

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

Friday 6 November 2015 at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa (Namibia)

1. The President:

Thank you very much. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the seventh plenary meeting of the General Conference, which will be dedicated to the general policy debate. We will briefly suspend the national statements at around 11.30 a.m. in order to welcome His Excellency the President of Kazakhstan. Before we start our statements, I wish to inform the delegates that earlier this morning the Bureau of the General Conference held its second meeting. The Secretary of the General Conference will provide a brief report on this meeting. Mr Secretary, you now have the floor.

Second report of the Bureau

2. The Secretary:

Thank you Mr President. At its second meeting this morning, the Bureau heard the progress reports of the Education and APX Commissions, as well as those of the Legal, Nominations and Credentials Committees. The Chair of the Legal Committee indicated that the Committee would complete its work today, and the Chair of the APX Commission indicated that the APX Commission was ahead of schedule. The Chairperson of the APX Commission also reported on the progress of the Working Group of the APX Commission on item 1.3, concerning the establishment of voting rights for the session. Based upon these reports, the Bureau fixed the examination by the General Conference of item 8.3 concerning the request for the admission of the Republic of Kosovo to UNESCO, to Monday 9 November at 11.30 a.m. The Bureau also decided to fix a plenary meeting in the afternoon of that same day, next Monday 9 November, to welcome the President of Bolivia and the President of Cabo Verde during their official visits to UNESCO. This plenary meeting will take place in this room from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on Monday. Finally, in view of the invitation extended by the host country, France, to attend a separate ceremony of commemoration of the end of the First World War in the morning of Wednesday, 11 November, it was decided in agreement with the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee that the election of Members of the Executive Board will be open for the heads of delegations to cast their votes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 11 November. Thank you, Mr President.

3. The President:

Thank you, Mr Rao. May I take it that the General Conference endorses the recommendations made by the Bureau? I see no objections. *It is so decided.*

General policy debate (continued)

4. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, we will now proceed with the national statements. Our first speaker this morning is His Excellency Mr Adkham Ikramov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

5.1 Mr Ikramov (Uzbekistan):

Thank you and good morning. Dear Mr President of the General Conference, dear Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, distinguished heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen. Today, as we are marking the 70th anniversary of our Organization we are presented with an opportunity to review the results of the past period as well as the devised action plans regarding UNESCO's work and increasing its impact and efficiency.

5.2 We are pleased to note that the process of drafting the 38 C/5 document was in line with the principle of results-based management and budgeting. In this respect, the identification of the expected outcomes should be based on the assessment of project effectiveness by the direct beneficiaries. Therefore, the Organization's Secretariat is entrusted with the responsible task of boosting partnerships with National Commissions for UNESCO and delegations, with more power to UNESCO field offices.

5.3 The Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 was approved as a rolling strategy, and it provides for making the necessary adjustments required to achieve the set goals. Therefore, we consider it important to stress that UNESCO's budget for 2016-2017 should be modified accordingly to reflect the considerable contribution the Organization has made to the implementation of the new internationally agreed initiatives.

5.4 Madam Director-General, we would like to voice our support for your initiative aimed at cutting the administrative costs and increasing the share of the cost of programme activities, the implication of an interdisciplinary approach in relation to each project of UNESCO. Within the framework of the regular budget for education programmes, we propose an increase in budgetary allocations for the main line of action which is in compliance with the strategic objective on the development of education systems in order to ensure quality education and extend lifelong learning opportunities for all. We believe that in the next two years UNESCO's activities should be focused on achieving practical results from the implementation of the Incheon Declaration – "Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all", and the Shanghai Consensus in the field of technical and vocational education and training, and the Qingdao Declaration on the introduction of information and communication technologies at all levels of education. In this respect, Uzbekistan is ready to share its achievements in the area of educational initiatives such as introducing multilingual compulsory secondary and vocational education for all on the scheme 9+3, in which Uzbekistan has more than 18 years' experience. Secondly, development of non-formal education opportunities for all in the field of arts, music and sports. Thirdly, promotion of ICT-based competencies of teachers.

5.5 The Republic of Uzbekistan calls for a significant increase in budgetary and extrabudgetary resources for the main lines of action in natural science, and we advocate the development of science diplomacy, based on the new strategy of the Man and the Biosphere Programme for 2015-2025 and water diplomacy, which represent the thrust of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO to reduce the negative impact on the populations in central Asia from the climate change-induced glacial lake outburst floods. Among these, special attention needs to be paid to the largest ecological catastrophe on a planetary scale in the world: the tragedy of the Aral Sea, which during the life of one generation came to the verge of extinction. The Aral Sea disaster has affected not only central Asia, but other regions too. The extremely unfavourable ecological environment, poor drinking water, and serious diseases – this is a short and by no means complete list of the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy. In this regard, it is necessary to increase UNESCO's involvement in the development of international research projects in this area.

5.6 Ladies and gentlemen, humanity exists in a single ecosystem and common market – a growing opportunity to make an impact on people's lives despite the space and time required for every individual to be responsible. A sense of belonging is an important component of motivation and responsibility. Therefore a sense of responsibility for the future of the planet should be reflected in all programmes of the Organization. Thank you for your attention.

6 The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency, including the timing of your presentation. I wish I had chocolates to give to those who are finishing on time, but I think I will speak to the Secretariat and see whether we cannot advance those chocolates afterwards. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

7.1 M. Nalbandian (Arménie) :

Madame la Directrice générale, Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, je félicite M. Stanley Simataa pour son élection en tant que Président de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, et adresse tous nos remerciements au président sortant, M. Hao Ping.

7.2 Monsieur le Président, depuis sa création en 1945, l'UNESCO a accompli un travail remarquable en réunissant les pays dans leurs efforts en faveur de la promotion de la paix et du développement durable à travers l'éducation, la science et la culture. Dans le cadre des célébrations du 70^e anniversaire, l'Arménie a accueilli la Conférence internationale sur « Le rôle de la culture dans l'Agenda du développement durable après 2015 », avec la participation des représentants de plus de 40 pays et organisations internationales. La Déclaration d'Erevan adoptée par la Conférence condamne la destruction des trésors du patrimoine culturel de l'humanité.

7.3 Malheureusement, aujourd'hui, cette question est devenue plus cruciale que jamais. À cet égard, la situation actuelle au Moyen-Orient est un sujet de grave préoccupation. La destruction par les terroristes de plusieurs lieux sacrés, des monuments culturels anciens de Palmyre et de Nimrud, l'explosion de l'église arménienne des Saints-Martyrs à Deir-ez-Zor qui abritait des restes des victimes du génocide arménien et d'autres actes barbares, constituent des crimes contre la civilisation. Ils nous rappellent les crimes semblables perpétrés contre l'héritage culturel de l'humanité – la destruction des statues monumentales de Bouddha de Bâmiyân, des mausolées de Tombouctou, des milliers de croix de pierre arméniennes au Nakhitchevan et d'autres monuments. Ces crimes, qui n'ont pas été réprimés à l'époque, ont frayé la voie à de nouvelles atrocités. L'histoire nous montre que l'impunité donne naissance à de nouveaux crimes.

(L'orateur poursuit en anglais)

7.4 Mr President, in an era when the protection and promotion of human rights are considered to be the underpinning concept for the civilized world, intolerance towards the values of civilization belonging to others, intentionally damaging or destroying cultural or religious heritage, must be condemned with the same resolve and determination as violence against people. The international community should act in a resolute and timely manner to protect what is still possible to preserve.

7.5 Mr President, Armenia has continuously drawn the attention of this high body to the appalling situation of the Armenian cultural heritage in neighbouring Azerbaijan. In the Nakhijevan region alone, thousands of medieval cross-stones, hundreds of Armenian churches, monasteries and other sacred sites have been completely destroyed by Azerbaijan in an attempt to erase all traces of the people who have inhabited the region for centuries. In its report for 2015, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom made a reference to the vandalized Armenian cemetery in Nakhijevan and reported that religious freedom in Azerbaijan has further deteriorated, including examples such as Baku's only remaining Armenian church being currently used as an archive for the Presidential administration, and the confiscated Lutheran Church being turned into a concert hall. If we – UNESCO and other international organizations – do not act today, what would be the future of those and many other endangered monuments tomorrow?

7.6 In sharp contrast to this, neighbouring Iran has made great efforts to preserve and protect the Armenian cultural heritage. The Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran, the oldest of which dates back to the seventh century, were inscribed on the World Heritage List by the Iranian Government. For our part, Armenia reconstructed the Iranian eighteenth-century Blue Mosque in Yerevan, and is going to inscribe it on the World Heritage List. Armenia tries to make its own contribution to the efforts aimed at preservation of the world's cultural heritage, including through constructive engagement in the relevant bodies of UNESCO.

7.7 Mr President, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education stipulate that education shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial and religious groups. Taking into consideration UNESCO's unique role in the sphere of education, we call upon the Organization to create within its educational programmes an overview mechanism that will examine and evaluate the textbooks of the Member States, especially in history and social sciences, with a special emphasis on exclusion of intolerance and xenophobia. Azerbaijan attempts to distort and alter the centuries-old Armenian heritage, culture and

history. In this country, the rewriting of its own history is continued by means of misappropriation or annihilation of the traces of other cultures on their territory, or even more, by privatizing the cultural heritage of neighbouring nations. A country that appeared on the political map of the world less than 100 years ago has territorial and cultural claims towards a country and a people, the several millenniums' history of which is recorded from ancient times. Armenia is strongly committed to the ideals and goals of UNESCO and will continue expanding its involvement in UNESCO initiatives and programmes. Thank you.

8. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency for concluding your intervention before time. Our next speaker is His Excellency Dr Riad Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

9.1 السيد ملكي (فلسطين):

بعد السيد رئيس المؤتمر، سعادة المديرية العامة، سعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، لقد جئتمكم اليوم ووطني وشعبي يتعرض من جديد إلى عدوان غاشم يطال البشر والحجر، ولا يستثنى الأطفال والشيوخ والنساء، عدوان متواصل تشنه إسرائيل السلطة القائمة بالاحتلال وتستهدف من خلاله إلغاء الوجود الفلسطيني على أرض آباءه وأجداده. ومنذ النكبة في عام 1948 وحتى اليوم ومحاولات إلغاء الهوية الفلسطينية متواصلة بشتى الطرق، بما فيها القتل والتدمير والتهجير. لكن شعبنا أثبت للعالم مرة تلو الأخرى أنه متحذر وباق في أرضه إلى الأبد كما فعل على مدار أكثر من 10 آلاف عام. حيث يواصل الاحتلال الإسرائيلي انتهاكاته المنهجية وواسعة النطاق لحقوق شعبنا الفلسطيني وخاصة حقه في تقرير المصير وغيرها من الحقوق في مجال الاختصاص اليونسكو. ويواصل على الرغم من كافة القرارات والمناشدات الدولية بالتوسع على حساب أصحاب الأرض الأصليين، من خلال بناء المستوطنات غير الشرعية، وبمنح الحماية للمستوطنين، وبمحاصر قطاع غزة، ويرتكب جرائم ضد الإنسانية وجرائم تقع ضمن اختصاص المحكمة الجنائية الدولية، ويقطع الأشجار وخاصة أشجار الزيتون الفلسطينية التي يعود عمرها إلى ثلاثة آلاف عام، بالإضافة إلى ما تقوم به الآن في مدينة الخليل من جرائم تنفيذها عصابات المستوطنين المدعومة من قبل قوات الاحتلال، وهو مشهد يتكرر في مدينة القدس المحتلة، في مسجد الأقصى المبارك، في محاولة لتقسيم الحرم الشريف زمنياً ومكانياً الأمر الذي قد يؤدي في حال تواصله إلى نزاع ديني لا تحمد عقباه.

9.2 ويتعرض التراث الفلسطيني إلى التدمير والاستيلاء الممنهج، حيث صادرت واستولت إسرائيل السلطة القائمة بالاحتلال على المواقع التاريخية والثقافية والدينية والطبيعية، وجرفت حارة المغاربة في البلدة القديمة في القدس، وأخضعت التراث الثقافي لتشريعاتها، وتستخدم نظامها القضائي لتبرير أعمالها غير القانونية، حيث تم تقدير ما تم نهبه سنوياً بين الأعوام 1967 و1992 بمئتي ألف قطعة أثرية وهو مستمر حتى الآن. ويجادل الاحتلال أن تزوير التاريخ والحقائق التاريخية الأصلية للمنطقة عن طريق استمرار حفريات غير القانونية في مدينة القدس القديمة، وفي أماكن أخرى من الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة، لطمس المعالم الأثرية والتراثية ذات الهوية الفلسطينية والكنعانية التي تدل على هوية الأرض من قدم التاريخ. ويعمل بشكل غير قانوني بفرض مناهجه على المدارس في مدينة القدس الشرقية، فكافة هذه الإجراءات تعد انتهاكاً للقانون الإنساني الدولي بما فيها اتفاقية لاهاي لعام 1954 بشأن حماية الممتلكات الثقافية في حالة النزاع المسلح وبروتوكولاتها وغيرها من اتفاقيات اليونسكو. ومن الأمثلة الصارخة أيضاً هو بناء ما يدعى بمركز سيمون فرتنل متحف التسامح في القدس الغربية على مقبرة مأمون الله الأثرية، وقد أدت عمليات الحفريات في المقبرة إلى تدمير مئات القبور التاريخية الأثرية حيث يعود تاريخ هذه المقبرة إلى القرن السابع.

9.3 سيدي الرئيس، سنعمل جاهدين للدفاع عن شعبنا وحقوقه وفق القانون الدولي. ومطالبة كافة المحافل الدولية ذات الصلة بالقيام بالولاية المنوطة بها وتحمل مسؤوليتها إيداء ما يقوم به الاحتلال من انتهاكات على أرض دولة فلسطين وضد الشعب الفلسطيني. فقد طالبنا مجلس الأمن بتحمل مسؤولياته في الحفاظ الأمن والسلم، وإنشاء نظام حماية دولية للشعب الفلسطيني. ونعمل مع الدول الأعضاء في الجمعية العامة لمواجهة سياسات الاحتلال غير الشرعية. كما توجهنا إلى مجلس حقوق الإنسان للاضطلاع بمسؤوليته في حماية الشعب الفلسطيني من خلال آلياته المعتمدة وغيرها من المؤسسات الدولية. والآن فإننا نطالب منظمة اليونسكو والدول الأعضاء، أن تقوم بإنفاذ الاتفاقيات المؤسسة لعمل المنظمة، وتوفير الحماية لأرض فلسطين وشعبها وتراثها الفكري والحضاري، فهي أرض تراث عالمي ثقافي وطبيعي وذات قيمة نادرة واستثنائية يستوجب صونه وحمايته، وهي أرض الرسالات السماوية ومسرى الأنبياء. ندعو الدول الأعضاء للوفاء بالتزاماتهم وتفعيل أحكام الاتفاقيات الخاصة باليونسكو، بما فيها حظر استيراد وتصدير ونقل ملكية الممتلكات الثقافية التي يستولي عليها الاحتلال من أرض دولة فلسطين المحتلة بطرق غير مشروعة، وإعادة تأهيلها إلى بلادها الأصلية. وسنعمل على ملاحقة أي طرف يثبت تورطه في التعامل مع الآثار المسروقة من فلسطين، بما فيها تلك الدول التي تقبل أن يعرض في متاحفها هذا التراث المسروق، كما حدث سابقاً مع مخطوطات البحر الميت التي سرقها سلطة الاحتلال عام 1967 من متحف فلسطين الأثري في القدس. هذا بالإضافة إلى تطبيق قرارات المنظمة بما يخص فلسطين وإرسال بعثة تقصي الحقائق للاطلاع على انتهاكات الاحتلال ضد مقدراتنا وممتلكاتنا الثقافية والتراثية، والأهم حماية الإنسان الفلسطيني حامي هذه الثقافة والتراث، والتاريخ، فخلف هذه الحجارة والآثار يوجد شعب متأصل في أرضه، يتوق إلى الحرية وإلى الاستقلال. ومن هنا فإننا نؤكد إدانتنا لأي اعتداء يطال الأماكن التراثية في دولة فلسطين المحتلة، وفي أي مكان في العالم بما في ذلك مواقع التراث في سوريا والعراق، وجميع الأخطار التي تتهدد الممتلكات الثقافية والتراثية.

9.4 السيد الرئيس، السيدات والسادة، إن نضال شعبنا الفلسطيني من أجل الحرية والكرامة والعودة، كان دائماً على جدول أعمال الأمم المتحدة منذ نشأتها قبل 70 عاماً، ففقدان الأمل أيتها السيدات والسادة هو أعنى أعداء السلام، واليأس هو أقوى حلفاء التطرف. وشكراً

10. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Madiha Alshaibaniya, Minister of Education of Oman. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

11.1 السيدة الشيبانية (عمان):

سعادة رئيس المؤتمر العام لليونسكو، سعادة رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، معالي المديرية العامة لليونسكو، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود، أيتها الحضور الكريم. يطيب لي أن أقدم لكم جميعاً بخالص التحية والتقدير ويشرفني أن أنتهز هذه المناسبة لأنتقل إليكم جميعاً تحيات حضرة صاحب الجلالة السلطان قابوس بن سعيد المعظم سلطان عُمان، ودعوته الصادقة لهذا المؤتمر بالتوفيق شاكراً باسم وفد بلادي سلطنة عُمان معالي إربينا بوكوفا المديرية العامة لليونسكو، على الدور الذي تقوم به لتحقيق أهداف المنظمة وغاياتها النبيلة. كما يسرني أن أقدم بالتهنئة الصادقة للسيد ستانلي سيمانا لانتخابه رئيساً للمؤتمر العام لليونسكو في دورته الثامنة والثلاثين متمنية له التوفيق في أداء عمله بالتعاون مع أجهزة المنظمة وممثلي الدول الأعضاء.

11.2 الحضور الكريم، إن سلطنة عُمان إذ تشارك اليونسكو احتفالها بمرور سبعين عاماً على إنشائها، لتعرب عن تقديرها البالغ للدور الذي تقوم به المنظمة لتحقيق أهدافها الاستراتيجية وما أحدثته من نقلة نوعية في مجال تطوير التعليم وتحجوده، وضوء التراث الثقافي للإنسانية، وتعزيز تنوع أشكال التعبير الثقافي للبشرية، ودورها في حماية البيئة واستدامة مواردها، والحد من مخاطر الكوارث الطبيعية الناتجة عن التغيرات المناخية.

11.3 سعادة الرئيس، يمثل عام 2015 بداية مرحلة انتقالية لعمل المجتمع الدولي، بعد أن اعتمدت قمة الأمم المتحدة خطتها الطموحة للتنمية المستدامة 2030 التي تنسجم مع رسالة اليونسكو وتوجهاتها. ومواكبة لهذا الجانب، فقد حرصت سلطنة عُمان على جعل التنمية المستدامة مركزاً لسياساتها التنموية في

المجالات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية، من خلال الاستثمار في التعليم، بتبني برامج وأنشطة تهدف إلى اكساب الشباب مفاهيم التنمية المستدامة. حيث أكد مشروع الاستراتيجية الوطنية للتعليم 2040 ضرورة توافق مسارات نظام التعليم في مراحله المختلفة مع الأهداف الوطنية للتنمية المستدامة ومتطلباتها.

11.4 الحضور الكريم، إن ما تشهده بعض الأقاليم في هذا العالم من صراعات واضطرابات يستوجب علينا مضاعفة الجهود لنشر ثقافة السلام، وتعزيز قيم التسامح والمواطنة، ومبادئ حقوق الإنسان. وإنما إذ نشيد بالخطوات الملموسة التي تقوم بها اليونسكو لتتطلع إلى مواصلة جهودها في هذا الإطار مؤكدين أهمية التعاون بين الدول والمنظمات لتوطيد أوصل المحبة بين الشعوب. إن سلطنة عُمان ترجمت عبر تاريخها الطويل التسامح والتفاهم مع الشعوب، والحوار بين الثقافات، حيث تفاعلت مع الأمم الأخرى من خلال التواصل التجاري والثقافي، ولا تزال كذلك إلى يومنا الحاضر. وامتداداً لهذا الدور يأتي دعم السلطنة المادي والمعنوي لمشروع المنصة الإلكترونية لطريق الحرير الذي تتبناه منظمة اليونسكو كجزء من برامجها في الاهتمام بقضايا الحوار والتواصل بين الحضارات. كما أن أسبوع التقارب والوثام الإنساني الذي ينظم سنوياً في سلطنة عُمان، ومعرض رسالة الإسلام في عُمان الذي أقيم في أكثر من ستين مدينة حول العالم، آخرها مقر اليونسكو بباريس، من الشواهد الواضح على سعي السلطنة لخدمة التفاهم والوثام الديني والحضاري وتيسير التواصل بين الثقافات.

11.5 الحضور الكريم، رغم المكاسب التي حققها العالم في الفترة الماضية في مجال التعليم، إلا أنه ما زالت هناك العديد من التحديات تمثل هاجساً كبيراً لدى الحكومات والمؤسسات التعليمية، من بينها تجويد التعليم وتطويره ومواكبته للمستجدات العالمية، وربطه بسوق العمل في عالم مستدام مبني على المعرفة. وإذ نعبر عن ارتياحنا بإدراج الهدف المتعلق بضمان التعليم الجيد والشامل للجميع ضمن جدول أعمال التنمية العالمية، فإنه يتحتم علينا العمل سوياً على إيجاد بيئة مناسبة للعمل على بلوغ غايات التعليم وأهدافه لما بعد عام 2015. ومن هذا المنطلق، فقد استضافت سلطنة عُمان الاجتماع العالمي للجميع خلال شهر أيار/مايو من عام 2014، وذلك بهدف تقييم التقدم المنجز في تحقيق الأهداف الستة لمبادرة التعليم.

11.6 سعادة الرئيس، إن تأكيد المجتمع الدولي خلال انعقاد قمة الأمم المتحدة للتنمية المستدامة في نيويورك، بشأن التصدي لظاهرة التغير المناخي، وما ينتج عنه من كوارث طبيعية وتدهور التنوع البيولوجي، يدعونا لبذل مزيد من الجهد لمعالجة الأسباب المؤدية إلى تغير المناخ، وتسريع التحول نحو اقتصاد عالمي أفضل، سعياً للوصول إلى التوازن المطلوب بين التنمية والمحافظة على البيئة.

11.7 سعادة الرئيس، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، إن الدور الذي تقوم به منظمة اليونسكو في نشر رسالتها الداعية إلى السلم والعدالة والحرية في كافة أنحاء العالم، يلقي على الجميع مسؤولية الحفاظ على الإسهامات الإنسانية لهذه المنظمة وصولاً إلى مستقبل أكثر إشراقاً. وفقنا الله جميعاً لما فيه الخير، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

12. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

13.1 Г-н Лавров (Российская Федерация):

Уважаемая госпожа Генеральный директор, уважаемый господин Председатель, дамы и господа. Нынешний год, когда мы отмечаем 70-летие ЮНЕСКО, ведущей международной организации в сфере гуманитарного сотрудничества, наполнен значимыми для всех датами. 70 лет назад завершилась Вторая мировая война, ставшая самым кровопролитным и разрушительным конфликтом в истории человечества. Для того, чтобы подобная трагедия больше никогда не повторилась, было принято историческое решение о создании Организации Объединенных Наций. Тогда государства-участники антигитлеровской коалиции смогли подняться над амбициями и разногласиями и достичь компромисса в интересах создания системы международной безопасности, которая, как отметил Президент В.В.Путин, уберегла мир от масштабных потрясений.

13.2 Семь десятилетий назад такая созидательная философия сотрудничества была востребована, востребована она и сегодня и должна оставаться нашим ключевым ориентиром. Международные отношения вступили в переходный период, связанный с объективным процессом формирования новой полицентричной системы мироустройства, отражающей географическое, экономическое, цивилизационное многообразие современного мира, самобытность народов, их естественное стремление самим определять свою судьбу. Этот процесс развивается непросто, сопровождается повышением нестабильности в мировых делах, усилением конкуренции во всех областях, включая модели социально-экономического развития и ценностные ориентиры.

13.3 В таких условиях необходимо уделять особое внимание недопущению углубления межцивилизационных и межконфессиональных разломов, наращиванию широкого общечеловеческого партнерства, которое является важнейшей составляющей позитивной, устремленной в будущее международной повестки дня.

13.4 Хочу в развитие того, что сказала в своем выступлении на открытии сессии Генеральный директор Ирина Бокова, цитируя Льва Толстого, сказать следующее. Великий русский писатель видел подлинную перспективу человечества в избавлении от насилия, лжи и лицемерия, в совершенствовании нравственного облика людей. Трудно переоценить в этой связи значимость ЮНЕСКО, которая уверенно утвердилась в качестве надежной гуманитарной опоры глобальной архитектуры, общепризнанного форума по защите духовного и культурного наследия.

13.5 Можно сказать, что оправдались надежды участников первой сессии Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО, которые возложили на нее благородную роль формирования интеллектуальных и моральных условий, необходимых для обеспечения эффективной работы всей системы ООН. И сегодня Организация призвана способствовать укреплению атмосферы доверия и взаимопонимания между странами и народами, продвижению непреходящих нравственных ценностей, общих для всех основных мировых религий и культур. Рассчитываем на деятельное участие ЮНЕСКО в противодействии нетерпимости, национализму, дискриминации. Необходимо максимально поощрять взаимоуважительный межцивилизационный, межкультурный, межконфессиональный диалог.

13.6 Глубокую озабоченность вызывает всплеск терроризма и насильственного экстремизма на Ближнем Востоке и Севере Африки, где боевики т.н. «Исламского государства» и им подобные совершают массовые убийства мирных граждан, оскверняют ислам, осуществляют агрессию против всех религий. Наблюдается массовый исход из региона христиан, что грозит разрушить исторический межконфессиональный баланс, межконфессиональное сосуществование на Ближнем Востоке. Во многом все это стало следствием ослабленных

или разрушенных, в том числе при вмешательстве извне, государственных институтов целого ряда стран региона, безответственных попыток геополитической инженерии, навязывания народам чуждых им рецептов без учета их традиций, их истории и их наследия.

13.7 Когда варварски уничтожаются бесценные памятники мировых цивилизаций – будь то в Сирии, Ираке, Афганистане или Косово, – особенно необходимы коллективные усилия по сохранению общечеловеческой культуры. Для этого есть правовая основа – Конвенция ООН о защите культурных ценностей в случае вооруженного конфликта 1954 года. Напомню, что при ее подготовке были использованы идеи нашего соотечественника Николая Константиновича Рериха, заложенные в разработанный 80 лет назад первый многосторонний акт в этой области. Как только варвары будут изгнаны с территорий, где расположены объекты всемирного наследия, ЮНЕСКО должна направить туда свои миссии для оценки нанесенного ущерба и подготовки планов восстановления бесценных религиозных и культурных святынь.

13.8 Компетенция ЮНЕСКО востребована и для реализации принятой в Нью-Йорке в сентябре Глобальной повестки дня в области развития до 2030 года, в ней зафиксированы новые амбициозные задачи по достижению Целей устойчивого развития, в том числе в сферах образования и культуры.

13.9 Россия является одним из наиболее активных членов ЮНЕСКО, участвует во всех ее программах в сферах образования, естественных и социальных наук, коммуникации. Роль России как одного из творцов мировой культуры, ее многовековой опыт сосуществования этносов и конфессий предполагают особую ответственность нашей страны в деле мобилизации коллективных усилий на решение стоящих перед ЮНЕСКО масштабных задач.

13.10 Эти усилия подрываются в результате получившей развитие в последнее время практики применения отдельными государствами дискриминационных мер в отношении деятелей культуры и искусства, в отношении журналистов, в результате запрета на ввоз выставочных экспонатов, не говоря уже о сносе памятников героям Второй мировой войны в политкорректной Европе при красноречивом молчании многих западных лидеров, как будто наш континент не испытал на себе все ужасы нацизма, как будто и не было Нюрнбергского трибунала. Любая политизация гуманитарных связей неприемлема. Считаю крайне опасными попытки спекулировать на гуманитарном характере деятельности ЮНЕСКО для решения односторонних политических задач, как это делают некоторые наши коллеги, всеми правдами и неправдами продвигая тему о членстве Косово в грубое нарушение Резолюции 1244 Совета Безопасности ООН. Тревожат и множатся факты о действиях государств по воспрепятствованию реализации прав человека на интеллектуальное общение. Мы предлагаем принять международный документ в поддержку свободного характера обменов и сотрудничества в области культуры, искусств, науки, образования в полном соответствии с целями и ценностями нашей организации, призванной содействовать укреплению мира и безопасности путем расширения сотрудничества в сферах своей компетенции. Спасибо за внимание.

14. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, Minister of Education of Ghana. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

15.1 **Ms Opoku-Agyemang (Ghana):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General of UNESCO, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, and on behalf of all the people of Ghana, my delegation brings you all greetings and felicitations to UNESCO for 70 years of promoting world peace. President Mahama was here in person on 5 October to join in the anniversary celebrations. No doubt the admirable and effective leadership of its current Director-General, Her Excellency Irina Bokova, has played a significant role in bringing this Organization this far. We congratulate the President of this session of the General Conference as well, and pledge our full support for him.

15.2 Mr President, UNESCO ably led the world to make huge improvements in education under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and even if there is a lot of work to be done and we have started with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we trust in the ability of our Organization to continue to make a difference by working towards global peace through education. Ghana's post-2015 agenda on education will focus on four main policy thrusts in line with the Education 2030 Framework for Action, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and in line with the holistic concept of education. We will improve equitable access to and participation in quality education at all levels, strengthen and rebrand technical and vocational training to make it more responsive to the world of work, improve the quality of teaching and learning at all levels, and improve management of education service delivery with focus on efficiency.

15.3 Mr President, Ghana's response to growing youth unemployment is to reform technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and general skills development. Significant steps include the following: establishment of a broad-based governance structure which includes statutory national technical committees with wide stakeholder representation; establishment of a national TVET qualifications framework, which is being operationalized; adoption of a competency-based training model, with emphasis on strong linkages with industry, which has been piloted and is being rolled out; crafting of a national TVET policy; and establishment of a national apprenticeship programme to cater for the huge informal sector in Ghana. We look forward to collaborations and support in this critical area.

15.4 Mr President, the Ghana delegation appreciates the Man and the Biosphere Programme strategy, which provides a framework to contribute to the global Sustainable Development Goals. As Chair of the African Network of Biosphere Reserves, Ghana has enlisted other ecosystems on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, as model sites of excellence for sustainable development. We recognize support by UNESCO and the Governments of Germany and Korea for the Green Economy in Biosphere Reserves (GEBR) project, being implemented in the biosphere reserve in the western region of Ghana to conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty. We urge UNESCO to further strengthen its

programme in the water sciences, that is, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Hydrological Programme, as well as the intersectoral geoparks programme.

15.5 Mr President, the Ghana delegation applauds UNESCO's advocacy role in promoting cultural diversity and understanding between cultures in Member States. UNESCO has the merit of having called attention to the strong link between culture and development and continues to promote actions including research in this area. A survey, sponsored by UNESCO and conducted by the Ghana National Commission on Culture on the impact of indigenous Ghanaian industries on the national economy, revealed that the broad cultural and creative sector is an enormous asset, with the potential to create wealth in the country. In consequence, the parliament of Ghana ratified seven UNESCO cultural conventions to fully harness this linkage for socio-economic progress.

15.6 Mr President, UNESCO and the Africa Union have made good progress at pushing forward the second phase of the *General History of Africa* project, which the Government of Ghana is fully committed to because it seeks to contribute to the renewal of the teaching of history of Africa by promoting mutual understanding, regional integration and peace. The project now requires urgent mobilization of additional funds to guarantee its effective implementation and sustainability. The Government of Ghana will cooperate with others in this worthy cause.

15.7 Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, in a world where technology is a key driver of development, Ghana is leveraging ICT to achieve our educational targets as captured in our national education sector plan. Current focus is on ICT in education generally, with special emphasis on distance learning. We also appreciate UNESCO's continued efforts in the training of journalists in climate change reporting. The Africa College of Communications in Ghana has received technical and financial support, and now one of its courses on media and gender is offered to all students in the arts programme. UNESCO's partnership with the National Youth Authority and the Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence to train youth in mobile applications is receiving good support.

15.8 Ghana looks forward to continuous collaboration with UNESCO in creating a world capable of rising above its current challenges and moving into an era of shared prosperity and lasting peace for all. I thank you for your kind attention.

16. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Costas Kadis, Minister of Education and Culture of Cyprus. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

17.1 **Mr Kadis (Cyprus):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, for 70 years UNESCO has been conducting pioneering work worldwide. Its vision to build lasting peace is still pertinent and highly significant in addressing contemporary challenges. Cyprus fully embraces the key objectives, which govern UNESCO's mandate.

17.2 Recently, we have all been witnessing the irreparable destruction of world heritage sites in war-torn countries and the serious violation of fundamental human rights. Cultural heritage does not only concern monuments, but mostly human values and identities. We are all responsible, therefore, for protecting this heritage against all possible threats. Unfortunately, Cyprus's cultural heritage still suffers extensively from the results of war and military occupation, with the fate of thousands of invaluable archaeological, historical, ethnographic and ecclesiastical artefacts remaining unknown. Cypriot cultural goods, as a result of looting and illicit trafficking, are frequently located in auction houses and art markets abroad. Fortunately, some of our efforts to repatriate such cultural goods have been successful. The Republic of Cyprus has signed numerous bilateral agreements with other countries, willing to join forces in the effort to protect cultural heritage and combat illicit trafficking.

17.3 As far as cultural property from Iraq and Syrian Arab Republic is concerned, the competent authorities of Cyprus are on high alert, especially due to our geographical proximity to these countries. Moreover, as of September 2015, Cyprus is a member of the subsidiary committee of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, fostering creativity and protecting the diversity of cultural expressions, through promoting regional and international cooperation, are also of paramount importance. Cyprus acknowledges the role of culture, cultural expressions and creative industries as driving forces for development. We greatly share the vision of UNESCO, the United Nations and the European Union for a more integrated approach towards culture, aiming at mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and economic development.

17.4 Furthermore, the preservation of natural resources and the biodiversity of our planet are essential in building sustainable societies. A great achievement for our country is the recent inclusion of Troodos Mountain in the Global Geoparks Network, as a significant example of geodiversity.

17.5 At the heart of every transformative process lies education. UNESCO has paved the way for the promotion of education for all (EFA), and we believe it should continue to play a leading role in the post-2015 education agenda. Two days ago, the Education 2030 Framework for Action was formally adopted during the special high-level meeting. In this regard, Cyprus will continue to expand its efforts toward inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all. Quality education requires professional and committed educators at all levels. Consequently, Cyprus has developed and adopted recently a series of policies focusing on the quality of our teachers.

17.6 Mr President, in concluding, I wish to reiterate our commitment to contribute to the realization of UNESCO's mission, which is peace-building through education, culture and science. In Cyprus there is an ongoing negotiation process aiming to reach a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus is fully committed to this process; a process which, should it be concluded successfully, will give unprecedented impetus to peace and sustainable development in our country and the wider region, and will thus be in line with UNESCO's objectives and values. Thank you for your attention.

18. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Bader Aleisa, Minister of Education and Higher Education of Kuwait. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

19.1 السيد العيسى (الكويت) :

السيد ستانليه سيماتا، رئيس الدورة الثامنة والثلاثين للمؤتمر العام، السيد محمد سامح عمرو رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة إيرينا بوكوفا المدير العام لمنظمة اليونسكو، معالي الوزراء، السيدات والسادة رؤساء الوفود، سعادة السفراء المندوبون لدى منظمة اليونسكو، السيدات والسادة. أتقدم إليكم بأطيب التحيات وأنقل إليكم تحيات أمير دولة الكويت القائد الإنساني الشيخ صباح الأحمد الجابر الصباح وشعب وحكومة دولة الكويت. ويطيب لنا أن نعبّر عن تقديرنا للجهود الدؤوبة التي تقوم بها منظمة اليونسكو في عالم تعصف به الكوارث وتنتابه الأزمات والحروب والتطرف. حيث يمثل الأطفال أولى ضحاياها الأكثر هشاشة وعرضة لآثارها الجسدية والنفسية على حد سواء. ومن أجل حماية الأطفال من آثار النزاعات المسلحة، فإننا ندعو إلى استئصال بذور الحرب والعنف وذلك من خلال ترسيخ مفهوم "تربية السلام" وإرساء "ثقافة سلام" للحفاظ على قيمة الإنسان وكرامته. وجزءاً من النزاعات، تتعرض جميع فئات المجتمع للمخاطر، إلا إن النساء يشكّلن في الحقيقة الفريسة الأولى للتهميش والفرق والمعاملة الناجمة من النزاعات المسلحة، كما أن العنف أو مجرد التهديد باستخدامه يمثل أهم عقبة تحول دون تحقيق المساواة التامة للمرأة. فكرامة الإنسان وحقوق المرأة والرجل معاً، وحقوق الأطفال جميعها تمثل أحد أهم أولوياتنا في رسم سياساتنا المختلفة. وفي هذا السياق، جاء تبرع دولة الكويت الأخير بمبلغ 5 مليون دولار لدعم مبادرات اليونسكو التربوية وغيرها من المساهمات المالية تعبيراً عن إيمان دولة الكويت بنشر هذه القيم والمبادئ الإنسانية ودعم منظمة اليونسكو للقيام بدورها الإنساني الكبير. والتزاماً من دولة الكويت بالتصدي لمعاملة الأطفال وحرمانهم من التعليم بسبب الحروب، وانطلاقاً من أن التعليم يمثل مدخلاً رئيساً للاستقرار، فقد قررت دولة الكويت استضافة مؤتمر ماخين لدعم التعليم في الصومال كمرحلة أولى على أمل تكرار التجربة في دول أخرى بالمنطقة، وذلك بالاشتراك مع جمهورية الصومال ومنظمي اليونسكو وايسسكسو.

19.2 السيدات والسادة، تُعرب دولة الكويت عن تقديرها وتأييدها لمبادرة اليونسكو حماة التحالف الدولي "متحدون مع التراث" والتي تشكّل رداً على تهديد عالمي مستمر يرمي إلى تدمير التراث الثقافي الإنساني وتحديدًا في منطقة الشرق الأوسط مصدر الحضارات الإنسانية القديمة. إن الدمار المتواصل الذي يتعرض له تراثنا جراء هجمات تقوم بها مجموعات إرهابية اتخذت من مواقعنا الثقافية معقل لها يدفعنا إلى الدعوة لتعزيز هذا التحالف العالمي وتوسيع أفاقه من خلال اطلاق عقد أُممي للفترة من 2015 إلى 2024 يهدف إلى التصدي وحماية التراث الإنساني، والحفاظ عليه لأجيالنا القادمة. إننا اليوم نواجه جميعاً موجات من التطرف العنفي بأشكاله المختلفة منها الديني والعنصري والسياسي مما يفرض علينا جميعاً توحيد جهودنا لمواجهة من خلال إقامة الحوار ونشر ثقافة السلام فيما بين مجتمعاتنا ودخلها.

19.3 السيدات والسادة، إن الكويت ترحب بنتائج المنتدى العالمي للتربية المنعقد في إنشويون خلال شهر أيار/مايو الماضي، وللإعلان الخاص بالتعليم لغاية 2030، والذي خلص إلى تحديد خارطة طريق عملية للتعليم، مما سيمكن الدول والشركاء من حشد طاقاتها لتنفيذ جدول الأعمال العالمي من أجل ضمان انتفاع الجميع بفرص تعليمية متكافئة، ونؤكد في هذا الصدد على الإمكانيات الهائلة التي يوفرها التعليم باعتباره قوة تحويلية تسهم في تحقيق التنمية المستدامة والقضاء على الفقر من على وجه الأرض.

19.4 السيدات والسادة، يمثل عدم إقرار سياسة عالمية موحدة لمواجهة نتائج تغيّر المناخ تحد تواجهه دولنا النامية، وبالأخص تلك الأشد فقراً والأكثر هشاشة، فهذه الظاهرة تزيد من حدة المخاطر والتحديات التي تواجهها هذه البلدان وتتعدّد جهودها الرامية إلى تقليص الفقر وتقف حائلاً أمام تنميتها وازدهارها ذلك أن هناك صلة غير قابلة للفصم بين تغيّر المناخ وآثاره من جهة والتنمية وتقدم البشرية من جهة أخرى، وعليه، فإن دولة الكويت تأمل أن يخلق المؤتمر القادم للدول الأطراف في الاتفاقية الإطارية للأمم المتحدة حول التغيّرات المناخية COP21 الذي سيعقد من 30 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر إلى 11 كانون الأول/ديسمبر القادم، عالماً يُعنى جدياً بالمناخ.

19.5 السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، تود دولة الكويت أن تعرب عن تقديرها للمديرية العامة وللأمانة العامة ورئيس وأعضاء المجلس التنفيذي لموافقته على إنشاء مركزين تحت رعاية اليونسكو من الفئة الثانية في الكويت أحدهما عالمي يُعنى بتمكن الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة عن طريق تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال، والآخر يختص ببحوث المياه مما سيساهم دون شك في بلوغ أهداف منظمنا على صعيدي تمكين الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة وادماجهم في مجتمعات المعرفة، والتصدي للتحديات المائية في المناطق التي تندر فيها المياه. وفي الختام، نعرب عن تقديرنا للأمانة العامة لمنظمة اليونسكو لجهودها المبذولة من أجل صون التراث الثقافي لمدينة القدس القديمة.

20. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Thank you very much. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Raymond Araygi, Minister of Culture of Lebanon. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

21.1 السيد عريجي (لبنان) :

السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، السادة رؤساء الوفود، السيدات والسادة، أتوجّه بالتهنئة لرئيس المؤتمر العام، كما أُمن جهود المديرية العامة ومنوّهاً بفعالية رئيس المجلس التنفيذي. مع تمنيات النجاح للمنظمة في دورتها الثامنة والثلاثين. تُعزّزني لحظة أمل وفتح، في هذه القاعة الحاضنة لمثلي الدول، تحت شعار تناغم الحضارات وتكاتف ثقافات البشر وإعلاء شمولية إنسانية الإنسان على كوكبنا الصّغير. وإذ نُؤكد اعتزازنا اليوم، بأنّ لبنان كان بين الدول المؤسسة لليونسكو، إيماناً بدور الثقافة والعلوم في تطوير المجتمع البشري. فإنّ رسالة اليونسكو ثابتة في توجهاتنا والممارسة. ومن هذا المنطلق، يطمح لبنان لنيل مقعد في المجلس التنفيذ لليونسكو من خلال الانتخابات التي ستجري في الشهر الجاري.

21.2 السيدات والسادة، يعيش الشرق الأوسط والعالم العربي تحدياً، مرحلة تذابح وتهجير وهدم لمعالم الحضارات، لأسباب خارجية ترتبط بمصالح "الدول، ولأسباب داخلية هي نتاج الفقر والامية، وإلى غياب الديمقراطية وتنامي الأصولية الإرهابية الإلغائية التي دمرت أسس دول ومعالم الحضارة وهجرت أقلبيات ومجموعات بشرية في المنطقة، كانت متجذرة فيها منذ آلاف السنين في العراق وسوريا. إنّ فكرة إنشاء اليونسكو ولدت إبان الحرب العالمية الثانية يوم كان الحلفاء يواجهون الفكر الإلغائي. ما أحوجنا اليوم إلى استنهاض قيم التنوير لوقف موجات الحقد والإلغاء الجسدي والفكري في غير يؤرّة من أصقاع الأرض. ولقد جاء في ديباجة الميثاق التأسيسي لليونسكو "لما كانت الحروب تتوّد في عقول البشر، ففي عقولهم يجب أن تُبنى حصون السلام". إننا اليوم، كمسؤولين ومعنا قادة الرأي ومؤسسات الفكر، مدعوون إلى بناء ثقافة السلام، كي لا تبقى مبادئ اليونسكو مثلاً بعيداً يُرتجى، في احترام القيم والحريات وخصائص الشعوب. وليس سوى المعرفة والعلوم وسيلة لبناء المجتمعات الحرة المثقفة المنورة. ولا بدّ من التنويه بأن لبنان حقق إلزامية التعليم في المرحلة الابتدائية، كما فتحت المدارس اللبنانية الرسمية أبوابها لتعليم الاطفال من النازحين السوريين في فترة بعد الظهر وهم بعشرات الآلاف.

21.3 السيدات والسادة، لعل أظن ما نشهد على شاشاتنا ووسائل التواصل، موجات من الأطفال والنساء والرجال الهاربين بحراً وبراً، من الجازر في بلدانهم. في المخيمات على أرض لبنان اليوم، حوالي مليون ونصف نازح سوري وحوالي 500 ألف لاجئ فلسطيني في ظروف صعبة يتوّء بهم لبنان، وهو بحاجة لدعم

الدول والمؤسسات العالمية للقيام بأعباء الرعاية. إنّ مأساة النازحين السوريين، تشكل أزمة كبيرة للبنان على غير صعيد، خاصة أن عددهم بات يشكل نسبة ما تفوق 30 في المائة من عدد سكانه. إنني من عبر هذا المنبر أناشد الدول والمنظمات العالمية - إلى جانب المساعدات التي تمنحها للنازحين، أن تقدم الدعم مباشرة إلى الدولة اللبنانية لمساعدتها على رعايتهم. إن المجتمع الدولي مُطالب بإنهاء الحرب واحلال السلام في سوريا تمهيداً لعودة النازحين إلى وطنهم. كما هو مكالم بإيجاد حل عادل للمأساة الفلسطينية تضمن عودة الأرض والحقوق إلى أصحابها. هومٌ كبيرة تنتظر حلولاً كبرى. وبسبب الحروب وانعدام الاستقرار، تتعرض المعالم الحضارية إلى تدمير المواقع الأثرية والنهب والتخريب في الأسواق العالمية السوداء.

21.4 إنني إذ أتمنّ دور اليونسكو وجهود المديرية العامة في حماية هذا الإرث الحضاري المهدّد، أؤكد التزام لبنان الكامل بالمعاهدات وقرارات مجلس الأمن ذات الصلة. ولبنان يبذل كل الجهود لمحاربة الاتجار بالآثار وحمايتها. وتأتي ظاهرة الانحياز الحراري لتزيد المأساة، تدميراً للبيئة، وتغييراً للمناخ والتي فشلت كل مؤتمرات المناخ العالمية في التخفيف من أخطارها حتى اليوم. أملنا بقراراتٍ إيجابية تصدر عن مؤتمر باريس القادم، حول المناخ، يُعيد شيئاً من التوازن البيئي في صحة الأرض.

21.5 السيدات والسادة، بالرغم من الحروب والمآسي والدمار في قارات الأرض، فإننا في لبنان متشبثون بمبادئ اليونسكو حيث في مدينة الحرف (جبيل) أنشأت اليونسكو المركز الدّولي لعلوم الانسان، ولبنان يفخر بكونه بلد الرسالة، كما قال البابا يوحنا بولس الثاني، حيث تتأخى على أرضه الرسالات السماوية والحوار الانساني الحر، نموذجاً. الإنسان قيمة مطلقة والحياة فرصة عبور، تُزيّن عبرها عطاءاتنا البشرية على هذا الكوكب الجميل. دَعُونَا نُحتفل بألوان قيم الانسان، وبِثبات قلاع للسلام، في العقول والمجتمعات. إنا محكومون بالأمل وببهاء الحياة. وشكراً.

22. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Nabi Avci, Minister of National Education of Turkey. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

23.1 Mr Avci (Turkey)

(address delivered in Turkish; English text provided by the Turkish delegation):

Your Excellency Mr President, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Honorable Director-General, Excellencies, Ministers, dear colleagues and friends, first of all, I would like to congratulate you Mr President upon your election, and reassure you of Turkey's full cooperation during your tenure. I would also like to thank the outgoing President of the 37th session of the General Conference, His Excellency Mr Hao Ping.

23.2 As I did two years ago, this time again I would like to address you in my mother tongue Turkish, a language spoken by more than 200 million people around the world. I am assured by your positive reactions the previous time that my choice would be in conformity with UNESCO's principle of "unity in diversity".

23.3 Honorable colleagues, today in my country we are laying the "poet of fineness", Ms Gülten Akin, to rest. As seen in her following lines, UNESCO's spirit is well reflected in Gülten Akin's poetry:

"It's a shameful thing!
As Camus says...
To be happy all alone...
Voices and other voices !!
Where are the voices of the world?"

May God bless her spirit.

23.4 Dear friends, we are gathered yet again in this august body, as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. New threats lie ahead on the path that we have started walking together 70 years ago with the aim of building peace in the minds of people. Fault lines dividing nations, religions and cultures are becoming more visible. The global social harmony is threatened by growing radicalism and abyss between religions, ethnicities and cultural communities. As a matter of fact, there is an escalation in hatred and marginalization of "the other" even in countries with strong democratic traditions. It is also alarming that the votes of political parties depicting immigrants as a source of unrest, unemployment, crime, poverty and other social problems are in the rise.

23.5 Turkey and Spain have launched the Alliance of Civilizations. It is timely for UNESCO to explore ways to contribute to the strengthening of dialogue between civilizations, through actions under the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures. When I took the floor before this august assembly two years ago, I underlined the need for reform to increase UNESCO's effectiveness. I furthermore emphasized the need to keep the reform process going and expressed our full support for Director-General Bokova in her efforts. I have also reiterated to the Director-General our continuing commitment to reform when she was in Ankara for her first official visit of the 70th anniversary year. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Director-General for helping us to carry UNESCO into a more dynamic setting, despite serious financial constraints.

23.6 Dear colleagues, education should remain at the core of our efforts in countering violent extremism and terrorism. In this respect, we find the education for all (EFA) platform and the global citizenship education programme quite helpful. We also fully endorse the goals and projects promoting girls' education and gender equality. Meanwhile Turkey will continue vigorously supporting UNESCO's Priority Africa programmes.

23.7 The Education 2030 Framework for Action, which we have recently adopted, is another manifestation of UNESCO's leading role in the global education efforts. UNESCO's education programmes and networks such as the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), UNESCO Clubs and University Twinning and Networking Programme (UNITWIN)/UNESCO Chairs, are pillars of quality education for all, intellectual cooperation and participation. Turkey will take part in and foster those programmes.

23.8 UNESCO is at a turning point in the field of culture. Cultural heritage is facing the worst-ever threat in history. It is fundamentally important to protect the universal heritage of civilization that is exposed to the threat of annihilation both by the evil forces of terror and violent extremism. As the Chair of the World Heritage Committee, we are aiming at result-oriented deliberations on this issue during the 40th session of the Committee from 10 to 20 July 2016 in Istanbul.

23.9 Dear colleagues, for Turkey, UNESCO is a House of mutual understanding and tolerance. The implementation of decisions adopted in this House should not be delayed. Those decisions taken about Palestine under this roof have the potential to facilitate solutions through UNESCO's soft power and cultural diplomacy. Now is the time to take action. Tomorrow may be too late.

23.10 Another important issue, which should not be left behind, is the migration crisis that is growing like an avalanche. As a result of the open door policy that we have pursued since the outset of the crisis, Turkey is now hosting over 2 million Syrian refugees. Without any tangible support and contribution from the international community, we have been providing shelter, security, food, education and healthcare, by investing over \$7 billion from our national budget. Turkey is proud of fulfilling its humane duties and responsibilities.

23.11 Dear colleagues, Turkey has announced its candidature to the Executive Board of UNESCO for the 2017-2021 period. We believe that we will be able to contribute intellectually, as well as through deeds and concrete actions, to the work of the Organization and add momentum to it through regional and international cooperation. We count on your confidence and valuable support. Thank you.

24. The President:

Thank you very much Your Excellency for concluding your intervention within time, in spite of that slight glitch we had. Ladies and gentlemen, as I mentioned earlier, we have a special guest paying us a visit this morning, His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan. I will now suspend the meeting for five minutes, in order to welcome our distinguished visitor. I kindly ask you all to remain in your seats until we regain this room. Thank you very much.

Visit by His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan

*His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan,
enters Room I and is escorted to his place*

25.1 The President:

Thank you very much. Your Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, in my capacity as President of the General Conference of UNESCO it is a special honour to welcome to this 38th session of the General Conference our distinguished guest, one of the longest-serving heads of State, His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan. As the first and current President of his country, Mr Nazarbayev oversaw the rapid development of Kazakhstan into one of the region's strongest economies. His Excellency launched widespread economic, social and political reforms which promote education, research and development, as well as cultural diversity in his country. Under his leadership, cooperation with UNESCO has grown and has flourished.

25.2 Your Excellency, I wish also to pay tribute to your country's initiative that led the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim an International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, for which UNESCO has been designated as the lead agency for the United Nations system. To support the goals of this International Decade, Kazakhstan recently organized the Fifth Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. Mr President, we are indeed honoured by your presence, and are looking forward to hear your message today. The floor is yours, Your Excellency.

26.1 M. Nazarbayev (Président du Kazakhstan):

(Discours prononcé en kazakh ; texte français fourni par la délégation):

Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice Générale, mesdames et messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand honneur de saluer les participants et les invités de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO. Dans la famille des Nations unies, l'UNESCO est investi d'un rôle particulier. Cette organisation, créée il y a 70 ans, est appelée « la conscience de l'humanité ». Son apport a été immense pour la conservation de l'héritage culturel et historique et l'élargissement des liens internationaux, qu'il s'agisse de culture, de science ou de communication.

26.2 Le Kazakhstan soutient complètement l'action de l'UNESCO dont les priorités constituent des axes importants des Objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU. Il y a vingt ans, à cette même tribune, j'avais exposé les buts et les problèmes du jeune Etat kazakh à l'aube de son indépendance. Aujourd'hui nous avons atteint la majorité des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement fixés par l'ONU. Le niveau de pauvreté a été divisé par onze, passant de 34% à 3%. Nous avons construit des centaines d'écoles et d'hôpitaux. Le PIB du Kazakhstan a été multiplié par 19, et le revenu par habitant a atteint celui des pays à revenus intermédiaires. L'espérance de vie des Kazakhstanais a dépassé 70 ans. Le niveau de la mortalité infantile et maternelle a baissé. Nous avons connu de grands succès dans la lutte contre le sida, la malaria et la tuberculose. Nous avons adopté le programme « Kazakhstan-2050 » dont les buts sont en pleine concordance avec les objectifs du développement durable et nous avons la volonté d'entrer dans la liste des trente pays les plus développés du monde.

26.3 Chers délégués, ces dernières années ont vu s'aggraver les menaces de divisions entre les civilisations, les confrontations sur des fondements inter ethniques, inter culturels et inter religieux. Les derniers débats de la 70^{ème} session de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU ont confirmé l'urgente nécessité de bâtir un nouveau paradigme de développement mondial. Les initiatives internationales du Kazakhstan ont pour finalité la réalisation de cet important objectif. Nous proposons un Plan d'initiative stratégique globale – 2045. Son contenu consiste dans l'élaboration d'une stratégie de développement mondial éliminant les causes profondes des guerres et des conflits. Elle a pour ambition de donner une nouvelle orientation au développement sur la base d'un accès équitable de toutes les nations aux infrastructures mondiales, aux ressources et aux marchés mais aussi d'une responsabilité commune envers le développement de l'humanité. Le but principal doit être l'édification d'un monde sans armes nucléaires. A cette fin, nous proposons l'adoption d'une déclaration générale de l'ONU sur un monde exempt d'armes nucléaires. En 2016, il se sera

écoulé 25 ans depuis la signature, par moi, du décret de fermeture du Centre d'essais nucléaires de Semipalatinsk. C'est une occasion importante d'unir les efforts de la communauté internationale en vue d'atteindre cet objectif essentiel d'un monde dénucléarisé.

26.4 Un problème urgent est la constitution d'un front international commun contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme religieux. Aujourd'hui les terres de l'antique Mésopotamie, berceau des civilisations mondiales et des grandes religions, font l'objet d'une destruction barbare et de pillages. Les actions de ce qui est appelé « l'Etat islamique » font subir des atteintes irréparables à l'héritage historico-culturel unique du Proche orient. Le Kazakhstan condamne fermement le terrorisme et l'extrémisme sous toutes ses formes. Nous proposons de mettre en place sous l'égide de l'ONU un réseau commun mondial de lutte contre le terrorisme international et l'extrémisme. Il est important que les efforts pour combattre l'islamisme radical ne conduisent pas à identifier ce dernier avec l'islam pacifique. S'opposer au terrorisme n'est possible que sur la base d'un dialogue interculturel et interreligieux. C'est précisément sur cela qu'est fondée notre idée de créer un forum « L'Islam contre le terrorisme ». Il est indispensable de mobiliser plus largement le potentiel de l'UNESCO sur les questions de l'instauration de la paix et de la stabilité internationale.

26.5 Je propose que soit fondée auprès de l'UNESCO une Académie internationale de maintien de la paix et du développement durable. S'appuyant sur la meilleure expérience internationale, l'Académie pourrait élaborer des idées progressistes et des mesures effectives pour le maintien de la paix et la mise en œuvre d'un développement durable. Est d'une importance particulière la recherche de voies pour une prévention précoce des conflits passant par la réalisation de l'idée défendue par l'UNESCO d'une « Culture de la paix ». Les principes de cette idée sont en accord avec l'initiative prise par le Kazakhstan d'élaborer, sous l'égide de l'ONU, le concept d'un Nouveau Futur (New Future).

26.7 Mesdames, messieurs, au milieu du 13ème siècle un moine français, Guillaume de Rubrouck, a visité la ville kazakhe antique de Kaialik où cohabitaient en paix des communautés chrétiennes, bouddhistes, manichéennes et musulmanes. L'an dernier, à l'initiative du Kazakhstan, de la Chine et du Kirghizstan ont été inscrits sur la liste du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO huit sites archéologiques situés sur la Route de la Soie. Parmi eux, on compte aussi la ville de Kaialik, symbole ancien de tolérance religieuse et d'amitié. Il y a peu, le Kazakhstan a fêté les 550 ans du *khanat* kazakh. Nous faisons revivre l'héritage historique et culturel de la Grande steppe et de ses valeurs spirituelles. Nous protégeons soigneusement les monuments inscrits sur la Liste indicative de l'UNESCO, parmi lesquels : Otrar, Turkestan, Saouran, et Syganak.

26.8 En 2013, le Kazakhstan est devenu pour la première fois membre du Comité du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Cette mission fait peser sur nous une responsabilité particulière dans le domaine de la préservation du patrimoine historique et culturel. La renaissance des traditions de la Route de la soie revêt une importance particulière. Son histoire montre qu'une collaboration étroite et qu'un enrichissement culturel réciproque sont au fondement de la paix et du progrès de l'humanité entière. Je suis heureux qu'ait été inscrit dans le Calendrier des célébrations d'anniversaires de l'UNESCO le Millénaire de la ville d'Almaty qui fut un nœud de communication sur la partie Jetyssou de la Route de la soie. Pays pluri-ethnique et multiconfessionnel, le Kazakhstan promeut l'idée de tolérance et d'entente entre les ethnies. Organisé à notre initiative, le Congrès des dirigeants de religions mondiales et traditionnelles est devenu une plateforme de dialogue internationale reconnue et jugée très favorablement par l'ONU. Le Kazakhstan a initié la proclamation par l'ONU de la Décennie internationale pour le rapprochement des cultures (2013-2022). Nous apportons tout notre soutien, y compris financier, à la bonne conduite de ce programme par l'UNESCO. Nous comptons sur le soutien des États membres de l'UNESCO en ce qui concerne la création à Astana d'un Centre de rapprochement des cultures sous l'égide de l'UNESCO.

26.9 Chers participants à la Conférence, je suis convaincu que l'éducation est la clé pour une existence pacifique, un développement durable et en conséquence, pour le progrès de l'humanité au 21ème siècle. En tant que leader mondial dans le domaine de l'éducation il revient à l'UNESCO d'élaborer des standards unifiés de qualité d'enseignement vers lesquels tendront tous les pays.

26.10 Le Kazakhstan, à son tour, modernise son système éducatif national. Notre pays est l'un des premiers États post soviétiques à être devenu membre de l'espace européen de l'enseignement supérieur. Il y a cinq ans nous avons rejoint la Convention culturelle européenne et le processus de Bologne. Nous avons créé dans notre pays un réseau national d'écoles et de collèges d'excellence de niveau international. L'Université Nazarbaiev est un projet d'avant-garde dans le domaine de la science et de la culture. Au final, sur 130 pays, le Kazakhstan est en quatrième position dans l'indice de développement de l'éducation de l'UNESCO. En soutien à l'initiative de l'ONU « L'énergie durable pour tous », se tiendra en 2017 à Astana l'exposition universelle « Expo ». Je profite de l'occasion pour inviter tous les États à participer à l'« Expo-2017 ». Dans le cadre de cette exposition je propose qu'y soit ouvert un « Pavillon de l'UNESCO » pour montrer le rôle de l'UNESCO dans la promotion du développement durable. Sur la base des infrastructures de l'Expo-2017 nous avons l'intention de fonder un Centre international de développement des énergies vertes sous l'égide de l'ONU. Je pense que l'UNESCO pourrait devenir le co-sponsor scientifique de ce Centre.

26.11 Chers amis, le Kazakhstan apporte son soutien à la politique visant à accroître l'efficacité de l'UNESCO, à renforcer son autorité, par le biais de sa modernisation et de l'adaptation de l'Organisation aux défis de la modernité. Je suis convaincu que l'UNESCO continuera à servir de forum de première importance pour la collaboration des États et des peuples au nom de la culture, de l'humanisme et de la paix. Je souhaite aux participants à la Conférence générale un travail fructueux pour le bien de l'humanité. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. On behalf of all Member States I would like to thank the President of Kazakhstan for his speech. We are humbled and honoured by your presence. I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr President, and the people of Kazakhstan, on the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate. Ladies and gentlemen, let us suspend the meeting for five minutes in order to allow His Excellency and his entourage to leave the room. May I ask delegates to kindly remain seated. I thank you.

His Excellency Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev is escorted from Room I.

28.1 The President:

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. We will now continue with the national statements, but before we do, the delegation of Azerbaijan has requested a right of reply to the statement that was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference states that the President may accord the right to reply at the end of the last meeting of the day. The representative of Azerbaijan shall therefore, in accordance with Rule 72, have two minutes for this statement at the end of this afternoon's plenary. Are you in agreement with this proposal? I don't see any objection. *It is so **decided**.*

28.2 We go back to the national statements, and I now have the pleasure and honour to invite His Excellency Mr Myron Walwyn, Minister of Education and Culture of the British Virgin Islands. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

29.1 Mr Walwyn (British Virgin Islands):

Mr President of the General Conference, Excellencies, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Honourable Ministers and heads of delegations, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I am honoured to be here this morning to deliver this address and I will first begin by congratulating you, Mr President, on behalf of the Government and people of the British Virgin Islands on becoming the President of the 38th session of the General Conference.

29.2 The Virgin Islands applaud Director-General Ms Irina Bokova for her call on us to celebrate UNESCO in its progress in education, science, culture and communication, as we also fully endorse UNESCO's key mission, which is to "contribute to the building of peace, and the alleviation of poverty". This must be central to all our work programmes beyond 2015.

29.3 Mr President, permit me to also acknowledge the valuable contribution of Professor Hao Ping, President of the 37th General Conference, for his unwavering commitment to our initiatives. We also welcome our sister island of Montserrat to the UNESCO family.

29.4 Mr President, UNESCO prides itself on the mantra "education for all". I am pleased to report that our Government has been reinvesting and rebuilding the educational sector in this respect. We have been working assiduously to ensure that all citizens, from early years to adulthood, have the opportunities through which they can each reach their full potential, to be successful in life, at work and in the community through the core message of creating a culture of excellence.

29.5 The Government of the Virgin Islands believes that no real economic and social development is possible, particularly in small island developing States (SIDS), without a solid foundation in education. Hence, quality inclusive education at all levels continues to be central to our territory's development. Our Government realizes that in order for the Virgin Islands to maintain a relevant and vibrant economy, we need to find opportunities to prepare our young people today, so that they can properly take care of their homeland in an uncertain tomorrow and to prepare them to be good global citizens.

29.6 We fully support UNESCO's thrust in education in the areas of information and communication technologies (ICTs), technical and vocational training and education (TVET) and teacher training and development. The need for technical and vocational professionals continues to be an area of great need for us in the Virgin Islands. This is why we have provided opportunities for our young people in this area by developing and opening our territory's first technical high school. At the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies our secondary students have the opportunity to be fully engaged in their chosen fields of interest, while earning entry level professional certification. I have met with some of your experts, Mr President, in this field during this Conference, and will be following up to receive assistance to take our TVET programme even further.

29.7 We live in an era where a whiteboard is becoming a more relevant tool than a blackboard; thus, we are in the process of remodelling all schools with a view to fully integrating ICT in the teaching and learning process. In 2014 we started a pilot programme in primary schools, with a view that by 2020 all students in the Virgin Islands would be learning in completely wired classrooms and courses will be taught using the technology and tools of the day. We will be calling on UNESCO to support this initiative as we utilize technology to support our students' education.

29.8 This year we implemented a major change in our education system – the addition of an extra year of schooling at the secondary level. This gives our students the time needed to master core subjects, develop their analytical and critical thinking skills and mature as young adults. Our education system now takes students through 12 mandatory years of education from ages 5 to 17. We anticipate that this move will prepare our students for the academic challenges of tertiary education and give them the skills needed to gain and maintain employment in our economy.

29.9 We see schools and classrooms with strong leadership and quality teachers as the foundation that is needed to create an exciting and engaging environment for our students to be prepared for today's world and beyond. By retraining and licensing our education professionals to meet modern requirements of teaching in this age, we expect to see this process enriching the lives of our students and our community as we seek your assistance.

29.10 Special needs education is high on the Government's agenda, and we expect to make significant strides in this area. When we speak of the education for all movement, we speak to the commitment to provide quality education for all children, youth and adults. We continue our work on developing our education system to concentrate on providing even more services for differently-abled students to be truly included in our society, both academically and socially. We look to UNESCO for expertise to help us to improve in this area so that we can offer our most vulnerable society members the best opportunities for advancement.

29.11 Mr President, the Government of the Virgin Islands believes that UNESCO is strategically well positioned to assist our subregion in amplifying intercultural dialogue on the legacy of enslavement and its associated impact on

cultural heritage. People without an understanding of how they come into being will be forced to imagine and create a history for themselves, and we cannot afford that. Given the rich history of the Virgin Islands, we have implemented initiatives such as the teaching of Virgin Islands history at all levels and introduced a mandatory national citizens programme to build and promote the Virgin Islands culture and pride, which we anticipate will have a positive impact propagating the values and achievements that have helped to shape our community. However; much more is needed in the preservation of our historical sites, sites that are of global significance, and we seek UNESCO's continued help to move sites such as the St. Phillips Church of the Africans and the Nottingham Freed Slave Estate to the Memory of the World Resister and World Heritage List.

29.12 Madam Director-General, this year UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary. On behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, I would like to congratulate you on being at the helm of the marking of this significant milestone. We further renew the Virgin Islands' commitment and support for UNESCO to advance the progress of our community and of the nations and people with a rekindling of hope and vision as we look to the future. Thank you, Mr President.

30. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Dario Franceschini, Minister of Culture of Italy. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

31.1 **Mr Franceschini (Italy):**

Mr President, I am honoured to be here today at the UNESCO General Conference, to share my thoughts with you. We live at a time when UNESCO's unique mandate becomes even more urgent. We have all witnessed the appalling images of historical and archaeological sites being destroyed by terrorist organizations. Cultural heritage is being systematically attacked, with the clear objective of erasing the symbols of a given country's culture, religion and past. In order to tackle these urgent issues my country is ready to share its long experience in the field of safeguarding cultural heritage at risk, both at the international and the national levels. I believe that the destruction of the symbols of a nation's identity is a direct blow against humanity, against its capability to preserve a country's history, traditions and roots for its future generations. UNESCO's Director-General referred to the terrorist attacks against archaeological sites in the Middle East as "cultural cleansing" and I agree.

31.2 At the end of July, the ministers of culture from 83 delegations gathered during the Milan Expo and agreed on the need for a proactive role of the international community in this regard. The Milan Declaration, which was approved on that occasion, reinforced the idea of establishing a "#Unite4Heritage" global coalition, as suggested by Ms Bokova at the Bonn Conference. Therefore, our Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi, at the recent United Nations General Assembly, urged the United Nations to foresee a cultural component in all future peace missions where cultural heritage is at risk. Italy is engaged in strengthening UNESCO's leading role in preserving world cultural heritage and combating trafficking. To achieve these goals, we believe that only a shared and coordinated approach will provide an efficient solution by unifying the efforts that are being deployed on a bilateral basis by a growing number of Member States. The United Nations has brought international attention to the phenomenon of trafficking of archaeological heritage as a possible form of financing terrorism. In the fight against trafficking, let me also recall an effective and positive example of coordinated approach in which Italy played a significant role: the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Response, recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and soon to be published. Furthermore, an appeal has been launched to consider the need to contemplate a cultural component in peacekeeping missions, under its auspices.

31.3 For all these reasons, we have recently presented two important resolutions, adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO in April and October last, which aim at creating, under UNESCO's coordination and in collaboration with Member States, a concrete mechanism for rapid intervention in areas where cultural heritage is at risk. I believe that we, as Member States, can give a pivotal contribution by unifying our efforts and establishing national teams that UNESCO could rely on whenever needed; on a preventive basis or in the aftermath of a conflict to protect and reconstruct cultural heritage.

31.4 In Italy, we have already set up a national #Unite4Heritage team, which is composed of experts from our Ministry of Culture, Defence and Foreign Affairs, and officers from the Carabinieri Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage. This task force will act as rapid response teams able to defend monuments and archaeological sites, ready to intervene in emergency situations, and especially before crises occur.

31.5 This is only a first step. We all share the same responsibility of deploying every possible effort to avoid that people from different cultures, religions and traditions are deprived of their cultural roots and identity and obliged to flee from their country. It is a worldwide humanitarian and security issue. It is my country's firm belief that the protection of cultural heritage and identity is key to fostering peace and social stability. The framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that culture is not only a driver for economic growth, but also an important tool for resilience-building in situations of crisis. We hope that we may count on your delegation's support as we continue our work in this direction, all our country together, all proud, very proud, to be all part of UNESCO. Thank you very much.

Mr Rodriguez Cuadros (Peru) takes the Chair.

32. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias señor Ministro. Voy a dar la palabra ahora a su Excelencia, el señor Herminio Coloma, Ministro en la Oficina presidencial de Comunicaciones de Filipinas. Señor Ministro.

33.1 **Mr Coloma (Philippines):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, good morning. This year, the international community renews its commitment to work in solidarity to achieve a collective objective – the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). These goals are framed within the context of total human development that seeks to uproot poverty and ensures the attainment of inclusive growth and progress, where no one is left behind.

33.2 The Philippines Government has invested in human capital by purposively allocating the single biggest portion of its national budget to education and integrated social protection programmes in health, nutrition and livelihood. Significant strides in universal primary education have been the key in terms of bringing back to school marginalized children through formal schooling and alternative learning. The World Bank has recently commended the expanded conditional cash transfer programme that supports the poorest families in ensuring that their children remain in school as one of the best social protection programmes.

33.3 The Philippines commits itself to the guiding principles of the Incheon Declaration adopted in the World Education Forum upon which is based Sustainable Development Goal 4 – “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” The country’s flagship education reform programme, “K to 12” (or compulsory kindergarten, followed by grades 1 to 12) builds the foundation for lifelong learning. This programme provides the basic tools for critical thinking and innovation, and creates multiple pathways through four learning tracks: academic, technical-vocational, arts and design, and sports. Our country hosted the education category 2 centres’ biennial meeting on 25 to 27 May 2015, through the South-East Asia Centre for Lifelong Education for Sustainable Development. Best practices and plans for further collaboration to support Education 2030 were discussed.

33.4 Through closer coordination, the executive and judicial branches of our Government are exerting maximum efforts to expedite the arrest and conviction of those involved in political violence. Monitoring mechanisms have also been put in place to support the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. This is in consonance with the Philippines’ own policy on freedom of speech: We respect, protect and ensure the rights of journalists to practise their profession unhampered by prior restraint and given full protection by applicable laws. While the onslaught of climate change continues to challenge the global community, we celebrate the fact that in many parts of the world, there has also been a significant increase in protected terrestrial and marine areas.

33.5 Two consecutive natural disasters tested the resiliency of our people: Typhoon Haiyan and a massive 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck central Philippines in late 2013. Through our friends and colleagues in UNESCO, we wish to thank all the governments, as well as humanitarian agencies, that extended their generous assistance and support to our country’s massive rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts.

33.6 In February 2015, the Philippines and France adopted the Manila Call to Action on Climate Change to rally the international community toward active engagement and participation in the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), which will take place here in Paris next month. The call for climate action underlines the reality that while the developing countries have contributed least to climate change, they are the ones that suffer most from the impact of climate change. Strengthening UNESCO bodies such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission responds to the call for effective and equitable climate action and cooperation, especially between developed and developing countries.

33.7 The wisdom and prescience of our forefathers form the foundation of today’s knowledge society. The Philippines supports initiatives to preserve and promote universal access to the world’s documentary heritage through the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. As a member of the World Heritage Committee, the Philippines reiterates its call for conservation of sites with outstanding universal value by recognizing their contributions to poverty alleviation and inclusive growth, and underscoring the contribution of culture to sustainable development. We also call for a more representative and credible World Heritage List by building capacities of developing countries and expanding South-South cooperation. We strongly condemn the destruction of cultural heritage by extremist groups, and underscore the necessity of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage as well. The Philippines seeks the support of UNESCO Member States for its candidature to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016.

33.8 Our President, Benigno S. Aquino III, extends his appreciation to UNESCO for being the Philippines’ constant and steadfast partner in pursuing shared goals in education, science and technology, culture, and communication. We humbly share the Philippines’ experience, following the straight path as a source of tangible lessons on how good governance brings about far-reaching benefits in terms of fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of our people. Thank you and good day. Long live UNESCO!

34. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias Excelencia por su intervención. Doy la palabra a su Excelencia el señor Lytou Bouapao, viceministro de Educación y Deportes de la república Democrática y Popular de Laos.

35.1 **M. Bouapao** (République démocratique populaire lao) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs, au nom de la délégation de la République démocratique populaire lao et en mon nom propre, permettez-moi de vous adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale de l’UNESCO. Mes félicitations s’adressent également à M. le Président du Conseil exécutif et à Mme la Directrice générale, ainsi qu’à tous les membres du groupe préparatoire *ad hoc* de la 38^e session de la Conférence générale.

35.2 Monsieur le Président, depuis la 37^e session de la Conférence générale de l’UNESCO, la situation politique et économique mondiale est devenue de plus en plus instable et complexe, dans la mise en application des divers projets prévus par la dernière session de la Conférence générale d’une manière générale, et plus particulièrement dans la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et des Objectifs de l’éducation pour tous, des objectifs prioritaires et à l’échelle mondiale du 21^e siècle. On constate autant d’opportunités que de défis inquiétants pour la reconstruction de la paix durable, la stabilité politique et la coopération ; des facteurs primordiaux pour surmonter le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté et du sous-développement dans le monde. À cela, il faut ajouter des problèmes tels que le changement climatique, les catastrophes naturelles, les épidémies, la crise économique et financière, qui ont frappé le monde et constituent un frein au développement économique et social.

35.3 Afin de surmonter ces difficultés, le Gouvernement lao a employé ses plus grands efforts dans la mise en œuvre du VII^e Plan quinquennal de développement socioéconomique, de la culture, de la science et de la communication. La réforme du système éducatif vise à promouvoir la qualité de l'enseignement et de l'apprentissage, du Plan national d'action de l'éducation pour tous, ainsi que du projet du CapEFA appuyé par l'UNESCO pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire 2 et 3 pour le développement. Des importants progrès suivants ont pu être constatés : le taux de scolarisation dans l'éducation primaire est de 98 %, les indicateurs d'égalité de sexe dans l'enseignement préscolaire sont de 1,01 %, primaire 0,94 % et secondaire 0,86 %. Un autre progrès à citer : le Laos a déclaré, lors de la cérémonie du 28 août 2015, l'achèvement de son programme de l'éducation non formelle au niveau du primaire à l'échelle nationale.

35.4 Monsieur le Président, les résultats obtenus sont le fruit des soutiens et des aides tant nationaux qu'internationaux. Au nom de la République démocratique populaire lao et de la délégation lao, je voudrais exprimer mes sincères remerciements et ma profonde gratitude à tous nos partenaires pour leur assistance apportée. Malgré ces progrès, il nous reste encore des améliorations à apporter en 2015, à savoir : la qualité de l'enseignement et l'apprentissage restent problématiques, les taux de redoublement et d'abandon du primaire sont encore élevés tandis que le taux de réussite dans l'enseignement primaire est de seulement 78 %.

35.5 Pour relever ces défis, le Gouvernement lao continuera à déployer des moyens nécessaires, dans la poursuite du Plan quinquennal de 2016-2020, du Plan stratégique pour 2025, de la Vision 2030 de l'éducation, du Cadre d'action Éducation 2030 récemment adopté par l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU, accueilli favorablement par le Gouvernement lao, afin d'améliorer la qualité de l'éducation, l'accès équitable, l'éducation inclusive, l'apprentissage en continu et l'éducation pour tous.

35.6 Monsieur le Président, dans le domaine de sauvegarde et de protection des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement, le Gouvernement lao a accordé une importance particulière à la fois à la politique sur la gestion durable des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement d'ici 2030, et à sa mise en œuvre pendant la période de 2016-2025. Ses principaux objectifs consistent à rendre du Laos en un pays de verdure, pays propre et joli, basé sur le modèle de développement écologique, durable et moins sensible au changement climatique.

35.7 Le Gouvernement lao félicite et remercie l'UNESCO de son attention constante portée sur le Laos dans son programme de suivi, d'évolution, de sauvegarde et de protection des deux sites naturels et culturels, selon les recommandations du Comité du patrimoine mondial, qui sont le site de Luang Prabang et de Watphou – programme auquel le Laos a activement participé. En particulier, en ce qui concerne la ville de Luang Prabang, la population lao va célébrer, cette année, le 20^e anniversaire de son inscription au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Au nom du Gouvernement et de la population lao, je profite de cette occasion pour vous inviter, toutes et tous, ici présents, à assister à cet important et symbolique événement qui aura lieu entre le 7 et le 9 décembre 2015.

35.8 Outre les deux sites de patrimoine précédemment cités, le Laos a d'autres richesses qu'il souhaite partager avec l'humanité en les inscrivant comme patrimoine mondial auprès de l'UNESCO. Ce sont le dossier d'inscription de la Plaine des Jarres sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO, le dossier d'inscription du site de Hin Nam No sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial naturel de l'UNESCO et le dossier d'inscription du « khène » sur la Liste du patrimoine intangible mondial de l'UNESCO. Ces dossiers sont actuellement en cours d'élaboration. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

36. **The President:**

Thank you. I give the floor now to His Excellency Milorad Scepovic, Director-General for Multilateral Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Montenegro.

37.1 **Mr Scepovic (Montenegro):**

Distinguished Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, distinguished Madam Director-General, respected delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I address the 38th session of the General Conference on behalf of the Government of Montenegro in the year when we commemorate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. These 70 years of UNESCO have been of the utmost significance to all of us, and there are some dates of our common and, at the same time, individual history that deserve to be particularly emphasized today.

37.2 UNESCO's presence in Montenegro is recognized in many aspects, and its positive impact is felt more than ever. In the year when we honour the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, we would like to remind delegates of the solidarity and assistance that the Organization provided in 1979 when the Montenegrin coast was struck by a devastating earthquake. Kotor, which is a UNESCO world heritage site, was restored also due to the great assistance of UNESCO experts. Preservation of cultural and natural heritage today seems even more difficult, and it is our joint task to improve mechanisms for its protection and conservation, which are adapted to the new challenges. All these years we have been working to create conditions for a dialogue among cultures, and nations, based on respect of common values. I use this opportunity to express gratitude to the Director-General and her team, who managed to preserve the quality of work of the Organization in the years marked by numerous difficulties.

37.3 With the adoption of the universal, ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we have committed to resolving key challenges of today, such as peace-building and eradication of poverty, climate change, and ensuring a healthy environment, with respect for fundamental human rights and freedom. We will give our full contribution to its implementation and achievement of its crucial objectives – ensuring sustainable development and human dignity for all.

37.4 Distinguished colleagues, at the last session of the Executive Board, Montenegro completed its four-year mandate, which was a great opportunity for national institutions to participate in the creation and implementation of UNESCO policies. This was an enormously valuable experience for Montenegro, bearing in mind that this was our first membership in the governing body of UNESCO.

37.5 Montenegro celebrates the 70th anniversary of UNESCO by a number of festivities that will be organized this month in the old royal capital Cetinje, a town that will soon be, we believe, inscribed on the World Heritage List of sites. Cetinje is a town with a long history and tradition, whose values and influence exceed national and regional boundaries. Protector of freedom, holder of a 600-year-old tradition of printing and publishing, promoter of literacy in the region of southeast Europe, whose Europeanized ambience and spirit were created under extremely unfavourable historical and economic circumstances.

37.6 Respected participants, culture is, and has to be, recognized as a method to connect. There are numerous examples of joint action of countries in southeast Europe. I will underline the important project of the common nomination of Stećci's medieval tombstones, which four countries in the region – Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia – nominated for the World Heritage List. Also, we have a new trilateral project of Montenegro, Italy and Croatia in the nomination of "Venetian fortifications between the 15th and 17th centuries" for the World Heritage List.

37.7 I believe there is a consensus in this room that special attention has to be paid to education and science, which have a rightful place in the post-2015 development agenda. Ensuring equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, as well as developing knowledge societies and scientific and technological innovation for achieving sustainable development goals, have to be our common priority.

37.8 It is of crucial importance to undertake additional efforts to increase the number of children and adolescents with equal access to quality education, as well as to develop policies aimed at improving the youth position in the society. Active engagement of young people will contribute to economic development of countries, but also influence prevention of violent extremism and conflicts. Over the last decade there has been increasing global awareness of the impact of conflict on education systems and the importance of education for children and youth as part of the post-conflict reconciliation and peace-building process. By endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration, Member States can actively engage in addressing the impact of violence and conflict on education, which presents urgent humanitarian, developmental and wider social challenges. Education that promotes the rights and responsibilities of students, especially participation and active citizenship, can provide long-term benefits for society.

37.9 Also, we warmly welcome UNESCO's contribution in ensuring protection, promotion and fulfilment of freedom of expression, freedom of press, and safety of journalists, as inseparable elements of a democratic society. Montenegro will firmly continue to implement the values of UNESCO and promote its mission, thus contributing to regional and international initiatives, important for preserving the culture of peace and dialogue, as our main goals. In conclusion, I would like to once again reiterate Montenegro's readiness to further improve cooperation with UNESCO and its Member States in the forthcoming period towards promoting its values and principles in all areas of the Organization's work. I thank you.

38. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias por su declaración. Doy la palabra al señor Kim Yong Il, Embajador extraordinario y plenipotenciario, representante permanente de la República Democrática y Popular de Corea

39.1 **M. Kim** (République populaire démocratique de Corée) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer, au nom de la délégation, à M. Stanley Mutumba Simataa, les chaleureuses félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de cette 38^e Conférence générale qui se tient au moment où l'UNESCO célèbre 70 ans d'action.

39.2 Monsieur le Président, 70 années se sont écoulées depuis que l'UNESCO a été fondée, reflétant le désir de l'unanimité de construire un monde pacifique par la promotion de la coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'éducation, de la culture, durant lesquelles des progrès ont été marqués dans le développement socioéconomique mondial, de même que les activités de l'UNESCO n'ont cessé de s'élargir et se renforcer.

39.3 Malgré cela, les efforts à construire un monde pacifique et civilisé, tant inspiré par l'humanité, restent toujours confrontés aux défis tels que la persistance de la confrontation entre les pays, les forces, les civilisations et dus aux conflits armés de toutes sortes incessants, les institutions d'éducation et de culture et même de précieuses richesses culturelles de l'humanité se sont détruites. La réalité actuelle exige de l'UNESCO le renforcement davantage de son rôle pour créer le fondement de la paix à travers la coopération internationale dans les domaines de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture et de la communication.

39.4 Monsieur le Président, la présente Conférence générale est d'autant plus significative qu'elle discute les moyens de mise en œuvre des Objectifs de développement durable post-2015. Nous nous réjouissons de l'adoption à l'unanimité des Objectifs de développement durable post-2015 à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, en septembre dernier, dans lesquels sont inscrites des questions prioritaires des activités de l'UNESCO. À cet égard, je voudrais apprécier (remercier/féliciter ?) notre Directrice générale pour les efforts considérables qu'elle a déployés pour y parvenir.

39.5 Le rôle de l'UNESCO s'avère important dans la réalisation de l'éducation inclusive, équitable et de qualité pour tous, la promotion de l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie, la gestion durable de l'eau et de l'assainissement, des mesures d'urgence contre le changement climatique et l'utilisation durable des ressources maritimes, etc. Pour atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable post-2015, il est primordial pour l'UNESCO de les appliquer de façon harmonieuse, de concert avec la Stratégie à moyen terme de 2014-2021 déjà adoptée. D'autre part, conformément aux exigences d'une ère nouvelle, l'UNESCO devra promouvoir les réformes dans le sens de l'amélioration de ses activités tout en préservant son autonomie et sa particularité.

39.6 L'éducation constitue toujours un domaine prioritaire dans les activités de l'UNESCO pour la paix mondiale, la coprosperité, ainsi que le développement durable de l'humanité. Dans ce contexte, notre délégation réaffirme son soutien au Cadre d'action d'Éducation 2030, qui a été adopté par acclamation à la réunion de haut niveau de la présente Conférence générale.

39.7 Il est également important de renforcer les capacités des pays en développement par la coopération Nord-Sud et Sud-Sud dans le développement de la science, de la technique et son transfert, la protection du patrimoine culturel et l'accès de tout le monde à l'information et la connaissance.

39.8 L'UNESCO devra également faire des efforts pour favoriser la promotion de diversités culturelles, la compréhension mutuelle entre nations et régions à travers le dialogue, la collaboration interculturels, interreligieux.

39.9 Monsieur le Président, la République populaire démocratique de Corée, sous la direction du camarade Kim Jong Un, dirigeant suprême, fait prévaloir la science et la technique dans tous les domaines, l'édification d'une puissance économique socialiste et d'une nation hautement civilisée a fait un grand progrès. Des mesures pratiques sont prises pour que tout le peuple soit en compétence en matière de sciences et de techniques, parmi lesquelles se trouve le Palais des sciences et de la technologie ainsi que des quartiers au bénéfice des enseignants et des scientifiques qui ont été nouvellement construits à Pyongyang.

39.10 Notre Gouvernement considère l'éducation comme une des affaires patriotiques à l'éternité pour la prospérité du pays et n'y ménage aucun investissement. Dans notre pays, se sont mis en pratique, depuis des dizaines d'années, l'enseignement obligatoire gratuit de 11 années et, depuis l'année dernière, l'enseignement obligatoire universel de 12 années. Notre Gouvernement continuera à s'engager activement avec l'UNESCO et ses États membres dans leurs efforts afin d'atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable post-2015. Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

40. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias a usted por su declaración. Doy la palabra ahora a su Excelencia el señor Francis Lovell, del Ministerio del Estado en Educación de Trinidad y Tobago.

41.1 **Mr Francis Lovell** (Trinidad and Tobago):

Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, honourable delegates, Excellencies, the matters we have been discussing today are very close to my heart, as I am sure they are with everyone here. So please permit me to go a bit off script. I am tremendously proud, tremendously humbled, to be here representing my country, Trinidad and Tobago. I am also proud to bring greetings on behalf of our new Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr Keith Rowley. I am happy to affirm the long relationship has existed between UNESCO and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as to affirm that it will continue far into the foreseeable future.

41.2 At home I am sometimes accused of the sin called "youthful exuberance", so I should say that I am also very enthusiastic about the mandate that UNESCO has adopted in terms of 2030, for the next 15 years. Why? Because if you come from the Caribbean, as I do and as my colleague who just spoke a while ago from the British Virgin Islands does, you understand in a very concrete way that education has been our salvation and, to understand that, one needs a historical context. If you know anything about Caribbean history, and especially the modern history of the Caribbean, it is quite clear that that history has very tragic overtones and undertones. Our modern history begins with invasion, with the genocide, or in the case of Trinidad, the near-genocide, of our first peoples. It moved on from there into the exploitation that came with African enslavement and Indian indenture. If you add on to all of that centuries of colonial domination, and then in the twentieth century until now, decades of neo-colonial relationships, what you really have is a perfect template for sustained underdevelopment as opposed to sustainable development, and that is our historical context.

41.3 How does one get beyond that? Well, it comes down to partnering with benevolent organizations, which is why the Caribbean has had a very long relationship with UNESCO. But it also comes down to sound government policy. In Trinidad and Tobago in particular, but also throughout the entire Caribbean, in the post-independence period in the mid-twentieth century there was a definite movement towards bringing education – which had once been the exclusive realm of the well-to-do – to the people. In Trinidad and Tobago, what we did very quickly was to make agreements with the dominant providers of education, which were the churches, so that they would become part of the State apparatus. We also ensured that we embarked on a massive expansion in education, both at the primary and at the secondary levels.

41.4 Today, this continues, and if I would be so bold, it is perfectly aligned with UNESCO's mantra of lifelong learning. Today in Trinidad and Tobago we provide universal early childhood education. We provide universal primary education. We also provide universal secondary education. Every young person in Trinidad and Tobago has these forms of learning that are subsidized by the State. We are also working towards significantly raising the number of our citizens who can access tertiary education, so that notion of lifelong learning is very much aligned with the idea that we have in Trinidad and Tobago, where we call it seamless education, where we are attempting to weave a system that takes all young people from age 3 to the rest of their lives as lifelong learners.

41.5 But of course, UNESCO's mandate goes well beyond education, and it countenances issues of culture, youth development, entrepreneurship, and I could go on ad infinitum. In this area, in Trinidad and Tobago we are also aligned with the larger philosophies that preoccupy UNESCO. When I get back to Trinidad and Tobago, with some grace and some luck next week, on Tuesday my nation will be celebrating the Hindu festival Diwali. It is not because my nation is Hindu, but rather it is because a long time ago we decided that every single ethnic group, every single religious group in our country, would be given its own space, would be celebrated and would be venerated. So whenever there is a celebration, it is not one group, but as a nation, that we celebrate. So in Trinidad and Tobago we have diversity and we also have inclusiveness. Now I am not standing here to say that my nation is perfect. We have our concerns. It is a developmental process, it is a learning process, but I can affirm that when it comes to Trinidad and Tobago and UNESCO, we are on the same page and this will continue. Thank you.

42. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias señor Ministro por su declaración. Doy la palabra a su Excelencia el señor Marten Kokk, Embajador extraordinario y plenipotenciario, representante permanente de Estonia ante la OECD y la UNESCO

43.1 **Mr Kokk (Estonia):**

Mr President of the General Conference, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, firstly Estonia would like to align itself with the European Union statement. The recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal and reflects many of UNESCO's priorities. Estonia welcomes the fact that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commit to realizing the human rights of all, to mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women across all goals and targets. These important values are among development cooperation priorities for Estonia as well.

43.2 It is clear that in realizing the 2030 Agenda UNESCO can offer valuable support to Member States in capacity development, policy advice and normative support. This is very important, but we would also like to underline the vital importance of monitoring and innovative financing of the SDGs combining different sources.

43.3 The World Education Forum in Incheon was a clear milestone to mark UNESCO's success in positioning education high on the new agenda. We believe that UNESCO's role as the global coordinator of the education goal offers excellent opportunities to further strengthen UNESCO's position in the United Nations family. Estonia welcomes the comprehensive Education 2030 Framework for Action that was adopted and launched in this House just a couple of days ago. The Framework is universal and applicable to all Member States, but at the same time enables us to take account of different national realities.

43.4 The education goal puts emphasis on lifelong learning, including higher education. Estonia fully supports the proposal of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications that will be examined during this session of the General Conference. We consider this initiative to be very timely and relevant, as academic and professional mobility is growing and the world of study and research is no longer limited by national boundaries. The elaboration of this new normative instrument requires adequate human and financial resources. Our experts have contributed to the preparation of the global convention and we are also ready to support the process financially.

43.5 Ladies and gentlemen, Estonia is a strong advocate of opportunities that information and communication technology can provide for development. We are also convinced that freedom of expression and access to independent media, including social media and Internet, are essential for fostering citizen participation in the 2030 Agenda. Everyone needs to be able to speak without fear and to be freely informed about public affairs. UNESCO has been a strong promoter of the safety of journalists but, as confirmed by the recent report on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development, numerous threats still remain.

43.6 The armed conflicts and ongoing crises in the world have put to test UNESCO's ability to respond to intentional destruction of cultural heritage, including organized looting and illicit trafficking. UNESCO has been strong and visible in its global efforts to advocate for the protection of cultural heritage, to provide technical expertise, and to facilitate a coordinated international response. We support the strategy for reinforcing UNESCO's action in this field that builds on strategic partnerships and allows necessary flexibility in changing circumstances.

43.7 Distinguished delegates, a lot has been done by UNESCO in order to increase efficiency and to reduce administrative costs. This needs to be duly recognized. A lot remains to be done as well. We are looking forward to the follow-up on the governance audit that will be discussed during this session of the General Conference. The audit also highlighted a wide gap between the limited resources and the high expectations of the Member States in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. A heavy reliance on extrabudgetary resources for meeting regular programme objectives and unsustainable workload for the reduced staff is a reality we face. Therefore, Estonia supports the zero nominal growth-plus (ZNG+) budget, even though that will not address all the issues, but the situation would be then more favourable, especially for major programmes. So, since this is my third and last speech from this podium, I would like to thank you all and wish you a successful continuation of the meeting. I wish all the best to the Secretariat and the Organization as a whole. Thank you.

44. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias por su declaración. Doy la palabra a su Excelencia el señor Michael Forbes, Embajador representante permanente de Irlanda ante la OCDE y la UNESCO.

45.1 **Mr Forbes (Ireland):**

Mr President, Madam Director-General, Ministers, Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen. First I would like to pay tribute to the President of the General Conference who was elected, and the tribute it is to his great country. I would like you to pass that on to him – he is not here at the moment. Ireland would like to associate itself with the statement of the European Union which will be made tomorrow morning.

45.2 UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. We all agree on that. We all also agree that as we mark this anniversary, it is clear that UNESCO's mission is more relevant than ever. While the challenges are enormous and the principles of the Organization are being attacked from many quarters, there is still reason for hope. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, endorsed by all Members of the United on 25 September, are unique. They represent a contract for all of humanity. The world is no longer separated between developed and developing. We all have goals to achieve together and the effort is truly universal for our humanity, our planet and shared sustainable peace. Ireland was privileged to be a co-facilitator, along with Kenya, in negotiating the 2030 Agenda in New York last summer. The constructive nature of those negotiations, which involved not only all nations of the world, but also engaged stakeholders and NGOs, is a reason for hope for the future. We all have our roles to play in achieving the 2030 Agenda. UNESCO is central to so much of that Agenda. Indeed, henceforth all of the work of UNESCO will be seen through the prism of the 2030 Agenda.

45.3 Over the past number of years, UNESCO has reformed and refocused its efforts and methods of working, making it now much better suited to take on the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, to make it much more fit for purpose than it was at the beginning of this decade. So I take this opportunity to congratulate the Organization on that

achievement. Its tireless Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, and its dedicated staff. I would like, on behalf of the Government of Ireland today, to pay particular tribute to all of the staff of UNESCO who have struggled so hard over the past five years.

45.4 The three pillars of UNESCO – education, science and culture – are fundamental to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More broadly, UNESCO's ethical and cultural vocation provides the sustainable thread to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. And yet the principles of UNESCO, the principles of humanism, remain under threat by self-appointed extremists who set themselves beyond the global discourse. This expresses itself in many ways: the threat and even attacks on children, especially girls, going to school; the destruction of the world's cultural monuments as a weapon of war and enslavement; the setting of one religion or culture against another; the undermining of freedom of speech directly and through the agents of that freedom, our journalists. An attack on one culture is an attack on all civilization. An attack on one religion is an attack on all. An attack on one journalist is an attack on the freedom of speech of us all. An attack on one girl going to school is an attack on all education and all children.

45.5 UNESCO, through the leadership of its Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, and in close cooperation with Member States, is fighting back against these threats. The Organization, with its ethical principles and mandate, is fighting back with the sustainable weapons of argument, reason, and even helping physically to rebuild what extremists thought they had destroyed, thus restoring to communities their dignity and feeling of self-worth.

45.6 I am very pleased to remind delegates that the programme of Irish Aid, which provides humanitarian assistance and supports long-term development on behalf of the Irish people, has consistently financed the UNESCO *Global Monitoring Report* on education. Ireland would like to endorse the Executive Board's recommendation to the General Conference to establish a new international geoscience and geoparks programme, which would give UNESCO Global Geoparks a formal, recognized label. To this end, the Irish National Commission for UNESCO confirms its support for the transition of the three current Irish geoparks to this new label.

45.7 Ireland has two UNESCO Chairs of Education, one in University College Galway, which works directly and indirectly with others to attack the forces of extremism from wherever they come. Our other Education Chair is about disability and engaging people with disabilities in a full fitness programme. A lot of that is about removing fear that we have. I believe that when we remove fear, we begin to remove prejudice and discrimination. On that note, I would like to end my address and wish UNESCO well for the next two years. Thank you, Mr President.

46. **Sr. Presidente:**

Muchas gracias señor Embajador por su declaración. Corresponde hacer uso de la palabra ahora a su Excelencia el señor Guillermo Dighiero, Embajador representante permanente del Uruguay ante la UNESCO.

47.1 **Sr. Dighiero** (Uruguay):

Autoridades de la UNESCO, Señores y Señoras delegados: Los progresos científicos recientes, han llevado a mutaciones muy importantes en las sociedades modernas y cambiadas radicalmente las relaciones y perspectivas económicas. El elemento central de este cambio está dado por la posesión del conocimiento y la tecnología, eje central de la competencia económica mundial. En el área de la biotecnología, los avances de la biología molecular han modificado substancialmente las áreas de la producción agrícola, de la salud y de la industria farmacéutica, a través de la creación de plantas y animales transgénicos, de medicamentos recombinantes del secuenciado genoma humano. El conocimiento del genoma humano va a permitir una medicina altamente predictiva, en la cual la genética y la terapia génica van a jugar un papel primordial. Asimismo, el desarrollo de las telecomunicaciones ha cambiado totalmente el panorama mundial en todos los aspectos y en particular el aspecto económico.

47.2 Para los países en desarrollo, la búsqueda de una inserción adecuada en la sociedad científico-tecnológica, constituye probablemente uno de los mayores desafíos a asumir. El elemento central de esta competencia, está dado por los recursos humanos. Esto significa que estos países deben hacer un gran esfuerzo para la generalización de la educación y el desarrollo de la ciencia y tecnología. A nivel de la educación el Uruguay concibe a la educación basada en la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos y en el conjunto de los instrumentos internacionales ratificados por nuestro país. En este sentido se ha promovido una política de educación que pretende promover la justicia, la solidaridad, la inclusión social y la convivencia pacífica. Se pretende formar personas reflexivas, autónomas, que aprendan a vivir juntos en una sociedad sustentable y equitativa que sea capaz de reconocer los aportes de las distintas comunidades. Este sistema educativo pretende también generar ciudadanos tolerantes y respetuosos de las diferencias y estimular la creatividad e innovación artística, científica y tecnológica y la articulación entre el trabajo manual e intelectual. Recientemente nuestro país ha lanzado una campaña y cuenta con un marco legal contra el acoso en los medios educativos a personas con opciones sexuales diferentes.

47.3 De ahí, nuestro compromiso de asumir como país junto al resto de las Naciones, la tarea consecuente de lograr cumplir con los 17 objetivos que abarcan las tres dimensiones de la sostenibilidad: económica, social y medioambiental, recientemente aprobados en la Cumbre de jefes de Estado de las Naciones Unidas. Compartimos y sumamos nuestro esfuerzo para aplicar, coordinar, financiar y evaluar la agenda educativa para 2030. Uruguay proyecta llegar a un presupuesto del 6% del PBI para educación a partir de 2017, ha generalizado su sistema educativo a la educación inicial y ha lanzado un vigoroso programa para la primera infancia. Asimismo, hoy en día todos los niños y maestros de las escuelas y liceos disponen gratuitamente de una computadora personal. El objetivo a largo plazo es lograr que el 80% de los jóvenes de una clase de edad terminen el ciclo secundario. Desde el punto de vista de la ciencia y la tecnología Uruguay ha lanzado un importante programa de desarrollo de este sector al cual el Estado ha decidido atribuir el 1% del PIB y se espera triplicar en el plazo de 10 años el número de investigadores que se sitúa en 2.000 para 3 millones y medio de habitantes. El objetivo es llegar a desarrollar una excelente ciencia fundamental y sus aplicaciones, a los efectos de adicionar valor agregado a nuestra producción con la introducción en ella de la ciencia y la tecnología. La cultura es un pilar fundamental en la construcción de un mundo de paz, plural y variado, Uruguay

reafirma su compromiso de impulsar la universalización del acceso y disfrute de los derechos culturales concebidos como Derechos Humanos fundamentales.

47.4 Asimismo, Uruguay reafirma su voluntad de avanzar en mecanismos certeros para la Prevención del Tráfico Ilícito de Bienes Culturales, en suma, resulta fundamental asegurar la producción y el disfrute de las culturas y de sus componentes en condiciones de igualdad. Por todas estas razones, nuestro país reafirma su fuerte compromiso político e institucional con la UNESCO con el cual adhiere los valores fundamentales. En su reciente y muy positiva visita, el Presidente Tabaré Vázquez resaltó la decisión de nuestro país y agradeció el apoyo que la UNESCO le ha dado a la oficina regional situada en Montevideo así como la reciente inscripción en la lista del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial del Sitio Paisaje Industrial Fray Bentos y la reciente creación en nuestro país del Centro Regional para la gestión de Aguas Subterráneas. Permítaseme terminar agradeciendo una vez más a las autoridades de la UNESCO el respaldo muy importante que han acordado a nuestro país. Muchas gracias.

Mr Simataa resumes the Chair.

48. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Our next speaker is Her Excellency Ms Ruchira Kamboj, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

49.1 Ms Kamboj (India):

Mr President, distinguished Ambassadors and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour for me to represent India at the general policy debate. It has always been a privilege for our Minister of Education to represent the people of India at this global dialogue facilitated by the national policy debates at the General Conference of UNESCO. My Minister is unable to attend the meeting due to extenuating and unforeseen circumstances, and on her behalf therefore let me reiterate the importance that India attaches to its partnership with UNESCO. As one of the founding Members of UNESCO, India has always taken great pride in UNESCO's achievements over the last seven decades. Indeed, as the world seeks to implement the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, everyone needs to realize that education, development of science and technology, and promotion and protection of cultures are central to rapid and balanced achievement of our development goals.

49.2 India recognizes that education can help provide answers to some of the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century, which include poverty, inequality, conflict and threat to the climate and environment. It is this faith in the inherent transformative potential of education that drives India's campaign for universalization of education, elementary education through the path-breaking right-to-education legislation. The result has been quickly visible with a record 199 million children attending elementary schools. India also has the world's largest school meal programme spread over 1.2 million schools. Besides access, equal importance has also been accorded to equity in terms of gender, disability or geography and to quality of education.

49.3 We should be especially mindful in the global discourse on education that the less advantaged, the excluded, the marginalized and those with disabilities are provided the conditions necessary for them to enjoy universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. India attaches great importance to the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in education, environment education and multilingualism. Skills development through technical and vocational education is another priority. Furthering the universalization of education to the secondary stage is a goal that India would like to take up in the near future. In all these, we look forward to collaboration among countries through the effective forum of UNESCO. As a first step, a conference of South Asian Cooperation for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries was organized successfully in October, 2015 under the auspices of UNESCO in New Delhi.

49.4 As the international community looks towards implementing the 2030 Agenda, it has recognized that education can play a decisive role in fostering a sense of shared responsibility and in bringing about fundamental changes in how we coexist with each other and our planet. The successful adoption of the Education 2030 Framework for Action is abundant testimony to this. This sense of collective duty has also been behind our support for the New Delhi-based Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, a category 1 UNESCO institute. Our task now is to work with all educational stakeholders to ensure that in its implementation, Education 2030 fulfils its promise, while acknowledging the varied and unique national contexts and socio-economic diversities.

49.5 Ladies and gentlemen, India strongly believes that oceans are central to sustainable development and are a part of our common heritage. It is this belief that guides our support for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the multinational, multidisciplinary expedition in the Indian Ocean under the banner of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2). India has an emotional attachment to IIOE: the first IIOE laid the foundation for modern multidisciplinary oceanographic research in India, and culminated in the establishment of the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa. We therefore look forward to the planned launch of IIOE-2 at Goa, India, in December 2015, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the IIOE Expedition and of the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa.

49.6 Over the years, we have worked together with UNESCO in our common endeavour to nourish and nurture, protect and promote the cultural heritage of the world. The World Heritage Convention is the best known of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments in any field, and over the years has established for itself a brand name and an image. We have the privilege in India of hosting a UNESCO category 2 centre at Dehradun in the field of natural heritage. Through this, we offer our services in strengthening capacities in the management and protection of world heritage, leading to a more efficient overall management of systems in keeping with the letter and spirit of the World Heritage Convention.

49.7 Ladies and gentlemen, we, as founding members, are deeply committed to the ideals and objectives of UNESCO. Later this month, indeed next week, our Organization will complete 70 years of eventful and impactful existence. The principles that brought the community of nations together in 1945 are as valid and relevant today as they were then. Mr President and distinguished delegates, I wish all success to the work of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference and look forward to the important exchanges that follow. Thank you very much.

50. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I now have the distinct pleasure and honour to invite His Excellency Mr Hao Ping, the Vice Minister of Education of China. Your Excellency, you now have the floor, Sir.

51.1 郝先生（中国）：

尊敬的大会主席先生，尊敬的总干事女士，尊敬的各位部长，女士们，先生们，首先我对来自纳米比亚的斯坦利·斯马达先生当选本届大会主席表示热烈祝贺。同时我也特别感谢两天来许多国家在发言中对我担任大会第三十七届会议主席所给予的褒奖。

51.2 教科文组织成立七十年来，一直秉持在“在人之思想中筑起保卫和平之屏障”的坚定信念，通过开展全民教育使全世界受教育人口数以亿计增长，通过推进科学研究为应对气候变化、互联网信息安全和新兴领域的快速发展提供了普及的条件基础，通过推动世界自然和文化遗产、非物质文化遗产和文献遗产保护，为弘扬文化多样性、铭记历史、汲取历史带给我们的惨痛教训、维护世界持久和平做出了重大贡献。我们应铭记本组织成立的初衷和宗旨，推动教科文组织事业发展和各项改革工作。改革是一盘棋。改革不可滥用。改革需要全局意识。在人类面对严峻挑战面前，世界各国正在成为历史相关的命运共同体，各国以一己之力远远不能解决诸多全球性问题，必须加强并深化国际合作。我们赞赏本组织积极参与制订了联合国2030年可持续发展议程。中国国家主席习近平在联合国可持续发展峰会讲话中指出，这一发展议程既是高标准的任务单，也是沉甸甸的承诺书。中国认为，本组织在落实发展议程中应该发挥更大的作用。

51.3 包容、公平和优质教育是消除无知、愚昧和偏见的有力武器，也是推动经济社会发展的基础。作为教育第一的倡导国，中国坚持优先发展教育，信守支持发展中国家教育发展的承诺，强调女童和妇女教育是普遍提高人口教育素质的关键。不久前，本组织女童和妇女教育特使彭丽媛女士在2015年“教育第一”倡议高级别会议上倡议各国为女童接受良好教育而努力。为此，中国将资助设立本组织促进女童和妇女教育奖，鼓励更多的女童尽早获得教育的机会。中国积极支持海洋科学、淡水安全、保护生物多样性和降低灾害风险等领域的国际合作。希望本组织开辟新领域，研究新问题，引领各国有效应对气候变化和环境问题。本组织是维护文化多样性和促进文明间对话的重要论坛，以文明对话化解冲突对抗，以交流互鉴推进合作共赢。

51.4 女士们，先生们，中国今后将继续加大对教科文组织的支持力度。本组织应继续秉承其七十年前确立的宗旨，更加珍惜以《联合国宪章》为基础的国际秩序，并树立与此相一致的正确的历史观，维护和平，开创未来，推动构建以合作共赢为核心的新型的国际关系，积极推动教育公平优先发展，支持本组织实施非洲优先战略，通过发展信息技术教育提高教育质量，大力支持文化和自然遗产、非物质文化遗产的保护。我高兴地评价哈萨克斯坦总统纳扎尔巴耶夫的讲话：我们要重启丝绸之路的计划，完善业已建立的丝绸之路平台，推动创意城市计划的发展，促进文明间对话。主席先生，女士们，先生们，孔子说：七十而从心所欲。我们期望本组织在经历了七十年的风风雨雨之后，继续以“在人之思想中筑起保卫和平之屏障”为己任，为实现2030年可持续发展目标而努力。谢谢大家。

52. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And once again we thank you wholeheartedly for the enormous contributions you have made over the past two years to our Organization, and the assurances that you have given to continue supporting UNESCO beyond your tenure. Once again, thank you very much, Sir. Our next speaker is His Excellency, Mr Eric Tiaré, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France, Permanent Delegate of Burkina Faso to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you now have the floor.

53.1 M. Tiaré (Burkina Faso) :

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs de délégation. Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous adresser les chaleureuses félicitations de la délégation du Burkina Faso pour votre élection à la présidence de la 38^e session et de vous assurer de son soutien pour faire de votre présidence un succès.

53.2 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'UNESCO célèbre cette année ses 70 ans d'existence, 70 ans au cours desquels elle a contribué du mieux qu'elle pouvait à la construction d'un monde meilleur. Malheureusement, notre Conférence se tient à un moment où l'actualité internationale reste fortement dominée par la montée du terrorisme et de l'extrémisme violent et par de multiples crises sociopolitiques qui embrasent tous les secteurs du développement et impactent négativement la vie individuelle et collective. Face à ces drames, le Burkina Faso appelle tous les États membres, nantis ou non, à plus d'engagement aux côtés de l'UNESCO, pour lui permettre de continuer de travailler à assurer la mise en œuvre de ses objectifs pour un monde de paix.

53.3 L'importante contribution de l'UNESCO dans l'adoption de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable est fortement saluée par le Burkina Faso. Aussi, je saisis l'occasion pour féliciter la Directrice générale, Mme Irina Bokova, pour le rôle particulier et déterminant qu'elle a joué dans l'adoption de cet Agenda et, d'une manière générale, pour son leadership à la tête de notre Organisation.

53.4 Notre Conférence se tient également à quelques semaines de la tenue, ici à Paris, de la 21^e Conférence des États parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, et le Burkina Faso nourrit l'espoir que, enfin, les négociations aboutissent à la conclusion d'un accord juridiquement contraignant, afin de sauver notre planète menacée.

53.5 Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, en décrétant 2015-2024 « Décennie internationale des personnes d'ascendance africaine », l'UNESCO veut promouvoir de nouvelles perspectives sur l'histoire de l'Afrique et encourager la rénovation de l'enseignement de l'histoire africaine dans les États membres, à travers son projet intitulé « Utilisation pédagogique de l'histoire générale de l'Afrique ». À ce sujet, et pour le dernier volume qui reste à réaliser, le Burkina Faso encourage l'UNESCO à poursuivre sa stratégie de mobilisation des ressources et félicite le Groupe africain de l'UNESCO pour les initiatives qu'il envisage de prendre en vue de faire contribuer tous les États africains à sa réalisation.

53.6 S'agissant de l'éducation, le Burkina Faso se réjouit des engagements renouvelés des Nations Unies en matière d'éducation dans l'Agenda post-2015 et encourage l'UNESCO à jouer pleinement son rôle de leadership dans l'atteinte des objectifs de l'Éducation pour tous (EPT). En la matière, le Gouvernement burkinabè a pris des dispositions pour renforcer les capacités des enseignants, des décideurs des organisations de la société civile en matière de civisme, de bonne gouvernance, de systématisation des faits culturels et de leur transposition dans le dispositif éducatif. Concernant particulièrement l'éducation des filles, le Gouvernement du Burkina Faso se félicite de la décision du Conseil exécutif de reconduire le Centre international pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes en Afrique de l'Union africaine, et recommande une synergie d'action entre l'UNESCO et la Commission de l'Union africaine en vue de rendre le Centre plus opérationnel. Il salue, en outre, l'engagement de l'UNESCO dans la mise en œuvre de la priorité de « l'égalité des genres » et se félicite des résultats déjà atteints au cours du biennium au sein de l'ensemble des programmes relatifs à l'éducation.

53.7 Au titre de la culture, ma délégation félicite l'UNESCO et la Directrice générale, et tout le personnel, pour les actions menées contre la destruction du patrimoine culturel, y compris religieux, et pour la préservation des biens et expressions culturels, notamment le soutien apporté à la République sœur du Mali dans la reconstruction des mausolées de Tombouctou, classés « patrimoine de l'humanité ». Le Burkina Faso adhère également à la proposition de renforcement du rôle des musées dans la société, aux mesures et actions pour la protection, la promotion et la transmission du patrimoine culturel. En célébrant cette année le 10^e anniversaire de la Convention de 2005 de l'UNESCO sur la protection et la promotion des investissements des expressions culturelles, le Burkina Faso espère la mise en œuvre des dispositions de ladite Convention sur le traitement préférentiel au bénéfice des pays du Sud. Au moment où j'aborde le point sur la culture, permettez-moi de saisir l'opportunité pour solliciter le soutien de tous les États membres à la candidature du Burkina Faso au Comité du patrimoine mondial lors de l'Assemblée générale des Parties, prévue du 18 au 20 novembre prochain.

53.8 Sur la culture de la paix et de la lutte contre le terrorisme, le Burkina Faso a bénéficié du projet INCTT-UNESCO en 2014-2015, lequel projet a permis, en collaboration avec le Bureau régional multisectoriel de Dakar de former et de sensibiliser 50 000 personnes dans les régions du Sahel et du Centre. Évidemment, il est souhaitable que, dans le contexte actuel, les expériences et les bonnes pratiques soient capitalisées et partagées avec les autres pays de la sous-région.

53.9 Enfin, je voudrais appeler au respect de la liberté d'expression et de presse qui a été mise à rude épreuve dans mon pays lors de la tentative de coup d'État en septembre dernier et qui a occasionné de nombreuses violences contre des journalistes et la haine des médias. Je saisis l'occasion pour exprimer la gratitude du peuple et du Gouvernement du Burkina Faso à tous ceux qui ont permis de faire échec à cette déstabilisation et remettre en selle les institutions de la transition qui préparent sereinement les élections présidentielles et législatives prévues le 29 novembre prochain.

53.10 Pour conclure, le Burkina Faso réaffirme son engagement son attachement aux valeurs et aux idéaux de l'UNESCO, et sa bonne disposition à travailler avec elle pour un monde épris de paix et de justice. *I thank you.*

54. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Our next speaker is His Excellency Mr Adrian Cioroianu, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

55.1 **M. Cioroianu (Roumanie) :**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Vos Excellences, mesdames et messieurs, j'ai le privilège de m'adresser à vous en tant qu'Ambassadeur, délégué permanent de la Roumanie auprès de l'UNESCO et ancien Ministre des affaires étrangères, dans le contexte très spécial de l'anniversaire de 70 ans depuis la création de l'UNESCO. Je souhaite réaffirmer le profond attachement de la Roumanie aux valeurs et à la mission de cette organisation-clé du système des Nations Unies et l'espoir qu'ensemble, nous réussirons à dépasser les difficultés présentes et futures.

55.2 Cette année est d'autant plus spéciale car elle est marquée par l'adoption des documents-cadres tels que l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable et le cadre d'action Éducation 2030. Pour ne parler que des synergies en cours autour de la Conférence de Paris sur le climat COP 21 ou d'autres initiatives à longue portée, telles que la coalition internationale et la stratégie pour la protection des biens culturels en zones de conflit armé ou l'éducation en tant qu'instrument de promotion de la tolérance et de combat contre l'extrémisme violent.

55.3 Mesdames et Messieurs, comme l'éducation reste l'un des domaines les plus dynamiques, la réforme du système éducatif en Roumanie ainsi que la législation qui sert de base à cette réforme tiennent compte des nouveaux impératifs pour l'avenir et intègrent l'objectif d'une éducation pour tous, avec un accent particulier sur l'amélioration de la qualité. C'est dans ce contexte qu'en Roumanie, nous avons ajouté à l'offre générale de formation des programmes et des projets en faveur des groupes défavorisés, le programme de relance de l'enseignement rural, ainsi que d'autres programmes de soutien. Notre principal souci est d'harmoniser la vision et les applications en matière d'éducation permanente de façon à organiser l'ensemble des mesures autour de quelques principes générateurs de progrès.

55.4 Mesdames et Messieurs, la continuité de ces préoccupations conduit à la nécessité d'une vision intégrée concernant la recherche scientifique comme moteur du développement durable. À cet égard, le Gouvernement de la Roumanie a approuvé la Stratégie nationale pour la recherche, le développement et l'innovation 2014-2020 qui inclut aussi les directions de recherche promues par l'UNESCO. En même temps, la Stratégie assure un support durable aux programmes spéciaux de l'UNESCO – L'Homme et la biosphère, Bioéthique, Le management des transformations sociales ou l'Océanographie. La Roumanie salue, également, l'inclusion sur l'agenda de la Conférence Générale les statuts du Programme international pour les géosciences et les géoparcs. La Roumanie, par la contribution d'une prestigieuse université et de ses spécialistes – c'est l'Université de Bucarest – continuera à apporter son expertise et soutien au bénéfice de ce nouveau cadre.

55.5 Mesdames, Messieurs, nous retrouvons aussi sur l'agenda de l'actuelle Conférence générale la préoccupation de l'UNESCO pour la promotion et le soutien des valeurs authentiques. Les instruments utilisés par l'UNESCO pour la protection du patrimoine mondial naturel et culturel sont devenus de vrais repères dans les politiques et les stratégies culturelles nationales ou régionales. La Roumanie a toujours été parmi les partisans fidèles de l'actualisation de la Liste du patrimoine mondial, en soulignant la nécessité que celle-ci doit être équilibrée, représentative et crédible. Nous considérons qu'il est nécessaire que les sites déjà inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial soient protégés par un système de mesures directement applicables en cas d'urgence.

55.6 Mesdames et Messieurs, l'année prochaine, la Roumanie fêtera les 60 ans depuis son inscription comme Membre de plein droit de l'UNESCO. Et dans le contexte de l'anniversaire des 70 ans depuis la création de l'UNESCO, j'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer que le Président de la Roumanie, M. Klaus Iohannis, a décoré hier des institutions culturelles et unions de création comprenant plusieurs artistes et intellectuels, et aussi le Collège juridique franco-roumain d'études européennes, pour leur contribution aux activités compatibles avec l'agenda de l'UNESCO. En guise de conclusion, j'aimerais souligner le rôle irremplaçable de l'UNESCO qui a le mérite de nous rappeler, toujours les vertus d'une culture de la paix. Je vous remercie.

56. **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency. Ladies and gentlemen, we have thus concluded our work for this morning. The plenary will reconvene this afternoon as usual, at 3 o'clock sharp. I wish you all a pleasant lunch. *This meeting is now adjourned.*

The meeting rose at 1.13 p.m.