own blueprint “Zimbabwe’s agenda for socio-economic transformation”

34.5 Zimbabwe was honoured to host the second edition of the UNESCO-Africa engineering week on the theme “engineering innovation for accelerated infrastructure development for Africa”. In line with the aspirations of Africa stated in the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, Zimbabwe seeks to eradicate poverty through promoting well educated and skilled citizens. Both our national constitution and the economic blueprint set the tone for social transformation and the promotion of an inclusive society based on fundamental human rights.

34.6 Mr President, support is needed in the area of scientific research which can contribute to the development of modern infrastructure and modern agriculture for increased production. Since communication transcends all areas of UNESCO’s areas of competence, there is need for collaboration with education, science and culture. Mr President, as host of the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, my government will spare no effort to support the Office so it can deliver on its mandate. Mr President, I take this opportunity to promise you that you will not walk alone in the journey you have started. Thank you.

35. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Monica Babuc, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Moldova. Your Excellency you have the floor.

36.1 **Mme Babuc (Moldova) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Madame la Directrice générale de l’UNESCO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de joindre ma voix à celle de toutes les délégations qui m’ont précédé pour vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, de votre élection et de la manière avec laquelle vous dirigez cette session. Je souhaiterais également rendre hommage à votre prédécesseur, M. Hao Ping, pour l’excellente manière dont il s’est acquitté de son mandat, mais aussi au Président du Conseil exécutif et à l’ensemble des membres de cet organe qui méritent tous nos félicitations.

36.2 C’est avec joie que je constate que l’UNESCO, à son 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire, est une des plus viables institutions de l’ONU, et je suis sûre que l’Éducation, la Science et la Culture continueront à être les principaux catalyseurs pour la paix dans le monde et pour les contacts interhumains. Au cours de ces dernières années, la République de Moldova s’est focalisée, en grande partie, sur les processus liés à l’intégration européenne et sur la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel, matériel et immatériel. En 2014, nous avons adopté la stratégie nationale de développement de la culture, qui dévoile les voies de développement jusqu’en 2020, et qui se propose de faire de la culture une priorité nationale à travers la sauvegarde et la mise en valeur du patrimoine culturel et le développement de l’industrie créative. Cette année, une de nos grandes réussites a été l’adhésion de notre pays au programme européen « L’Europe créative ».

36.3 La coopération de la République de Moldova avec l’UNESCO connaît aussi aujourd’hui un développement sans précédent pour notre pays. Un premier élément du patrimoine moldave a été inscrit avec nos collègues roumains sur cette liste le 5 décembre 2013. Il s’agit d’un rituel de Noël – nommé « colindat » – par un collectif d’hommes, répandu en République de Moldova et en Roumanie. Et les deux dernières années, nous avons travaillé intensément sur trois autres dossiers multinationaux avec la Roumanie, la Bulgarie, la Serbie, la Turquie, la Macédoine et la Croatie.

36.4 Les pratiques culturelles associées au 1<sup>er</sup> mars est un dossier multinational qui inclut certains pays des Balkans, qui partagent la même fête au début du printemps et qui souhaitent inscrire le « mărtișor » sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité, lors de la 10<sup>e</sup> réunion du Comité intergouvernemental de la Convention de 2003, qui aura lieu du 30 novembre au 4 décembre 2015 en Namibie.

36.5 En 2014, la République de Moldova a soumis à l'attention du Bureau de l'UNESCO le dossier sur le paysage archéologique d'Orheiul Vechi, complété cette année. Orheiul Vechi est un lieu unique, sans doute le plus représentatif de Moldova, qui mélange la beauté des canyons sauvages avec l'histoire millénaire des civilisations européennes et asiatiques.

36.6 Faisant référence aux indicateurs de l'UNESCO, je voudrais vous parler d'un autre domaine de collaboration avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Venise en 2015, celui de « La culture pour le développement ». La République de Moldova fait partie des premiers pays européens ayant accepté de calculer ces indicateurs qui permettront de démontrer l'apport polyvalent de la culture au développement durable du pays, en commençant par la croissance économique et en terminant par des questions liées à l'égalité des sexes et au degré de confiance interpersonnelle. Mis au point par la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, ce projet représente pour mon pays une excellente feuille de route pour les années à venir.

36.7 Mesdames, Messieurs, l'éducation représente une priorité nationale en République de Moldova. Elle constitue un facteur fondamental dans le processus de transmission et de création de nouvelles valeurs culturelles et humaines, de reproduction et de développement du capital humain, et de formation de la conscience et de l'identité nationales. L'Accord d'association de la République de Moldova avec l'Union européenne signé l'année dernière, comporte des volets sur l'éducation, la culture et la science. Les réformes structurelles prévues par le nouveau Code d'éducation et par la Stratégie sectorielle du développement de l'éducation pour la période 2014-2020, contribueront à l'amélioration du système éducatif moldave, et faciliteront les échanges universitaires, sachant que la Moldavie est déjà activement impliquée dans le programme de l'Union européenne Erasmus+.

36.8 Ces dernières années, la communauté scientifique de la République de Moldova a également fait partie des bénéficiaires du processus d'intégration européenne du pays. Étant donné le fait qu'à partir de 2014, l'Union Européenne a lancé un nouveau programme-cadre de recherche et d'innovation « Horizon 2020 », le Gouvernement moldave, sur l'initiative de l'Académie des sciences de Moldavie, a soutenu la création de conditions pour la continuité de l'intégration dans l'espace européen de la recherche.

36.9 Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de saluer les réformes de l'UNESCO, qui viennent anticiper les importantes évolutions du monde contemporain et de redéfinir le rôle de la culture, de l'éducation et de la science. La République de Moldova souscrit à ces tendances auxquelles elle essaye de se rallier ces dernières années. J'ai la ferme conviction que le rôle grandissant de l'UNESCO dans le progrès de l'humanité permettra, à travers la culture, d'apporter la paix et le bien-être dans le monde entier. Je vous remercie de votre attention !

37. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Magele Mauiliu Magele, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture of Samoa. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

38.1 **Mr Magele (Samoa):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am truly honoured to present once again at this significant conference. I wish to extend to UNESCO our heartfelt appreciation for its continuing assistance in multiple ways to ensure the world that we live in is a better place. Your mission to contribute to the building of peace, poverty eradication, lasting development and intercultural dialogue with education as one of the key pillars to achieve this aim needs reiterating. This is why Samoa is committed to UNESCO and I wish to give assurance that we will continue to be proactive in our efforts to contribute to the achievement of our collective vision and fundamental duty for a better world. In my address at the previous session of the General Conference, I highlighted some of our achievements and this included joining the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

38.2 This morning, I am pleased to inform you also that Samoa has signed the instrument of accession to the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity in Cultural Expressions. Samoa is keen to continue its active involvement in all areas including culture, sport, education, communication, climate change and information technology, to name but a few. On another positive note, I wish to especially thank the Director-General of UNESCO and all the United Nations family for your invaluable presence and contribution at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) hosted by Samoa in September last year. This conference was an opportunity to launch a significant partnership that will provide in particular our share of the agenda for sustainable development, not just within but beyond the Pacific arena. The adoption of the new set of sustainable development goals by the United Nations family of nations calls for united efforts across the world. Samoa is committed to education for sustainable development, not only for the Pacific, but more importantly, the world.

38.3 As highlighted by our Prime Minister at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York this year, there is a dire need for all countries to take concerted action to combat climate change and its impact. This is also a priority goal enshrined in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa) Pathway, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

38.4 Mr President, the small island States of the Pacific region are experiencing the impacts of climate change more than other countries and the risks exposed are a threatening reality we live with on a daily basis. The adverse effects of climate change are real, and as leaders of our global community, the time to act is now. The debates held around the world have been numerous and attest to the urgency of the issues that threaten our existence. I wish to reiterate the point I made earlier, that education is the key, the answer to all the dilemmas we face. This was the key message we all took away from the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan last

year and the World Education Forum in Incheon, Korea in May 2015. Our commitment to climate change, poverty reduction, protection of the natural environment and cultural heritage can only be consolidated and made effective through education. We need to pay more attention to the importance of investing in our youth, natural and social sciences and culture as well. Young people are not just the future – they are the key drivers of change and can make a huge difference if their role is to be taken to another level. I salute UNESCO's initiatives for youth around the world and appeal for more opportunities for young people. They can bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm and vitality which can lead to more innovative development to benefit society and the world at large.

38.5 It is important to bring in more and more of the natural and social sciences as they are also important to our understanding of the world and the use and development of techniques that are essential to life. Culture is our foundation, a means to preserve and nurture cultural heritage and traditions across the globe and must continue to be a big part of our deliberations.

38.6 The Pacific region countries acknowledge the dedicated efforts made by the UNESCO Secretariat, and in particular the UNESCO Office in Apia to assist our efforts towards various initiatives, including the following: literacy and numeracy; teacher quality; school leadership; developing professional standards for teachers; early childhood education; anti-doping in sports; integrating sustainable development, including climate change, HIV-AIDS, and disaster risk management into education. Mr President, the challenges we face across the world are growing by the minute and we can only combat these through united efforts and using education as our tool to bring about positive change, empowering the younger generation and ensuring a better world for them.

38.7 Finally, I wish to close by saying that Samoa is a candidate for election to Executive Board because of the genuine and strong commitment of the people of Samoa and the Pacific to peace and international understanding as well as the Government's commitment to education, science, culture and communication in Samoa, the Pacific and the world. May God bless you all. *Fa'a-soifua ia.*

39. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Khin San Yee, Minister of Education of Myanmar. Your Excellency you have the floor.

40.1 **Ms Yee (Myanmar):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, it is a great honour for me to participate in the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. On behalf of the delegation of Myanmar, I would like to congratulate you Mr President on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. With your capable leadership and guidance, we firmly believe that the General Conference will yield many fruitful insights and reach a successful conclusion.

40.2 Mr President, since March 2011 Myanmar has initiated many reforms based on promoting democratic governance, people-centred development and established a stable basis for peace and continued progress. These reforms have offered the people of Myanmar better, safer and more productive lives and represent an opportunity for the country to resume its place as one of the dynamic economies in Asia. As a result, the estimated growth rate of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) has seen a sharp increase to almost 8% per year, coupled with active social-sector development reform projects to address poverty reduction and social welfare for improved livelihoods.

40.3 Mr President, UNESCO, along with other development partners, has actively supported Myanmar's reforms in this historic transition. Over the past three years the education sector has embarked on a promising reform agenda marked by significant increases in education spending, and the first comprehensive education sector review in over 20 years, including the development of a costed national education sector plan.

40.4 In line with the global post-2015 education agenda, the Ministry of Education remains committed to improving access for all to quality learning opportunities. In partnership with UNESCO, we are implementing projects on supporting and developing national education plans, improving quality of teacher's training, skills development for youth, information and communication technology (ICT) for education, non-formal education, higher education reform and several other initiatives.

40.5 Along with education, we have achieved substantial gains in culture preservation and environmental conservation, which is at the heart of the sustainable development policy of Myanmar. Last year, Pyu Ancient Cities was inscribed as Myanmar's first site on the World Heritage List, and seven natural heritage sites were also added for the first time to the 14 other sites from Myanmar on the World Heritage Tentative List. Myanmar has initiated the nomination process of Bagan and the Northern Mountain Forest Corridor. This year, Myanmar also inscribed Inlay Lake as the first biosphere reserve in Myanmar under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.

40.6 UNESCO and the Ministry of Information and media stakeholders are working closely on promoting freedom of expression and strengthening the media development sector. For the past four years, Myanmar has been commemorating World Press Freedom Day with support from UNESCO, and has been conducting a series of national dialogues for the promotion of a free, fair, transparent and vibrant media. UNESCO is supporting Myanmar in media legislation, safety of journalists, capacity-building of journalists, and increasing access to information for marginalized people for better livelihoods.

40.7 Mr President, in a short time span, Myanmar has made great leaps across all sectors, but there are many challenges which Myanmar is actively addressing. For delivery of quality education, more resources will be allocated, and sound national strategic plans will be implemented, with a focus on human resources development through an inclusive approach. As we are going through rapid economic growth and infrastructure projects, cultural preservation and environmental conservation is being given top priority, with the full participation of local communities and stakeholders as key players in this process.



40.8 To conclude, allow me to take this opportunity to thank UNESCO, especially the UNESCO Office in Yangon for its proactive and consistent support to our reform process in all spheres of UNESCO's broad mandate. We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with UNESCO to jointly address challenges for the betterment of the lives of the people of Myanmar. I thank you all for your attention.

41. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Eléonore Ladékan, Minister of Pre-school and Primary Education of Benin.

42.1 **Mme Ladékan (Bénin) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence Générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de vous adresser par ma voix et celle de mon collègue en charge de la culture, ici présent, les salutations et les félicitations du peuple béninois et de son chef, le Docteur Thomas Boni Yayi, pour votre brillante élection, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale à la présidence de la 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour vous féliciter, Madame la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO et toute votre équipe, pour votre dynamisme à la tête de cette prestigieuse institution.

42.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, au sortir de la Deuxième guerre mondiale, il est apparu nécessaire que la communauté internationale pensât avec le Traité de Londres à la création de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO). La pertinence de notre Organisation, aujourd'hui plus qu'hier, nous est brutalement rappelée par les grands défis contemporains. En effet, après les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, les chantiers les plus importants auxquels l'UNESCO doit apporter sa précieuse contribution restent prioritairement l'éducation, les sciences, la culture, les mathématiques et les technologies de l'ingénieur, la jeunesse et l'éducation, l'équité genre.

42.3 Mon pays, le Bénin, se réjouit du rôle prépondérant que l'UNESCO a joué et joue pour affirmer son leadership aux côtés des autres organisations du système des Nations Unies. Ce leadership, qui s'est traduit par la prise en compte de la dimension culturelle du développement dans l'élaboration des Objectifs du développement durable, la parfaite organisation et la coordination du Forum mondial sur l'éducation – tenu à Incheon, du 19 au 22 mai 2015, en Corée – donne des raisons d'espérer que l'UNESCO continuera d'être l'un des bras opérationnels des Nations Unies dans la mise en œuvre des ODD. Je reste persuadée que le cadre d'action Éducation 2030, adopté hier au cours de la présente Conférence générale, constituera la boussole des actions futures qui seront menées en faveur de l'éducation dans nos pays.

42.4 Le Bénin exprime toute son appréciation à l'UNESCO pour ses appuis multiformes en faveur de notre système éducatif, de la sauvegarde et de la promotion de notre patrimoine culturel, de la promotion de la culture de la paix à travers l'organisation du Symposium sur le dialogue interreligieux et interculturel, tenu à Cotonou du 26 au 28 mai 2015. De même, il me plaît de souligner, ici, la vision prospective de notre Organisation qui a compris qu'en Afrique, le développement de l'éducation en milieu rural est tributaire de la disponibilité de l'énergie électrique et de l'accès aux Technologies de l'information et de la communication. L'électrification et la mise à disposition de l'Internet au profit de 15 écoles rurales par pays, au Bénin, au Togo, au Niger, en Mauritanie et à Madagascar, sont à mes yeux la parfaite illustration de cette vision. Cet engagement de l'UNESCO est en parfaite harmonie avec la politique du Gouvernement du Bénin qui a fait de l'éducation l'un des piliers de la lutte contre la pauvreté, en décrétant la gratuité de l'éducation pour tous les apprenants de la maternelle, du primaire et des filles du premier cycle de l'enseignement secondaire.

42.5 Je voudrais aussi faire remarquer les deux priorités auxquelles mon pays est fortement attaché : la priorité Afrique et la priorité Jeunesse et Égalité genre. En ce qui concerne la priorité Afrique, j'ose espérer qu'une attention toute particulière lui sera accordée dans les prochains programmes afin que le continent africain cesse d'être une priorité à l'UNESCO. C'est pourquoi mon pays invite l'UNESCO à faire les diligences nécessaires en direction des pays africains, pour qu'en parfaite collaboration avec les communautés économiques régionales et l'Union africaine, l'*Histoire générale de l'Afrique*, son utilisation pédagogique et les projets « Route des pêches », « Route de l'esclave » bénéficient des crédits conséquents. Face à un monde en pleine mutation, où la jeunesse et les femmes représentent une force productive importante, il serait suicidaire de ne pas créer des espaces d'épanouissement pour cette couche qui constitue à terme, si rien n'était fait, une véritable bombe pour la paix.

42.6 Le 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de notre Organisation commune est une heureuse opportunité pour mon pays, le Bénin, de réaffirmer avec force son attachement aux idéaux de l'UNESCO qui, si elle n'existait pas, il aurait fallu l'inventer. Plein succès à nos travaux. Bon anniversaire. Je vous remercie.

*Mr Sita N'sadisi (Angola) takes the Chair.*

43. **Le Président :**

Merci, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est Son Excellence M. Rachid Benmokhtar, Ministre de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle du Maroc. Excellence, vous avez la parole.

44.1 **M. Benmokhtar (Maroc) :**

Monsieur le Président de la 38<sup>e</sup> Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et les Chefs de délégation, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord de présenter mes vives félicitations à M. Stanley Mutumba Simataa pour son élection à la présidence de la 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale, ainsi que mes remerciements les plus sincères à S. E. Mme Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, pour les efforts considérables et inlassables qu'elle déploie sans cesse pour faire assurer, à travers l'UNESCO, un plus grand rayonnement des principes et objectifs de développement, de progrès et de paix.

44.2 Honorable assistance, la mondialisation, ses enjeux, ses crises économiques, sécuritaires, environnementaux et sociétaux nous appellent aujourd'hui à développer une solidarité agissante. La succession des crises, leur fréquence, l'ampleur de leur impact, montrent clairement la nécessité de construire une nouvelle gouvernance mondiale basée sur l'écoute, le dialogue, l'inclusivité et la responsabilité commune. De même, il est d'autant plus déterminant d'apprécier la valeur ajoutée du pluralisme culturel car le capital immatériel de chaque pays constitue, de nos jours, la véritable richesse de notre siècle. Désormais, nous sommes tous devant un tournant historique, politique et économique qui nous invite à préserver, à renforcer, voire même à élargir des espaces de dialogue, de paix et de compréhension mutuelle. Jamais nous n'avons eu autant besoin de l'UNESCO. Et c'est en restant concentrés sur nos objectifs, à savoir l'éducation, le rapprochement entre les cultures, les connaissances partagées, que nous pourrions lutter contre le fanatisme et les idéologies extrémistes, que nous parviendrons à assumer notre responsabilité en tant qu'États Membres de cette prestigieuse organisation.

44.3 Honorable assistance, le Royaume du Maroc a érigé l'éducation et la formation comme priorités nationales. Il poursuit ses efforts inlassablement pour la réforme et la modernisation du système éducatif. L'enjeu est de pouvoir mieux former les nouvelles générations, de répondre aux attentes de sa jeunesse et d'accompagner le développement durable de notre pays, et de contribuer au développement du reste du monde. C'est dans ce contexte que Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI a chargé le Conseil supérieur d'éducation, de la formation et de la recherche scientifique d'élaborer une feuille de route ambitieuse pour la réforme de l'École marocaine. Cette feuille de route, qui est le fruit d'une approche participative et inclusive et qui a été présentée à Sa Majesté le 20 mai 2015, repose sur la consolidation « d'une école de l'équité, de l'égalité des chances, d'une école de qualité pour tous et pour la promotion individuelle et sociale ». Ainsi, par des actions concrètes et une vision intégrée, le Maroc renouvelle son engagement au sein de l'UNESCO pour une « éducation équitable et de qualité et un apprentissage tout au long de la vie », objectif universel d'éducation pour l'Agenda du développement 2030. Des mesures concrètes sont en cours de mise en œuvre pour améliorer la qualité de l'éducation et elles incluent toutes l'approche genre.

44.4 Honorable assistance, le Royaume du Maroc prône un développement durable intégré qui repose sur le caractère indissociable des dimensions économique, sociale, culturelle et environnementale. En mars 2015, le gouvernement a adopté une stratégie nationale du développement durable dont les objectifs et orientations devront, dès 2017, être intégrés dans toutes les politiques publiques globales, sectorielles et régionales. C'est dans cet esprit que le Maroc s'est orienté vers les énergies renouvelables qui représenteront 42 % de l'énergie consommée par notre pays en 2030. Par ailleurs, le centre de catégorie 2 pour les énergies renouvelables UNESCO, établi au Maroc, travaille pour une coopération Sud-Sud renforcée, notamment avec les pays africains et ceux de la région. C'est également dans cet esprit que le Maroc est un accompagnateur résolu du processus de réduction du réchauffement climatique. Après la COP 7 tenue à Marrakech en 2001, le Royaume compte réaffirmer son engagement stratégique en organisant en 2016, une fois encore à Marrakech, la COP 22.

44.5 Honorable assistance, Jérusalem, cette ancienne cité, symbole de paix, a toujours constitué un lieu unique dans la mémoire de la coexistence entre les religions et l'harmonie entre les groupes humains. Naturellement, nous ne pouvons imaginer un règlement du conflit sans le maintien de l'identité historique des aspects particuliers de cette ville, auxquels Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI, Président du Comité Al-Qods, accorde une attention extrêmement particulière. De même, nous sommes vivement préoccupés par ce que la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO a qualifié « d'épuration culturelle », laquelle épuration touche particulièrement la région du Moyen-Orient. Par ailleurs, nous appelons à une coordination plus importante pour ce qui concerne la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels car il s'agit bien d'un pillage inadmissible.

44.6 Mesdames, Messieurs, je conclurai par une citation de Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI – et je cite : « Le Maroc croit intimement que l'affrontement n'existe qu'entre les ignorances. Quant aux civilisations, leur essence est l'interaction, pour le bien de l'humanité, dans le respect des particularités identitaires et culturelles ». Je vous remercie.

45. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est Son Excellence Anies Baswedan, Ministre de l'éducation et de la culture de l'Indonésie.

46.1 **Mr Baswedan (Indonesia):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa-rahmatu llāhi wa-barakātuh* (Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you). First of all, allow me to congratulate Ms Irina Bokova and the Secretariat for their preparations for UNESCO's Draft Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5) and participation in the post-2015 development agenda, focusing on the overall positioning of UNESCO and its contributions to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indonesia welcomes the 17 SDGs and is committed to strong support and collaboration with UNESCO and other international agencies in the implementation of these goals. I think our achievement in implementing these goals are very much in line with the four fundamental principles of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4). I feel honoured that Indonesia is involved in the high-level International Commission on the Financing of Global Education Opportunities which was launched by the Norwegian Prime Minister and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Commission, of which the Director-General is a co-convenor together with the Prime Minister of Norway, the Presidents of Chile, Indonesia and Malawi, is expected to invigorate global education financing and identify more effective and better coordinated ways to deploy resources to ensure that all children are in school.

46.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me express Indonesia's concerns relating to all of UNESCO's major programmes. In the field of education, we are committed to the implementation of the Incheon Declaration and Education 2030 Framework for Action which has been adopted and which sets out a new vision for education for the next 15 years. However, Indonesia is a nation of 254 million people living in 6,000 islands. The spread of geographical areas is quite challenging, and therefore we will use advanced technology through information and communication technology (ICT)

applications to ensure that we will be able to reach the unreached, and to ensure that every citizen of Indonesia will have access to education.

46.3 In order to improve the quality of education, we have resolved to empower education and cultural actors with three main strategies to be undertaken. First, is to empower actors in the education systems, namely, teachers, school leaders, and parents, as well as improving the quality and access to education and culture. The third, which is one of our key strategies, is to boost efficiency and effectiveness in bureaucratic reform as well as to engage and work closely with the public. In addition to this, we have established a new directorate which is focusing on primary education to ensure that we will be partnering with parents to make sure that education is not only in the hands of our schools but also engaging parents to be involved.

46.4 In the field of culture, Indonesia attaches high importance to cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. We have drawn up a new list of national heritage sites to be nominated as world heritage sites. After successfully organizing the World Culture Forum in 2013, we are looking forward to organizing the next World Culture Forum on the theme "Culture of Peace: Towards Global Harmony" which will be held from 3 to 7 September 2016 in Bali.

46.5 In the field of science, under the Man and the Biosphere Programme, biosphere reserves in Indonesia have multiplied the total area of conservation coverage, reaching over 18 million hectares of biosphere reserves. The research carried out in Indonesia has been directed in the areas and problems related to environmental issues in the terrestrial and marine arena. Under the International Hydrological Programme, we support programme activities related to ongoing research projects in terrestrial ecosystem processes, water issues, landscapes, rivers, flat plains, and wetland reservoirs.

46.6 In the field of communication and information, Indonesia is committed to the issues of the free flow of information and free access to sources of knowledge, which is deeply rooted in our Constitution. With this commitment, Indonesia will organize World Press Freedom Day in 2017. In conclusion, we will continue to support UNESCO in its work to achieve world peace in collaboration with all UNESCO Member States. I thank you.

47. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est Son Excellence M. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ministre-Adjoint des affaires étrangères d'Ukraine.

48.1 **Mr Kyslytsya (Ukraine):**

Thank you Mr President, Madam Director-General, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished heads of delegations. This session is very special, and this is not only due to the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. It is first and foremost because the Organization marks this date while in a state of deep qualitative transformation. The second decade of the twenty-first century turned out to be extremely rich in new challenges that UNESCO should quickly and adequately respond to. We are so closely and increasingly intertwined with political issues that this sometimes even stirs discussions on whether some burning and urgent issues fall under UNESCO's mandate or whether they are purely political.

48.2 For Ukraine, especially as a newly elected non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, UNESCO is one of the main cornerstones of the United Nations system. If this pillar turns out to be weak, the United Nations building will eventually shatter. We unequivocally support efforts being undertaken by the Director-General and the UNESCO Member States in the context of major reform under current circumstances. We are confident that in order to keep UNESCO up with this phase of history, this strong UNESCO leadership devoted to United Nations values and with outstanding integrity to be able to withstand external influence, this leadership which is able to be ready to face the complex challenges of the new millennium, is imperative and vital.

48.3 Ukraine stands up for the proposals in the relevant decisions of the Executive Board including the establishment of an ongoing government mechanism to be implemented in the intersessional meetings attended by Observer States. The new objectives have underlined the special significance of education which is at the heart of the mandate of our Organization. We stand ready to continue our work in accordance with the outcomes of the World Education Forum.

48.4 Ukraine is ready to make a responsible contribution aimed at reinforcing strategy and action for countering violent extremism through education and in the protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict. I would also stress the strong commitment of my country to the protection and preservation of the environment, resulting in harmonization of our legislation in order to consolidate and increase our presence in the world network of biospheres reserves and for an assertive policy in renewable energy.

48.5 Excellencies and colleagues, speaking about the noble goals and tasks of our Organization, I cannot avoid mentioning a part of the world where the principles of UNESCO are flagrantly violated and people are deprived of their basic rights due to occupation by a foreign State. The testimonies we hear every day prove that the Russian Federation's temporary occupation of Crimea continues to lead to mass and systematic violations of fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens living on the peninsula. The latest example is the decree of the Russian government by which 220 Ukrainian cultural sites in Crimea were illegally enlisted as the federal property of Russia. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this step was undertaken just three days after the approval of the decision of the Executive Board on the follow-up of the situation in Crimea. This unacceptable situation is further exacerbated by the total information black-out imposed by the occupying authorities that has rendered practically impossible consistent monitoring by international organizations. Taking into consideration the new decision on Crimea, adopted by the last session of the Executive Board, we will spare no effort in order to facilitate the full use of UNESCO's potential in order to prove that the credibility and democratic power of our Organization can overcome the power of violence and injustice currently ruling Crimea. We are looking forward to practical action of the Director-General to establish a monitoring mechanism at the institutional level in line with the decision of the Executive Board.

*(The speaker continues in French)*

48.6 Chers représentants de notre famille mondiale de l'UNESCO, cette Conférence générale aura à débattre des questions d'importance toute particulières directement liées à l'actualité internationale immédiate. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec la vision de Mme la Directrice générale sur le rôle de notre Organisation qui existe précisément pour rappeler que c'est dans l'urgence qu'il faut justement ne rien céder sur les droits humains, sur la dignité humaine, sur le respect des libertés fondamentales. C'est lorsque ces droits sont bafoués qu'il faut les rappeler avec davantage de force et de conviction. Aujourd'hui, plus que jamais, l'UNESCO peut et doit fournir une réponse concrète et efficace aux défis actuels dans tous ses domaines de compétence. Merci de votre attention.

49. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est Docteur Patrick Nkanza, Secrétaire permanent au Ministère de l'éducation supérieure de la Zambie. Monsieur, vous avez la parole.

50.1 **Mr Nkanza (Zambia):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. Mr President, Zambia congratulates you on your election as President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Zambia further congratulates UNESCO on its 70th anniversary. This year, Zambia is also celebrating 51 years of collaborative efforts with UNESCO, during which time UNESCO has provided technical, material and financial support to Zambia in all the key competencies of UNESCO. We recognize the recent work which UNESCO has conducted with us in the area of policy review.

50.2 Zambia has continued to make strides in the areas of education, science, technology and innovation, information and communications and in culture. In the area of early childhood education (ECE), the Government is scaling up the provision of ECE through detachment of early childhood education centres to existing schools, as well as establishing centres in other communities. With respect to general education, Zambia recognizes that a comprehensive and inclusive curriculum is fundamental to reaching learning goals. Thus, Zambia is engaged in an ongoing process of curriculum reforms at all levels, coupled with harmonization of teacher training curricula.

50.3 With respect to teacher education and training, Zambia wishes to express gratitude to UNESCO for the support rendered in teacher development, particularly with respect to enhancing the teaching of information communication technology (ICT) in general education. The teaching council of Zambia has been established to develop and maintain standards in the teaching profession. With respect to adult literacy the Government is scaling up adult literacy programmes by targeting the marginalized, including those in prisons and in remote areas. The quality of our adult literacy programmes has been enhanced through the development of a national curriculum, materials in various local languages, and training of literacy facilitators. In addition, some educators and curriculum developers underwent training in a programme organised by UNESCO, UNESCO's International Bureau of Education, the Open University of Tanzania, and the Tanzania Institute of Education.

50.4 With respect to technical and vocational education and training, Zambia has introduced a two-tier education and training system which provides a dual pathway between academic and vocational education at lower and upper secondary education levels. To support this system, Zambia has also introduced a three-year vocational secondary teachers diploma programme. In collaboration with the Government of South Korea, UNESCO has been working with Zambia on skills development through the "Better Education for Africa's Rise – (BEAR)" project. This cooperation brings the experience of South Korea to Zambia and we look forward to the expansion of this programme.

50.5 In the areas of science, technology and innovation, Zambia has recognized the insufficient research and development infrastructure and the scarcity of scientific human resources capable of harnessing the indigenous knowledge-base so as to promote the competitiveness of Zambia's industry. In an effort to mainstream science, technology and innovation, Zambia has planned to construct a science centre or a science complex, an initiative which involves participation of cooperating partners as well as the private sector. Zambia appreciates efforts by UNESCO in the establishment of a national bioethics coordinating committee whose role will, among other things, include coordinating and networking the various bioethics committees in Zambia.

50.6 With respect to higher education, this sector has shown significant expansion with increasing participation of the private sector. The Government has introduced the higher education authority to provide quality assurance to the provision of higher education. In addition, the Government has also established the Zambia qualification authority whose task is to manage and develop the Zambia qualifications framework. These measures are aimed at providing a platform for the formal recognition and portability of our higher education qualifications.

50.7 With respect to information and communication, the Government is also bridging the information gap between rural and urban areas by improving more frequency modulation (FM) transmitters and introducing radio academy programmes at the University of Zambia.

50.8 With respect to culture, Zambia shares the global notion that no society can flourish without the expression and preservation of its cultural heritage. Further, Zambia is committed to the realization of the objectives of the World Heritage Convention. This convention must help to uplift the standard of life of the local community by encouraging economic activities such as investment in cultural tourism. In doing all this, we also pay tribute to UNESCO's support in providing equity and inclusiveness, and also providing for the development of energy, particularly in our rural areas. We are committed to continuing cooperation with UNESCO and the maintenance of the values and principles which will govern and guide this cooperation. We look forward, Mr President, to the successful completion and conclusion of outcomes of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Thank you.

51. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur Nkanza. Notre prochain orateur est Son Excellence M. Dato Zainidi Sidup, Ambassadeur délégué permanent du Brunei auprès de l'UNESCO. Excellence, vous avez la parole.

52.1 **Mr Zainidi Sidup** (Brunei Darussalam):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. Brunei Darussalam strongly supports the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Brunei Darussalam believes that full access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for accelerating progress towards the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals. In other words, sustainable development begins with education, and UNESCO plays a major role in the implementation of SDG 4.

52.2 In the context of Brunei Darussalam, our priority areas on education are contained in our national vision known as “Brunei Vision 2035”. By 2035, we wish to see Brunei Darussalam recognized everywhere for the accomplishments of its well-educated and highly-skilled people. We will seek to build a first-class education system that provides opportunities for every citizen and resident to meet the requirements of our changing economy, and to encourage lifelong learning as well as achievements in the field of sport and the arts.

52.3 The current Ministry of Education Strategic Plan for 2012-2017, which has been formulated in line with the objectives of Brunei Vision 2035, has identified seven grand initiatives which include, among others, Brunei technical education transformation, teacher quality and professionalism, and integrated national education information system.

52.4 Mr President, the establishment of the Institute of Brunei Technical Education is Brunei’s effort towards upgrading the technical and vocational education system. It is an expansion of the technical stream in line with the demands of technological and economic development, and responds to various government and industry initiatives. It involves collaboration with government and private industries to create innovative teaching and learning in order to produce a skilled and competitive workforce. Through this transformation, access and opportunities for absorption into technical and vocational education are widened for those who are not eligible to further their studies or for those who have dropped out of school.

52.5 In addition to this, our Ministry of Education and the Energy Department of the Prime Minister’s Office have been working very closely with the Ministry of Communication in setting up the Brunei Maritime Academy. The goal of the Academy’s establishment is to produce a professional maritime workforce and seafarers accredited by the International Maritime Organization and to meet the country’s need for personnel in the maritime industry. Mr President, other initiatives which relate to the transformation of technical education in Brunei Darussalam include expanding apprenticeship options and upgrading the training environment through the development of infrastructure to support more students.

52.6 In August 2014, the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam launched the “Brunei Teachers’ Standard” in order to raise education standards and help teachers to do their jobs even more effectively. Teachers are now provided with standards to help them reflect on their teaching practices and aspire towards providing high-quality teaching and learning experiences for their students. Another initiative is the integrated national education information system (INEIS), a centralized and integrated system for school administration, to be used by all Government schools. It is a “one system for all” initiative, where information concerning the progress of a student can be seen across all levels. INEIS integrates all school administration information such as attendance, discipline records and assessment for every student. Through INEIS, information is stored centrally so that it may be readily accessible by authorized personnel. It will provide more collaboration, transparency, efficiency, better coordination and improve foresight. With that, thank you for your kind attention.

53. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Notre prochain orateur est le Docteur Belio Kipsang, Secrétaire principal du Département d’État, au Ministère de l’éducation, des sciences et de la technologie du Kenya. Excellence, vous avez la parole.

54.1 **Mr Kipsang** (Kenya):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I join my colleagues, Mr President, in congratulating you on your election as the President of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, which is also celebrating 70 years of the Organization. On behalf of my delegation please accept our best wishes for a successful General Conference. We are confident that you will effectively discharge the business of the 38th session of the General Conference.

54.2 I now wish to congratulate Ms Irina Bokova, the Director-General, for having steered successful reforms in UNESCO and assure her of Kenya’s commitment to UNESCO’s ideals. My delegation supports the budget as outlined in draft document 38 C/5. We appreciate the current budgetary constraints and hope that more support will be provided through extrabudgetary support.

54.3 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides us with a framework for global action to build the future we want for all. UNESCO has an important role to play in supporting Member States to translate the goals into concrete action through its multisectoral and transdisciplinary approach to programme delivery.

54.4 Mr President, Kenya attaches great importance to education as a means of national development. Towards this end, the Government has integrated early childhood education into primary education. Currently we are reforming our curricula, modernizing teacher training, strengthening education and partnership. A policy framework for education and training to meet the challenges of education, training and research in the twenty-first century has been developed.

54.5 Ladies and gentlemen, quality of education depends on the quality of teachers. Teacher management has been reformed and improved to ensure optimal delivery of the curriculum. In addition, information and communication technology (ICT) integration and continuous professional development has been institutionalized.

54.6 Mr President, science, technology and innovation (STI) is the foundation of socio-economic development. We have reviewed our STI policy to address the challenges in the sub-sector. As a policy, the Government provides at least 2% of gross domestic product (GDP) to STI. Furthermore, we have established a national research fund which annually provides \$4 million for research; prepared policies for the establishment of a national physical science research laboratory; established the Kenya Institute of Nanotechnology, a university research Chairs programme and an STI mentorship programme to enhance the participation of girls in science and technology subjects at secondary school level.

54.7 We appreciate UNESCO's work on biodiversity. However, illegal wildlife trade is one of the critical global issues that deserve special attention to address the challenges. Kenya shares about 54% of our water resources with other countries and is putting measures in place to mitigate the challenges of water scarcity. We thank UNESCO for partnering with the Government in carrying out groundwater mapping to establish actual potential.

54.8 Ladies and gentlemen, Kenya remains committed to the promotion of social cohesion and reduction of inequalities. Towards this end, Kenya has instituted youth empowerment programmes. In sports, Kenya is committed to clean sport. Subsequently, the Government has established a national anti-doping organization with a mandate to prioritize education, training, testing and investigation in this field.

54.9 Mr President, Kenya has a rich varied culture which constitutes the foundation of our nation and is the cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people. To date, Kenya has six heritage sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and two elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List. Legislative measures have been put in place to preserve and manage the concerned heritage for posterity. The Government is in the process of ratifying the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.

54.10 Mr President, Kenya places information communication and technology at the heart of its national development. Kenya has a mobile subscriber penetration of 85.5% and Internet penetration of 70% which will promote a digital learning literacy programme for schools, with special emphasis for people living with disability. The Government also promotes freedom of expression and free media and will continue to create an enabling environment for the growth of broadcasting and media freedom.

54.11 In conclusion, Mr President, I would like to assure you that Kenya remains committed to UNESCO's ideals through our specialized programmes in order to promote global peace and sustainable development. Thank you very much.

55. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur Kipsang. Notre prochain orateur est Son Excellence M. Patricio Hales, Ambassadeur permanent du Chili auprès de l'UNESCO. Excellence, vous avez la parole,

56.1 **Sr. Hales (Chile) :**

Permítame señor presidente felicitarlo por su elección y asegurarle la más amplia cooperación del gobierno de Chile y la delegación en esta Conferencia General, esta es la primera vez que me dirijo a esta Conferencia y quiero decirle que me enorgullece poder contribuir con esta institución que ha sido un faro en la promoción de la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la información. Como testigos de nuestra propia historia de la humanidad a veces nos envolvemos en los episodios negativos presentes que nos ocultan los gigantescos cambios positivos que hemos conquistado en este mundo. Y no vemos muchas veces la contribución de la UNESCO al desarrollo y avance de la humanidad. Pero ninguna de las amenazas actuales nos tienen que llevar al catastrofismo, el progreso es contradictorio. La misma humanidad que ha sido capaz de conquistar los grandes avances de la ciencia es la que no es capaz de resolver que millones de personas todavía en el mundo no saben ni leer ni escribir. No somos pesimistas, somos perceptivos de las contradicciones de nuestro mundo. Grandes progresos materiales de la humanidad nos tienen hoy día enfrentados a la crisis del cambio climático. Los mismos países que hemos sido capaces de reducir a más de la mitad la pobreza, no hemos conseguido resolver nuestras propias desigualdades. Sigue vigente por tanto la razón de ser de la UNESCO y la tarea multilateral. Porque el progreso no es de efectos lineales y en su complejidad la tarea nunca se termina. Con las mismas instituciones que fuimos capaces de detener la guerra nuclear, no hemos logrado aún evitar el terrorismo, y miles de muertos, familias destruidas, olas de refugiados de magnitudes que habíamos olvidado, son la escena de hoy día. Sitios patrimoniales destruidos, arrasados, destrucción de cientos de escuelas.

56.2 Sin embargo este mismo mundo tienen cada vez más democracias. Todos los éxitos obtenidos nos deben llenar de optimismo para enfrentar estas nuevas amenazas, y sobre todo afirmar nuestra convicción de la importancia de esta institución. La promoción del multilateralismo y la responsabilidad colectiva de los estados son una misión permanente y el camino para lograr los acuerdos de paz donde en un mundo la resolución de las contradicciones del progreso tiene que ser el foco de nuestra responsabilidad. Éxitos y nuevas amenazas van a conformar siempre el mundo que tendremos que enfrentar. Entonces fortalecer a la UNESCO como la agencia especializada de las Naciones Unidas es la tarea para la promoción de la educación, la ciencia, la cultura y la información como un imperativo y una obligación moral.

56.3 Pero es necesario entonces que la organización persevere en su proceso de reforma más adaptación a los desafíos de un mundo en constante cambio, estructuras más ligeras, resultados más concretos, y financiamiento debidamente asegurado para cumplir el mandato establecido por los propios estados miembros. Mi país tiene un alta estima por lo que significa la UNESCO, apoyamos con decisión la iniciativa unidos por el patrimonio, ratificamos la convención de tráfico ilícito de bienes, inscribimos el baile chino en la lista de patrimonio, y en conjunto con nuestros hermanos de Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú, inscribimos el "Qhapaq Ñan" en la lista del Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad Chile está aportando seis (6) millones de dólares para que la oficina regional de educación en Santiago contribuya a la tarea educativa de América Latina y el Caribe, y la reforma educacional de la Presidenta Bachelet se inscribe en los objetivos de la UNESCO.

56.4 Cuatro grandes ejes de acción que guían el proceso de la reforma chilena se inscriben en el objetivo cuatro (4) de la UNESCO: Garantizar la educación inclusiva para todos y todas, Promover oportunidades de aprendizaje durable, que sean de calidad y equitativas. Uno (1) hacer de la educación un verdadero bien social, asegurar la educación pública de calidad, poner en marcha una nueva política nacional docente, desarrollar educación superior para la era del conocimiento. Y pronto se enviará al Congreso Nacional de mi país el proyecto de ley que crea el Ministerio de las Culturas y del Patrimonio, en donde uno de sus objetivos principales será sistematizar las distintas instituciones del fomento a la cultura y el patrimonio material e inmaterial con la participación de la ciudadanía. Señor Presidente los valores del acta de constitución de la UNESCO están más vigentes que nunca, reafirmamos en esta conferencia el compromiso de Chile con la defensa de la dignidad, la igualdad y el respeto entre las personas y los estados, con el mismo lenguaje respetuoso con que nos hemos dirigido hoy día a esta asamblea, y por el resguardo de la libertad y la paz como cuestiones consustanciales a la dignidad de las personas que constituyen un deber sagrado, he dicho, muchas gracias.

57. **Le Président :**

Merci beaucoup, Excellence. Mesdames et messieurs, sur ce nous avons conclu notre première partie de la journée. Et permettez-moi d'informer les Chefs de délégation et tous les délégués que la plénière reprendra cet après-midi à 15 heures précises, à 15 heures. Donc nous vous demandons un effort pour que l'on débute à temps. Je vous souhaite un agréable déjeuner. *La séance est close.* Merci.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*