

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

Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa (Namibia)

### Report of the work of the Bureau

#### 1.1 The President:

Good morning Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the sixteenth plenary meeting of the General Conference. As you are aware, today and tomorrow will be the penultimate days of our General Conference. The plenary meetings of today and tomorrow will be dedicated to the examination of reports of the programme commissions and committees and the adoption of the Appropriation Resolution. We will also have a brief closing ceremony to mark the end of our work.

1.2 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, before starting with the adoption of the reports, I would like to inform you that the Bureau of the General Conference held its fifth meeting this morning. The Bureau reviewed the organization of the last phase of work of our General Conference and examined two draft resolutions which I will now present for your attention. The first draft resolution concerns the tribute to the President of the 37th session of the General Conference, Mr Hao Ping. The Bureau, at its meeting this morning, acknowledged the diplomatic skill, humility and wisdom with which Mr Hao Ping presided over the Conference and recommended that the plenary adopt the draft resolution contained in document 38 C/PLEN/DR.2. Dear colleagues, if you so permit, I will now ask the Secretary to read out the text of this resolution. Mr Secretary you have the floor.

### Tribute to the President of the 37th session of the General Conference

#### 2. The Secretary:

Thank you, Mr President. The text of 38 C/PLEN/DR.2 reads as follows: "Tribute to the President of the General Conference. The General Conference, *mindful* that His Excellency Mr Hao Ping concluded his term of office as President of the General Conference at the opening of the 38th session, *noting* with appreciation the efforts he deployed to promote harmony, dialogue and mutual understanding among the Member States of UNESCO, *acknowledging* his unswerving commitment to promote the universal values and ideals of the Organization, *appreciating* his accomplishments in developing public/private partnerships in support of UNESCO's programmes, *recognizing* his efforts to enhance the image and visibility of UNESCO around the world, advancing particularly girls' and womens' education, dialogue among cultures, the use of ICTs in education, and UNESCO's role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *recalling* the diplomatic skills, humility and wisdom with which he has carried out his high responsibilities, *conveys* its high esteem and gratitude to His Excellency, Mr Hao Ping, for the contribution he has made to UNESCO during his term of office." Thank you, Mr President.

#### 3. The President:

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Ladies and gentlemen, may I take it that the General Conference adopts this resolution by acclamation? *It is so decided.* Thank you very much.

### Tribute to the Chair of the Executive Board

#### 4. The President:

Ladies and gentlemen, the round of applause shows our collective appreciation of Mr Hao Ping's leadership. Excellencies, the General Committee also decided to pay tribute to the Chair of the Executive Board, His Excellency Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr who is here with us. The Committee recognized his leadership, professionalism and dedication with which he presided over the Board and proposed that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in document 38 C/PLEN/DR.3. Dear colleagues, I now give the floor to the Secretary of the General Conference who will read out the text of the draft resolution which the Bureau is proposing for adoption in tribute to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr. Mr Secretary, you have the floor.

#### 5. The Secretary:

Thank you, Mr President. The draft resolution 38 C/PLEN/DR.3 reads as follows. "Tribute to the Chair of the Executive Board. The General Conference, *noting* that His Excellency Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr will conclude his term of office as Chair of the Executive Board, which he has held since 22 November 2013, at the end of the 38th session of the General Conference, *recalling* the professionalism and dedication with which he has assumed his role as Chair of the Executive Board, *confirming* his unswerving dedication to the ideals of UNESCO's Constitution in the execution of his mandate, *recognizing* his leadership and support for UNESCO's mandate in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication and information, and his advocacy for UNESCO's relevance especially as it relates to, *inter alia*, the preparations of the post-2015 development agenda, including Education beyond 2015, the protection and preservation of culture in conflict areas, as well as the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, *recognising also* the important role he played in making full use of UNESCO's wealth of expertise and of its role as an intellectual and cultural hub, thus ensuring the Organization's continued importance and relevance in the world of today, through the organization of a series of meetings under the banner "UNESCO at 70 and Future Prospects" as the Organization celebrates its 70th anniversary, *acknowledging* the efforts made by the Executive Board under his leadership towards greater optimization of its governance role, *conveying* its appreciation for the renovation work of the Executive Board meeting room and the Delegates' Lounge, undertaken through his leadership, *expresses* its profound gratitude to Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr for the invaluable services that he has rendered to the Organization." Thank you, Mr President.

6. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Excellencies, may I take it that the General Conference adopts this resolution by acclamation. Thank you very much. *It is so **decided***. Ladies and gentlemen, allow me now to give the floor to the Director-General who wishes to say a few words. Madam Director-General.

7.1 **The Director-General:**

Thank you very much Mr President. Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am truly honoured to have this opportunity once again to thank Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr for his leadership of the Executive Board of UNESCO. Ambassador Amr, you have captained the Executive Board at a turning point, a turning point for the world, as countries accelerated to reach the 2015 Millennium Development Goals and shaped the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a turning point for the Organization as the call for UNESCO has risen from societies across the world for support in advancing inclusive, equitable education and quality education and lifelong learning for all, in harnessing the sciences, safeguarding culture in conflict, in protecting freedom of expression and, I believe, guided by deep commitment to the values of dialogue and respect and driven by the principles and objectives that have underpinned our Organization for the last 70 years. I wish to thank you once again for accompanying and helping UNESCO grow and succeed in all its tasks.

*(The Director-General continues in French)*

7.2 Alors, Monsieur le Président, j'ai eu l'occasion de vous saluer et de parler de tous vos accomplissements pendant la dernière session du Conseil exécutif. J'ai pu aussi vous remercier pour votre engagement avec le soutien de l'UNESCO dans ces temps difficiles. Je dirais que votre engagement aussi pour les rénovations de la salle X, c'est un symbole, c'est un symbole de leadership. C'est un symbole aussi du rôle du Conseil exécutif comme un des organes dirigeants de cette Organisation, dans la dernière ligne de l'Agenda 2030, l'Agenda pour le développement durable et vers la COP 21 et aussi plein d'autres responsabilités que le Conseil exécutif et cette Organisation avaient menées.

7.3 La médaille du 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'UNESCO symbolise aussi notre attachement collectif aux valeurs de l'UNESCO, notre conviction que la haine et l'extrémisme violent peuvent être vaincus par l'éducation à la paix, par la culture de la paix. Contre cette maladie de l'esprit, nous devons lutter aussi avec les armes de l'esprit. Ce message revêt une signification particulière au lendemain des attentats de Paris. L'Égypte, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, connaît, elle aussi, le prix de l'extrémisme et elle a souffert, y compris récemment, des attaques terroristes. Contre cette peste, l'UNESCO a une responsabilité particulière, une contribution à apporter et vous l'avez montré durant ces 12 années à la tête du Conseil exécutif, et à l'avenir, j'espère bien, sous d'autres formes ensemble nous allons continuer.

7.4 Permettez-moi maintenant, Monsieur le Président, de donner à l'Ambassadeur Amr, le Président du Conseil exécutif, notre médaille dédiée au 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'Organisation dans cette session plénière de la Conférence générale.

8. **The President**

Thank you very much, Madam Director-General. Let me invite my dear friend and colleague, Ambassador Amr, to take the floor. My dear friend, you have the floor.

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

Thank you Mr President. Mr President, Madam Director-General, distinguished delegates, my dear colleagues and friends, let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you all. It has been an honour to serve this Organization as Chair of the Executive Board. Mr President, Madam Director-General, I do not need to tell you just how much our world needs UNESCO. We are the moral compass that guides universal respect for justice and equality amongst all people, now more than ever. I wish you both all the best. I wish also good luck to my successor. Please note that I will remain faithful to UNESCO and will defend it forever.

10. **The President:**

Thank you very much my dear friend. That really was less than 2 minutes, but unfortunately I have run out of stock in terms of chocolates but we will see what we can do bilaterally between us Mr Chair of the Executive Board, dear friend, I hope that the medal presented to you by the Director-General will serve you as a constant reminder of the General Conference's strong appreciation of your leadership. On behalf of all of us here today, including many delegations who would have preferred to take the floor personally, I want to thank you very much again for your service, for your dedication to our beloved organization. Once again, thank you very much.

## **Report of the Natural Sciences Commission**

11. **The President:**

Excellencies, we will now proceed to examine the report of the Natural Sciences Commission. I would therefore like to give the floor to Her Excellency, Dr Noorun Ainur binti Mohamed Nur, who will introduce the report contained in document 38 C/92. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

12.1 **Ms Nur (Malaysia) (Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission):**

Thank you Mr President. Mr President of the General Conference, Mr Chair of the Executive Board, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Before I begin my report on the Natural Sciences Commission, I would like to express my sincere condolences and solidarity with the French people. Now more than ever, we must remain committed to UNESCO's mandate in building peace through shared understanding.

12.2 As Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission, it is my great pleasure to present the conclusions of the Commission's work to this honourable assembly. First and foremost, allow me to thank the members of the Bureau of the Natural Sciences Commission for their valuable support: Vice-Chairpersons Mr Nizamettin Kazanci (Turkey), Ms Ligia do Cardona (Dominican Republic) and Ms Gakou Salimata Fofana (Mali), Mr Abdullah Ahmed Abdulsalam (Sudan) and our

rapporteur Mr Radovan Stanislav Pejovnik (Slovenia). I also wish to pay tribute to the Secretary of the Natural Sciences Commission and to his team for their assistance behind the scenes to ensure the efficient work of the Commission. I should also like to thank the representatives of the Director-General, Ms Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, and Mr Vladimir Ryabinin, Assistant Director-General and Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and Mr Jean Yves Le Saux, Director of Programme and Budget for the Bureau of Strategic Planning. Their productive exchanges with the Commission were most appreciated.

12.3 The Natural Sciences Commission began its work on Monday, 9 November, and met four times. The Commission's work was organized around five debates and nine agenda items. I shall present the results of our work according to the adopted timetable, which is also reflected in the written report. Prior to the Commission's examination of the first item on the agenda, Mr Sergio Guevara, Chair of the MAB International Coordination Council (MAB-ICC) read out a Joint Statement by the Chairs of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Programme on Management of Social Transformations (MOST) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). In their Joint Statement, the Chairs pledged to support the Director-General as she seeks to reinforce the role of the sciences within UNESCO and in the broader international community. They underscored the importance of promoting awareness of the roles of the international science programmes and of UNESCO in the sciences within the United Nations system in order to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I would also like to thank Ms Houda Ait Mik representative of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and Ms Denise Young representative of the International Council for Science who intervened at this point. The Commission then took note of the reports of the IBSP, IGCP, IHP, MAB and IOC on their activities in 2014–2015, as well as the report of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education.

12.4 Next to take the floor under agenda item 4.5, "Conclusion of the Youth Forum: Young Global Citizens for a Sustainable Planet", was the Youth Forum representative, Ms Samantha Montesarchio. Describing the forum's conclusions as regards natural sciences, Ms Montesarchio emphasized the importance of addressing climate change, promoting innovation and focusing on the environmental education of future generations. The Commission thanked Ms Montesarchio for her presentation and took note of the Youth Forum's conclusions.

12.5 The Commission then took up item 3.4 of the agenda, namely the "Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)". The Director of the Programme and Budget for the Bureau of Strategic Planning gave a brief presentation of the preparation of the future Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (Draft 39 C/5). He recalled the recommendation of the 197th session of the Executive Board to the General Conference that it approve the Roadmap proposed by the Secretariat for preparation of the draft 39 C/5 document. He explained the key milestones for the Roadmap including the 38th session of the General Conference resolution to set the stage for launching the preparation of the 39 C/5. He emphasized the crucial importance of science, technology and innovation in the 2030 Agenda, and underlined that UNESCO would play a major role in assisting Member States to achieve several science-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

12.6 In her intervention, the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC) emphasized that UNESCO's current programmes in science are particularly relevant to a number of the SDGs and have the potential in the future to contribute to an even greater extent to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. She informed the Commission that the science sector had undertaken an exercise to link the Sector's work to the SDGs and its associated targets which is set to continue in the 38 C/5. She underscored that UNESCO has critical comparative advantages in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including extensive networks and its truly universal and multisectoral mandate. In addition, UNESCO is responsible for the UNESCO Science Report, the Global Observatory on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN) and the World Water Development Report which are useful tools to measure progress in the 2030 Agenda.

12.7 In his intervention, the Assistant Director-General and Executive Secretary of IOC (ADG/IOC) noted that oceans had been specifically addressed in SDG 14. He discussed how IOC would contribute to SDG 14, notably in the areas of capacity building, ocean observations, finding new solutions to issues such as ocean acidification and management tools for oceans. He also emphasized IOC's important work in climate change (notably its participation in COP21), mapping of ocean biodiversity, and its regional tsunami warning systems.

12.8 Forty one delegates then took the floor to debate item 3.4. A number of delegates, in particular from Africa, highlighted the importance of science technology and innovation in ensuring sustainable development. Various delegates also highlighted the importance for UNESCO to focus on sustainability science. Global Geoparks were also mentioned as an area on which the Sector should focus. Member States also requested more focused efforts and actions to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Many delegates emphasized the importance of IOC and the necessity to continue to prioritize IOC in future programmes and budgets. In particular, they highlighted the importance of tsunami warning systems and capacity building in the ocean sciences. Portugal asked that the role and governance mechanisms of IOC be clarified. Many speakers also highlighted the importance of IHP's work relating to integrated water resources management and water security, and MAB's work relating to conserving biodiversity and the creation of the transboundary biosphere reserves. Various delegates underscored the important work UNESCO was undertaking in the area of climate change, including through IOC, and in the area of disaster risk reduction. Several speakers expressed their satisfaction that UNESCO, notably through its intergovernmental and international scientific programmes, has taken on a leading role in the preparation of the 2030 Agenda, and underscored that UNESCO was well positioned to continue to play a key role within the new framework. Several delegates noted the importance of science, technology and innovation in achieving the SDGs. A number of countries stressed the importance of the Natural Sciences Sector working in an interdisciplinary way, including with the social sciences, and of taking advantage of its many strong networks such as category 2 centres and Chairs to multiply its impact. In their reply to the debate, ADG/SC and ADG/IOC thanked the Member States for their positive comments and took note of the suggestions made by Member States to ensure UNESCO play a key role in the

## 2030 Agenda.

12.9 I would now like to turn to the next item on the agenda, item **3.2**, “Consideration and adoption of the Draft Budget for 2016-2017, Major Programme II – Natural Sciences”. In addition to the 38 C/5 document, the Commission also considered the recommendations by the Executive Board contained in document 38 C/6 and its Addenda and Corrigenda and two draft resolutions submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. In her overview, the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences recalled that the draft 38 C/5 document with respect to Major Programme II was a continuation of the 37 C/5 approved in the four-year programme cycle. She noted that for almost all expected results there were no proposed changes. Following the Executive Board decisions, the Director-General proposed two minor changes to the title of the Main Line of Action 4 and the associated Expected Result 7. She noted that as this Main Line of Action and Expected Result 7 are uniquely concerned with the earth sciences, and biodiversity related issues are embedded within Main Line of Action 5, the word “biodiversity” has been removed from the title of Main Line of Action 4 and the words “ecological and” have been removed from the title of Expected Result 7. She observed that the Director-General proposed also to further align the allocated budgets by Main Line of Action with the priorities set by Member States for Major Programme II, while adjusting the performance indicators and targets for each expected result. She noted that these small adjustments were reflected in document 38 C/6 and Addenda and Corrigenda.

12.10 Next to take the floor was the Assistant Director-General and IOC Executive Secretary. He noted that the Draft Programme and Budget document was reviewed in-depth and endorsed by the IOC Assembly at its 28th session in June 2015. He noted that while Expected Results 4 and 6 remain unchanged, a small change was introduced to Expected Result 5 to emphasize IOC’s work on tsunamis based on the comments from Member States at the Executive Board and endorsed by the IOC Assembly. He underscored that the proposed budget would allow IOC to assist more small island developing States (SIDS) in the transfer of marine technology, to build capacity and to respond to some of the most pressing staffing needs by creating a new professional post to coordinate the work on ocean warming and acidification.

12.11 Twenty-two Member States and one observer took the floor to express their support for the draft C/5 as it concerned Major Programme II. Member States again emphasized the importance of appropriate funding for IOC, IHP and MAB and underscored the importance of science, technology and innovation, as well as sustainability science and Global Geoparks. At the end of the debate, the Commission recommended to the General Conference that it adopt the proposed decision related to Major Programme II in document 38 C/5 as amended by the Executive Board in document 38 C/6 and Addenda and Corrigenda. Following an explanation by ADG/SC of the Director-General’s observations regarding the draft resolutions by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Commission decided not to retain them.

12.12 The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences introduced item **4.4**, which concerned the establishment of 17 category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO. Without a preliminary debate, the Commission recommended to the General Conference that it adopt the resolutions for the establishment of all 17 proposed institutes and centres. A number of countries then took the floor to elaborate further on the purpose of the centres and their planned activities. Germany noted it would propose that the Executive Board review category 2 centres on a more strategic level as the number of centres was increasing rapidly.

12.13 The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences introduced item **4.16** which concerned the renewal and revision of the operational agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands on the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and revision of the statutes of the Institute. She noted the process that was under way to negotiate these documents with the Government of the Netherlands. A number of delegates took the floor to support the work being done by UNESCO-IHE. The delegate for the Netherlands then took the floor to acknowledge those comments. He noted that the Netherlands was committed to improving the operation agreement and statutes to ensure a solid foundation for the Institute’s important work. The Commission recommended that the draft decision contained in document 38 C/56 be adopted without modification.

12.14 I now turn to item **4.20** related to the contribution by UNESCO in combating climate change. The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences introduced the item, noting that document 38 C/67 described the current and future actions of UNESCO to combat climate change, including preparations for the COP 21 and looking forward to COP 22 in Morocco in 2016. The document also referred to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goal 13 to “take urgent measures to fight against climate change and its impacts”. She noted that the Director-General will maintain the UNESCO Intersectoral Task Force on Climate Change, led by ADG/SC, and that an update of the UNESCO strategy to address climate change would be presented to the Executive Board at its 200th session. Finally, she outlined several areas of action that could be strengthened, provided that additional extrabudgetary resources were made available. The Executive Secretary of IOC underscored the key role IOC would be playing at COP 21. He added that it was imperative that negotiations lead to a legally binding agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gases and that the ocean needed to be integrated in the activities of this future climate regime.

12.15 Twenty-eight Member States took the floor. A great number welcomed document 38 C/67 and expressed their appreciation of UNESCO’s role in the preparations for COP 21 and its interdisciplinary approach to the issue. Member States in particular highlighted the role of IOC, IHP and MAB. A number of countries mentioned the importance of UNESCO’s contributions in research, data sharing, indigenous and traditional knowledge and climate change education and public awareness. A number of countries emphasized the need for effective monitoring mechanisms for the new climate change framework. Tonga, speaking for 17 Pacific Member States, as well as the Philippines brought to the attention of the Commission the importance of highlighting the vulnerability of least developed countries and small island developing States to climate change.

12.16 In her response, ADG/SC thanked Member States for their support and underscored the importance of UNESCO’s intersectoral approach to climate change. In response to a question from St Vincent and the Grenadines, she reported that UNESCO had been invited for fast track accreditation to the Green Climate Fund and that the Secretariat would inform the Executive Board of any evolution in this regard. She informed St Lucia that the issue of ethics of climate change was being addressed by World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)

and would be reflected when adopting the UNESCO strategy on climate change. Following a debate on the draft decision and a number of proposed amendments, the draft decision contained in document 38 C/67 was adopted with a modification proposed by St Lucia to eliminate text referring to specific temperature targets and deferring to the agreement to be reached at COP 21.

12.17 The Commission then considered item **4.19**, “Proclamation of 26 July as the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem”. ADG/SC introduced the item. She noted that this item has been presented at the request of Ecuador and was supported by GRULAC. She further highlighted that the proposal underlined the great importance of mangrove ecosystems to coastline protection, climate change mitigation and food security for local communities. She noted that MAB, LINKS, IHP, World Heritage Centre, Global Geoparks and IOC work closely together on the issue. Fourteen Member States took the floor to support the proclamation of 26 July as the “International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem”. They underscored the important role mangrove ecosystems had in regulating climate change and conserving biodiversity. The Commission recommended adoption of the decision in document 38 C/66 with slight modifications.

12.18 The Commission then considered item **4.15** related to the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Strategy for the period 2015-2025. In her introduction to this item, ADG/SC noted that the strategy had been developed by the MAB Bureau and a group of international experts and adopted by the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme at its 27th session. She noted that the MAB Strategy provided a clear framework for MAB to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. Forty-one Member States took the floor. They strongly supported the MAB programme and welcomed the new strategy document. They noted the important role MAB and its biosphere reserves should play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Delegates underscored the importance of MAB and its biosphere reserves in conserving biodiversity, protecting ecosystems, promoting the sustainable development of local communities, for research and training and awareness-raising. In her response, ADG/SC thanked Member States for their overwhelming support of MAB and assured the delegates that their comments would be taken into account when finalizing the Lima Action Plan for 2016-2025.

12.19 A draft resolution co-authored by France, Germany and Peru and supported by an additional 24 countries was put forward for debate. The sponsoring countries noted that they wanted to further emphasize the importance of MAB, notably in the context of the 2030 Agenda. They looked forward to the upcoming World Congress on Biosphere Reserves to be held in March 2016 in Peru and to the adoption of the Lima Action Plan for 2016-2025. St Vincent and the Grenadines proposed modifications to the text of the draft resolution to recognize different national circumstances in the implementation of commitments to the MAB Strategy. The Commission decided to recommend adoption of the draft resolution without the proposed amendments after a number of Member States objected to the amendments and taking note of the explanation by the Secretariat that different national circumstances were already taken into account in MAB’s statutory documents.

12.20 ADG/SC then introduced item **4.7** relating to the statutes of the International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). She outlined the process through which Member States had been exploring how to formalize the link between the Global Geoparks and UNESCO, including at the 37th session of the General Conference, six Executive Board sessions and seven meetings of the Working Group established by the Director-General. She noted that the IGGP was a demonstration of UNESCO’s ability to innovate and that IGGP provided the opportunity to bring the research profile of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) together with the outreach and educational strengths of Global Geoparks. The proposal would bring geodiversity to centre stage in UNESCO. She highlighted that geodiversity underlined almost all aspects of society, shaping not only biodiversity but also our cultural and intangible heritages.

12.21 Thirty-two Member States and three observers (the Global Geoparks Network, the International Union of Geological Sciences and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature) took the floor on item **4.7**. Delegates strongly supported the formalization of Global Geoparks as UNESCO Global Geoparks. Member States highlighted that Global Geoparks illustrated how UNESCO could work in an intersectoral manner, looking at natural and cultural resources and promoting the sustainable development of local communities. A number of delegates highlighted how Global Geoparks would be giving increased visibility to the geosciences, and underscored the importance of geotourism and the role of Global Geoparks in addressing geohazards. A few Member States commented on the collaboration between the different UNESCO designated sites and emphasized the need to build synergies between them. ADG/SC thanked the Member States for their extraordinary support for IGGP and Global Geoparks and noted that the issue of co-branding between Global Geoparks and other UNESCO sites would be addressed at the 200th session of the Executive Board. The decision contained in document 38 C/14 was then approved by acclamation.

12.22 Mr President, this brings me to the conclusion of my oral report. I hope I have succeeded in capturing the essence of the rich debates and the orientations provided by the Commission for the programmes of the Natural Sciences. On a personal note, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the UNESCO Secretariat and Member States. It has been an exhausting but enriching journey for me over the last two weeks. Thank you for your attention.

**13. The President:**

Thank you Madam Chairperson for your presentation. I wish to congratulate you for a very effective chairmanship of the Commission. Are there any comments on the report so presented? I see St Vincent and the Grenadines followed by Portugal. St Vincent and the Grenadines, you have the floor.

**14. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:**

Thank you Mr President. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission for her excellent report which reflects all interventions and exchanges of views and the decisions adopted in the Commission and for the way she chaired the Commission. I just have one comment and one amendment. I think there is something missing in the French version of the report on page 20 on item **4.15** regarding the MAB Strategy. Page 20 in the French version, paragraph 2, is not aligned with the English version. In French, the paragraph says “*engage les États membres*

à faciliter...” and we should replace “engage” with “encourage” as in the English version: “Encourage les États membres à faciliter...” Et à la troisième ligne, au lieu de “afin de contribuer...” c’est “en vue de contribuer...”. I will explain: it is a translation of “with a view” because we replaced “with the aim of” by “with a view to” because we do not yet know the conclusion of COP 21 or COP 22, so we replace “afin de” with “en vue de contribuer” to align the French version with the English version. Thank you.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much, the Secretariat has taken note of that and the necessary amendments will be made where appropriate. The distinguished representative of Portugal you have the floor.

16.1 **Portugal:**

Monsieur le Président, tout d’abord, le Portugal souhaite s’associer à tous ceux qui ont déjà exprimé au peuple et au Gouvernement de la France leurs condoléances et leur profonde solidarité suite aux événements tragiques de vendredi dernier.

(L’oratrice poursuit en anglais)

16.2 Mr President, please allow me to congratulate Dr Noorul Ainur binti Mohamad Nur for the excellent chairmanship of the Natural Sciences Commission and in particular for the very accurate report that has just been presented to this plenary. In this regard, we wish to express our thanks to the Chairperson for having conveyed our message and concerns to the plenary regarding the status, future and image of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and on the IOC’s relationship with UNESCO. We take this opportunity to emphasize the large support to enhance the role and capabilities of IOC as an intergovernmental body within UNESCO as key elements to define the future of IOC, thus responding to the expectations expressed by Member States and governing bodies of the Commission through the adoption of concrete measures to apply IOC’s status, namely regarding its functional autonomy and as a joint specialized mechanism in ocean research, services and capacity building of the United Nations system in accordance with decision 4 of the 28th assembly of the IOC. Taking this into consideration, the guidance provided by the governing bodies of IOC and the debate held in the Natural Sciences Commission as a constructive contribution to enhance the relationship between IOC as an intergovernmental body and UNESCO, we encourage the Director-General, in consultation with IOC officers and with the Executive Secretary of IOC, to revise references to IOC’s role and image in documents of UNESCO, including draft document 39 C/5, clarifying the structures of governance of the Commission and the practice of its functional autonomy. Mr President, in our view, these are fundamental steps to realising the potential of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, namely by promoting the mandate and work of the IOC and related capabilities in fostering a common national approach in intergovernmental fora, now reinforced by a standalone development goal for oceans adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Thank you very much, Mr President.

17. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Indeed we have taken note, but I also need to indicate that the 39 C/5 will be subject to discussions in the Joint Meeting of the Programme Commissions scheduled for tomorrow. I do recognize the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

18. **Islamic Republic of Iran:**

Thank you, Mr President, I would like to thank Madam Chair, head of the Natural Sciences Commission. I have a comment on page 4, the draft resolution not retained in paragraph 14. As far as I understand, we have two draft resolutions, DR.8 and DR.9. DR.9 was not retained but DR.8 was retained. In this report, both of these have not been retained. Please check whether it is correct or not. Thank you very much.

19. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I think I would rather invite the Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission to intervene on that. Madam, you have the floor.

20. **Ms Nur (Malaysia) (Chairperson of the Natural Sciences Commission):**

Thank you Mr President. With regards to that, both are not retained. That was the decision made during the meeting, the last one that we had. Thank you.

21.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, I think that clarifies the consensus that was reached during the Commission’s deliberations and I believe we can leave it like that. Thank you very much Excellencies, I do not see any further interventions. May I then consider that the General Conference takes note of the report of the Natural Sciences Commission and hereby adopts the draft resolutions proposed in document 38 C/92 subject to the decisions that the Conference may take when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for 2015-2016? I thank you very much. *It is so decided.*

21.2 Excellencies, before I invite the Chair of the Communication and Information Commission to present the report, I do have the pleasure to recognize the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Libya, His Excellency Mr Mohammed al-Dairi who has joined us this morning. Your Excellency, welcome and we appreciate your presence here today.

## **Report of the Communication and Information Commission**

22. **The President:**

Honourable Colleagues, we will now examine the report of the Communication and Information Commission and I am pleased to give the floor to His Excellency, Dr Abdulla El Reyes who will introduce the report of the Commission. The report is contained in document 38 C/95. Your Excellency, you now have the floor, Sir.

23.1 **Mr El Reyes (United Arab Emirates) (Chairperson of the Communication and Information Commission):**

Thank you Mr President. I hope it won’t be two minutes. I am sure I will make it less than one hour. First I will

start with Arabic and then I will continue in English.

*(The speaker continues in Arabic)*

٢٣،٢ السيد رئيس المؤتمر العام، السيد رئيس المجلس التنفيذي، السيدة المديرية العامة، أصحاب السعادة، المندوبون الكرام، السيدات والسادة، بصفتي رئيساً للجنة الاتصال والمعلومات ورئيساً للجنة الاستشارية الدولية لبرنامج ذاكرة العالم، أضم صوتي إلى أصوات الآخرين للتنديد بما شهده يوم ١٣ تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر في باريس من أعمال تنم عن إجرام مروع ووحشية همجية. وإننا إذ نواصل صلواتنا ترحماً على أرواح الأشخاص الذين لقوا حتفهم من جراء العمل الجبان الذي حدث في تلك الليلة، لتتقدم بأصدق التعازي إلى ذويهم، ونرفع الدعاء طلباً لشفاء جميع المصابين. وإننا نقف اليوم صامدين في وجه قوى الشر هذه عازمين على مواصلة التقدم نحو تحقيق هدف اليونسكو المتمثل في "بناء حصون السلام في عقول البشر، رجالاً ونساءً" من خلال التربية والعلوم والثقافة والاتصال والمعلومات. ونعرب للأناس الطيبين سكان العاصمة باريس التي تستضيف منظمنا عن دعمنا التام لهم وتعاطفنا الكامل معهم في بداية خروجهم من صدمة تلك الأعمال المروعة التي تستحق كل الشجب والاستنكار، وفي الوقت الذي يعمل فيه المجتمع الدولي يداً بيد للحيلولة دون تكرارها.

*(The speaker continues in English)*

23.3 I am honoured to present this oral report on behalf of the Communication and Information Commission, which examined nine agenda items in a series of eight debates on 10 and 11 November 2015. My name is Dr Abdulla El Reyes from the United Arab Emirates. I chaired the Commission, the Vice-Chairpersons of the Bureau included Her Excellency Ms Cristina Rodríguez Galán (Andorra), Mr Andrejs Vasilevs (Latvia), Ms Leticia Casati (Paraguay) and Ms Wang Hongmin (China). Mr Riche-Mike Wellington (Ghana) was the Rapporteur.

23.4 In my opening remarks of the Commission, I recalled the words of UNESCO's Constitution, which stress the development and use of the free exchange of ideas and knowledge for the purposes of mutual understanding. Seventy years ago, in the aftermath of World War Two, these words were bold, innovative and foreseeing. Allow me to remark that, after the terrible attacks against the people of Paris last week, this reminder of our highest goals resonates with particular strength in my heart. Our mission to build peace through the means of dialogue, of communication and information, is a fragile and ongoing effort. It is essential work for humankind in the present and in the future. This is the meaning of the work that UNESCO carries through on a daily basis.

23.5 This brings me back to the CI Commission, where my introductory address was followed by Deputy Director-General, Mr Getachew Engida, who presented highlights of the CI's biennial achievements. He then introduced the Director-General's report on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP), followed by the presentation of the activity report of the IFAP Council by its Chair, Ms Chafica Haddad. She stressed that the Programme had been recognized for its ground-breaking work under its six strategic priorities. Following the introduction of the biennial activity report of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) by the Deputy Director-General, its Chair, Ms Albana Shala, presented the biennial report of the Council's activities. Ms Shala also informed the Commission of the new priorities of the programme, particularly countering hate speech, promoting conflict-sensitive reporting, and cross-cultural, cross-religious dialogue. Finally, she urged Member States to continue supporting IPDC with extrabudgetary contributions. Mr President, against the background of this introduction, please allow me to summarize the key points emerging from the debates of the Commission.

23.6 The CI Commission dedicated its first debate to the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021, the 39 C/5, as well as to the consideration of the conclusions of the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum. In his introductory remarks, the representative of the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, presented selected achievements as foundations for CI's future work. He underlined the impact of UNESCO's intersectoral work on the World Summit on the Information Society, and stressed the increasing importance that freedom of expression is taking on as a human right both online and offline. The United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists, the development of open access activities in Member States, as well as UNESCO's promotion of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace are also key pillars. The Deputy Director-General also emphasized UNESCO's key role in the work on ICTs for persons with disabilities, and how the global priorities, gender equality and Africa, continue to be foundations for future activities. Quoting the knowledge societies and other CI references in the 2030 Development Agenda, the Deputy Director-General also emphasized the Sector's role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

23.7 The representative from the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) informed Member States on the consultative process concerning the preparation of the future Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5), which will lead to its adoption at the 39th session of the General Conference in 2017. Two youth representatives presented the Commission with recommendations issued by the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum, including the creation of a toolkit on global citizenship education to ensure the universal enjoyment of human rights, the setting up of youth foresight forums and the establishment of a global environment youth organization fostering learning through a virtual university. While these recommendations are not part of the C/5, a number of Member States voiced their support to youth initiatives during the ensuing debate for their implementation at country-level.

23.8 In their comments, Member States stressed the importance and quality of the work carried out by the Sector and the related Memory of World, Information for All Programme (IFAP) and the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) programmes. They agreed that UNESCO was uniquely positioned to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. Many Member States voiced concerns about the budget allocation to Major Programme V. The need for additional financial resources and prioritization of activities along UNESCO's comparative advantages was stressed, emphasizing UNESCO's normative and conceptual leadership as well as its strong convening power through multi-stakeholder platforms. Member States also expressed their will to see vacant posts staffed as soon as possible, notably in field offices.

23.9 The universality of human rights, both offline and online, was recalled, as were the principles summarized by the acronym "ROAM" which underscore that the Internet should be human Rights-based, Open, Accessible to all and nurtured by Multi-stakeholder participation. Strong emphasis was also placed on the importance of freedom of expression and press freedom, with specific references made to media pluralism, independence and strengthening

journalists' skills and capacities. Many raised the importance of continued strengthening of UNESCO's leadership on the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. Many delegations noted the challenges of countering hate speech, radicalization and violent extremism. Member States thanked UNESCO for the work done in this area and encouraged CI's future work in this field. In response, the Deputy Director-General thanked Member States and stressed UNESCO's responsiveness to developments and its potential for crosscutting implementation of the SDGs.

23.10 The second debate was held on the consideration and adoption of the Draft Budget for 2016-2017 Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and Information. In his introduction, the Deputy Director-General stated that CI would be operating with a revised expenditure plan, with shortfall from the budget of \$10,720,500. Some 55% of the budget will continue to be allocated to programmatic action in the field. He also stated that the Sector hoped to raise \$16.7 million for extrabudgetary activities during the upcoming biennium.

23.11 Twenty-two Member States took the floor on this item. Throughout the debate, they strongly reaffirmed the relevance of CI for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. Member States also stressed the need to promote gender equality and to empower youth. The promotion of inclusive knowledge societies, where all human rights are protected online and offline, calls for efforts pertaining to freedom of expression, access to information and knowledge, privacy and ethics. The importance of inclusion was highlighted, of overcoming digital and knowledge divides, and of giving access to information and knowledge to all, and particularly to women and girls. Member States also stressed the importance of the safety of journalists, press freedom and documentary heritage, including in digital form. Media development, media and information literacy, as well as knowledge sharing, were characterized as indispensable components for the SDGs. Member States expressed satisfaction with respect to the conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism."

23.12 The Memory of the World Programme was highly commended, notably for its work in Mali. IPDC and IFAP were considered to fulfil an important role. Member States asked that CI address the needs of least developed countries (LDCs), SIDS as well as conflict-affected countries, notably in Africa. Efforts should include and address vulnerable groups, notably persons with disabilities. Principles of result-based budgeting were reaffirmed, as well as the need for performance indicators.

23.13 In his response, the Deputy Director-General welcomed Member States' comments. He stressed UNESCO's continuous efforts to improve its indicators framework. He recalled that budgetary constraints apply across UNESCO as a whole, and that CI sought to manage by innovating. He reaffirmed the strong commitment of UNESCO to human rights and info-ethics. He also stated that UNESCO would continue to prioritize post-disaster/post-conflict countries, and developing countries. Internet-related issues would remain high on UNESCO's agenda. He drew Member States' attention to the leading role that UNESCO plays in World Summit of Information Society (WSIS), which will be reviewed at the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015. The Commission recommended for adoption by the General Conference the relevant paragraph of the C/5 as amended by the C/6 and its addenda, as well as by 38 C/DR.4 and 38 C/8. The Draft Resolution added a welcome reference to inclusive and pluralistic knowledge societies.

23.14 The third debate was on the outcome document of the "CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action" conference. The Deputy Director-General recalled that the General Conference, through 37 C/Resolution 52 had requested the Secretariat to undertake a comprehensive study on Internet-related issues in the mandate of UNESCO. The study had to be based on global multi-stakeholder consultations in the four areas of access to knowledge and information, freedom of expression, privacy, and the ethical dimensions of the information society.

23.15 The Deputy Director-General informed delegates that the final version of the study, entitled "Keystones to foster inclusive Knowledge Societies" was available. He added that information was also included in the "Report by the Director-General on the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes" (38 C/INF. 4). He remarked that the 18-month multi-stakeholder consultation process for the study had culminated at the CONNECTing the Dots Conference in March 2015. The outcome document of this major event contained 38 options for future action by UNESCO that were now reflected in the study.

23.16 Thirty-four Member States took the floor on this item, congratulating the Secretariat for the exemplary consultation process and the organization of the CONNECTing the Dots conference. One Member State stated that one had "rarely seen so much done with so little." The conference and its outcome document were described as a model for multi-stakeholder processes. This demonstrated UNESCO's capacity to convene a wide range of actors under its aegis and to find a common ground on very complex issues. UNESCO's present and future work was stressed as timely. Member States noted that the Internet can be used to address sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda, promote human rights, gender equality and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The need for capacity-building was also noted with respect to countries and stakeholders lacking resources, including in Africa and small island developing States (SIDS).

23.17 Endorsing the study and outcome document is also an important contribution to the WSIS review process, said several Member States, which also welcomed the study's relevance for their own ongoing work on Internet-related policies and enabling frameworks. Member States further endorsed the concept of Internet universality and its underlying ROAM principles, emphasizing their equal value and indivisible nature. A wish was expressed for this concept and others to be further developed and in an intersectoral manner, which should, for one Member State, include the COMEST.

23.18 In his response, the Deputy Director-General said he was encouraged that some Member States were already using the Internet universality principles in their national policy development. He also expressed his thanks to Indonesia for offering to host World Press Freedom Day in Jakarta in 2017. He stated that UNESCO would bring a significant contribution to the United Nations General Assembly WSIS+10 Review at the high-level event in December 2015. Finally he encouraged delegates to talk to their counterparts in New York to help them understand UNESCO's role on Internet-related issues and how this relates to WSIS and the 2030 Agenda. The Commission recommended by consensus that



the General Conference adopt the Draft Decision contained in paragraph 11 of document 38 C/53.

23.19 The fourth debate on the proclamation of 28 September as “International Day for the Universal Access to Information” was introduced by Morocco, which stated that this day would enhance the promotion of access to information, notably in developing countries, through public debates and exchanges of good practices, with a focus on gender equality. The representative of the Director-General welcomed this proposal’s alignment with UNESCO’s efforts. He also stressed its resonance with SDG target 16.10 on “Public access to information and fundamental freedoms”. He signalled the imperative to mobilize extrabudgetary resources for an impactful implementation.

23.20 Seventeen Member States took the floor during the debate to express support. One country questioned the need for the international day, but expressed support for the overall objective. Speakers said the initiative would create new dynamics, and enhance visibility on information-related issues at all levels. It would benefit remote communities, in particular in Africa and developing economies. This new international day would reinforce human rights, democratic governance, transparency and accountability. It would also enable participation of civil society, information to the public, all forms of journalism, science and research, and bottom-up innovation. The representative of the Director-General recalled that access to information drew attention specifically to the right to seek and receive information, which complemented the right to impart information. He assured delegates that the Secretariat would collaborate with Member States on this observance. The Commission recommended by consensus that the 38th session of the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 2 of document 38 C/70.

23.21 I turn now to the fifth debate of our Commission held on the “Draft Recommendation on Preservation and Access to Documentary Heritage including in Digital Form”. The representative of the Director-General outlined the multi-stakeholder consultation process, which led to the instrument, intended to harmonize policies and strategies for documentary heritage. It would also help strengthen international cooperation and raise public awareness.

23.22 Forty-one Member States took the floor. All commended the Sector for its work on the multi-stakeholder process resulting in a balanced instrument. Some affirmed that this instrument also pertained to issues such as respect for cultural diversity and privacy. Member States considered promoting documentary heritage crucial in this age of communication and information. They hoped that the recommendation would eventually be afforded an equal footing with other heritage-related UNESCO instruments. Diverging views existed between those Member States wishing to work towards a convention and those holding that a recommendation was the best suited instrument.

23.23 The recommendation would support national policies as well as regional and international cooperation. It would serve professionals and academics and help raise awareness of the general public of both present and future generations. Member States recognised that such threats to documentary heritage as negligence, technological obsolescence and commoditization, natural disasters, conflicts and targeted attacks. Several Member States noted that digital heritage came with new challenges, but reaffirmed that traditional forms of documentary heritage should remain high on the agenda. They called for deeper research on the synergy between physical and digital documentary heritage. The recommendation would raise the profile of the Memory of the World Programme as well as of documentary heritage at the national level and even at the level of families and individuals. Concerns were expressed on monitoring mechanisms, capacity-building, and funding since it was insufficient to rely solely on extrabudgetary resources. These were important issues for developing countries in particular. Germany agreed to the proposed recommendation on the understanding that the other 10 States Parties to the “Agreement of the International Tracing Service” had not expressed any reservations against its adoption.

23.24 In his response, the representative of the Director-General thanked Poland for sparking a rich consultative process. Funding concerns could be addressed since the preservation of documentary heritage was built into the regular programme. He added that a costed plan and guidelines were under preparation as well as guidelines to share best practices.

23.25 Finally, the Commission recommended by consensus that the General Conference adopts the draft resolution contained in paragraph 10 of document 38 C/24 with the integration in the appendix of references to the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the 1993 Mataatua Declaration on Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

23.26 Debate number six was held on the “Third consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace”. The representative of the Director-General introduced the item, noting that only 22 Member States had submitted the statutory report. He announced that a summary report prepared by the Secretariat would soon be available. He added that the Sector had taken the responsibility upon itself to revise UNESCO’s “Atlas of Languages in Danger” and scale it up to include all the worlds’ languages.

23.27 Twelve Member States participated in the debate. They expressed gratitude to UNESCO for its work and provided information on their national experience. The 2003 Recommendation continued to trigger policy planning and action to promote diversity, indigenous cultures, inclusive learning and media pluralism. It did so also for access to open data and various governmental services. One Member State affirmed that multilingual systems and technologies should be developed. Member States regretted that only 22 reports were submitted. Member States proposed to review and strengthen the monitoring mechanism of the Recommendation. One Member State suggested the creation of a collaborative observatory and portal for Member States and others, including the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, to publish relevant data.

23.28 In his response, the Deputy Director-General contrasted the importance of addressing multilingualism in cyberspace with the extremely limited resources available. In concluding, he invited Member States to consult the publication on a decade of promoting multilingualism in cyberspace. The Commission recommended by consensus that the General Conference adopts the draft resolution contained in paragraph 4 of document 38 C/LEG/3.

23.29 Let me now briefly summarize the seventh debate on the establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of a global centre for excellence for the empowerment of persons with disabilities through ICTs. Kuwait introduced item 4.4 and affirmed its will to work closely with UNESCO to ensure fruitful work. The Deputy Director-General presented the feasibility report for the centre. The Commission recommended by consensus to the General Conference to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 3 of document 38 C/18 Part XXII.

23.30 The eighth and final debate of the CI Commission was on the “New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality”. The Declaration stemmed from the first international conference on the role of ICTs for persons with disabilities attended by 80 countries in New Delhi in November 2014, in collaboration with the Government of India and with the support of the State of Kuwait. While this was an item to be examined without debate, the Chair decided to admit the request of Member States asking for the floor to endorse the Recommendation and commend the commitment of the Secretariat and the Government of India. Delegates recognized that the Declaration aims at enhancing the accessibility of ICTs for persons with disabilities. ICTs could help change the lives of millions by facilitating participation in employment, education and more. Inclusion, it was highlighted, is not a burden but an asset.

23.31 In his response, the Deputy Director-General thanked Member States for their supportive comments. He recalled that more than one billion people live with disabilities and that they often suffer from discrimination and social exclusion resulting in higher exposure to poverty. He stated that accessibility aspects should be included in every development phase. Persons with disabilities should be consulted and involved in the development of ICT applications and services. After the projection of a video message from Professor Stephen Hawking, he invited delegates to join an event in UNESCO with Professor Hawking on 3 December 2015. Finally, the Commission recommended by consensus that the General Conference endorse the New Delhi Declaration and adopt the proposed draft resolution contained in paragraph 12 of document 38 C/48.

23.32 Mr President, in conclusion, I would like to say that this was a particularly successful CI Commission. Once adopted by the General Conference, we will have a new Memory of the World Recommendation, a new category 2 centre and a declaration on ICTs for persons with disabilities, a new International Day for the Universal Access to Information and a new framework for UNESCO’s future Internet-related action, endorsed by Member States. The Secretariat will go into the next biennium with a set of new tools and with a very strong support expressed by Member States for CI’s innovative and forward-looking work. In this positive spirit, I close my report on the CI Commission and take the opportunity to thank the Rapporteur for his commitment and dedication. Thank you, Mr. President, thank you all.

24. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for having presented such a clear and yet comprehensive report. I wish to thank all members of the Commission for their work. Dear colleagues, are there any comments on document 38 C/95? Grenada, do you wish to take the floor? You now have the floor.

25. **Grenada:**

Thank you, Mr President, for giving me the floor. I would like to start by expressing, on behalf of the delegation of Grenada, our sincere condolences to the people of France for the victims of last Friday’s attacks and to express our sympathy and solidarity to their friends and families. Mr President, I would like to commend the Chairperson of the CI Commission, Dr Abdulla El Reyes, from the United Arab Emirates, for his wise chairmanship and for the comprehensive report he has presented to the plenary of the General Conference. The report has indeed reflected the intense debate that took place during the Commission related to the important topics discussed. It also stressed the relevance of communication and information including freedom of expression, universal access to information and fighting violence and extremism in cyberspace, for building peace and inclusive knowledge societies for sustainable development. I would also like to commend the Secretariat for the good preparation of the work of this successful CI Commission as well as the Rapporteur for his contribution to the preparation of the report submitted to us. Finally, Mr President, I take this opportunity to commend your wise chairmanship of this General Conference. I thank you.

26. **The President:**

Thank you very much Madam. Since I do not see any delegates wishing to take the floor, may I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the CI Commission contained in document 38 C/95 and adopts the draft resolution also contained therein subject to the decision that the Conference may take on budgetary issues when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for the next biennium? I do not see any objections. *It is so decided.*

27. **The President:**

Thank you very much. May I apologise to His Excellency, the President of Libya, it seems that the name we were provided with were not the correct ones. The correct ones are His Excellency, Mr Muhammed al-Dairi. I hope that is now ok, Your Excellency, I do apologize.

## **Report of the Social and Human Sciences Commission**

28. **The President:**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now time to examine the report of the SHS Commission contained in document 38 C/93. I am pleased to give the floor to Ms Hadidja Alim Youssouf who successfully chaired this Commission. Madam, you now have the floor.

29.1 **Mme Youssouf** (Cameroun) (Présidente de la Commission des Sciences Sociales et Humaines – SHS):

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président. Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale de l’UNESCO, Excellences, mesdames et messieurs, c’est un honneur pour moi de vous présenter les points saillants des discussions de la Commission des sciences sociales et

humaines. Nos travaux très fructueux se sont déroulés du 10 au 12 novembre 2015, en quatre séances, et ont porté sur l'examen de huit points inscrits à l'ordre du jour.

29.2 Avant de vous en livrer la teneur, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, d'exprimer, au nom des membres de la Commission et en mon nom propre, toute notre compassion au peuple français si durement frappé par des attaques terroristes d'une très grande violence. Nous formons le vœu pour un repos éternel à toutes les personnes décédées et une prompte guérison aux nombreux blessés. Nous prions Dieu le Tout Puissant d'accorder force, courage et ressources nécessaires au peuple de France et à toutes les familles des victimes pour surmonter cette dure épreuve.

29.3 Je voudrais ensuite dire que ce fut un honneur mais aussi un réel plaisir pour tous les membres de la Commission SHS et pour moi-même de prendre part aux travaux de la 38<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale et de siéger au sein de la Commission SHS. J'exprime ma profonde gratitude pour le choix porté sur mon pays, le Cameroun, pour présider la Commission SHS et, de ce fait, de représenter l'Afrique.

29.4 Excellences, mesdames et messieurs, dans mon allocution d'ouverture, j'ai invité notre Commission, en ce moment si symbolique où nous célébrons le 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'UNESCO et qui est marqué par l'adoption de l'Agenda 2030, à repositionner les sciences sociales et humaines à l'avant-garde de la réflexion sur les crises multiples et les transformations rapides de nos sociétés. J'ai tout particulièrement mis en exergue la dimension sociale et éthique du développement durable, et l'importance de la promotion du dialogue interculturel et l'engagement actif des jeunes. J'ai également souligné la nécessité d'une approche innovante et intersectorielle pour une meilleure intégration des priorités globales Égalité des genres et Afrique dans les différentes initiatives.

29.5 La Commission SHS a pris connaissance de la Déclaration conjointe des présidents des cinq programmes scientifiques intergouvernementaux et internationaux et de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale présentée par M Lubomir Faltan, Vice-Président du Bureau du Conseil intergouvernemental du programme Gestion des transformations sociales (MOST). Dans cette Déclaration, ils ont réaffirmé leur engagement pour un renforcement du rôle des sciences à l'UNESCO et le besoin d'une collaboration encore plus accrue dans le cadre de l'Agenda 2030.

29.6 Par la suite, M. Juan Diego Niño Vargas de la Colombie et Mlle Royce Lyssah Malabonga des Philippines ont présenté les Conclusions du 9<sup>e</sup> Forum des jeunes. S'exprimant au nom de 500 participants de 159 États membres, ils ont résumé les principales recommandations liées aux thématiques des sciences sociales et humaines portant particulièrement sur les droits, les libertés et les responsabilités, et le respect de la diversité et de l'identité. Ils ont appelé à un rôle plus inclusif de la jeunesse dans le processus de prise de décision et dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations du Forum sur le terrain. Un délégué a proposé que les Conclusions du Forum fassent, à l'avenir, l'objet d'un débat spécifique à la Conférence générale pour une meilleure prise en compte.

29.7 Permettez-moi à présent d'en venir au point 3.4, « Préparation du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2018-2021 (39 C/5) ». Le représentant du Bureau de la planification stratégique a introduit le document 38 C/7 et a présenté une feuille de route à cet égard. Mme la représentante de Mme la Directrice générale a exposé la vision et les orientations stratégiques de son grand programme pour les années à venir, en phase avec la mise en œuvre des Objectifs de développement durable, et a donné un aperçu général des principales réalisations du Secteur. Elle a souligné les efforts déployés en vue d'une meilleure adéquation entre les programmes et les priorités nationales, et d'une plus grande coopération entre les secteurs de programme et avec les partenaires de l'UNESCO. Vingt-huit États membres et un observateur sont intervenus sur ce point. Les délégués ont tous rappelé l'importance et la pertinence des sciences sociales et humaines, en particulier dans le cadre de la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030. Ils ont noté la nécessité de répondre aux différents défis, insistant par exemple sur les questions d'inclusion sociale, de crises migratoires, de discrimination et de montée de la violence et de l'intolérance. Ils ont appelé à un renforcement et à une revalorisation du grand programme III pour lui permettre de mieux contribuer à la fonction de laboratoire d'idées de l'UNESCO et de répondre plus efficacement aux différents enjeux. L'importance du programme MOST a été mentionnée de façon appuyée, et l'élaboration d'une nouvelle stratégie pour son renforcement saluée avec grand intérêt. Remerciant les délégués pour leurs commentaires positifs et leur appui au travail de SHS, Mme la représentante de Mme la Directrice générale a réitéré l'importance d'une approche intersectorielle et multidisciplinaire pour répondre aux nouveaux enjeux et a pris bonne note des orientations formulées visant à renforcer le rôle des sciences sociales et humaines dans le cadre de l'Agenda 2030.

29.8 Excellences, mesdames et messieurs. Je me réfère maintenant à nos travaux sur le point 3.2, « Examen et adoption du projet de budget pour 2016-2017 (38 C/5) ». Dans son introduction, Mme la représentante de Mme la Directrice générale a porté à la connaissance de la Commission les ajustements à l'allocation budgétaire faits au titre du grand programme III qui reflètent le renforcement des capacités du secteur dans le domaine du dialogue interculturel, ainsi que de ses activités opérationnelles sur le terrain, et notamment en Afrique. Vingt-deux États membres et une ONG ont pris la parole. Ils ont accueilli favorablement les orientations du 38 C/5 et le réalignement stratégique du programme des Sciences sociales et humaines, saluant son approche plus concentrée et ciblée. Tout en réitérant la pertinence du mandat du secteur, notamment dans le contexte actuel marqué par des transformations sociales, nombre d'États ont regretté les limitations budgétaires de ce grand programme et ont appelé à son renforcement. Référence a ainsi été faite au programme MOST ainsi qu'au travail du secteur en matière de dialogue interculturel, de lutte contre les discriminations, d'éthique des sciences et des technologies et de bioéthique, de sport et en particulier la Convention internationale contre le dopage. L'engagement de l'UNESCO en faveur d'une participation plus active des jeunes au développement durable et à la paix a été salué, de même que la nécessité d'une implication accrue des femmes dans tous les aspects de la vie publique. Les intervenants se sont félicités des efforts conjoints et efficaces des organes consultatifs de l'UNESCO pour la valorisation du rôle intellectuel et éthique de l'Organisation. Ils ont également rappelé l'importance de la dimension prospective à cet égard. Ils ont, par ailleurs, réaffirmé leur attachement aux thématiques phares du secteur et ce notamment dans le processus de mise en œuvre des ODD. Une meilleure coordination des

actions entre les grands programmes III et II a été encouragée, eu égard à leur complémentarité pour aborder de manière plus efficace les questions liées au changement climatique, pour ne citer qu'un exemple.

29.9 En réponse à ces interventions, Mme la représentante de la Directrice générale a remercié les États membres pour leur engagement constant. Elle a souligné l'importance de l'articulation des travaux normatifs et programmatiques concrets visant à assurer un impact stratégique. Elle s'est référée aux différentes initiatives du secteur dans ce domaine et a appuyé la nécessité d'élaborer des indicateurs qualitatifs, notamment pour ce qui est du dialogue interculturel. Elle a informé les délégués qu'une feuille de route pour la Décennie internationale du rapprochement des cultures est en cours d'élaboration et offrira un cadre de réflexion propice. Elle a également fait part des initiatives menées dans le domaine des droits humains, notamment dans la lutte contre les discriminations pour contribuer au processus d'élaboration d'un Nouvel agenda urbain.

29.10 Excellences, mesdames et messieurs, notre Commission a examiné deux projets de résolution au Projet de budget pour 2016-2017 (38 C/5), présentés respectivement par la République islamique d'Iran et par la Chine. L'ADG/SS représentant Mme la Directrice générale a introduit les observations de la Directrice générale à ce sujet. Tout en accueillant leur esprit, elle a souligné qu'elles étaient déjà pleinement prises en compte dans les programmes en cours. La Commission n'a donc pas retenu les amendements proposés. Le représentant de la République islamique d'Iran a appelé à une participation plus active et une formation plus adaptée des jeunes au sein de l'UNESCO. Le représentant de la Chine a réitéré l'importance que son pays accorde à la promotion de la diversité et du dialogue interculturel pour lutter contre le racisme et l'extrémisme, et son engagement à contribuer à la mise en place d'initiatives dans ce domaine, notamment dans la région de l'Asie-Pacifique. Mention a été faite à cet égard à la Décennie internationale du rapprochement des cultures qui offre déjà une plate-forme adéquate de coopération et une invitation a été lancée aux États à y contribuer.

29.11 La Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution figurant au paragraphe 03000 du Volume 1 du document 38 C/5 concernant le grand programme III – Sciences sociales et humaines, telle qu'amendée par les recommandations du Conseil exécutif figurant dans le document 38 C/6 et Addenda. La Commission SHS a, par la suite, pris note des Rapports du Comité international de bioéthique et du Comité intergouvernemental de bioéthique, du programme MOST, du Comité intergouvernemental pour l'éducation physique et le sport et la Commission mondiale d'éthique des connaissances scientifiques et des technologies.

29.12 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs. Dans son introduction au point **4.9** relatif à la Révision de la Charte internationale de l'éducation physique et du sport, Mme la représentante de la Directrice générale a souligné que la Charte révisée peut être considérée comme une feuille de route visant à intégrer le sport, l'éducation physique et l'activité physique dans l'Agenda 2030. Elle a ajouté que la révision reflète la complexité accrue des politiques sportives, ainsi que les avancées scientifiques accumulées au cours des dernières décennies. Enfin, elle a rappelé que la promotion et l'impact de la Charte révisée dépendront de l'engagement continu des États membres et des partenaires de l'UNESCO. Vingt États membres ont pris la parole pendant ce débat. Dans leurs interventions, ils ont largement soutenu l'adoption de la Charte révisée et ont félicité l'UNESCO et ses différents partenaires pour le travail accompli. Un grand nombre d'intervenants a insisté sur les bénéfices individuels et sociaux du sport et de l'éducation physique en matière d'égalité des genres, de santé, d'éducation, d'inclusion sociale et de recherche et de dialogue interculturel. Le rôle important de la Charte, en tant que référence et outil de plaidoyer, a été mentionné et certains délégués ont confirmé leur engagement à promouvoir la Charte et sa mise en œuvre au niveau international. La Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution telle qu'amendée. Un État membre a souhaité s'exprimer à cet égard pour rappeler le caractère non contraignant de la Charte.

29.13 S'agissant du point **4.12** concernant la proclamation d'une Journée internationale du sport universitaire, examiné sans débat, la Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution y afférente sans amendement. Le rôle crucial que jouent les universités dans la promotion de l'activité physique et des valeurs individuelles et sociales du sport a été souligné, ainsi que la contribution du sport au dialogue et à la solidarité entre les cultures.

29.14 Le point **7.1**, relatif au « Rapport d'étape sur les mesures prises en vue de la révision de la Recommandation de 1974 concernant la condition des chercheurs scientifiques », a été introduit par Mme la représentante de la Directrice générale qui a rappelé les mesures prises par le Secteur SHS en coopération avec le Secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles en vue de cette révision qui reflèterait ainsi les défis actuels d'ordre éthique, normatif et de gouvernance. Elle a informé les États Membres que les différentes consultations entreprises auprès des partenaires ont confirmé l'importance des enjeux actuels, tels que les défis liés au développement durable, à l'émergence des nouvelles technologies et de nouveaux domaines de recherche, aux questions de justice globale, d'égalité des genres et de droits humains, entre autres. Elle a présenté la procédure en cours, tout en appelant à la mobilisation des ressources financières qui permettraient la tenue de consultations plus approfondies et la convocation d'un Comité spécial. Treize États membres se sont prononcés sur ce point. Les intervenants se sont félicités des efforts de l'UNESCO pour la révision de la Recommandation, jugée très opportune. Le statut des chercheurs scientifiques dans la société et l'esprit de liberté et de vérité scientifiques se verraient valorisés, contribuant ainsi aux « sociétés du savoir » promues par l'UNESCO. L'importance des notions de « dignité humaine » et de « conflits d'intérêt » ont été mentionnées. Nombre d'intervenants ont réaffirmé la grande importance que leurs pays accordent aux sciences et aux technologies pour le développement et se sont référés aux différentes actions prises au niveau national. La Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution telle qu'amendée.

29.15 Excellences, mesdames et messieurs, un débat riche s'est déroulé autour du point **6.4** intitulé « Opportunité d'établir une déclaration de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique ». Mme la représentante de Mme la Directrice générale a souligné que le document examiné sous ce point contient les conclusions des travaux de la COMEST sur un cadre de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique qui doivent servir de base technique aux États Membres pour éclairer leurs discussions sur l'opportunité d'établir ou non une déclaration à ce sujet.

Les représentants de 32 États membres et un observateur sont intervenus. Ils ont remercié la COMEST pour son travail et ont exprimé leurs préoccupations face aux conséquences du changement climatique dans leurs pays et à leur impact sur les populations, notamment les plus vulnérables. Les délégués ont souligné que les réponses aux défis posés par le changement climatique doivent être basées sur des principes éthiques solides, et l'accent a été mis sur l'importance du travail déjà mené par l'UNESCO. Le lien étroit avec les objectifs du programme MOST mais également d'autres programmes de l'Organisation, à l'instar du programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB), ont été mentionnés. Se référant aux travaux en cours, au titre de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, certains délégués se sont exprimés sur les risques de duplication. Une majorité de représentants a émis une opinion favorable sur l'engagement de l'UNESCO dans le processus d'élaboration d'une déclaration de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique. Ils ont noté, pour la plupart, que l'élaboration d'une telle déclaration devenait non seulement opportune mais urgente. Des clarifications ont été sollicitées sur la procédure institutionnelle applicable à l'élaboration de déclarations par l'UNESCO et les implications financières y afférentes.

29.16 Dans sa réponse, Mme la représentante de Mme la Directrice générale a souligné que la CCNUCC constitue le principal forum pour les négociations liées au changement climatique. Elle a rappelé que toutes les actions des entités des Nations Unies s'inscrivent dans ce cadre commun et qu'il n'y a donc pas de conflits ou de duplication. Ces travaux... ces nouveaux principes éthiques peuvent, en fait, constituer une valeur ajoutée de l'UNESCO et sont très pertinents pour le travail de l'Organisation en matière de transformations sociales. Elle a ajouté que les principes éthiques seraient pris en compte dans la Stratégie de l'UNESCO sur le changement climatique en cours d'actualisation. Elle a rappelé la nécessité de déterminer une feuille de route en ce qui concerne les coûts et le calendrier. Enfin, elle a réaffirmé, en réponse à certaines préoccupations soulevées, que la déclaration aurait un caractère non contraignant. La Commission a également bénéficié des éclairages de la conseillère juridique quant à la procédure en vigueur pour l'élaboration d'une telle déclaration. La représentante de la Grenade a introduit le projet de résolution présenté sur ce point et la Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution telle qu'amendée.

29.17 Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, le dernier élément à l'ordre du jour de notre Commission a été le point 8.4 relatif au « Soutien de l'UNESCO à la mise en œuvre de l'accord de paix et de réconciliation au Mali du 15 mai et 20 juin 2015. » Dans son introduction, Mme la représentante de Mm la Directrice générale a rappelé que le soutien de l'UNESCO au processus de paix et de réconciliation nationale au Mali fait partie de l'ensemble des actions entreprises par l'Organisation pour promouvoir une culture de la paix et de la non-violence et répondait, de façon ciblée, à la mise en œuvre de la stratégie opérationnelle pour la priorité Afrique de l'UNESCO. Elle a également confirmé que l'Organisation apportera un appui technique à ce processus, notamment à travers sa participation à l'atelier prévu en décembre 2015 à Bamako, qui constitue une étape préparatoire à un futur Forum national. Elle a signalé qu'à terme, il s'agit de la mise en œuvre, au Mali, d'un programme national pour une culture de la paix fondée sur les valeurs locales. Neuf États membres sont intervenus sur ce point. Ils ont salué l'Accord de paix et de réconciliation au Mali et ont exprimé leur soutien au processus enclenché, souhaitant un retour rapide de la paix dans le pays et la région. Certains intervenants ont rappelé que l'UNESCO se replaçait ainsi dans son mandat véritable en accompagnant les États membres dans un dialogue inclusif pour la réconciliation et la paix. Le rôle central des femmes dans tout processus de paix et de résolution de conflits a été souligné. La pertinence d'une véritable mobilisation de la communauté internationale et d'expertises variées pour tirer les leçons de différents processus de paix et de réconciliation à travers le monde, a été notée. En remerciant les États membres pour leur soutien, le délégué du Mali a appelé à davantage de mobilisation et d'appui des différents partenaires pour parvenir à une paix durable, en insistant sur le besoin d'impliquer la jeunesse. La Commission a recommandé à la Conférence générale d'adopter la résolution, sans amendement.

29.18 Excellences, mesdames et messieurs, les débats ont démontré la pertinence du programme des Sciences sociales et humaines, notamment face aux conjonctures actuelles, marquées par une augmentation des inégalités, de la pauvreté, de l'exclusion et des discriminations et de la montée de la violence et de l'intolérance, comme en témoignent les récents événements tragiques. L'importance du rôle mobilisateur du Secteur dans le renforcement de l'interface entre recherche, politiques et action pour soutenir les transformations sociales, l'inclusion sociale et le dialogue interculturel a été pleinement affirmée. Les discussions ont ainsi mis en valeur la contribution essentielle de l'UNESCO dans la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable et au-delà, afin de mener à bien sa mission de bâtir, à travers ses différents programmes dans les sciences sociales et humaines, la paix dans l'esprit des femmes et des hommes.

29.19 Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif, Madame la Directrice générale, Excellences, mesdames et messieurs, je remercie tous les États membres pour leur participation très active et leur précieuse contribution aux débats. Nous avons travaillé dans un climat de parfaite sérénité et de franche collaboration. Mes remerciements et mes félicitations vont ensuite à vous, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale, pour le brio avec lequel vous avez conduit les travaux de la Conférence générale et pour votre accompagnement. Mes remerciements et félicitations vont également à M. le Président du Conseil exécutif pour la très bonne préparation et l'organisation des travaux de la 38<sup>e</sup> Conférence générale. Une mention spéciale à Mme la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO pour toutes les dispositions sécuritaires et matérielles prises pour assurer le déroulement des travaux de la Conférence générale, la tenue du Forum des dirigeants et la célébration du 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire dans les meilleures conditions. Ce fut un défi au regard du contexte particulier dans lequel se déroulaient les travaux mais, Madame la Directrice, vous avez su le relever. Nous en sommes fiers et vous réaffirmons notre soutien et engagement.

29.20 Avant de conclure, permettez-moi d'exprimer toute ma gratitude aux membres du bureau de la Commission : les Vice-Présidents, M. Yacine Bellarab (du Maroc), M. Akif Kireççi (de la Turquie), Mme Pamela Mamani (de la Bolivie), M. Darko Strajn (de Slovaquie), et au Rapporteur, Mme Assel Utegenova (du Kazakhstan). Merci pour votre soutien et pour votre franche collaboration. Je voudrais ensuite remercier la Secrétaire de la Commission, Mme Maya Makhoul Sarrazin et toute son équipe (Kristina Balalovska, Claudia Maresia, Hugues Ngandeu Ngatta, Linda Tinio-Le Douarin et Gloria Esther Vernizzi) pour leur travail dévoué et compétent. Mes remerciements vont également à Mme Nada Al-Nashif, Sous-Directrice générale pour les Sciences sociales et humaines, pour sa précieuse collaboration, pour son

accompagnement et pour ses conseils. À Mme la Conseillère juridique et à l'ensemble de l'équipe du Secrétariat de Mme la Directrice générale, nous disons : « infiniment merci ». Je n'oublierai pas les interprètes, commis de salles, techniciens, traducteurs, dactylographes, stagiaires, médias et tous ceux qui ont contribué à la réussite de nos travaux. Je vous remercie pour votre bien aimable attention.

30. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for a very clear and elaborate report. I also wish to thank all the members of the Commission for their excellent work. Dear colleagues, are there any comments on document 38 C/93. I do recognize St Vincent and the Grenadines.

31. **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:**

Thank you Mr President, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the SHS Commission for her excellent report and we do notice all interventions and concerns expressed by the Member States during the discussions. I have just one amendment in page 7 of the English version, under item 6.4 on the feasibility of preparing a declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change. Page 7, paragraph 24, paragraph 1 in the decision, just to move two words at the end of the decision, the paragraph reading "and to submit the text to it at its 39th session with funding from the regular budget and if necessary from extrabudgetary resources", so that we move "if necessary" after "regular budget". I hope this is clear to bring it in line with the French version. Thank you.

32. **The President:**

Thank you very much, I think before I invite the Chair of the Commission to take the floor, let me recognize Grenada.

33. **Grenada:**

Thank you Mr President. My delegation supports the amendment proposed by St Vincent and the Grenadines. It was the spirit of the discussions and is reflected in the French version. Thank you very much.

34. **The President:**

Thank you very much, can I then invite the Chairperson of the Commission to take the floor.

35. **Mme Youssouf (Cameroun) (Présidente de la Commission des Sciences Sociales et Humaines – SHS):**  
Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président. Nous en avons pris bonne note. Merci.

36. **The President:**

Thank you very much. May I then assume that the General Conference takes note of the report of the SHS Commission contained in document 38 C/93, and adopts the draft resolutions also contained therein, subject to the decisions that the General Conference may take on budgetary issues when adopting the Appropriation Resolution for the next biennium? Japan, you have the floor.

37. **Japan:**

Thank you your Excellency. I just want to know the reason why, to have an explanation, for example in page 7.1, the English text has changed from the one that we agreed in the discussions. In line three, for example, it says that "existing benchmark tools" but at a photo shown on the screen at the Commission it was a different reference. I don't know why we have these changes to the benchmarking...I just want to know why – editorial reasons?

38. **The President:**

Thank you very much. Let me invite the Chairperson of the Commission to explain that we can see it in the text and I do not know whether we are looking at one and the same document. So maybe we need to check and ensure that we are on the same level of understanding in terms of the documents that you are referring to, otherwise we may have serious difficulties. I invite the Chairperson of the Commission to take the floor and clarify.

39. **Mme Youssouf (Cameroun) (Présidente de la Commission des Sciences Sociales et Humaines – SHS):**

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président, de me redonner la parole. Il convient de signaler que la version française fait foi. La version anglaise sera alignée sur la version française. Je vous remercie.

40. **The President:**

Thank you very much Japan. That will be taken care of by the Secretariat I can assure you. Thank you very much for having raised the issue. I had almost concluded and I was on the verge of saying that I do not see any objections, and the intervention by Japan cannot be interpreted as an objection, they were simply drawing our attention to one innocuous issue. Can I take it that we are agreed? *It is so **decided***. Thank you very much.

### **Report of the Nominations Committee**

41. **The President:**

Your Excellencies, before we break for lunch, we will examine the report of the Nominations Committee, which is contained in document 38 C/77. The Chairperson of the Committee, His Excellency Mr Michael Worbs will now present this document. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

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

Thank you very much Mr President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The report you have before you in document 38 C/77 reflects the final proposals of the Nominations Committee concerning the composition of Headquarters Committee, Legal Committee and other subsidiary organs of the General Conference, following the results of the elections held on Thursday, 12 November 2015 in Room IV. Mr President, once the report has been adopted by the plenary, I shall with your leave, make some comments on the work of this Committee. Are there any observations or objections to the report? Maybe, Mr President, you can take this part please.

43. **The President:**

Thank you very much. I take it that all of us have read the report being referred to? Are there any comments on the report? If not, then to conclude please, you have the floor.

44.1 **Mr Worbs** (Germany) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

I assume that the report has been adopted by the plenary without any further comments or objections. Thank you very much, Mr President. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, allow me first of all to thank you for open and positive cooperation throughout the General Conference. With your support the Committee has been able to carry out its task in a transparent and effective manner, namely to organize the election of Members of the Executive Board for the period 2015-2019 and subsequently to organize and hold the elections of the various subsidiary organs of the General Conference. The first task of the Committee which coincided with the first meeting of the General Conference consisted in the submission to the General Conference of the list of nominations for the posts of President of the General Conference, its Vice-Presidents and the Chairpersons of the commissions and committees.

44.2 The Nominations Committee then undertook to complete in the shortest possible time the composition of the Bureau of the programme commissions, APX Commission and the Nominations Committee itself. This task proved somewhat difficult and time consuming as some electoral groups were not yet able to propose their respective candidates in due time. In particular the Committee experienced serious difficulties in finalizing the list of Rapporteurs, a function that seems no longer to be attractive to a majority of delegates. Despite several reminders I was not in a position to announce the full composition of each bureau at the first session of each commission. In the end, two commissions were not provided with Rapporteurs, namely the APX Commission and the Nominations Committee itself. In my humble opinion, Mr President, the function of the Rapporteur needs to be revisited. I understand that since the last session of the General Conference, the Rapporteur is no longer given the task of reading the final report of the commissions for adoption within the commission as in the past. Perhaps as suggested by some delegates we could simply replace the Rapporteur by a sixth vice-chairperson? It would be more correct anyway and reflecting the actual situation.

44.3 As you will recall the Committee organized the elections of Members of the Executive Board, item **51**, on Wednesday, 11 November 2015, for the first ballot and on Friday, 13 November for the second ballot. These elections were carried out successfully and in full compliance with the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. I am pleased to report that overall we had a high turnout during this election, as 183 out of the 186 Member State entitled to vote in that election, took part in the process. I now turn to the elections of the Headquarters Committee, Legal Committee and other subsidiary organs of the General Conference, items **12.2** to **12.15** that were held on Thursday, 12 November. Among the 186 Member States entitled to vote, 163 took part in these elections. Due to fruitful consultations among the electoral groups and achievement of clean slates in many of them, only 6 secret ballots were held. The elections took place in a harmonious and consensual spirit. The results of these elections were announced the same day.

44.4 Please recall that following the amendments to the Statutes of the International Bureau of Education (IBE), the Nominations Committee elected six new IBE Council members, one from each regional group whose term of office will expire at the end of the 40th session of the General Conference. I have to mention that, as was the case at the last session of the General Conference, there was an insufficient number of candidatures for several subsidiary organs. These include the Legal Committee, the Headquarters Committee, the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission, the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), and finally, the Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo.

44.5 Mr President, allow me to thank you personally for your interest and continued support in the work of our Committee, and the electoral process. I am deeply grateful to my dear colleagues, the Vice-Chairpersons of the Nominations Committee, for their constant support and assistance, in particular during the elections. They are: Her Excellency Madam Lorena Sol de Pool (El Salvador), Mr Ram Babu Dhakal (Nepal), and His Excellency, Professor Manda Kizabi (Democratic Republic of the Congo). I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the tellers for the time and effort they devoted to the electoral process: His Excellency, Mr Abdullah Alneaimi (United Arab Emirates), Mr Mohammad Nazrul Islam Khan (Bangladesh), Mr Mohammad Firoz Uddin (Bangladesh), Mr Edouard Huot (Canada), Madam Annette Regine Ikouebe-Niabandza (Congo), Madam Rosa Ester Moreira De Lemoine (El Salvador), Madam Kourouma Soukeynatou (Guinea), Mr Victor Altamirano (Peru), Madam Teresa Salado (Portugal) and Madam Zeina Saleh Kayali (Lebanon). My thanks also go to the interpreters, technical and support staff to the UNESCO Secretariat and particularly to the Secretariat of the General Conference for its contribution to the Committee's work. I am also grateful to the temporary staff of the General Conference who assisted the Committee during the elections. Finally, allow me to express my deep appreciation to the Secretariat of the Nominations Committee, to Ms Laura Raymondi, Ms Nana Diara Thiam, Ms Hyeon Ju Kim, Mr Michee Detinho, Mr Alexandre Deganis and the Secretary of the Committee, Mr Firmin Matoko for their professionalism, devotion and conscientious dedication to their work. Thank you, Mr President.

45.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much Your Excellency for that report. I just forgot to use my gavel in adopting the report by the Nominations Committee which I am now doing, since I have the pleasure of using this instrument in my hand. Thank you very much.

45.2 Dear colleagues, we have thus finished our work for this morning. However, given the number of leaders still to intervene, and further given the need to accommodate President Obama's message which will be presented by the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the United States of America to UNESCO, the Bureau in its meeting this morning proposed that the afternoon session should start 30 minutes earlier, that is at 2.30 p.m. As you can see, we are concluding exactly 30 minutes before the scheduled time. We really appeal to you, dear colleagues, we have a very tight schedule in the afternoon and we would appreciate it highly if all of us please can be here 10 to 15 minutes before 2.30

p.m. This is the last plea that you are getting from your President. I will now invite the Secretary to quickly provide us with an overview of the afternoon's programme. Mr Secretary, you have the floor.

46. **Le Secrétaire :**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Donc effectivement la séance plénière reprendra à 14 h 30 précises cet après-midi. À 14 h 30 précises. Il s'agira du dernier segment du Forum des leaders. Et la Conférence générale aura l'honneur et le plaisir de recevoir successivement : tout d'abord, la Présidente de Malte, S. E. Mme Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, suivie du Vice-Premier Ministre et Ministre des affaires étrangères de la Slovaquie, M. Miroslav Lajčák, qui sera suivi par le Président de l'Azerbaïdjan, S. E. M. Ilham Aliyev, qui sera ensuite suivi du message du Président des États-Unis d'Amérique, M. Barack Obama. Ce message sera lu par son S. E. l'Ambassadrice déléguée permanente des États-Unis auprès de l'UNESCO. Ensuite, le Président de la République française, M. François Hollande, s'adressera à la Conférence générale, à partir de 16 heures. Et enfin, à 16 h 30, le Ministre de l'éducation du Bangladesh, S. E. M. Nurul Islam Nahid, clôturera ce segment du Forum des leaders. Je termine en rappelant qu'après ce segment, il y aura l'adoption du dernier rapport de commission, le rapport de la Commission culture. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

47. **The President:**

Thank you very much Mr Secretary. Excellencies, enjoy your lunch and we will meet before 2.30 p.m. Thank you very much and see you then. *This meeting is now **adjourned**.*

*The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.*